

PERU - THE SALKANTAY ADVENTURE 3 DAYS



TRIP CODE

PETSSA3

DEPARTURE

November to March

DURATION

4 Days

LOCATIONS

Peru



INTRODUCTION

This is the ultimate excursion to experience the beautiful Salkantay Trail on an itinerary designed for those travellers with limited time. Trek by day, and stay in an intimate deluxe lodge at night, where a hot shower, Jacuzzi, massage and gourmet food accompanied by select wines await. This is trekking - but in style!

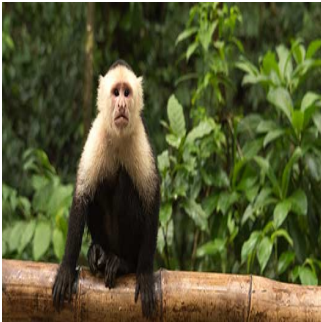
GREEN POINTS!

• Sponsorship of Yanapana a not-for-profit aimed to reduce poverty in the Andean Highlands. • The Huacahuasi Lodge was built upon community land. Through joint ownership, training and employment opportunities, local people have the opportunity to become active investors in local development projects for the long-term benefit of all.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival transfer in Cusco

On arrival in Cusco, please proceed to the arrivals hall where our representative will be waiting to transfer you to your hotel in the Sacred Valley. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Please note that this service includes a driver only.



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DAY 1: Arrival in Cusco


Cusco, set at an altitude of 3,400 metres in the Peruvian Andes, was once the capital of the Inca Empire. It is known for its Spanish colonial architecture and Incan remains. Narrow, cobble-stoned streets lined by Inca walls stretch out from the main plaza in every direction. Many of the colonial buildings were built on top of Incan foundations and the stonework is unparalleled in its precision and beauty.



DAY 1: Pre Tour Briefing - Includes Transfer from Hotel

This evening you will be collected from your hotel and dropped off for a pre tour briefing, where you will learn about the plans for your upcoming trek in the Sacred Valley. The briefing is approx. 45 minutes and allows time for any questions you may have about the days ahead.



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DAY 2: Cusco to Salkantay Lodge

After an early breakfast, your tour guide and driver will collect you from your Cusco hotel. Leaving Cusco, we drive to the archaeological site and Inca ruins of Quillarumiyoc, located 50 kilometres from Cusco on the plains of Anta, at a height of 3,650m. The name means 'Place of the moon rock' in Quechua and it was here that ceremonies were held to worship the moon. The archaeological site consists of terraces and waterways and a small cave with petroglyphs. At the centre of the site there is a huge rock with a crescent moon carved into the rock, dedicated to the Moon Goddess. From here, the journey continues to the mountain village of Mollepata and to El Pedregal, a beautiful farmhouse where we have lunch. After lunch we ascend a winding mountain road to Challacancha. It is from here that we begin our trek to Soraypampa, along an old and picturesque route called the "Camino Real" (Royal Path). Today's easy to moderate trek is around 3 hours, and provides a good opportunity to acclimatise to the higher altitudes. As we round the final turn of the Camino Real, Salkantay Lodge comes into view. Salkantay Lodge takes its name from the majestic peak at the head of the valley - Mt. Salkantay, the second most sacred peak in Inca mythology and, at 6,270m the highest in the region. The lodge blends into its surroundings and affords spectacular views towards Mt. Salkantay. After a warm welcome by the friendly staff, we are shown to our rooms and have time to freshen-up before tea is served and we can watch the sun setting over Salkantay Peak. The trip leader will hold a briefing by the fireplace, followed by aperitifs and dinner. Trekking: Easy to Moderate, 3 hours



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DAY 3: Journey to Salkantay Pass

Today is a fairly long and strenuous trekking day, but magical. After an early start, we begin our hike along mountain trails that lead us up the Rio Blanco Valley, circling Humantay glacier and past expansive plateaus dotted with boulders of varying sizes, remnants of a valley that was once bisected by a fast-flowing river. The ascent continues with a series of mountain switchbacks that bring us to Salkantay Pass, the highest point on the trek at 4,636m (15,213ft). At the top of the pass we stop to take in the spectacular views of the snow-capped peaks of the Vilcabamba Range with the glaciated south face of Salkantay towering above us. We keep a look out for Andean condors, soaring high above. From the pass, we descend back to Salkantay Lodge, enjoying a picnic lunch en route. Back at the lodge, the remainder of the afternoon and evening is at leisure. The night is again spent at Salkantay Lodge with gourmet food and warm, comfortable beds. In the evening, the guide briefs us on the itinerary for the following day. Trekking: Challenging, 6 hours



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DAY 4: Humantay Glacier Lake to Cusco

Today gives us the opportunity for both adventure and reflection. After an early breakfast, we make a vigorous ascent up the sloping hills adjacent to Soraypampa plateau to Lake Humantay, fed by the hanging glaciers of the impressive Mt. Humantay far above. The views of the turquoise waters of the lake are incredible. Here we have time to relax and meditate in the tranquillity of this magical spot. We also participate in a traditional Pachamama ceremony to honour Mother Earth. We return to the lodge for lunch and then drive back to Cusco, where you will be dropped off at your selected hotel. Trekking: Moderate, 5 hours




INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Standard

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Inclusions	Accommodation at Salkantay Lodge All meals daily Non-alcoholic beverages with meals Transportation Cusco to Cusco Services of experienced guides Gratuities for service staff at lodges Activities as stated in itinerary
	Exclusions: Alcoholic beverages Laundry Services Massage & Spa services Gratuities for guides
Difficulty Rating	3 (Average fitness level required)
Single Surcharge	50% supplement for single room and 25% supplement for willing to share. Contact us for more details
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

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SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you’re visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu’s “Pass it on” programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.
- 4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.
- 5) Chimu Adventures’ offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure’s internal processes are also structures to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via

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bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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