



SALKANTAY TREK 3 DAYS



DESCRIPTION

Pressed for time? Challenge yourself by completing the Salkantay Trek in just three days! This trek will push you as you hike 48 kilometers through rugged mountain terrain to Machu Picchu in only two days. You will pass along natural bridges, snowcapped mountains, colorful valleys, waterfalls, wildlife, unique plants, and a cloud forest. When you reach Machu Picchu on the third day you will be filled with fulfillment as you relax amongst the ruins and gaze over the dense jungle valleys.

The Salkantay trek to Machupicchu, it is the best alternative hike to the Inca Trail, designed for those who still wish to hike to Machu Picchu. The ecosystem has a wide-range biodiversity. Come and see yourself an outstanding mountain scenery, biodiversity, and an old-living culture off the beaten path.



FULL ITINERARY

SALKANTAY TREK 3 DAYS

Why Take the Salkantay Trek 3 Days?

- ✓ The Salkantay Trek is listed as one of the 25 best treks in the world by National Geographic Adventure Travel Magazine.
- ✓ The Salkantay Trek is definitely one of the very best trekking adventures that you will find in Peru and in the continent of South America.
- ✓ After the Inca Trail, the Salkantay Trek is the 2nd most popular trek to Machu Picchu (and a lot less crowded).
- ✓ Hiking alongside the magnificent Apu Salkantay and arriving at the ruins of the majestic Machu Picchu is one of the best experiences known to mankind.
- ✓ Trekkers can see natural bridges, snowcapped mountains, colorful valleys, waterfalls, wildlife, unique plants, and cloud forest.
- ✓ Camping with less people allows you to control your own trip and have the best views of these incredible mountains!

Your adventure begins bright and early at 2:30 a.m. We'll pick you up from your accommodation in Cusco for a scenic three-and-a-half-hour drive through Anta, Mollepata, and Challacancha. Along the way, you'll take in breathtaking views of rolling hills, deep valleys, and abundant wildlife. As we approach Soraypampa (3,900 m / 12,795 ft), the starting point of your trek, the majestic snow-capped peaks of Salkantay and Humantay—sacred Apus, or mountain spirits, in Andean culture—will come into view.

At Soraypampa, you'll enjoy a hearty breakfast and meet the trekking team, who will prepare the equipment and organize the mules. From here, the adventure intensifies as you tackle the most challenging section of the trek: the ascent to the Salkantay Pass (4,630 m / 15,190 ft). This steep 7 km (4.35 miles) climb takes about four hours and includes the famous "Path of the 7 Snakes," named for its serpentine curves. Reaching the summit is a triumph, rewarded by panoramic views of the Salkantay Glacier (6,271 m / 20,574 ft) and neighboring peaks, including Humantay, Tucarhuay, and Pumasillo.

After conquering the pass, you'll begin a 7 km (4.35 miles) descent to Wayracmachay, where our chefs will serve a delicious, well-earned lunch. Along the way, take a moment at a scenic viewpoint to admire the stunning valley below.

Once you've recharged, the journey continues into the lush upper Amazon rainforest. This stretch of the trek spans 9.5 km (5.9 miles) over approximately three and a half hours. As you descend, you'll notice a dramatic environmental transformation—from the crisp, rocky Andes to the warm, humid jungle. Along the trail, you'll encounter vibrant hills, exotic wildlife, and unique native plants that bring the scenery to life.

As the afternoon fades, you'll arrive at our exclusive Mountain House campsite in Chaullay (2,950 m / 9,978 ft). After a satisfying dinner, you can unwind and listen to the soothing sounds of nature. Let the tranquil jungle ambiance lull you into a restful sleep, preparing you for the next day's adventures.

**WALKING DISTANCE**

22 km / 13.67 mi

**MEALS**

Breakfast, lunch, dinner

**ACCOMMODATION**

Camping Domes



Today, you can enjoy a more relaxed start to the day, as we'll leave just after 6:00 a.m. In the morning, we'll embark on a scenic hike through the lush Santa Teresa Valley, making our way to the quaint village of La Playa over the course of five hours. The trail winds along the valley floor, crossing to the other side of the mountains, and offers an ever-changing landscape of natural beauty. Along the way, we'll pass cascading waterfalls, listen to the melodies of tropical birds, and walk among fruit trees, vibrant orchids, and plantations of coffee, bananas, and avocados. Be sure to savor the opportunity to taste the sweet and refreshing granadilla—a true treat of the region.

Upon reaching La Playa, we'll enjoy a final energizing lunch with our trekking team before attending a fascinating coffee demonstration. You'll learn about the intricate process of cultivating and preparing coffee and its vital role in sustaining local families. After some time to relax, our transport will take us to the Hidroelectrica train station, marking the next stage of our journey.

From Hidroelectrica, we'll hike along the railroad tracks that trace the Urubamba River to Aguas Calientes. This leisurely route, rich with tropical flora and fauna, offers glimpses of avocados, bananas, and coffee plants, as well as an array of colorful bird species. Keep your eyes peeled for Peru's national bird, the cock of the rock—it's a sight you won't want to miss! Adding to the magic, this is the very trail that American explorer Hiram Bingham followed when he 'rediscovered' Machu Picchu after it was lost for centuries. If you're feeling tired, you can opt to take a train for this portion of the journey (additional cost applies).

After approximately three hours of hiking, we'll arrive in Aguas Calientes. Here, you'll check into your hotel, where you can relax in your private room equipped with a hot shower, WiFi, and luggage storage. You'll also enjoy a delicious breakfast in the morning before visiting Machu Picchu. Take some time this afternoon to unwind or explore the charming town, known for its peaceful, car-free streets and vibrant atmosphere.

At 7:00 p.m., we'll meet for a delightful dinner at a local restaurant, during which your guide will provide a detailed briefing on the plan for tomorrow. Be sure to get an early night's rest, as you'll rise before dawn to experience the awe-inspiring Inca citadel of Machu Picchu.

**WALKING DISTANCE**

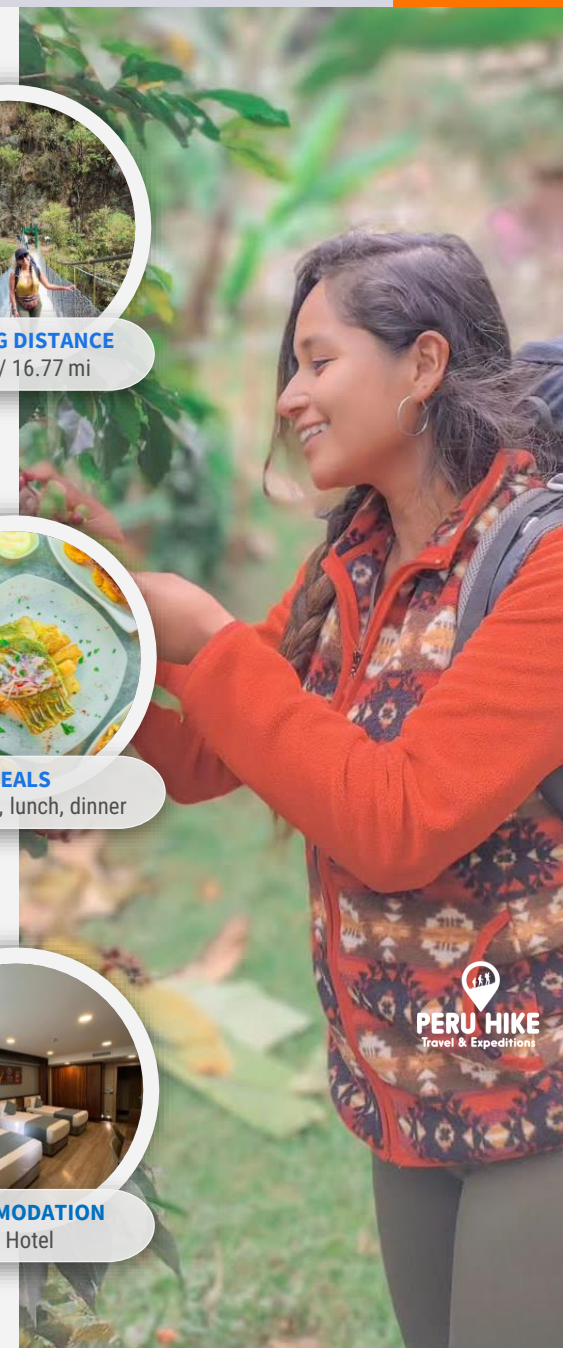
27 km / 16.77 mi

**MEALS**

Breakfast, lunch, dinner

**ACCOMMODATION**

Hotel



The big day is finally here! After all the anticipation, it's time to explore the iconic Machu Picchu. Your adventure begins early, with a 4:00 a.m. wake-up call and a light breakfast to prepare for the day ahead. By setting out early, you'll beat the crowds and enjoy the morning's tranquility. We'll head to the bus stop in Aguas Calientes and take a short ride to the entrance of Machu Picchu, surrounded by the serene beauty of the lush cloud forest.

Stepping into Machu Picchu is an experience like no other. Seeing the ancient citadel emerging from the mist will leave you awestruck. Your guide will lead a two-hour tour, revealing the history and mysteries of this Incan masterpiece. From the terraced slopes and sacred temples to the intricate plazas, every corner tells a story of ingenuity and spirituality.

After soaking in the magic of Machu Picchu, return to Aguas Calientes for a well-deserved lunch. Then, board the train to Ollantaytambo, where our private transport will be waiting to take you back to Cusco. As you reflect on the day, the unforgettable sights and emotions of Machu Picchu and the Andean mountains will stay with you, a cherished memory of an extraordinary journey.

**WALKING DISTANCE**

7 km / 4.34 mi

**MEALS**

Breakfast

**RETURN**

TO CUSCO





INCLUSIONS

INCLUDED / NOT INCLUDED

At Peru Hike company, we specify the included and non-included services under all the tour itineraries listed on our website. We take care of all the logistics, but please pay attention to the details to avoid missing anything. Some items may be different for specific programs, so please read carefully before booking with us.

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

High Quality Service & Safety

- ✓ Pre-departure briefing
- ✓ Experienced Guide speaks English and Spanish
- ✓ A professional cook only for our group
- ✓ Medical Kit – First Aid Kit
- ✓ Private Camping Equipment
- ✓ One duffle bag per person
- ✓ Customer Service 24/7
- ✓ Extra oxygen

Permits & Entrance Tickets

- ✓ Entrance Ticket to Machu Picchu Circuit (1 or 2).

Transportation

- ✓ Horses, and muleteers horses carry your 8-kg / 16-pound personal items.
- ✓ Day 1: Private transportation from Cusco at the start of the trek.
- ✓ Day 2:, your duffle bag will be transported by car and train.
- ✓ Day 3: Train Ticket from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo
- ✓ Day 3: Private transport from Ollantaytambo train station to your hotel in Cusco.

Meals

- ✓ Meals: 3 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, and 2 Dinners
- ✓ Meals: vegetarian and vegan
- ✓ Water to drink on the trail every day
- ✓ Wake up tea
- ✓ Tea Time or Happy Hour
- ✓ Snacks on the trail daily

Accommodation

- ✓ Personal Accommodation in Private Campsites
- ✓ Hotel in Aguas Calientes



WHICH IS NOT INCLUDED?

What Is Not Included?

- Travel Insurance
- Tips for our staff
- Additional costs or delays out of control of the management
- Sleeping bag rent it with us for \$10.
- trekking stick rent it with us for \$10.
- entrance ticket to Salkantay (S/20).





BEFORE YOU GO

Is it for me?

We want to make your trip to Peru as memorable and as carefree as possible. In this section, you'll find the answers to all the questions you have about traveling with Peru Hike Company in one place. Please read the following information carefully – it will help you with any questions about our services.

How many days do I need to acclimate in Cusco before the Trek?

It's very important to be well acclimated to the altitude before exerting yourself on a trek. We recommend that you arrive in Cusco at least 2 or 3 days before the trek starts to help you adjust and avoid possible problems with altitude sickness while on the trek. You might have already been in another area of Peru at a high altitude before arriving in Cusco. In that case, we still recommend you have a whole day in Cusco to rest, recover from your travel, and enjoy the sights and sounds of Cusco before departing for the trek. Here are some suggestions for activities to do in the Cusco vicinity before starting your adventure trek:

City Tour and Sacred Valley



City Tour



Sacred Valley



Briefing or Informative Meeting

All information meetings and briefings are held in our main office in Cusco (or your hotel) at 5:00 pm, one night before the tour begins. These meetings last approximately 30 to 45 minutes. If you're unable to attend, you must coordinate another meeting by email, by phone or at the Peru Hike Company office.



Trek Balance Payment (in Cusco)

The trek has to be paid for in full at most 6.30 pm one day before your departure (generally after the briefing). It would be much appreciated if you pay the trek balance in cash US dollars or local currency at our office in Cusco. You can withdraw some money from several ATMs along Avenida Sol (either in US dollars or local Peruvian Soles). You can pay by credit card or PAYPAL online, but you will have to pay an charge, charged by VISA and PAYPAL. We do not accept bank checks or payment of the balance by traveler's checks.



Group tours

Group tours are made up of different types of people, then physical conditions and ages can vary. By agreeing to be part of a group tour, you also accept that some people may be faster or slower than you. Therefore, each person can go at their own pace on the route. It may be the case that a group wishes to modify the tour; however, the guide will be the one who decides, after consulting with all the participants, if such modifications are possible.



Strikes and demonstrations

Strikes and demonstrations are usually common in Peru, and this may interrupt some of our tours. Roads can be blocked, and train tracks can be taken over. However, we will try to keep your trip as originally planned, even if it means leaving the night before the scheduled date. Under these circumstances, tours may also be canceled. In case of changes or cancellations, everything will be coordinated with you by our operations department. Your safety is our highest priority, and our decisions will be made to protect it.



Lost Objects

Please pay attention to where you leave your things and remember to take everything once you leave our transport, tents, or restaurants. You're the only one responsible for your objects during the tour.



Duffel Bag or Canvas Case

You'll receive a canvas case or duffel bag during your briefing. Our horses will carry them, and the horsemen will hand them to you when you get to each camp. They measure 60 x 24 x 22 cm (23.6 x 9.45 x 8.66 in). A maximum of 8 kg / 17 lb is allowed for each duffel bag, including the weight of your sleeping bag, sleeping mat, clothes, and other personal items.



Can I store my luggage at your office?

Of course! During the trip, your main luggage can be stored at our office (you can organize it with us on the briefing day or by email) or at your hotel, both free of charge. Any equipment that you won't need on the trek can be stored safely in your hotel. Nearly every hotel will provide this service. Don't leave items of value with your bags; put them in the hotel safe and obtain an itemized receipt (in the unlikely case of the, many insurance companies require that you have a copy of the receipt itemizing everything). It's best to put items such as credit cards inside a sealed, signed envelope for extra peace of mind.



Pick up of guests

Peru Hike Company can pick you up from your hotel, as long as it's in the Historical Center of Cusco. Your guide will coordinate the pickup with me in the briefing session, but please keep in mind that the time may vary between 30 and 45 minutes due to traffic. Cusco is an old city, meaning it has many narrow cobbled streets. Some hotels and Airbnbs may be located on streets without access to cars or on long, steep slopes, making it difficult to transport luggage. We strongly recommend that you book accommodation with good access.

THANKS!

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?



24 HRS. EMERGENCY

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[Opening hours – 7:30 am to 19:30 pm]



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Location:

[Cusco, Peru Click here](#)

