

SALKANTAY TREK to Machu Picchu

4 days / 3 nights



TreXperience
INSPIRING TRAVELS

GROUP
TOUR

Travellers'
Choice





Cross mountains and forests and reach Machu Picchu.



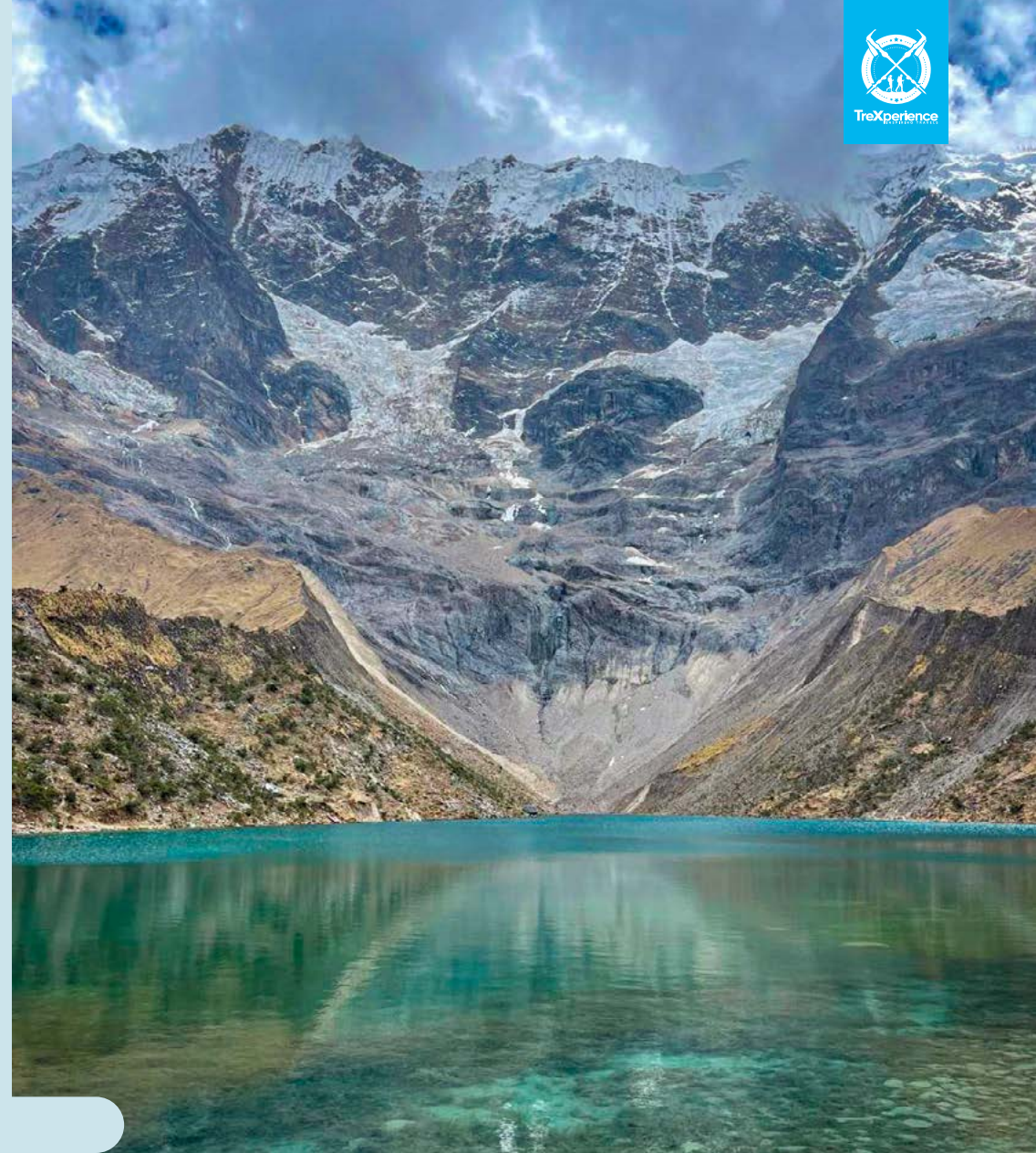
The 4-Day Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu is a top alternative to the classic Inca Trail, blending adventure, comfort, and culture. Named one of the world's best hikes by National Geographic, this route leads over high mountain passes, beside turquoise lakes, and through lush cloud forests on the way to legendary Machu Picchu.

Each day brings something new: panoramic views, rich culture, and satisfying challenges. You'll stay in our yurt-type Salka Glamp Campsite near Salkantay Mountain, in rustic Andean huts, and in a 3-star hotel in Aguas Calientes. Highlights include Salkantay Pass, a traditional Pachamanca barbecue, a local coffee farm visit, and a panoramic return on the Vistadome train.

If you're craving an adventure that connects you with nature, local culture, and one of the most iconic sites on Earth, this Salkantay trekking experience delivers it all in just four days.

Why hike the Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu?

- Humantay Lake: Hike to one of the most beautiful turquoise lakes in the Andes, surrounded by snow-capped peaks.
- Salka Glamp: Sleep below Salkantay Mountain in comfortable glamping-style bell tents, far from the typical crowds.
- Salkantay Pass: Cross the highest and most powerful point of the trek at 4,630 m / 15,190 ft.
- Pachamanca and coffee experience: Visit local coffee farms and enjoy a traditional underground hot-stone barbecue prepared by our chef.
- Vistadome or 360° Train: Return from Machu Picchu on a panoramic train with wide windows and beautiful views.





TreXperience

Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu

4 days / 3 nights

Legend

Transportation

- Van Transportation
- Train Transportation
- Hiking
- Walking Tour
- Mountain Pass
- Van Route
- Train Route
- Hiking Route

Accommodation

- Camping
- Hotel

Meals

- Lunch
- Pachamanca

Experiences

- Archeological Site
- Sight / Viewpoint

Day 1 Challacancha



Day 1 Soraypampa



Day 1 Humantay Lake



Humantay Lake
4,200 m / 13,780 ft

Challacancha
3,600 m / 11,811 ft
Hiking Starting Point

Soraypampa
3,900 m / 12,795 ft

Salka Glamp Camp
3,900 m / 12,795 ft

Day 2 Salka-Glamp



Day 2 Salkantay Pass



Salkantay Pass
4,630 m / 15,190 ft

Wayracmachay
3,800 m / 12,467 ft

Day 2 Collpapampa



Collpapampa
2,770 m / 9,087 ft

Day 2 Collpapampa



Day 3 Coffee Experience



Day 3 Pachamanca



Hidroeléctrica
1,800 m / 5,906 ft

Machu Picchu
2,430 m / 7,972 ft

Lucmabamba
2,000 m / 6,562 ft

Aguas Calientes
2,040 m / 6,693 ft

Return to Cusco

1 Day 1

Cusco – Humantay Lake – Salka Glamp Campsite

- Cusco - Challacancha (3:00 hrs.)
- Challacancha - Salka Glamp Campsite 16 km / 10 mi - 8 hours

2 Day 2

Salka Glamp – Salkantay Pass – Wayracmachay – Collpapampa –

- Salka Glamp – Collpapampa 18 km / 11.2 mi - 9 hours

3 Day 3

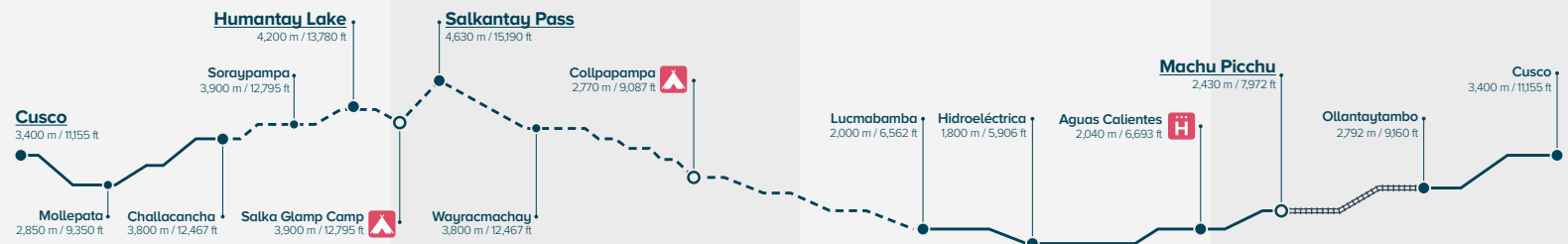
Collpapampa – Lucmabamba – Hidroeléctrica – Aguas Calientes

- Salka Glamp – Lucmabamba 14 km / 8.6 mi - 6 hours
- Lucmabamba – Hidroeléctrica (1:00 hrs.)
- Hidroeléctrica – Aguas Calientes 3 hours

4 Day 4

Explore Machu Picchu – Return to Cusco

- Aguas Calientes - Machu Picchu (30 min.) Round Trip
- 2 - 3 hrs. exploring Machu Picchu





Tour Details

Starts / Ends	Cusco / Cusco
Duration	4 days / 3 nights
Distance	48 km / 30 miles
Difficulty	Challenging
Accommodation	Camping, hotel
Group size	Around 12 persons
Activities	Hiking & Camping, Archeology, Gastronomy
Languages	English, Spanish



Full Itinerary

→ Day 01

Cusco – Humantay Lake – Salka-Glamp Campsite

→ Day 02

Salka-Glamp Campsite – Wayracmachay – Collpapampa

→ Day 03

Collpapampa – Hidroeléctrica – Aguas Calientes

→ Day 04

Explore Machu Picchu – Return to Cusco



Day 01

Cusco – Humantay Lake – Salka-Glamp

Your Salkantay Trek 4 Days begins with an early pickup from your hotel in Cusco at 4:30 a.m. We can collect you from any hotel near the historic center, then drive for about 2 hours to Mollepata for a hearty breakfast at a local restaurant.

After breakfast, we continue for 1 more hour to Challacancha (3,600 meters / 11,811 feet), the trailhead. Your expert TreXperience guide will give you time to get ready, warm up, and begin the hike toward Machu Picchu through one of Peru's most beautiful mountain routes. The first section is a 3-hour walk to the famous Humantay Lake (4,200 m / 13,779 ft). Along the way, watch for Andean geese, vizcachas, and wide-open views of the surrounding peaks.

At Humantay Lake, take your time to enjoy the turquoise water, the dramatic mountain setting, and the peaceful energy of the Andes. After exploring the shore, descend to





Soraypampa, where our trekking chef will serve a fresh picnic-style lunch prepared with local products.

After lunch, begin a 2-hour hike to our campsite in Salkantaypampa. Tonight, you'll stay at our exclusive Salka Glamp Campsite (3,900 m / 12,795 ft), located below Salkantay Mountain in one of the closest and most peaceful campsite locations near the mountain. Away from the typical crowds, you'll enjoy comfortable glamping-style bell tents, clear night skies, impressive views of Salkantay, a warm basecamp atmosphere, coffee surrounded by nature, tea time, and a delicious dinner prepared by our trekking team.

Distance

16 km / 10 mi

Duration

8 hours

Max. hightness

4,200 m / 13,779 ft

Difficulty

Moderate

Accommodation

**Salka Glamp
Campsite**

Meals

**Breakfast,
snacks, lunch,
tea time, dinner**



Humantay Mountain Views from the Route



Salkantay Mountain View from Soraypampa



Humantay Lake

Day 02

Salka Glamp – Salkantay Pass – Wayracmachay – Collpapampa

The second day of the Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu is the most challenging and one of the most rewarding. Wake up with hot coffee or coca tea delivered to your tent, then step outside to sweeping mountain plains and snow-capped peaks. After a fresh breakfast prepared by our trekking chef, begin the 2-hour ascent to the highest point of the trek, the Salkantay Pass (4,630 m / 15,190 ft).

At the pass, we'll pause to take in the power of the Andes: glacial views, dramatic ridgelines, and a beautiful lake at the foot of Salkantay Mountain. Your guide will give you time for photos, rest, and a deeper connection with this sacred mountain before we begin the descent.

From the summit, continue with a 3-hour downhill hike to our lunch spot in Wayracmachay (3,800 m / 12,467 ft), where





our trekking team will be waiting with a fresh meal. This is where the landscape begins to change, slowly leaving the high Andes and moving toward the greener cloud forest.

In the afternoon, descend for another 3 hours into warmer valleys, where the air feels softer and the vegetation becomes richer. We'll arrive at Collpapampa (2,770 m / 9,087 ft), a peaceful village surrounded by greenery and river sounds. Tonight, you'll stay in comfortable Andean huts at a locally owned campsite, a calm place to rest after the longest hiking day and connect with the local setting.

Distance

18 km / 11.2 mi

Duration

9 hours

Max. height

4,630 m / 15,190 ft

Difficulty

Challenging

Accommodation

Andean huts

Meals

**Breakfast,
snacks, lunch,
tea time, dinner**



(Salka-Glamp) Salkantaypampa



Salkantay Pass

Day 03

Collpapampa – Hidroeléctrica – Aguas Calientes

This is one of the most cultural and flavorful days of your Salkantay TreXperience. After a hearty breakfast, we hike about 3 hours to Lucmabamba (2,000 m / 6,561 ft), where the cloud forest, coffee plantations, and warmer valley air create a completely different side of the trail.

Here, our chef will prepare a traditional Pachamanca barbecue, an authentic Peruvian underground hot-stone meal made with fresh meat, vegetables, fruits, aromatic herbs, and local ingredients. You'll participate in the preparation and extraction of the food, making this more than lunch; it becomes a real cultural and culinary experience.

After the Pachamanca, visit a local coffee farm with local hosts. When available, you'll help harvest coffee, learn the process from plant to cup, roast or grind the beans,





and prepare your own fresh coffee. It is a simple, human, and memorable way to connect with the families who live along this route.

Later, we drive one hour to Hidroeléctrica and hike 3 more hours along the railway to Aguas Calientes. By around 5:00 p.m., you'll arrive in Aguas Calientes, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant, and settle into a comfortable hotel before your early visit to Machu Picchu.

Distance

14 km / 8.7 miles

Duration

6 hours

Max. height

2,770 m / 9,087 ft

Difficulty

Moderate

Accommodation

Hotel in Aguas Calientes

Meals

Breakfast, lunch (pachamanca) and dinner

Road from Collpapampa to Lucmabamba



Road from Collpapampa to Lucmabamba



Coffee Experience in Lucmabamba



Pachamanca in Lucmabamba

Day 04

Aguas Calientes – Explore Machu Picchu — Return to Cusco

Today we wake up early for the highlight of the Salkantay Trek 4 Days to Machu Picchu. Around 5:30 a.m., we'll head to the bus line to catch one of the first rides up to the citadel. As the morning light reaches the mountains, we'll enter Machu Picchu and walk to the upper terraces, where the classic views of the ancient city await.

Once inside, your professional guide will lead a 2 to 3-hour exploration through the main areas of Machu Picchu, sharing the history, architecture, sacred spaces, and meaning of this extraordinary Inca site. If booked in advance, you can also hike





Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain after the guided tour for even wider panoramic views.

In Machu Picchu, we include Circuit 2 by default when available. If Circuit 2 is sold out, we'll secure the best available option, which may be Circuit 3 or Circuit 1. We strongly suggest booking your Machu Picchu trip early, as tickets, circuits, and schedules are limited and assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

When you're ready, return to Aguas Calientes on your own for lunch (not included), and then board the panoramic Vistadome Train. With wide windows and beautiful views along the route, this is one of the most scenic ways to return after your trek. Upon arrival, the TreXperience team will be waiting at the station to transfer you back to your hotel in Cusco.

Duration

2 - 3 hours

Machu Picchu Altitude

2,430 m / 7,972 ft

Difficulty

Easy

Meals

Breakfast (hotel)



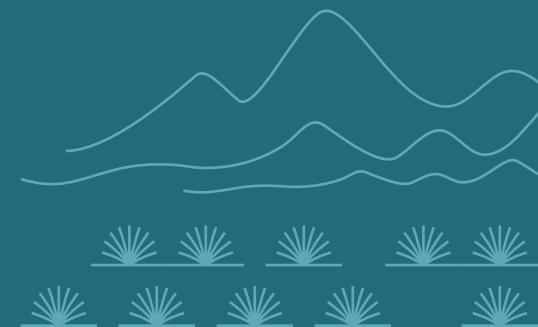
Machu Picchu

Included

- Briefing one day before tour departure.
- Hotel pickup and drop-off.
- All transportation during the tour.
- Professional bilingual tour guide in English and Spanish.
- Return on the panoramic Vistadome Train or 360° Train.
- Entry tickets to the Salkantay Trek.
- Machu Picchu entrance ticket.
- Cargo mules to carry camping equipment and the approved duffel weight.
- Experienced trekking chef to prepare fresh meals on the trail.
- 1 night at Salka Glamp Campsite for a premium adventure glamping experience below Salkantay Mountain (Day 1).
- 1 night in Andean huts at a locally owned campsite in Collpapampa (Day 2).
- 1 night in a 3-star hotel in Aguas Calientes.
- All meals on the trail, except last-day lunch. Dietary needs are accommodated.
- Water and daily snacks.
- Pachamanca barbecue, cooking experience, and local coffee experience.
- Duffel bag for up to 7 kg / 15 lb of personal items.
- First-aid kit, satellite phones, and oxygen supply.
- Pillow, sleeping pad, rain poncho, and hand towels.

Not included

- Sleeping bag, air mattress, and trekking poles.
- Last-day lunch in Aguas Calientes.
- Huayna Picchu Mountain or Machu Picchu Mountain entrances (optional)



Travel Essentials



Original Passport



Peruvian soles cash



Good-quality daypack



Water bottle



Personal Medication



Sunscreen



Lip balm



Hand sanitizer



Insect repellent



Toiletries

This section covers the basics you'll want for a smooth start. Think documentation, personal needs, and simple preparation for the trail. Pack only what truly supports comfort and safety, and avoid adding weight you won't use.

What to wear

Trekking days can bring sun, wind, rain, and noticeable temperature shifts. That's why dressing in layers and choosing comfortable hiking clothing matters. The goal is to adjust easily as conditions change, staying dry and warm when needed.



High-top
hiking boots



Hiking crew sock



Comfortable underwear



Thermal
base layers



Moisture-wicking shirts



Hiking pants/
trousers



Fleece



Waterproof and
windproof jacket

What to put in the Daypack?

Your daypack should hold only what you'll use while hiking. Focus on hydration, weather protection, and personal items you want within reach. Keep it light and easy to access, so you can walk comfortably without stopping to dig for things.



Sun hat or cap with neck cover



Sunglasses



Beanie or chullo



Gloves



Buff or bandana



Snacks



Camera + extra batteries



Power bank



Gaiters (optional)

What to put in your duffle bag?

Your duffle bag holds your main gear and is carried during the route by our porters. Pack neatly within the stated weight limit and group items by type. This protects your belongings and makes it easier to find what you need at camp.



Light footwear
or sandals



Quick-dry towel



Warm down jacket



Sport pants



Shorts



Sleeping bag



Sleeping Foam pad

What TreXperience provide you

Our tour includes an agency T-shirt, a backpack cover, and a rain poncho. In addition, our hiking programs include a duffel bag (up to 7 kg), carried by our porters. Check here to see if your itinerary includes it.



Duffel Bag 7kg / 15lb



Trexperience T-shirt



Backpack Rain cover



Plastic Rain Coat

Equipment for Rent

We offer rental equipment to make your hiking experience more comfortable, including a sleeping bag and trekking poles. You can add these items based on your needs to enjoy a more comfortable rest and a better-prepared trek.



Sleeping Bag



Hiking poles

About our camping equipment

Our camping equipment is carefully selected for your comfort and safety. It includes spacious, premium yurt-style sleeping tents with foam mattresses, warm blankets, and pillows; portable camping chairs and tables; dining tents; and essential support equipment such as oxygen tanks and satellite phones, depending on the route and itinerary.



Premium Private Sleeping Tents
(Salka-Glamp Campsite)



Comfortable Beds with foam
mattres, blanquets and pillows



Private Dinning Tents



Satellital Phones



Oxygen Tank

Our service

Our service is designed to make your journey smooth, comfortable, and well organized from start to finish. From quality transportation and carefully arranged accommodation to reliable camping equipment, every element is selected to give you a higher level of comfort and peace of mind along the way.



Transportation

We manage your transfers in comfortable private vans, and your return journey includes a train ride back to Ollantaytambo. It's a smooth mix of comfort and scenery, with everything arranged to keep travel simple and stress-free.

The best equipment and accommodation

Our tour combines high-quality camping equipment on the trail—tents for sleeping, a dining tent, portable toilet tents, tables, chairs, and key comfort essentials—with a comfortable hotel stay. You'll enjoy better camp conditions outdoors, then recharge in quality lodging with comfortable rooms, clean bathrooms, hot showers, and Wi-Fi.





Vistadome Train from Aguas Calientes to Cusco

Meals in the route

The trekking experience is not only about the landscapes, but also the flavors. Each meal along the route is an opportunity to connect with Peruvian tradition and recharge your energy.



During the hike, you'll enjoy Peruvian cuisine, a blend of traditional flavors and diverse influences. Some of the dishes and drinks you may try include:

- Quinoa in soups and salads
- Peruvian ceviche
- Lomo Saltado
- Ají de Gallina
- Alpaca meat and Guinea pig in different preparations
- Chicha Morada
- Coca tea

Meals during the trek combine Peruvian and international dishes, designed to keep your energy up and adapt to different tastes and diets.

Pachamanca

During the tour, we'll prepare pachamanca together—an Andean traditional barbecue cooked underground with hot stones.







Pachamanca (Andean Barbecue)



Pachamanca (Andean Barbecue)

Our team

Our on-trail team helps make your journey safe, comfortable, enriching, and unforgettable. They're highly trained local professionals, committed to delivering attentive service and a smooth experience from start to finish.



Our Tour Guides

Our guides are local professionals from Cusco who take great pride in their cultural heritage. University-trained and fluent in English, they bring deep knowledge of Andean history, culture, geography, and nature—and share it in a clear, engaging way through stories, traditions, and everyday life. Responsible, approachable, and always ready to help, they focus on your safety and comfort while giving their best at every step. With ongoing training and a strong service mindset, they turn each day on the trail into a meaningful, enriching experience.



Our Muleteers

Our muleteers, from Andean communities, are essential to keeping the trek safe and well organized. They guide and care for horses and mules that carry key gear and supplies, allowing you to hike with less weight. With strong mountain experience, they understand trails and weather, and work responsibly and respectfully, always prioritizing animal wellbeing.



Our Trail Chefs

Our cooks are local professionals who bring Peru's culinary traditions to the mountains. They use fresh, organic ingredients sourced locally, combining Andean and Peruvian dishes with select international options, while following high hygiene standards. With care and flexibility, they adapt meals to dietary requirements and keep you fueled on the trek.



Our drivers

Our drivers are the first to welcome you and make every transfer smooth, safe, and on time. With deep experience on Andean roads and a service-first mindset, they drive with care so you can travel with confidence. Our vehicles are modern, comfortable, and well maintained, meeting high safety standards so your journey starts and ends with peace of mind.



Our Awards

Our agency has been honored with prestigious international awards that highlight the quality of our service, our commitment to sustainability, and our dedication to providing authentic experiences.



El Inka Dorado Award
2023 to 2026



Best of the Best
Tripadvisor
2022 to 2026



Peru Quality Award
2023 to 2026



Empresa Peruana del año
2026



Premios LuxLife
2025



LTG Global Awards
2025



Travel & Hospitality Awards
2025



Internacional Travel Awards
2025





TreXperience

INSPIRING TRAVELS



*"Your journey is more than a trek
it's a cultural connection that
stays with you forever"*

Information

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