

Inca Trail (Classic Route) *5 day trek to Machu Picchu*



Day 01: Arrive Cusco (D)

On arrival in Cusco, you will be met by your private guide and driver and transferred to your hotel in the city centre (Los Portales, or similar).

In the afternoon, embark on a guided walking tour of Cusco and the surrounding ruins – this 3-4 hour walking tour of Peru's former imperial capital serves as a fascinating introduction to Incan history and architecture, as well as providing valuable acclimatisation! Starting in Cusco central, you'll visit the city's most significant historical monuments, including the Plaza de Armas, the Spanish Cathedral (dating from the era of the viceroyalty, and built with great slabs of red granite in the renaissance style) and finally, the Santo Domingo church, built upon the foundations of the Incan temple Koricancha, dedicated to the Sun God.

Late afternoon, explore the ruins surrounding Cusco, including the Sacsayhuaman Fortress – a vast ceremonial compound that overlooks the city; the Qenqo Amphitheatre – a ritual ground with subterranean galleries; Puca Pucara, or the red fortress; and the Inca Baths of Tambomachay. After the tour you will be returned to your hotel in Cusco central.

Dinner at the hotel.

Your Financial Protection

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

Day 02: Full day excursion to Awanacancha, Pisac & Ollantaytambo Fortress (B, L, D)

En route to the Urubamba Valley, visit Awanacancha, an Andean textile centre. Here you will learn about Peruvian textiles, and the traditional dyeing techniques used to produce them.



From Awanacancha, continue to Pisac Market, where you will have the chance to interact with the local folk and barter with the merchants. This famous and colourful market is renowned for its handicrafts, which range from alpaca-wool clothing and musical instruments to artwork and jewellery.

After lunch at a local restaurant you will visit the Incan fortress and citadel of Ollantaytambo. Constructed to protect the entrance to the valley from lowland invaders,

Ollantaytambo was later the scene of Incan resistance in 1537, when Manco Inca's forces stood their ground against the Spanish troops led by Hernando Pizarro.

After the tour you will be driven back to your hotel in Cusco for dinner and overnight.

Day 03: Cusco - Km. 82 - Huayllabamba (B, L, D)

Meet with your driver after breakfast and depart Cusco for the trailhead at Km. 82, in the Urubamba Valley, the starting point for today's trek. Here you will meet with the porters and, after the supplies have been checked, set off into the hills on foot.

The starting section of the trek will take you through semi-arid terrain, as you follow the course of the Urubamba River into the valley, with magnificent views of the snow-capped peaks of the Andes towering overhead. In the afternoon, you'll follow the Kusichaca River out of the Urubamba Valley and to your first campsite in Huayllabamba (2,890m).



(Km. 82 to Huayllabamba: 11km / 6 hours)

Day 04: Huayllabamba – Pacaymayo (B, L, D)

The day starts with a trek to the top of Warmihuañusca Pass (4,200m). It is a short but steep climb to the top of the pass, but your efforts will be well-rewarded with wonderful views of the valley below.

From the pass, continue down into a gorge, at the end of which is Pacaymayo (3,600m), your second camp.

(Huayllabamba-Pacaymayo: 7km / 7 hours)

Day 05: Pacaymayo – Phuyupatamarca (B, L, D)

Depart Pacaymayo after a hearty breakfast and follow a meandering path up to the Runkurakay circular ruins. There is little sign of human life at this high altitude, only great forests and abrupt hills.

After a good rest at the Runkurakay, a gentle descent will take you to the ruined site at Sayacmarca (3,620m), accessed via a lengthy stone staircase. From Sayacmarca, continue to follow the ancient stone pathway through the jungle to the Phuyupatamarca ruins. The trail then crosses the Lago Seco and, further on, "the Tunnel", a natural cavity adapted by the Incas. The Inca Trail's well-traced borders continue on the hills, full of moss and fern. After crossing a small pass, you will see some steep steps and under them the ceremonial centre of the Phuyupatamarca ruins (3,650m), where you set up camp this evening.

(Pacaymayo – Phuyupatamarca: 7km / 6 hours)

Day 06: Phuyupatamarca - Machu Picchu (B, D)

Descend from Phuyupatamarca to the WiñayWayna ruins (2,650m), with fabulous views of the Urubamba Valley and river en route. From WiñayWayna, one of the most impressive Inca ruins after Machu Picchu, continue towards Inti Punku (2,740m), the Sun Gate, and entrance to Machu Picchu. From the Sun Gate you will have your first glimpses of Machu Picchu (2,450m) it looks unreal and beautiful. You will visit the ruins for only a short time this afternoon; tomorrow you'll have another visit.

Transfer to Aguas Calientes for dinner and overnight at El Mapi Hotel, or similar.

(Phuyupatamarca – Wiñaywayna: 4km / 3 hours; Wiñaywayna – Machu Picchu: 5 km / 4 hours)



Day 07: Machu Picchu – Cusco (B)

This morning you travel by bus on a winding course that leads all the way up to Machu Picchu. On arrival, there will be a guided tour of the citadel – taking in the Main Plaza, Circular Tower, Sacred Sun Dial, Royal Quarters, the Temple of the Three Windows and various burial grounds – as well

as lots of time for independent exploration and photographs. If you wish to climb Machu Picchu Mountain or Huayna Picchu please let us know in advance as there is an additional pass and cost required.

In the afternoon, catch the train from Aguas Calientes station to Ollantaytambo, where you will be met on arrival and transferred back to your hotel in Cusco.

Day 08: Departure (B)

At leisure until your scheduled transfer to the airport for your homeward flight.

Note: Gane and Marshall highly recommend you spend a few days prior to the trek in Peru to help you acclimatise. Please contact us to for ideas of how to extend your trip.

Price Guide:

*The cost of this itinerary is **£1,490 per person**, based on a group size of two and shared twin accommodation.*

Includes:

- Accommodation (twin basis) as outlined in itinerary
- Camping gear, sleeping bags etc, on trek
- Meals as outlined
- English-speaking guides
- Private driver
- Train and bus tickets
- Porter service during trek
- Entrance fees to all sights mentioned in itinerary

Excludes:

- International/internal flights – please ask us for a quote
- Visas
- Personal travel insurance
- Personal expenses and tips
- Drinks
- Machu Picchu Mountain / Huayna Picchu pass