

PERU - GRAND INCA TRAIL



INTRODUCTION

Peru is interconnected by thousands of miles of Inca roads; the Inca Trail is the 43km section leading to Machu Picchu (a World Heritage site since 1983) and one of the key routes used by the Incas. It has now become one of the world's most popular trekking routes thanks to the extraordinary natural beauty of its surroundings. This journey, ideal for adventure and history lovers alike, is a perfectly preserved section that combines a variety of ecological zones from high-altitude deserts to rainforests and takes in several important archeological sites. Your tour ends when you cross the threshold of "Intipunku" (Gate of the Sun) to reach the magnificent citadel of Machu Picchu – the architectural marvel and engineering masterpiece of Incas, and designated one of the New Seven Wonders of the World in 2007.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Pre-Trek Briefing

This evening the trek operator will hold a pre-trek briefing at your hotel. Time will be reconfirmed with you directly on arrival. Please note your sleeping bag which is included will be provided to you at this briefing.



TRIP CODE

PETSGIT

DEPARTURE

Enquire for departure dates

DURATION

7 Days

LOCATIONS

Peru, Machu Picchu



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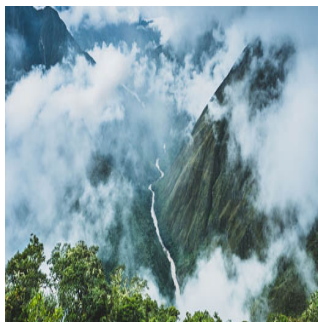
DAY 2: 5 Day Inca Trail Deluxe – Day 1

You will be picked up early from your hotel by your Inca Trail guides and transferred through the stunning Sacred Valley, past the impressive Inca fortress of Ollantaytambo. There will be a brief stop in the village, where you will have chance to buy any last minute supplies. After an interesting drive to the end of the road at Pisca K'uchu (km82), you will meet your support team of traditional porters before embarking on the famous Inca trail to Machu Picchu. The trek begins with a gentle walk along the undulating shores of the Urubamba River. Arrive at Llactapata (2,788m). Continue along the trail up the Cusichaca valley to the small hamlet of Huallyabamba, the last inhabited place on the trail, where camp is set up for the night.



DAY 3: 5 Day Inca Trail Deluxe – Day 2

After a hearty breakfast, continue your journey along the trail ascending to Llulluchapampa through an Uncas forest, dwarf forest (Forest Midget). As you continue to climb, you finally reach the top of Warmiwanusca (Dead Woman's pass, 4,200m). You will see alpacas and llamas feeding on pastures of Ichu, a type of Andean grass and one of the very few plants to thrive at this altitude. This is the highest point of the Inca Trail. From here, it's pretty much downhill for another couple of hours through an area of Cloud Forest, home to many birds including sparrows and humming birds. You may also be lucky enough to see the rare Spectacled Bear. You will then descend into the Pacasmayu valley, where camp will be set up for the night.



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DAY 4: 5 Day Inca Trail Deluxe – Day 3

This is possibly the most beautiful day of the Inca trail. In the morning there will be a leisurely breakfast and time to relax while other groups go on ahead. This leaves the trail much emptier so your group will have the trail to yourselves for the rest of the day. The day begins with an ascent, walking up original Inca steps to the archaeological site of Runkurakay (3800 m / 12470 ft) with views back towards Warmiwanusca and the valleys that descend to the Amazon. Passing a number of small lagoons to Runkurakay Pass (3970m / 13025ft), where if the weather allows, snow-capped mountains will come into view. After a short rest, the trail snakes down to Yanacocha (the Black Lagoon) and continues to the archaeological site of Sayacmarca (3624 m / 11890 ft), where you will stop for a guided tour. Continue along the paved Inca path, through a preserved Inca tunnel to reach the Phuyupatamarca Pass (3700m / 12140ft). A short distance further lie the ruins of Phuyupatamarca, where you will spend the night with break-taking views of the Urubamba and Vilcanota mountain ranges with the Amazon in the distance - simply incredible!

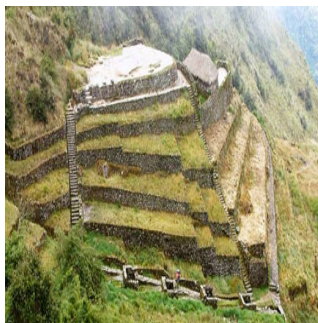


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DAY 5: 5 Day Inca Trail Deluxe – Day 4

From the vantage point of your camp near the ruins of Phuyupatamarca, there will be the opportunity to see one of the most spectacular sunrises in the Andes with 360 ° views of the surrounding mountain ranges, including the impressive Salkantay and Pumasillo. After breakfast, your journey continues down almost 300 metres to the ruins of Intipata, an ancient agricultural ground where the Incas experimented with edible plants. The Inca terraces are surrounded by hundreds of edible and aromatic plant varieties and have spectacular views over the Urubamba Valley. From here, continue to the most important and impressive archaeological site of the entire route; Wiñay Wayna containing a series of fine ceremonial fountains and elegantly curved terracing. Continue further along the trail surrounded by tropical vegetation and finally reach Intipunku (The Sun Gate), where you will catch the first glimpse of the break-taking Machu Picchu Ruins. You will then begin your final descent to the Inca citadel later in the afternoon, a privileged hour with far fewer tourists. Continue by bus down to your hotel in the colourful town of Aguas Calientes.



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DAY 6: 5 Day Inca Trail Deluxe – Day 5

After breakfast, return to Machu Picchu for an in depth tour of the ruins giving you an insight in the history behind the main remains and monuments including the Principal Plaza, Temple of Three Windows, Intiwatana, the Quarter of the Mortars, The Temple of the Condor, the cemeteries and enclosures, sacred sources, and the urban and agricultural sectors. There will be time to explore the ruins at leisure. You may choose to scale the Huayna Picchu Mountain, which gives you spectacular views of Machu Picchu from a different perspective.



DAY 7: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Deluxe
Inclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private Transportation Cusco - Inca Trail - Cusco - Vistadome train from Aguas Calientes to Cusco (Poroy) / or Ollantaytambo - Bus going downhill from Machu Picchu to Aguas Calientes where the train station is situated. - Transfer from the train station in Cusco to your hotel in Cusco - Entrance fees to the Inca trail / Machu Picchu - Professional bilingual guide (Spanish and English) - Masseuse - Sleeping bag - Pillow & blankets - Self-inflating deluxe mattress (5cm. thick) - Shower Tent - Porters for personal gear up to 14kg. per pack - Minimum of 2 people; Maximum: 16 people in one group - Shower tent - Deluxe Menu - Alcohol beverages - Champagne at the Sun Gate - Stainless steel cutlery & china crockery <p>Not Included: Entrance fee to Huayna Picchu Personal expenses Tips</p>
Difficulty Rating	4 (average fitness required).
Single Surcharge	Available upon request.
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability.

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

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

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