

# Classic Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

The Inca trail is considered one of the most famous trails in South America.

Hiking the 4-day Classic Inca Trail to Machu Picchu is a strenuous and awe-inspiring adventure. We will push ourselves to our physical limits, resting each night under the Andean night sky. On our final day, as the mist lifts to reveal the emerald peaks and terraced ruins of the mystical ancient city you'll be rewarded for your efforts.

The company invites you to awaken your senses through this once in a lifetime experience trekking to Machu Picchu.

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## ITINERARY

We provide a full pre-trek briefing at our office or at your hotel in Cusco. This gives you the chance to ask questions about the trek itinerary. Briefings are scheduled for the day before your trek starts.

### Day 1:

#### Cusco – Piscacuchu km 82– Ayapata

Your guide will pick you up at your hotel in Cusco at 5:30 a.m. to drive to the trailhead at Kilometer 82. The early start is rewarded by the most beautiful drive through the Sacred Valley with dawn breaking around us.

Our car will take us through the town of Ollantaytambo where we will have a short stop to use the restrooms and then have breakfast.

We then arrive at the trailhead at Kilometer 82, also known as Piscacucho where the Classic Inca Trail begins. Our porters and chef will meet us here. and after we go through the Inca trail checkpoint and our adventure on the Inca Trail begins.

The trek starts easily with 2.5 hours of relatively flat terrain to reach the Wilkaraqay Inca site. Here we will have spectacular views of the Llactapata ruins, which was a check point on the Inca trail approach to Machu Picchu. Your guide will talk about the history of the site as well as provide an overview of the history of the Inca trail.

Back on the trail, we hike for two more hours to Hatunchaca (2,598 m/8,525 ft) where we will have a delicious lunch.

In the afternoon, we will hike for another 2.5 hours until we reach our campsite at Ayapata. This campsite is a little further along the Inca Trail than the traditional night-one camp site at Wayllabamba. We chose this deliberately because it is more isolated and much quieter, allowing us to truly enjoy the spectacular display of stars visible in this part of the Andes.

Our chef will prepare dinner for all of us.

- Meals: Lunch/Dinner
- Accommodations: Camping
- Maximum altitude: 3300 m/10,824 ft
- Minimum altitude: 2,750 m/9,020 ft
- Distance to walk: 14 km/8.7 miles
- Approximate walking time: 7 hours
- Difficulty: Moderate

## **Day 2:**

### **Ayapata – Dead Woman’s Pass – Pacaymayu – Chaquicocha**

After breakfast, we begin our hike to the famous Dead Woman’s Pass! For the first two hours we will be in the cloud forest, passing through low sierra and the high Puna. There are many opportunities to see a variety of plant and birdlife and if we are lucky we may also spot White Tailed Deer roaming wildly.

After this two-hour hike we reach Lluchapampa (3,800 m/12,460 ft). This is a small camp and it is the last location on the trail to buy supplies. After a 15-minute break we will continue on the trail.

The portion of the trail leading to Warmiwañusca “Dead Woman’s Pass” at (4,215 m/13,825 ft) takes around two hours through the most beautiful mountain scenery and the grasslands of the high Andes. We will pause at the top of the pass to admire the majesty of the highest point of the Inca trail .

We then descend to the Pacaymayu camp for lunch. After lunch, we climb approximately 45 minutes to the Inca site of Runcuraccay. Your guide will provide a tour of the ruin before we continue uphill for an additional hour to the Runcuraccay pass (3,950 m/12,959 ft).

After a 90-minute descent we arrive at the Inca site of Sayacmarca (3,657 m/12,000 ft). Here we will have the chance to see one of the most amazing sunsets across the Aobamba valley!

From here it is just 25 minutes to our campsite Chaquicocha (3,600 m/11,800 ft).

- Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner
- Accommodations: Camping
- Maximum altitude: 4215 m/13,825 ft
- Minimum altitude: 3,300 m/10,824 ft
- Distance to walk: 16 km/ 10 miles
- Approximate walking time: 8-9 hours
- Area: Andes and Cloud Forest
- Difficulty: Challenging

### **Day 3: Chaquicocha – Phuyupatamarca – Wiñay Wayna**

We will start with a one hour hike to the Inca ruins at Phuyupatamarca (3,680 m/12,073 ft). From here we will enjoy spectacular views of Aguas Calientes, Machu Picchu Mountain, before getting a guided tour of the Inca site.

Now we head into the rain forest! We will walk downhill for 2 ½ hours until we reach our camp. During this stretch of the trail we will visit Inti Pata.

Leaving Inti Pata it is then just 40 minutes to our campsite at Wiñay Wayna (2,680 m/8,792 ft).

Arriving at the campsite we will have lunch and then enjoy some time relaxing before visiting the archeological site that bears the same name as the camp. Wiñay Wayna is the largest and most beautiful archeological site on the Inca trail.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

- Accommodations: Camping
- Maximum altitude: 3600 m/11,808 ft
- Minimum altitude: 2,680 m/8,792 ft
- Distance to walk: 10 km/6.2 miles
- Approximate walking time: 6 hours
- Area: High Cloud Forest
- Difficulty: Easy

#### **Day 4: Wiñay Wayna – Machu Picchu – Cusco**

We will start very early on our final day to complete the last few kilometers of the Inca Trail. the trekking here is fairly easy going for around 2 hours, and brings us directly to Inti Punku or the “Sun Gate”. This is the ancient entrance of the sacred city and gives us our first views of Machu Picchu.

After 45-minute downhill hike to the entrance gates of the city. We will go to the classic photo spot for pictures as soon as we arrive. Then there will be a short break before starting our 2-hour guided tour of Machu Picchu. All of our guides are experts in the history and mythology of the site.

After the tour we travel to Aguas Calientes by bus and then take the train to Ollantaytambo where our private transportation will be waiting to transport you back to your hotel in Cusco. Arrival time in Cusco depends on the time of your train ticket.

- Meals: Breakfast
- Maximum altitude: 2700 m/8,856 ft
- Minimum altitude: 2,430 m/7,972 ft

- Distance to walk: 6 km/3.73 miles
  - Approximate walking time: 2 hours
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## **INCLUDED**

- Professional licensed guide fluent in English, Spanish.
- Pre trek briefing 1 to 2 days before the trek
- Support staff including professional cooks and porters to carry .
- Three breakfasts, three lunches, and three dinners
- Dining tent with table, stools, and all dining implements
- Kitchen tent
- Sleeping tents and air mattress – Four person tent for every two people
- Emergency supplies, including a first aid kit, oxygenñ.
- All group fees, including Inca Trail permits and entrance to Machu Picchu
- Return train ticket from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo or Poroy
- All transfers, private van to trailhead at KM 82, bus from Machu Picchu to Aguas Calientes, and private van from Ollantaytambo to your hotel in Cusco.

## **NOT included**

- Sleeping Bag – can be rented from us (USD \$15 per person)
- Hiking poles – can be rented from us (USD \$15 per pair and person)
- Huayna Picchu mountain ticket – USD \$75 per person
- Breakfast on Day 1 and lunch and dinner on Day 4
- Tips for porters, chef, and guide
- Travel Insurance (highly recommended)

## **Items to bring with you:**

- Original passport (if you have acquired a new one after you made your booking, bring both)
- Down or synthetic feather sleeping bag (can be rented from us)
- Clothes (trekking boots, warm fleece jacket, a few T-shirts, socks, sun hat, warm underwear, light long pants, gloves, rain jacket)
- Toiletries (toilet paper, wet wipes, personal towel)

- Sun protection; Sunscreen (SPF 35+ recommended), sunscreen
  - Headlamp, batteries\*
  - Camera with spare batteries\*
  - Binoculars
  - Book to read (you will have some spare time at every camp)
  - Trekking poles (recommended especially for the steep descents, can be rented from us)
  - Bug repellent
  - NOTE: ***\*Batteries run down faster at high altitudes***
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