

A photograph of two geodesic dome tents at dusk. The tents are illuminated from within, casting a warm yellow glow. They are situated on a grassy slope with a backdrop of dark, forested mountains and a snow-capped peak under a twilight sky. The text 'Peru EcoCamp' is overlaid in large white font across the center of the image.

# Peru EcoCamp

**SALKANTAY + INCA TRAIL**

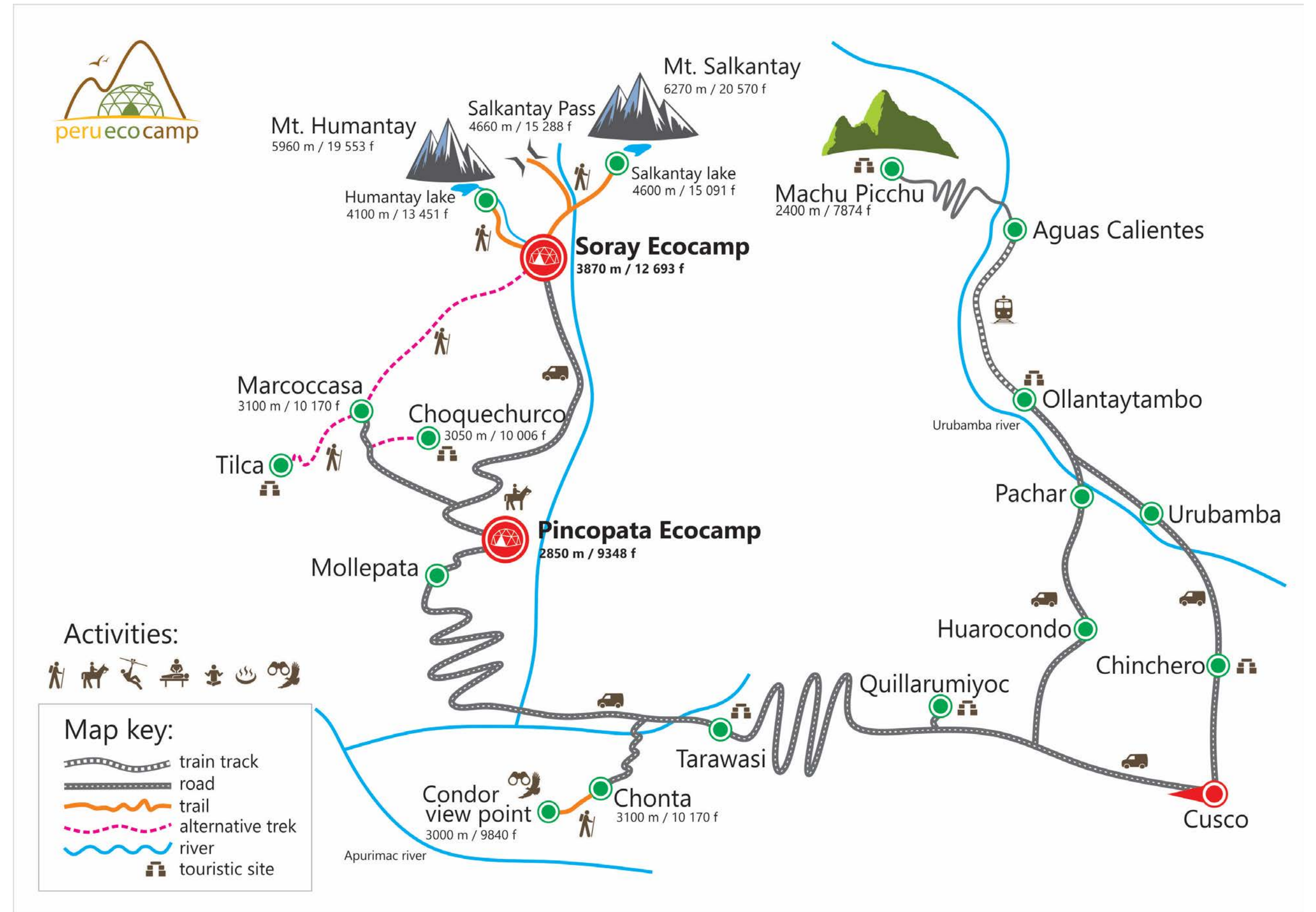
8 DAYS



# SALKANTAY + INCA TRAIL

## Overview

The Salkantay & Inca Trail Tour allows guests the comfort of an airport pick up as well as hotel arrangements in Cusco before and after the Salkantay Trek & Inca Trail: a trek around the Salkantay and a trek for a day to the Inca Trail ending at the legendary city of Machu Picchu. This sacred citadel has been fascinating and enchanting visitors for more than a century. It is a portal to the past and a step into the incredible history of the rise and fall of the Incas, the most advanced civilization of the Americas. The Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu was selected by National Geographic Adventure Travel Magazine as one of the world's 25 best treks. The Inca Trail Trek is one of the most famous around Peru. Experience the rich geography of this part of the Peruvian Andes as you hike remote and ancient trails where enormous snowcapped mountains give way to lavish forests of tropical fruits and unique orchids. You will also have the chance to visit a traditional Peruvian coffee plantation. Peru Ecocamps offers a unique opportunity to experience the treasures of the wild Andes whilst reveling in comfort and bliss equaling any high-end hotel. The comforts at the camp extend from luxurious geodesic domes that measure 28 square meters (301 square feet) in size, to the exquisite food which ranges from the simplest to the most elaborate dishes. The typical local dishes served on the trek showcase the fresh, natural ingredients and varied flavors of our world-renowned Peruvian cuisine. Our professional guides are trained in local history, geography, and culture, and possess an unparalleled knowledge of the regional flora and fauna. They hold the skills required to ensure your safety and well-being throughout the trip. The Salkantay & Inca Trail Tour with Peru Ecocamps offers a smooth, relaxing and unforgettable experience!



# SALKANTAY + INCA TRAIL: ITINERARY AT-A-GLANCE

## DAY 1

### Cusco

Arrive, Overnight  
Antigua Casona San  
Blas

## DAY 2

### Salkantay

Begin Salkantay Trail.  
Hike and overnight  
Pincopata EcoCamp

## DAY 3

### Salkantay

Hike to Tilca &  
Choquechurco, Condor  
Spotting, Overnight  
Pincopata EcoCamp

## DAY 4

### Salkantay

Option 1: Salkantay  
Option 2: Humantay  
Overnight Pincopata  
EcoCamp

## DAY 5

### Sacred Valley

Travel to Sacred  
Valley. Overnight  
Aranwa Sacred Valley  
Hotel

## DAY 6

### Aguas Calientes

Travel to  
Ollantaytambo.,  
Transfer to Aguas  
Calientes by rail.  
Overnight Inkaterra  
Machu Picchu Pueblo  
Hotel

## DAY 7

### Cusco

Machu Picchu, Return  
to Cusco, Overnight  
Antigua Casona San  
Blas

## DAY 8

### Depart

Transfer to  
Cusco airport for  
departures







# DAY 1: CUSCO

Upon arrival to the Cusco airport, you will be personally met and transferred to your hotel. There will be welcoming drinks awaiting along with a briefing. You will spend the night in a select hotel closed to Plaza de Armas in Cusco.

Explore Cusco from Antigua Casona San Blas, the hotel offers the perfect location for exploring Cusco. It's only four blocks from the main square, the Plaza de Armas, and sits amongst some of the city's oldest casonas in the bohemian arts district of San Blas. Here you'll find some of the city's best bars and restaurants and is great to stroll around, as it's mostly free of traffic. The neighborhood also boasts some of the best views of Cusco, due to its uphill location.

## **Overnight Antigua Casona San Blas (Bed & Breakfast)**





# DAY 2: PINCOPATA ECO CAMP

This first day will give participants time to adapt to the altitude and begin to prepare physically for the following day's hiking. We will pick you up from your hotel at 8 am for the trip to the Condor Viewing Point at Chonta. Along the way, we stop and explore one of two archaeological sites: Kuillarumiyoc or Tarahuasi. These sites were important ritual sites during the height of the Inca Empire and still hold important significance in Quechua society today. While driving further, you will enjoy the landscape of the Limatambo valley, and spot the small farming communities nestled among the valley. On reaching Chonta, we will walk for approximately an hour along a narrow track with spectacular views of the Apurimac Canyon. We are almost certain to have the site completely to ourselves, as most tourists tend to visit in the area later in the afternoon. At the viewing point, there will be time to relax and observe the condors soaring over the canyon, while a specially prepared lunch box will be served. After lunch, we will return to our vehicle and continue to our final destination, Pincopata Ecocamp.

Pincopata is located ten minutes away from the quiet town of Mollepata in the province of Limatambo. The camp boasts beautiful green lawns and plenty of local flowers planted. The large fire pit in a quiet corner of the camp allows for the perfect place for stargazing. After arriving into Cusco at 11,000 ft, this camp offers a natural ascent for your first eve at 9,000 ft. Upon arrival at the Ecocamp, you will be welcomed with a refreshing drink prepared with locally sourced fruits, after which you'll be escorted to your comfortable domes. You will have plenty of time to take a hot shower and rest until dinnertime. If resting is not your thing, you can explore the camp's surroundings. The day will end with a delicious three course dinner of typical Peruvian cuisine made from the finest natural ingredients.

**Overnight Pincopata EcoCamp (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**





# DAY 3: PINCOPATA ECO CAMP

We will depart Pincopata Ecocamp, after breakfast, and drive along a path through forests passing local farms and the incredible landscape of the Apurimac Valley. We will arrive at our starting point for our hike to Tilca, an important sacred Huaca located in Mollepata. Our trek to the summit of the Apu Tilca will take about 1.5 hours. During this gradual climb we will encounter Inca culture remains and at the summit, steps leading to ceremonial platforms. At the top, we will be able to appreciate views of the great snowy Salkantay mountain as well as Humantay, Camas, and Abuela among several other peaks in the Vilcabamba mountain range. We will also be rewarded with outstanding views of the Apurimac River canyon. After some time enjoying and exploring this impressive landscape we will descend and continue our journey to the archaeological remains of Choquechurco (Place where Gold is placed). This sacred place, unknown to many, is on our list of remote sites we like to visit. Situated among a forest of native Polylepis trees, this abandoned site will make you feel like a true explorer. From this place, we will have views of Humantay Mountain, the Valley of Limatambo, Apurimac, and the town of Mollepata. Surrounded by remarkable scenery, we will stop to have lunch at this site before continuing the descent to our Pincopata Ecocamp.

**Overnight Pincopata EcoCamp (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**









# DAY 4: PINCOPATA ECO CAMP

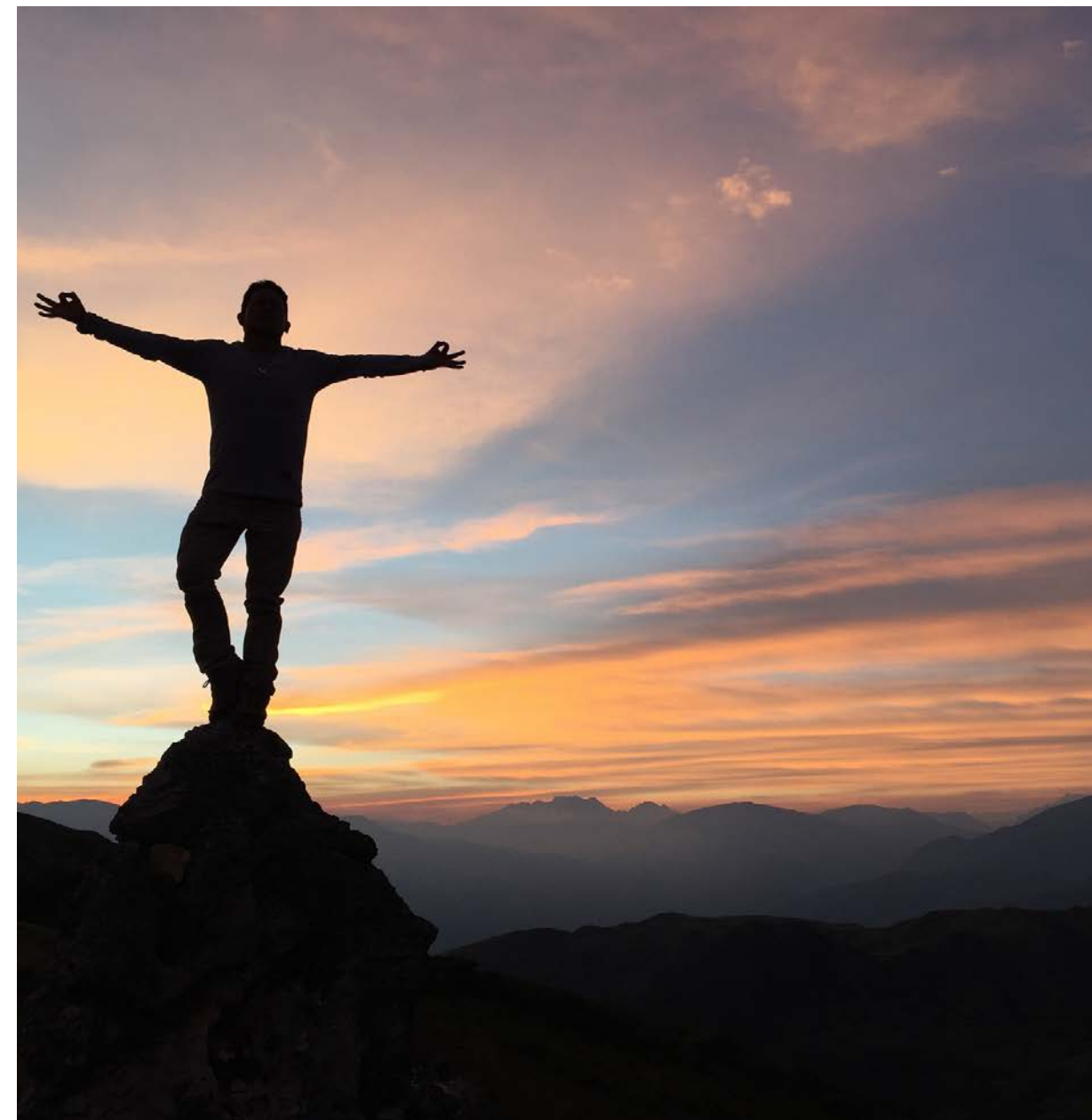
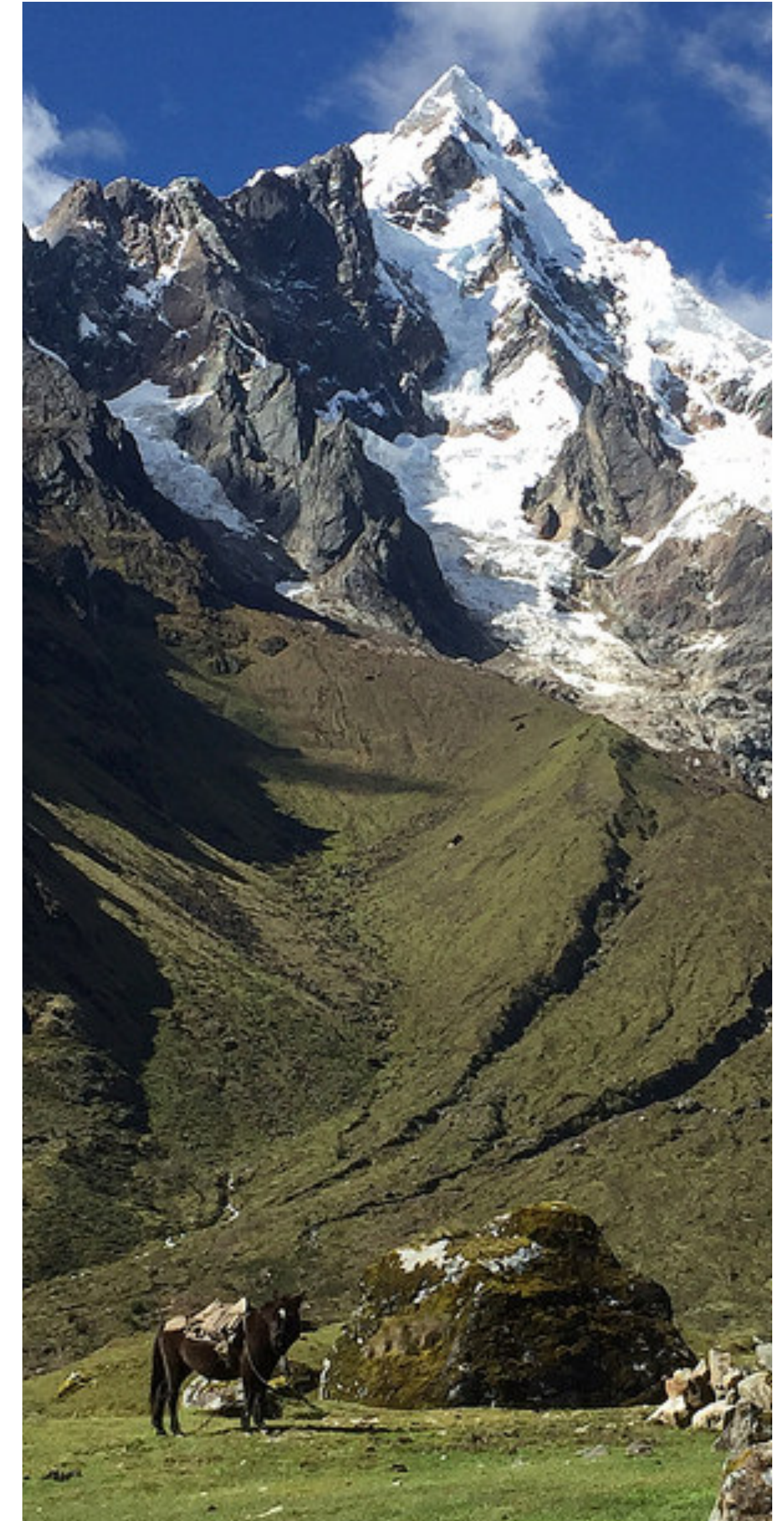
## *Option 1: Soray & Salkantay Pass*

After breakfast, we will begin our trek from the bottom of the valley gradually starting to ascend while crossing several small pampas. The challenging final climb to the Abra Pass will be rewarded with spectacular views of Salkantay's snowy and wild south face. At the pass we will have time to celebrate our accomplishment before descending to a warmer spot to enjoy our lunch. After we will return to Soray Camp. We will then board our transport back to our comfortable Ecocamp Pincopata. Here, we will enjoy a marvelous dinner to bid farewell to our days of hiking and end the day stargazing around a cozy bonfire.

## *Option 2: Soray & Humantay Lake*

After breakfast, we'll drive 15 minutes to the start of our trail at Marcoccasa. From here, we will begin with a short uphill walk, before continuing our hike along an aqueduct overlooking the spectacular Rio Blanco Valley and surrounded by the snow-capped peaks of the Humantay and Salkantay Mountains, arriving at Soray Ecocamp in time for a nourishing light lunch. During the afternoon, we offer an optional hike to Lake Humantay, nestled at the base of the southern face of the mountain. This 1.5 hrs hike shows you the breath-taking Glacial Lake of the Humantay Mountain. After returning to Soray camp, we will then board our transport back to our comfortable Ecocamp Pincopata. Here, we will enjoy a marvelous dinner to bid farewell to our days of hiking and end the day stargazing around a cozy bonfire.

## **Overnight Pincopata EcoCamp (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**





# DAY 5: SACRED VALLEY

We start with breakfast at our Pincopata Ecocamp, and then travel through small Quechua villages until we reach to Moray. Which are gigantic natural holes, that were used to build terraces around them with their own irrigation aqueducts. Later, we continue our trip to the community of Misminay, which is located in Maras, where you will enjoy an unforgettable experience. A trip full of customs and culture. After the incredible lunch in this community we depart to the Salineras de Maras. This salt mines are believed to have been developed in pre-Incas times and today are hand-harvested by local families. Then, we descend to Pachar where our transport will wait for us to take us to our hotel, Aranwa Hotel (or similar) which is located in the Sacred Valley. Here you will rest until dinner.

**Overnight Aranwa Sacred Valley Hotel (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**





# DAY 6: AGUAS CALIENTES

*Option 1: Sacred Valley-Km 104-Aguas Calientes* After a nutritious breakfast at the hotel, we will leave to Ollantaytambo. From here we will take a train to Km 104, where the Inca one day Trail begins. On this route we will reach to Aguas Calientes. You will be having plenty of time to settle into your hotel and explore the charming little town.

*Option 2: Sacred Valley-Intipunku-Aguas Calientes* In case you don't want to do the Inca Trail, you can do a trek to La Puerta del Sol (intipunku); which was at some point, the main entrance to the Inca city of Machu Picchu. This hike follows a path that originally belonged to the Inca road network (qhapaq ñan). It is located directly south of the citadel. On this route we will reach to Aguas Calientes. You will be having plenty of time to settle into your hotel and explore the charming little town.

**Overnight Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**





# DAY 7: MACHU PICCHU/ CUSCO

After breakfast, our local guide will accompany us to the Machu Picchu archaeological site by bus. After checking in at the park entrance, we will be escorted by our guide through these unique Inca ruins where we will uncover the mysteries of the sacred city of Machu Picchu during an in-depth walking tour. Other options during this visit include climbing Machu Picchu Mountain or Huayna Picchu Mountain. These climbs are physically challenging, but the magnificent views from the peak of both mountains make the effort worthwhile. Please tell us if you want to climb one of the mountains; we need to book this for you in advance. We will then have lunch at Sanctuary Lodge. After, we will take the bus down to reconnect with your luggage, take the train to Ollantaytambo, and then transfer to a vehicle for the drive back to Cusco. You will enjoy a nice farewell dinner in town and toast to a fantastic adventure!

**Overnight Antigua Casona San Blas Hotel (Breakfast, Lunch)**

# DAY 8: DEPART

You are transferred to Cusco airport for your departures.

**(Breakfast)**









# ACCOMMODATIONS

**ANTIGUA CASONA SAN BLAS HOTEL** Uniquely appointed rooms at Antigua Casona San Blas, the hotel offers 14 rooms and suites featuring charming, yet understated decór with handcrafted locally-made wooden furniture, original artwork and antiques, quality bedding and more. Most rooms feature a garden view and amenities include Wi-Fi, safe deposit boxes and in-room heating, including heated towel racks in the bathrooms.



**PINCOPATA ECOCAMP**, Ten minutes away from the quiet town of Mollepata in the province of Limatambo. Using green technology, it offers the area's first 100% sustainable camping experience. The camp boasts beautiful green lawns and plenty of local flowers planted across the whole area. There is a large fire pit in a quiet corner of the camp, the perfect place for stargazing.





# ACCOMMODATIONS

**ARANWA SACRED VALLEY HOTEL** is built along the Vilcanota riverbank, on the lands of an old 17th-century colonial hacienda, just one and a half hours from the city of Cusco and forty minutes from the Ollantaytambo train station, on the way to Machu Picchu. The hotel has rooms decorated in colonial style and others with modern and minimalist style. Enjoy unforgettable days in the suites of Aranwa Sacred Valley Hotel & Wellness and let yourself be part of its mysticism in the Sacred Valley of the Incas. It combines the magical encounter of two periods: the ancient Inca culture and the colonial majesty, in one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world.



**INKATERRA MACHU PICCHU PUEBLO HOTEL** is a paradise where one connects completely with the sacred energy of the mountain. This luxury boutique hotel is a pueblo of whitewashed bungalows, nestles into terraced hills. Spa services use sublime natural essences and the restaurant boasts stunning views of the rushing Vilcanota River. The train station is only steps away, but Inkaterra Machu Picchu Hotel exists in a world apart. An intimate 85-cottage luxury hotel in sprawling Adevan style village within the secluded 12 acres of beauty, where guests follow stone pathways to their rooms, located in comfortable whitewashed casitas for stargazing.





A wide-angle landscape photograph of a mountain range in Peru. The central focus is a large, jagged mountain peak covered in snow and ice, with some rocky outcrops visible. The sky is a clear, deep blue. In the foreground, a dirt trail winds through lush green hillsides. Several hikers are visible on the trail, some standing and others walking. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

DESTINATION:  
**PERU, SOUTH AMERICA**



# DESTINATION: PERU, SOUTH AMERICA

The Republic of Peru is a country in western South America. It is bordered on the north by Ecuador and Colombia, on the east by Brazil, on the southwest by Bolivia, on the south by Chile, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean. Peruvian territory was home to the Norte Chico civilization, one of the oldest in the world, and to the Inca Empire, the largest state in Pre-Columbian America. The Spanish Empire conquered the region in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and established a Viceroyalty, which included most of its South American colonies. Peru achieved independence in 1821, and has undergone political unrest as well as periods of stability and economic upswing. The earliest evidence of human presence in Peruvian territory have been dated to approximately 9,000 years BC. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Incas emerged as a powerful state. Andean societies were based on agriculture, using techniques such as irrigation and terracing; camelid husbandry and fishing were also important. Organization relied on reciprocity and redistribution because these societies had no notion of market or money. In 1532, a group of conquistadors led by Francisco Pizarro defeated and captured Inca Emperor Atahualpa. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, while most of South America was swept by wars of independence, Peru remained a royalist stronghold. Independence was achieved after military campaigns of Jose de San Martin and Simon Bolivar. Peru for decades experienced turmoil, drug trafficking and massive political violence. Upon the presidency of Alberto Fujimori, the country started to recover but still there were accusations of authoritarianism, corruption, and human rights violations, which resulted in his resignation. The Andes mountains run parallel to the Pacific ocean and divide the country into 3 geographic regions; The coast, the highlands, and the jungle. Peru unlike other equatorial countries does not have an exclusively tropical climate, the influence of the Andes cause great climatic diversity within the country. Because of its varied geography and climate, Peru has a high biodiversity with 21,462 species of plants and animals, about one-fourth being endemic. The Peruvian government has established several protected areas for their preservation. The Incas maintain architectural achievements including the construction of Machu Picchu.





# DESTINATION: PERU, SOUTH AMERICA

## Entry Requirements

No visas required for Peru. A passport valid for six months after date of entry is required. Visitors must hold return/onward tickets and all documents required for their next destination.

## Vaccinations

Hepatitis A and B, Tetanus, and Typhoid immunizations are recommended for all travelers. Malaria prophylaxis is recommended if you are traveling to jungle regions and you should consult your local doctor or physician to advise which malaria medication is best suited for you. Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the CDC's Internet site at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>

## Weather

Cusco, Peru

MONTH	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
AVE. HIGH	65	65	66	67	67	66	66	67	68	69	69	69
AVE. LOW	43	43	43	41	36	32	32	35	39	41	42	43

## Communication

Peru – The international access code for Peru is +51, and the outgoing code is 00, followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 0044 for the UK). City/area codes are in use, e.g. (0)1 for Lima. A mobile phone operator provides a GSM 1900 network with coverage limited to major towns and cities. Peru is well connected to the Internet with a proliferation of inexpensive Internet kiosks, called cabinas pública, available on street corners in most towns and cities

## Electricity

Peru - Electrical current is 220 volts, 60Hz (Arequipa 50Hz). Two-pin, flat blade and round plugs are standard

## Gear List

\*\*A comprehensive gear list will be provided for essential clothing items to bring.

## Travel Advisories

Make two photocopies of valuables such as your passport, tickets, visas and travelers' cheques. Keep one copy with you in a separate place to the original and leave another copy with someone at home.

Be sure to inform your credit card company as well as your bank you will travel internationally into Africa. This will eliminate any credit card holds for fraudulent activity.

## Currency

Carrying cash, an ATM or traveler's check card and also a credit card that can be used for cash advances in case of emergency is advisable. The best places to exchange money are normally bureau de change, which are fast, have longer hours and often give slightly better rates than banks. Local currency is Peruvian Nuevo Sol (PEN), and it is advised to carry hard notes of USD. Better hotels, lodges, and camps might accept credit cards, however it is advised to withdraw cash when visiting remote areas and villages.

## Government

Peru – is a constitutional republic

## Religion

Roman Catholic 81.3%, Evangelical 12.5%, other 3.3%, unspecified or none 2.9%

## Ethnic Groups

Peru is a multiethnic country composed of Amerindians 45%, Mestizos 37%, Europeans 15%, Afro-Peruvians 2%, Asians and others. The Andes are the heart of indigenous populations and white people are mostly found on the coast of Spanish, Italian, British, French, German, Irish, and Croatian descent.

## Languages

The official language is Spanish but the other predominant languages are Quechua, Aymara and Amazon languages like Urarina.

## Economy

Peru has one of the stronger and fastest growing economies in the Americas. Peru is an emerging market oriented economy characterized by a high level of foreign trade and still high level of inequality, its economy is diversified although the commodity exports is important, the trade and industry are centralized in Lima but the agricultural exports have created development in all the regions. Peru's main exports are copper, gold, zinc, textiles, and fish meal. Peru agricultural exports are highly appreciated and include artichokes, grapes, avocados, mangoes, peppers, sugarcane, organic coffee and premium cotton. Peru has large coca leaf cultivation, while the government has reduced productions and prohibits narcotics trafficking, the industry ranges from \$300-\$600 million.

## Climate

The climate of Peru is very diverse, with large variety of climates and microclimates, including 28 of the 32 world climates. Such a diversity is chiefly conditioned by the presence of the Andes mountains and the cold Humboldt Current. In general, the climate on the coast is subtropical with very little rainfall. The Andes mountains observe a cool-to-cold climate with rainy summers and very dry winters. The eastern lowlands present an Equatorial climate with hot weather and rain distributed all year long.