



Peru

The Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu - In Style

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



12 Days • 11 Nights

Cusco – Sacred Valley – Lucmabamba – Machu Picchu – Lima
This itinerary can be tailored to suit your exact requirements

Highlights

- Discover the beautiful & bustling city of Cusco and the surround sacred valley
- Challenge yourself and follow the road less travelled to Machu Picchu.
- Reach 4600m on the Salkantay Pass
- Stay in beautiful mountain lodge along your trek.
- Visit Machu Picchu – One of the new Seven World Wonders of the World!
- Enjoy the gastronomic treats that Peru has to offer

Tour Essentials

Tour Style	Trekking
Tour Start	Cusco
Tour End	Lima
Accommodation	Hotel /Lodges
Included Meals	11 Breakfasts, 8 Lunches, 7 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Moderate to Challenging

The trip



Challenge yourself and follow the road less traveled to Machu Picchu. The Salkantay Adventure goes beyond deluxe lodges and a great trek. It is also a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in Andean culture as you learn about the Inca civilization and the extraordinary legacy that they left for generations to come.



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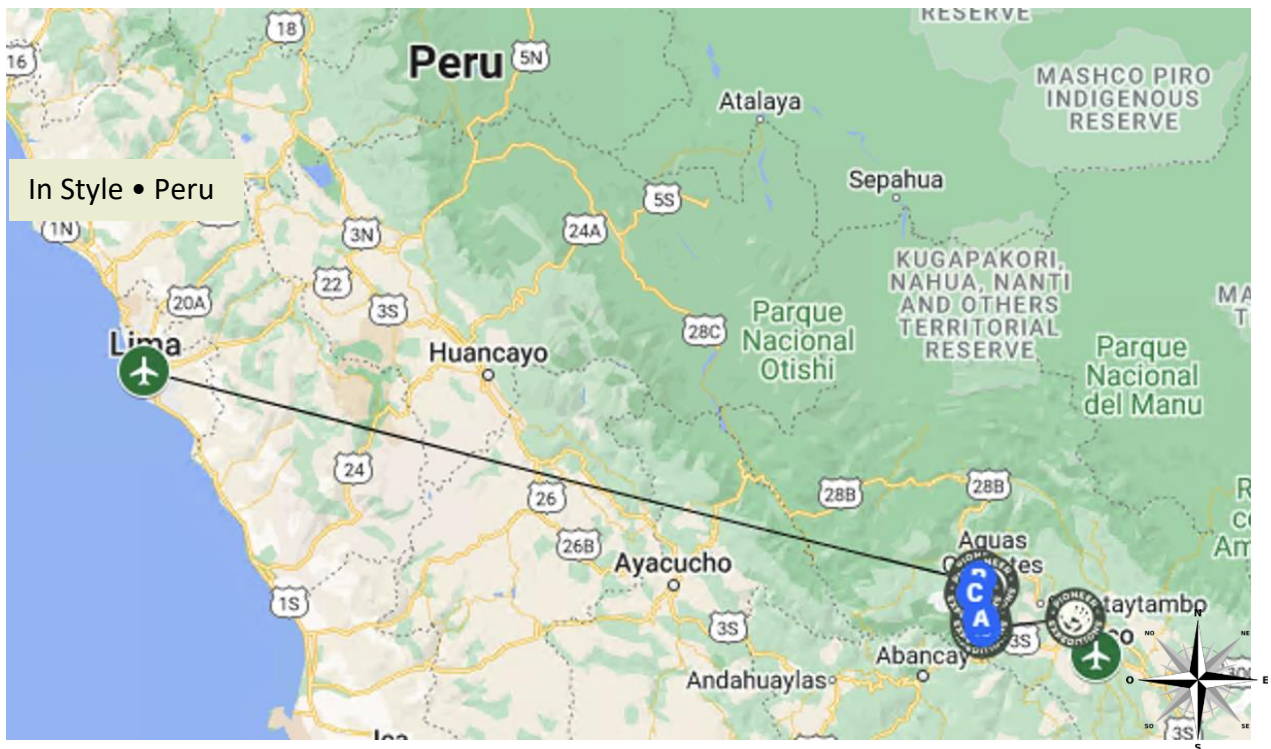
Peru an overview

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.

Itinerary



DAY 1: Arrival in Lima – Flight to Cusco

Arrive in Lima and take the morning flight to Cusco.

Upon arrival in Cusco you will be met and will transfer to your hotel in the heart of Cusco. Afternoon is at leisure to explore the town. This evening you will enjoy a rooftop cooking class in a stunning venue with the best views. Peruvian cuisine is known the world over for its unique flavours, both savoury and sweet. After an excursion to the celebrated San Pedro Market, put on your chef's apron and join us for a cooking class on how to create a delicious three-course meal using some of Peru's traditional recipes.

Overnight: Andenes al Cielo <https://www.andenesusco.com/>



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
D



Distance:
Varies



Activity:
Experience

DAY 2: Cusco

This morning head out on a ½ day E-Bike Tour

This lovely half day bike riding trip is a superb introduction to the Inca heritage of Peru, as well as being suitably flexible to suit just about everyone, from the beginner to the experienced rider. Riding at just over 3000m this is also a great acclimatization trip to prepare you for your onward travels at altitude.

Imported from Germany, the state of the art, Haibike, full-suspension, electricassist, mountain bikes are the perfect way to explore Cusco in a carbon friendly way. If you've never tried an E-bike, it's like having your best friend running alongside you, giving you that little extra push whenever you need it. You still have to peddle but it takes all the hard work out of doing so. They are truly brilliant!



Leaving Cusco in the morning, we will have a briefing before we start our cycle up to our first stunning ruin, the extensive Sacsayhuaman. Although the smaller stones of Sacsayhuaman were used to build modern day Cusco, the remaining stones are up to 8.5m high and weigh over 360 tons. The distinctive zig-zag ramparts are attributed to being puma teeth, lightning and also fortification. This major centre obviously had many functions with storehouses, administration buildings, a reservoir and a play area. It was also site of a crucial battle between the Incas and the Spanish.

We then continue on our bikes uphill to visit Puca Pucara, a delightful ruin on a small prominence now believed to be a 'tambo', a rest house for travelling animals, goods and travellers, rather than the 'red fort' its name suggests. Finally we visit Tambomachay, this is popularly called the Inca's Bath due to its finely preserved waterfalls, carefully diverted through fine stone channels.

The Incas acknowledged water as one of the principal elements of life and revered it accordingly.

Here we start our mountain bike return journey. Your expert guide and mechanic will assess your group's ability and then offer a variety of riding options, from easy, smooth road, dirt road or harder single tracks. All trails are largely downhill as



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we wind our way back towards Cusco city, enjoying spectacular views of the valley and city itself. Your support vehicle is on hand or nearby for virtually the whole trip, and can be used to carry any non-riders or weary clients and extra gear.

This afternoon is at leisure.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B



Distance:
Varies



Activity:
E-Bike

DAY 3: Sacred Valley

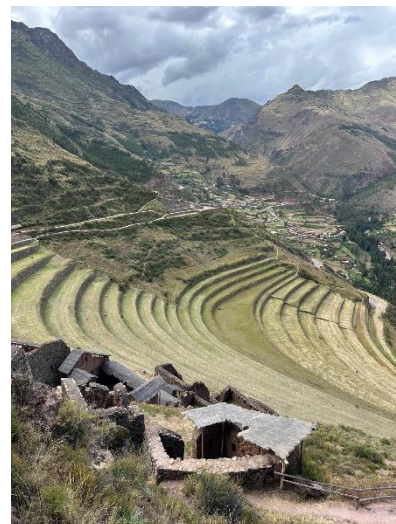
Today you will have a full day to explore the Sacred Valley.

The sacred valley is very important and on this tour you will get an incredible background of the expansion of the Inca Culture, from Cusco, to the Valley and to Machu Picchu. We will get to visit Písaq, Ollantaytambo and Chinchero. All transport, guide and entry fees are included as well as an incredible lunch in Urubamba town, one of the best restaurants in the Valley.

This evening you will meet our MLP guide who will be with us for the next 7 days for a general trip briefing and Q&A.

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Cusco **Duration:** Approximately 45 minutes



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L



Distance:
Varies



Activity:
Exploring

DAY 4: On The Way to Soraypampa

After an early breakfast, our guide and driver will pick us up at your hotel in Cusco. The first stop is a visit to the Quillarumiyoc archaeological site en route to the mountain village of Mollepata. Enjoy lunch at El Pedregal, a beautiful farmhouse in the village, where you will also have the opportunity to learn about local agriculture and livestock. After lunch comes a scenic ride on the winding mountain road to Challacancha. Here we will begin your hike to our flagship Salkantay Lodge at Soraypampa along a picturesque path called the “Camino Real” (Royal Path).

Note: Although we highly recommend participating in the hike as part of your continued altitude acclimatization, guests may opt out and continue by transport to Salkantay Lodge.

- **Trekking Time:** Approximately 3 hours
- **Hiking Level:** Easy to Moderate

Overnight: Salkantay Lodge (12,690' / 3,869m)



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L



Distance:
Varies



Activity:
Exploring



DAY 5: Hike to Lake Humantay

After breakfast, we begin an ascent up the slopes that border the plateau behind Salkantay Lodge. An hour and a half later, your hard work will be rewarded with a first glimpse of the lake's glistening turquoise waters and the Humantay glacier looming overhead. Upon arrival, we will have a chance to relax, enjoy a snack, meditate in the tranquility of this magical spot, and participate in a traditional ceremony to honor "la Pachamama" (Mother Earth). After your descent back to the lodge, the Salkantay staff will be waiting with a hot lunch. Afternoon at leisure to relax, enjoy a massage, or soak in the outdoor hot tub for a spectacular view of the Salkantay Peak at sunset.



- **Trekking Time:** Approximately 4 hours
- **Hiking Level:** Moderate
- **Optional Activities:**

Chakana excursion (subject to additional cost): Horseback/hiking combo up the steep hills adjacent the lodge. The destination—a dramatic lookout point over the Salkantay River Valley marked by an oversized Inca Chakana (cross). This excursion will replace the hike to the glacier lake. Duration: Approximately 5 hours (1.5 - 2 hours on horseback)

Horseback riding (subject to additional cost): After lunch, spend a leisurely afternoon exploring Soraypampa on horseback. Duration: Approximately 2 hours.

Overnight: Salkantay Lodge (12,690' / 3,869m)



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Varies



Activity:
Exploring



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DAY 6: Crossing The Salkantay Pass

After an early start, the ascent toward the Salkantay Pass begins. We will circle Humantay Peak, gradually making our way along expansive plateaus connected by enormous boulders, remnants of the Rio Blanco Valley that was once bisected by a fast-flowing river. The last and most challenging part of the ascent is conquering the mountain switchbacks that lead you to the pass, the highest point on the trek (15,213' / 4,636m). The journey continues with a dramatic descent through fields of large boulders and natural stone formations often shrouded in fog. We will have some time to rest and enjoy some trail mix before the final hike through the area's bucolic countryside; its rolling hills will eventually lead you through marsh-like plateaus to the Wayra Lodge at Wayracmachay, where we can wash away the trail dirt and have a great hot and tasty lunch. In the afternoon relax in the Jacuzzi or enjoy the great and impressive views of surroundings high snowed peaks.



- **Trekking Time:** Approximately 6 hours
- **Hiking Level:** Challenging

Overnight: Wayra Lodge (12,812' / 3,906m)



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Varies



Activity:
Exploring

DAY 7: Descending into The Cloud Forest



After a leisurely breakfast at Wayra Lodge, we will continue the descent toward the cloud forest along the banks of the Salkantay River through increasingly verdant scenery. The warm air will begin to rise from the edge of the jungle, accompanied by colorful butterflies and striking orchids. Today we will see more local Andean people as the trail takes you past their simple homes and makeshift fences. At approximately midday, we will arrive at Colpa Lodge, located on a high promontory at the confluence of three rivers.

The Colpa staff will greet us with a Pachamanca lunch, a traditional Peruvian meal cooked below ground with hot stones that create a natural oven. After lunch, spend the afternoon lounging in the sun or relaxing in the outdoor hot tub while you take in the panoramic views of the lush green mountains that surround you.

Trekking Time: Approximately 3 - 4 hours
Hiking Level: Easy to moderate

Overnight: Colpa Lodge (9,414' / 2,870m)



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Varies



Activity:
Exploring



DAY 8: Following The Santa Teresa River Valley

Today we will hike through the Santa Teresa River Valley along a rolling trail that crosses fertile fruit orchards and bisects streams originating from glacier-fed waterfalls. Rest alongside the river for a trail mix, then continue hiking for one more hour before you are met by our vehicle for the short drive to the bottom of the Llactapata Inca Trail steps that lead to Lucma Lodge. Enjoy a great lunch at the lodge and afterwards, visit an organic coffee plantation, one of many in the area that produce some of the best organic coffees in the world. We will also begin to notice another shift in the climate; in Lucmabamba, the hot air and increased humidity signal that you are even closer to the edge of the Amazon Jungle.

- **Trekking Time:** Approximately 5.5 hours
- **Hiking Level:** Moderate to Challenging

Overnight: Lucma Lodge (7,003' / 2,135m)



Overnight:
Hotel



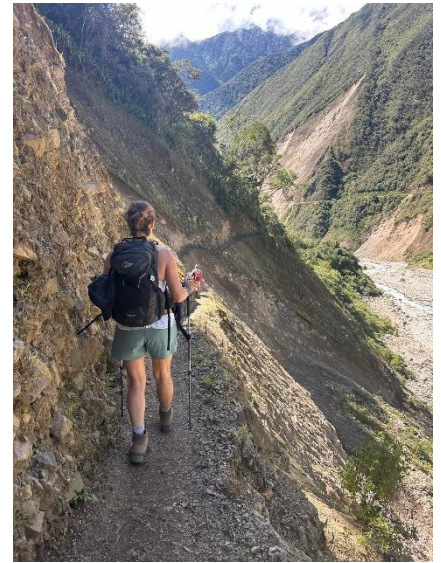
Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Varies



Activity:
Exploring



DAY 9: Lucmabamba / First Views of Machu Picchu

After breakfast, depart from Lucma Lodge and embark on a 2-3 hour climb through the cloud forest up a path mostly comprised of original Inca steps. A lush tree line creates green canopies overhead and the constant sound of rushing water suggests that the river is nearby. Our first milestone today will be the top of the peak, the last one before you descend to the Aobamba River Valley that connects you to Machu Picchu. Upon arrival at the Llactapata Pass (8,974' / 2,736m), we will delight in a southeast view of Machu Picchu, a sight few travelers get the chance to admire. After exploring Llactapata, the Inca tambo (fort) that marks the pass, enjoy a picnic lunch at a mountain lookout point with panoramic views. The final descent along a trail that zigzags down to the roaring Aobamba River will take us through lush bamboo forests, varied fruit orchards, and more coffee plantations. Celebrate as we cross the bridge over the river and take our final steps of the trek en route to the Hidroelectrica train station for a scenic one-hour train ride to the town of Aguas Calientes, on the banks of the Urubamba River at the base of Machu Picchu.



Trekking Time: Approximately 4–6 hours

Hiking Level: Moderate to Challenging

Overnight: Inkaterra Pueblo Hotel (6,693' / 2,040m)



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Varies



Activity:
Exploring



DAY 10: The Citadel of Machu Picchu



Your journey to Machu Picchu begins with a morning rollicking uphill bus ride. As you enter the 'sanctuary' (as locals refer to it), prepare to be awed by the imposing, skillful architecture of the Watchtower, the Temple of the Sun, and the royal Inca residences, among others. After a two-hour guided tour, you will have free time to explore on your own, including a hike up Huayna Picchu Mountain* for dramatic views that stretch from the Urubamba River Valley to the edge of the Amazon Jungle. At some point, be sure to take a moment and sit quietly—listen to the wind, meditate, and absorb the mystical energy that envelops you.

After the visit you will have lunch in Aguas Calientes before a scenic Vistadome train ride to Ollantaytambo (approximately 1.5 hours) and vehicle transfer to your hotel in Cusco (approximately 1.5 hours). As night falls and you arrive amidst the hustle and bustle of the city, you will be touched by a feeling of peace and rejuvenation that will linger long after your journey home.

Overnight: <https://www.andenescusco.com/>



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L



Distance:
Varies



Activity:
Exploring

DAY 11: Transfer to Lima

Today we transfer to the airport in time for our flight back to Lima. Here we will be met and transferred to our hotel in Lima.

This evening we will have an incredible evening culinary tour in Lima, a great option to try the local food, and appetizers and visit Miraflores and Barranco, the tourist neighbourhoods of Lima.

Overnight: Aloft Lima Miraflores



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
Varies



Activity:
Exploring

DAY 12: End of Trip

Transfer to the airport in time for flight home.



Overnight:
N/A



Meals:
B



Distance:
Varies



Activity:
Flight Home



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.
- Our trek starts at an altitude of around 3600 meters with the highest point of the trek being “Salkantay Pass” measured at 4,600 meters. 3 days of acclimatization, combined with walking at a measured pace and keeping yourself hydrated can diminish the 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 / car
- Any extensions can be organized



#

Important Information

Included	Not Included
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner) ■ Accommodation as described ■ Tours as described ■ Entrance Fees where applicable ■ All transfers/transport as described 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ International flights (These can be arranged through us, if needed) ➤ Domestic flights ➤ Visa fees ➤ Meals other than mentioned ➤ Alcoholic and soft drinks (water included during tours) ➤ Personal expenses

Accommodation at a glance

	Location	Accommodation	Example
Night 1, 2, 3, 10	Cusco	Hotel	Andenes al Cielo
Night 4, 5	Soraypampa	Lodge	Salkantay Lodge
Night 6	Salkantay Pass	Lodge	Wayra Lodge
Night 7,	The Cloud Forest	Lodge	Colpa Lodge
Night 8	Lucmabamba	Lodge	Lucma Lodge
Night 9	Aguas Calientes	Hotel	Inkaterra Pueblo Hotel
Night 11	Lima	Hotel	Aloft Lima Miraflores



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.



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.

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.

