



PERU

Ultimate Inca Trail

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...

ITINERARY

Ultimate Inca Trail

9 DAYS • 8 NIGHTS

Cusco – Sacsayhuaman – Tambo Machay – Puca Pucara –
Temple of the Moon – Ruins of Moray – Cordillera Vilcanota –
Ollantaytambo – Llaqtapata – Llulluchapampa –
Phuyupatamarca – Sayacmarca – Machu Picchu

HIGHLIGHTS

- Beautiful & Bustling City of Cusco With The Leading Expertise Of The Local Tour Guides.
- Ancient Inca Trail Leading Through Forests and Clouds And The Beautiful Peruvian Nature Scenery .
- Machu Picchu – One Of The New Seven World Wonders Of The World!
- The Mysterious Ruins of Sayacmarca and Sacsayhuaman.

TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Trekking and Sightseeing Adventure
Tour Start	Cusco
Tour End	Cusco
Accommodation	Hotel, Camping
Included Meals	8 Breakfasts, 8 Lunches, 5 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Difficult

THE ENIGMATIC PERU



Follow the path of the ancient Incas throughout this exclusive journey, into the depths of historical Peru where you will be able to experience breath-taking natural and cultural wonders including the famous Machu Picchu. This private trip allows you to wander around the colourful city of Cuzco which offers many opportunities for sightseeing, including a variety of cathedrals, temples and markets. Experience the remote locations surrounded by forests, mountains and temples where the ancient Incas lived and prospered. Observe the Andean heights and many of the ancient and breath-taking places located above the clouds. This tailor-made expedition encompasses real adventure, natural wonders and the local history of the region which impresses any traveller looking for a memorable experience.

PERU *an overview*

Peru is a complimentary mixture of amazing ancient architecture, arts and breath-taking natural wonders including the vast deserts, extraordinary mountains and tropical forests. The Incas built an extensive amount of sites located throughout the country which still remain intact to this day due to their location, such as the distinguished Machu Picchu. The Peruvian identity remains strong as the modern Peru incorporates various cultural elements such as exotic and varied cuisine, entertainment and history from the old traditions.

WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

We are driven by a passion for adventure travel and wildlife which we love to share and it's reflected in our uniquely wonderful itineraries. We can offer you new experiences that no one else can provide and create the most incredible adventure holidays imaginable.

The Inca Trail is truly an amazing once in a lifetime experience. This 9 day trip incorporates a fantastic range of activities suited for those who love to explore and challenge themselves to truly immerse in everything that the destination has to offer. We work with some great local partners and between us we ensure you have the best Inca trail experience.

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DAY 1: "Locals' guide to Cusco" tour

On arrival in Cusco you will meet your guide who will escort to the hotel for the night.

You will have an English speaking guide at your disposal to show you some of the best spots of this beautiful city. The guide will advise you on locations to visit based on your personal preference.

You may choose to start with the Plaza de Armas and a visit to its impressive cathedral or the Qoricancha temple, once home to life sized statues in solid gold.

If you wish, you could visit one of the bustling markets, full of tropical fruits fresh from the Amazon or you could head up through the San Blas artisan district to San Cristobal church for a spectacular birds eye view of Cusco. When it is convenient for you, your guide will arrange a full briefing for the days ahead.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
n/a



Distance:
Varies



Activity:
Personal Preference

Day 2: Cusco Outlying Ruins

This lovely walking (or vehicle) tour is a superb introduction into the Inca heritage of Peru.

First we visit the ancient site of Sacsayhuaman where the huge stone ramparts surround a beautiful grass amphitheater. Once the scene of fierce battles it now hosts the recreation of traditional Inca ceremonies such as Inti Raymi and Warachikuy.

The next destination is the Inca water temple of Tambo Machay lying at 3700m (12,000 feet) and the Red fort of Puca Pucara followed by a picnic lunch nearby. Afterwards you could go for an optional hike or transfer to Cusco, stopping at the Temple of the Moon and other historical sites along the way.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L



Distance:
Varies



Activity:
Culture & Exploring

DAY 3: Hike Moray Maras

We start heading towards Chinchero plain and taking a dirt road to the spectacular ruins of Moray. These rarely visited circular ruins are thought to have been agricultural experimental stations in the times of the Incas.

After visiting the ruins we follow an ancient mule trail with spectacular views of the snow capped Cordillera Vilcanota. We will also see examples of the finest Andean farming on our way. We head back across the plains to the interesting town of Maras for lunch.

In the afternoon we descend from Maras to the Salinas, a series of amazing salt pans that have been worked since Inca times. After exploring this site we head towards the Urubamba river and board the awaiting vehicle, which returns us to your hotel in Cusco.



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Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L



Distance:
85km(2,5hr Drive)



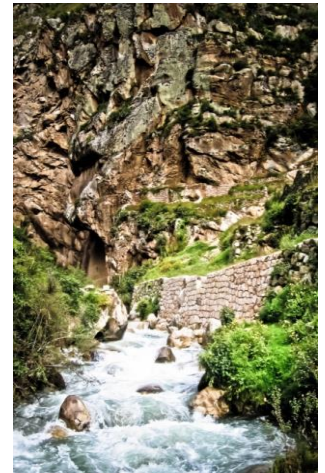
Activity:
Culture & Exploring

DAY 4: Ollantaytambo and the Inca Trail

We head out to the old Inca town of Ollantaytambo and after looking around we have a short drive to the trail-head at Piscacucho (km 82). There you will meet the porters and cooks that will support your journey to Machu Picchu. A light lunch will be provided as the porters prepare their cargo.

Whilst walking all you need to carry is a day-pack. Your luggage is carried by the porters, your tents are put up for you and your food is prepared for you. All you have to do is shoulder your day-pack and enjoy the walking. Afterwards, we head to the Inca Trail control post.

The afternoon's hiking is an undulating trail above the amazing Urubamba River in which reach the spectacular Inca site of Llactapata (2,788m / 9,146ft) and our camp for the night. (2,788m / 9,146ft).



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
6km (2.5hr Hike)



Activity:
Culture & Trekking

DAY 5: Inca Trail: Llactapata to Llulluchapampa



After breakfast you will climb gently up the Cusichaca valley to the small hamlet of Huayllabamba. This is the last inhabited place on the trail. A little steeper now, you head up the beautiful Inca path, past hummingbirds and a stunted cloud forest to your camp at Llulluchapampa (3,680m / 12,073ft). The scenery in this area is stunning and you may be even see the Andean deer that come to feed here.



Overnight:
Camping



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
9km (3.5hr Hike)



Activity:
Trekking



DAY 6: Inca Trail: Llulluchapampa to Phuyupatamarca

Today is the most challenging day but also the most exhilarating. You climb to Dead Woman's Pass (4,212m / 13,819ft) the high point of the trail before descending into the Pacaymayu valley. You will pass the Inca control post of Runkuracay (3,998m/13,117ft). On a clear day there are spectacular views towards the Pumahuanca mountain.

Afterwards you will continue on the well preserved Inca trail to Sayacmarca which is located at the junction of two old Inca roads. Many historians still argue over its exact purpose. A few more gentle ups and downs and you arrive to your stunning campsite for the night, Phuyupatamarca, or 'the place above the clouds' (3,650m / 11,975ft).



Overnight:
Camping



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
15km (4.5hr Hike)



Activity:
Trekking

DAY 7: Inca Trail: Phuyupatamarca to Machu Picchu

On this day you will finally reach Machu Picchu. As you leave your tent the views are stunning. Perhaps you will see the sun rising over the snow-capped mountains of Salkantay (6,200m/20,341ft) and Veronica (5,800m / 19,029ft). Perhaps you will have a cloud inversion, with the clouds filling the valleys beneath your feet. After saying a fond farewell to your porters it is time to head to Machu Picchu.

You descend through the cloud forest on beautiful Inca stairways, to Wiñay Wayna, another interesting ruin full of swallows and orchids. Finally you contour the hillside to arrive at Inti Punku, the gateway of the Sun. As you step through the old stone gate-way, Machu Picchu appears laid out before your eyes. After plenty of photos you carry on past this wonder of the world to catch the bus down to the lively town of Machu Picchu Pueblo and a well-deserved hotel and shower.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
12km (4hr Hike)



Activity:
Trekking



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DAY 8: Machu Picchu Tour



Today you explore the pinnacle of Inca engineering - Machu Picchu. For years it was lost to the jungle. Rediscovered in 1911 by the Yale professor Hiram Bingham, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983 and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World in 2007, Machu Picchu exceeds all expectations.

This astounding site lies in an even more astonishing location. Perched high on an inaccessible hilltop it is protected by huge cliffs and the raging Urubamba river. Things are slightly easier now than in the time of the Incas and so you start your day with a twenty minute bus ride up to the site.

Please discuss with your guide exactly what time you wish to arrive at Machu Picchu. The guided

tour takes around two hours leaving you a few hours free to wander amongst the old Inca walls and just sit and take in the scale of the place on your own. If you wish to walk more, you could take the hour long trail up to the Sun Gate, or a shorter trail to visit the Inca Bridge which once spanned a sheer cliff face.

Eventually the time comes to catch the bus down to Machu Picchu Pueblo and board your train back along the Urubamba River. The scenery is beautiful and the train jolts softly along, allowing you to sit, stare out the window and appreciate your surroundings.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L



Distance:
1.5h Train Ride



Activity:
Personal Preference

DAY 9: FLIGHT HOME

Cusco Airport Transfer : We transfer you to Cusco airport in time for your onward flight. Or we would be happy to organise an extension to allow you to experience more of what Peru has to offer..



Overnight:
None



Meals:
B



Distance:
5.6km (15min Drive)



Activity:
Return



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GETTING AROUND

- Peru has a good domestic air service, however flights are often delayed and cancelled in certain parts of the country, especially in the jungle areas as weather can be a problem.
- The Inca Trail starts at an altitude of around 2,800 meters with the highest point of the trek being “Dead Woman’s Pass” measured at 4,200 meters. Walking at a measured pace and keeping yourself hydrated can diminish the already low chances of altitude sickness.
- The train from Machu Picchu is operated by PERURAIL and the trip provides some spectacular views of the mountains.
- The travelers will be transported to their destinations with a minibus.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Included

- All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- Accommodation as described
- Snacks while camping
- Tea/ Coffee/ Soft drinks while camping
- Water while camping & exploring Machu Picchu
- All equipment
- Porters
- English speaking guide from day 1 to day 9
- Bus & Train tickets
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- All camping equipment

Not Included

- Meals other than mentioned
- International flights
- Tips
- Personal expenses
- Alcoholic and soft drinks
- Sleeping bags

ACCOMMODATION *at a glance*

	Location	Accommodation	Example
Night 1 & 2 & 8	Cusco	Hotel	Hotel Quinta San Blas
Night 3	Ollantaytambo	Hotel	Hotel Pakaritampu
Night 4	Llactapata	Camping	N/A
Night 5	Llulluchapampa	Camping	N/A
Night 6	Phuyupatamarca	Camping	N/A
Night 7	Machu Picchu Pueblo	Hotel	Hotel El Mapi



WHEN TO GO...

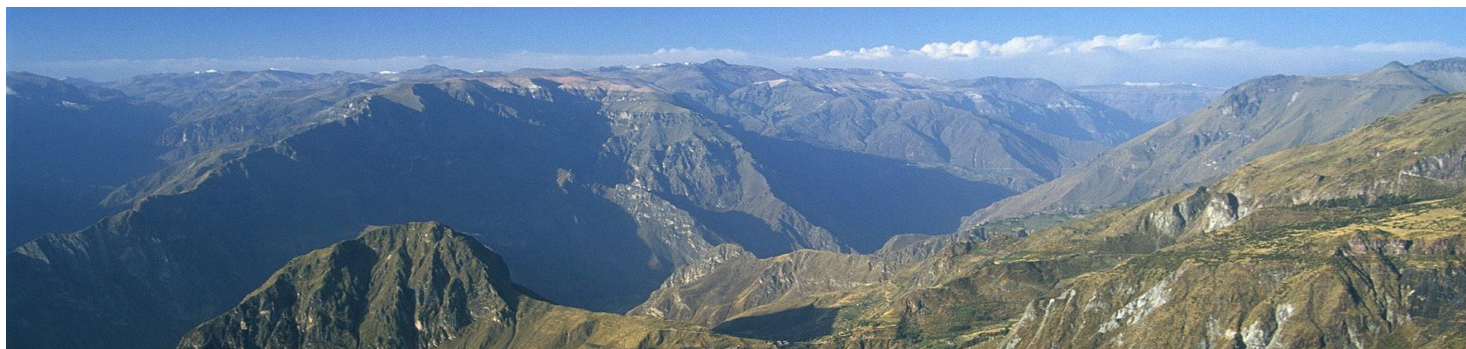
Peru has a range of different climates from moderate temperatures to rainy and humid areas to high mountain tops with colder temperatures. Machu Picchu is located near the jungle, therefore rainfall is possible all year around. It is influenced by the altitude and the Andean highlands climate, therefore waterproof clothes and warm layers are advised throughout all seasons. Our trips run from April to November to ensure the best possible experience when trekking through the Inca Trail.

October - April (Rainy Season)

- In March the trail is re-opened after being closed for maintenance throughout February.
- Snow capped mountains are visible until October due to colder weather which provides beautiful scenery throughout trekking and camping.
- The rainy season is still suitable for trekking and camping although the amount of cloudy and rainy days increases.
- The temperatures are generally higher than in the summer months, however night time can result in very cold temperatures.

May - September (Dry Season)

- The temperatures around the highlands area are generally colder since the summer months are the coldest out of all the seasons in Peru.
- Summer months are the most popular with trekkers due to low rainfall and the dry conditions of the Inca Trail.
- National holidays throughout the months of July and June are the peak time for visiting Machu Picchu for many Peruvians which results in increased crowds around the site.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Activity Duration	8 Hours
Season	March through to December
Best Time To Go	April-November
Group Size	N/A
Responsibility	As part of our commitment to responsible travel we are reducing the use of disposable plastic bottles by taking the Travelers Against Plastic Pledge. We also support our local community by donating funds for reforestation project.
Group Departures	This is run as a private trip, so we are able to suit your dates and requirements. We can also tailor the trip to suit your requirements.
Difficulty Level	Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'difficult level' (7 + hours of activities per day). This means you will need more than a basic level of fitness and some specific training may be required.



THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at info@pioneerexpeditions.com if you're interested in this trip, or any of our other expeditions from around the world. Visit our website www.pioneerexpeditions.com to unearth all of our other equally amazing trips and destinations.

1. Contact us -

We will be happy to answer any questions or enquiries you may have. From here we will begin to plan and put together your dream adventure holiday! Alternatively, on our website you will find our booking and enquiry forms; once filled in, we will be notified of your enquiry and will get back to you ASAP.

2. Leave everything to us -

Everything will be arranged and booked by us, but we will make sure to keep you updated every step of the way. In addition, we can arrange your international flights if needed, as we have access to competitive airfares. We can also arrange any additional tours or additional night's accommodation.

3. Wait for your adventure to begin -

Sit back and count down the days until your trip of a lifetime with Pioneer Expeditions. We'll handle all of the last minute preparations and provide you with everything you need. All practical information will be sent out to you, prior to your trip.

If you feel like altering this itinerary to suit your personal preferences, we can arrange all of that and more – just get in contact with us and let us know your requirements and wishes. From here, we can simply tailor-make your dream holiday.

