
Peru EcoCamp: Salkantay, Condors, and Machu Picchu



OVERVIEW

The Salkantay, Condors & Machu Picchu Tour is for the adventurous person who wants to enjoy the scenery and experience one of the greatest attractions of the Cusco region during their limited time in Peru. Taking different paths and avoiding the more crowded trekking trails, this route offers breathtaking natural scenery combined with historical and archaeological sites

This tour offers two levels of hiking: easy/moderate and moderate/challenging. You will be able to choose either option at any time.

We will observe the flight of the Condor, behold the majesty of the sacred Salkantay and Humantay mountains, and visit the Humantay Lake and the Salkantay Pass at 4,664m / 15,300ft.

Our adventure continues to Machu Picchu; the ancient Inca site unknown to the outside world until 1911 when Hiram Bingham brought it to international attention. Situated in the heart of the Peruvian Andes, the citadel is surrounded by lush cloud forest and is a remarkable vestige of the Inca Empire at the pinnacle of its glory.



Brief Itinerary

#	Area	Overview
1	Cusco	Arrive Cusco airport. Welcome drinks & briefing. Overnight Aranwa Cusco Hotel
2	Salkantay	Hike and overnight Pincopata EcoCamp
3	Salkantay	Hike and overnight Soray EcoCamp
4	Salkantay	Hike and overnight Pincopata EcoCamp
5	Aguas Calientes	Sacred Valley, Maras & Moray visit. Train to Aguas Calientes. Overnight Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel
6	Machu Picchu / Cusco	Machu Picchu tour. Train to Ollantaytambo. Road transfer to Cusco. Overnight Aranwa Cusco Hotel
7	Depart	Transfer to Cusco airport for departures
END OF SERVICES		



Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 / CUSCO

Upon arrival into Cusco airport you are personally met and transferred to your hotel in Cusco. There is welcome drinks and briefing.

Overnight Aranwa Cusco Hotel (Bed & Breakfast)

Day 2 / PINCOPATA ECOCAMP

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. 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 dinner time, or perhaps enjoy the optional



Ecocamp massage service. If resting is not your thing, you can explore the camp's surroundings. Peru Ecocamp offers optional activities, including horseback riding and mountain biking. 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 / SORAY ECOCAMP

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. However, if you prefer a more laid-back afternoon, you can schedule a soothing massage or simply take in the breath-taking views surrounding the camp.

Overnight Soray Camp (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 4 / PINCOPATA ECOCAMP

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. 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 / AGUAS CALIENTES

We begin with breakfast at the camp and then travel through small Quechua villages in the Sacred Valley to the archaeological site of Moray, passing through the typical Andean farming village of Chincheros on the way. At Moray, we can observe the extensive circular terraces where the Incas once experimented with adapting plants to new climates. We leave Moray and hike on a path for 2 hours to the colonial Andean village of Maras where we enjoy a typical Peruvian lunch. From here, we begin our descent to the Saltpans, which have been harvested for hundreds of years. Surrounded by the incredible views of the fertile valley below and the snow-capped peaks of the Cordillera Urubamba, we continue hiking to the Urubamba River, where our vehicle will be waiting to take us to Ollantaytambo. Here, we board a train that will take us to the village of Aguas Calientes (Machu Picchu Pueblo).



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

Day 6 / MACHU PICCHU

After breakfast, your local guide will accompany you to the Machu Picchu archaeological site by bus. After checking in at the park entrance, we will be escorted by our guide on a full tour of 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. We will then have lunch at Sanctuary Lodge. You then take the bus down to reconnect with your luggage and take the train to Ollantaytambo and then transfer by road to Cusco. You enjoy a nice farewell dinner in town and toast to a fantastic adventure!

Overnight Aranwa Cusco Hotel (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 7 / DEPART

You are transferred to Cusco airport for your departures.

(Breakfast)

END OF SERVICES



ACCOMMODATIONS

ARANWA CUSCO HOTEL is the essence of luxury and comfort in the heart of the Inca city. Built in a colonial mansion of the XVI century, it displays several paintings of the Cusco school, colonial sculptures and carvings that transport us to the greatness of the time. Its elegant rooms, equipped with intelligent oxygen system, its gardens and its sophisticated spa, are complimented by friendly service. The hotel is located 2 blocks from the Main square of Cusco.



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.



SORAY ECOCAMP is our second Ecocamp and a 45-minute drive or day trekking from Pincopata. Soraypampa is the beautiful and peaceful area that is only home to a few campsites and our Ecocamp, overlooked by both the Sacred Humantay and Salkantay mountains. Due to the altitude and the cooler temperatures, the environment in Soray Ecocamp is very different to Pincopata, and gives the opportunity to experience a different ecosystem. It offers wonderful views to the snow-capped mountains.



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 Adecan style village within the secluded 12 acres of beauty, where guests follow stone pathways to their rooms, located in comfortable whitewashed casitas



DESTINATIONS

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 16th 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 15th 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 19th 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.

Additional Information

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
Average High	65	65	66	67	67	66	66	67	68	69	69	69
Average 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 whilst on trekking activities.

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 Croation 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.

PRICE:

\$3,200PER PERSON (BASED ON MINIMUM 2 PEOPLE)

Includes

- Trained mountain guides
- Vehicles w/ water & drinks and professional drivers
- All relevant Park fees & rescue fees
- Emergency medical evacuation
- Supplemental oxygen
- All accommodation and meals as described in the itinerary
- Transfers as described in the itinerary
- Drinks on the hike (potable water, tea, coffee & hot chocolate)

Excludes

- International flights
- Entry visas
- Items of a personal nature
- Alterations to this itinerary (i.e. if different accommodations and services are provided then the price will most likely vary up or down)
- Laundry (unless stated at hotel)
- Beverages in hotels, alcoholic beverages
- Hospital bills and international evacuation in the event of an emergency
- Roundtrip airfare LIMA / CUSCO