



Rainbow Mountain & Salkantay Challenge

05 days | 04 nights

Description



From Mountain to Snow

If you are one of those people who like to hike, this program is ideal for you. We design an itinerary with the two most visited routes in Cusco that will take you to visit impressive places, where you will enjoy immense glaciers, colorful mountains, and cloud forests. We offer you a trip full of mysteries so you can get the most out of this adventure. All this, in addition to living the experience of spending the night in the comfort of the Sky Camp designed to enjoy the breathtaking night view.

We will leave Cusco early in the morning towards Quesiuno, where we will start an ascent to the Puca Pass. Afterwards, we will descend to Anantapata, have lunch and ascend again until we reach the Warmisaya Pass. We will spend the first night in our campsite at the Surinecocha lake. The next day, we will visit the

Rainbow Mountain and the Red Valley viewpoint. Then, we will head to Andahuayllillas and visit its famous colonial church. We will also explore Rumi Punku and the Huacarpay Wetland. We will spend the night at the Sky Camp in Soraypampa.

Continuing with this adventure, we will conquer the trek's highest point, the Salkantay Pass. We will appreciate the incredible views that this magical trail offers us and descend through the Chaullay cloud forest to our campsite at the Andean Huts; from here, we will walk along the train tracks until we reach the town of Aguas Calientes. The next day, we will finish this journey by visiting the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu and learning about its incredible history.

The background features a light gray map of a region, possibly in the Pacific Northwest, with a teal line tracing a path. On the left, there are topographic contour lines. At the bottom, a dark gray silhouette of a mountain range is visible.

Full Itinerary

Day 01

Cusco > Quesiuno > Puca Pass > Anantapata > Warmisaya Pass > Surinecocha



Discover the Andes !

We will leave Cusco at 4 a.m. in our private transportation to the village of Quesiuno (4,376 m / 14,357 ft.) for breakfast. We will start with three hours of ascent until we reach Puca Pass (4,870 m / 15,977 ft), where we will enjoy the impressive views of the turquoise-blue lakes known as Pucacochas. In addition, we will have the opportunity to contemplate the beauty of the imposing Ausangate snow-capped mountain in all its extension.

After a well-deserved rest and recharged with energy, we will continue for an hour and a half of descent until we reach the lunch spot, Anantapata (4,750 m / 11,614 ft). Continuing with our hike, we will ascend for two hours to the Warmisaya Pass (4,985 m / 16,355 ft), where we will see the beginning of the Rainbow Mountain with its striking

colors that dazzle every visitor. Finally, we will descend for 45 minutes until we reach the camp point known as Surinecocha (4,800m / 15,748 ft).



Day Facts

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Difficulty:

Moderate

Accommodation:

Camp

Walking distance:

11 km / 6.83 mi

Walking time:

7.5 hours

Starting elevation:

4,376 m / 14,357 ft

Minimum height:

4,800 m / 15,748 ft

Highest elevation:

4,985 m / 16,355 ft

01 Mountain Adventure

02 Puca Pass

03 Trek to Puca Pass

Day 02

Surinecocha > Rainbow Mountain > Red Valley Viewpoint > Llacto > Andahuaylillas > Rumi Punku > Huacarpay Wetlands > Soraypampa



The Colored Mountain With Rainbow Shades !

We will wake up early and enjoy a delicious breakfast that will give us the necessary energy to enjoy this day to the fullest. We will ascend slowly to warm up, and, after two hours of hiking, we will arrive at the Rainbow Mountain (5,100 m / 16,732 ft). Our guide will give us information about the place and important facts that will help us to better understand the importance of Vinicunca for the local people. After appreciating the beautiful views of the landscape, we will descend to go to the Red Valley Viewpoint and admire its reddish mountains.

We will continue walking until we reach Llacto (4,630 m / 15,190 ft), where we will take a well-deserved rest. We will leave in our private transportation for an hour and a half until we reach Andahuaylillas (3,122 m / 10,242 ft);

here, we will visit its famous church known as the Sistine of America. After nourishing ourselves with the history of this cultural monument, we will return to our vehicle for a 20-minute drive to Rumi Punku, considered the main entrance to the imperial city of Cusco in Inca times.

We will descend for 45 minutes to the Huacarpay Wetland (3,030 m / 9,940 ft), a perfect place to observe migratory birds. Here, we will enjoy a delicious lunch before embarking on a three-hour drive to Soraypampa, where you will spend the night at our Sky Camp.



Day Facts

Meals:
Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Difficulty:
Moderate

Accommodation:
Sky Camp

Walking distance:
9.5 km / 5.90 mi

Walking time:
7 hours

Starting elevation:
4,800 m / 15,748 ft

Minimum height:
3,030 m / 9,940 ft

Highest elevation:
5,100 m / 16,732 ft

01 Red Valley viewpoint

02 Rainbow Mountain

03 Sky camp

Day 03

Soraypampa > Salkantay Pass > Wayracmachay > Chaullay Andean Huts



Overcome Your Challenge

We will walk to the trek's highest point, the Salkantay Pass (4,630 m / 15,190 ft), and slowly advance along the path of the seven snakes, named for its sinuous shape. At the top, you will appreciate the impressive views of the Salkantay glacier (6,271 m / 20,574 ft); in addition, you will see the valley route, along which we venture to reach our destination.

After completing the great challenge of the day, we will descend to our lunch spot, Wayracmachay, where you will enjoy a delicious meal made by the expert hands of our cooks. We will rest for a while before leaving again. In the afternoon, we will enter the cloud forest, also known as the eyebrow jungle, and hike for approximately three hours, appreciating the dense jungle.

The scenery along this hike is truly

beautiful, you will enjoy many magical places in a single day, glaciers, mountains, and unique native plants of the area. Finally, you will arrive at your campsite in the small village of Chaullay (2,900 m / 9,514 ft), and enjoy a delicious dinner and a well-deserved rest in our Andean Huts.



Day Facts

Meals:
breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Difficulty:
Challenging

Accommodation:
Andean Huts

Walking distance:
22 km / 13.67 mi

Walking time:
10 hours

Starting elevation:
3,900 m / 12,795 ft

Minimum height:
2,850 m / 9,350 ft

Highest elevation:
4,630 m / 15,190 ft

01 Salkantay Pass

02 Trek to Salkantay pass

03 Soraypampa Camp

Day 04

Chauclay > La Playa > Hidroeléctrica > Aguas Calientes



Walk along the **Road** under the **Bright Sunshine**



We will enjoy a warm morning descending for approximately six hours through the Santa Teresa valley to the town of La Playa. Taking advantage of the tropical climate that the road offers us, we will taste our last lunch and then be part of a small exhibition of the delicious coffee of the area.

After a well-deserved rest, private transportation will take us to the town of Hidroeléctrica. From here, we will hike alongside the railroad track and the Urubamba River until we reach Aguas Calientes in approximately three hours. If at this point you feel tired, you can opt to take the train service.

Upon arrival, we will settle into our hotel; here, the decision is yours; you can rest or explore the town of Aguas Calientes before heading to an exclusive restaurant for dinner.



Day Facts

Meals:
Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Difficulty:
Challenging

Accommodation:
Camp

Walking distance:
27 km / 16.78 mi

Walking time:
8 to 9 hours

Starting elevation:
2,900 m / 9,514 ft

Minimum height:
1,800 m / 5,906 ft

Highest elevation:
2,900 m / 9,514 ft

01 Trek to Aguas Calientes

02 Jungle adventure

03 Adventure

Day 05

Aguas Calientes > Machu Picchu > Ollantaytambo > Cusco



Ancient Inca Citadel full of Mysteries



Day Facts

Meals:
Breakfast

Difficulty:
Easy

Duration of the activity:
2 hours

Height of Machu Picchu City:
2,430 m / 7,972 ft

Very early in the morning, and after enjoying a delicious breakfast, we will head to the bus station for a half-hour ride to our long-awaited destination, the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu. We recommend you to use the restrooms before entering. We will enjoy this marvel in a tour of approximately two to three hours. Our guide will take you to explore the most important places of the sanctuary.

Hours later, we will return to Aguas Calientes, we will have time to have lunch and explore this town one last time before boarding the train back to Ollantaytambo, where the transportation will be waiting for us to take us back to the city of Cusco.



01 Machu Picchu

02 Machu Picchu

03 Machu Picchu

The background features a light gray map of a region with a complex coastline and topographic contour lines. A dark gray silhouette of a mountain range is positioned at the bottom of the frame. Two thin teal horizontal lines are placed on either side of the ampersand in the title.

Inclusion & Packing List

What is Included?

High Quality Service & Safety

- **Pre-departure Briefing**
Detailed trek briefing with your Guide the day before the tour. The meeting is at 5:00 pm in our office.
- **Experienced Tour Guide**
Our official tour guides speak fluent English and Spanish, are professionally trained and certified. We choose them for their experience, responsibility, unbridled passion for exploring, and pride in sharing our culture and history. In every experience, they will keep you safe and comfortable so you can enjoy your time worry-free!
- **Private Camping Equipment (Rainbow Mountain Trek)**
 - A spacious dining tent to enjoy your meals worry-free
 - Tables, chairs, dishware, and cooking equipment
 - A portable travel toilet
 - Inflatable mattress
 - All equipment carried by our horses
- **One Duffle Bag**
For the trek, you'll receive a duffle bag to pack your personal belongings up to a maximum weight of 7 kg / 15.4 lb (this weight includes your sleeping bag). The horses will carry it on the route.
- **Medical Kit or First AID Kit**

All Ausangate Peru guides have received specialized training in first aid. We hold mandatory training sessions for them every February. Your guide will always have a first aid kit and oxygen to face basic emergencies (altitude sickness, travelers' diarrhea, cuts, scrapes, etc.). If necessary, we'll evacuate you from the path as quickly as possible and ensure that you arrive at a clinic for treatment.

- **Extras Included in our Service**
We believe that attention to small details is what sets us apart from other local companies. You'll receive a sleeping pillow, a cover to protect your backpack on the route, and a rain poncho.
- **24/7 Customer Service**
We have telephone service available 24 hours/day for ease of communication with Ausangate Peru leading up to your tour.
- **Satellite Phone**
Your tranquility is our first priority. Although our guides are prepared for emergencies in the mountains, calling a doctor, hospital, or a friend can make you feel more secure. For this reason, each Salkantay Trekking guide carries a satellite phone to call any location worldwide and from anywhere on the mountain.

Accommodation

- **Lodging in Campsites (3 Nights)**
We have a series of campsites that offer you true comfort. Besides that, just like our ancestors, we have a deep bond of affection and respect for Mother Earth. For this reason, we strive to ensure our campsites don't cause negative environmental impacts.
 - *Accommodations are double/twin occupancy and shared.
- **Hotel in Aguas Calientes (1 Night)**
You will spend the last night of this trek in a comfortable hotel at Aguas Calientes, including luggage storage, while you visit Machu Picchu.
 - *Accommodation is in double and triple rooms.

Meals

- **5 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, and 4 Dinners**
Our chef prepares the best dishes in the middle of the mountains. We respect all diets (vegetarian, vegan, or special menus are available at no extra cost). Meals include breakfast, lunch, dinner, and complimentary hot drinks and snacks.
- **Water on the trail**
We'll provide you with boiled, filtered, and cooled water during your hike. For

this, you need to bring a camel bag or an empty bottle, which you can refill during each meal (we recommend a capacity of 2 liters).

- **Wake up tea**
You'll wake up every morning at the camp with a cup of coca tea! It'll be brought to your tent so you can warm up before you start the day.
- **Tea Time or Happy Hour**
Every afternoon before dinner, the cooks will provide you popcorn, cookies, coffee, hot chocolate, tea, hot water, etc. After a long day of hiking, you won't have to wait until dinner to relax, warm-up, and enjoy a bite!
- **Daily snacks on the trail**
Every morning we'll give you snacks so you can enjoy them during the walk. The snacks include local fruits, biscuits, chocolates, caramels, etc.
- **One cloth snack bag per person**
To avoid the use of plastic bags that contaminate our environment, we'll give you a cloth bag for your snacks.

Transportation

- **Private Transport**
 - Day 1: You will be picked up from your hotel in the morning and will travel in our private transportation to Quesiuno, the starting point of the Rainbow Mountain Trek.

- Day 2: Private transport from the end point of the Rainbow Mountain Trek to Soraypampa.
- Day 4: Private transport from La Playa to Hidroeléctrica.
- Day 5: Private transport from Ollantaytambo train station to your hotel in Cusco.
- **Train Ticket from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo (Day 5)**
- **One Way Bus Transport from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu (Day 5)**
- **Cargo Mules**
While trekking, cargo mules will carry all the camping equipment and your baggage allowance (7 kg / 15.4 lb). Muleteers will be responsible for your duffle bag and personal items.

Permits & Entrance Tickets

- **Entry Ticket for the Ausangate Trek**
- **Entry Ticket for the Salkantay Trek**
- **Entry to the Rainbow Mountain and the Red Valley**
- **Entry to Andahuaylillas Church**
- **Entry Ticket to Machu Picchu Archaeological Site**



What is NOT Included?

✦ Sleeping Bag

You can rent one from our company if you don't own one. Our sleeping bags are effective and durable to protect you from temperatures as low as -18°C (0°F). They are mummy-form and include a sleeping liner. The bags are cleaned after every use and have a maximum usage of 30 trips.

- US\$ 20.00 per person

✦ Trekking Poles

Trekking poles are very helpful on rough and uneven terrain. You can rent a set from our company if you'd like.

- US\$ 20.00 per person

✦ Huayna Picchu Mountain

You can climb the famous mountain always seen in the photos behind the site of Machu Picchu. It's 45 minutes uphill, and coming down can be scary if you fear heights. You can take this excursion after concluding your guided tour in Machu Picchu. Due to high demand, permission must be issued at least one month in advance. Consider that there could be changes to protect your integrity, mainly due to weather conditions.

- The Huayna Picchu Mountain ticket has an extra cost of US\$ 60.00 per person.

✦ Machu Picchu Mountain

Machu Picchu Mountain is another of the mountains that surround the archaeological site

of Machu Picchu. It offers less steep, wider, and visually less frightening trails than Huayna Picchu, and it takes 1.5 hours to reach the top. This walk requires an entrance ticket which we can secure for you if requested in advance.

- The Machu Picchu Mountain ticket has an extra cost of US\$ 60.00 per person.

✦ Meals not indicated

Day 5: Lunch and Dinner

✦ Train from Hidroelectrica to Aguas Calientes (Day 4)

US\$ 35.00 per person.

✦ Personal Hiking Gear

✦ Travel Insurance

✦ Tips for our staff

Tipping is usual on any excursion in Peru. Although we pay good salaries to our entire team, something extra is always welcome, especially considering the hard work they do. Typically, group participants collect their tips to hand out to the horsemen and chefs together.

✦ Additional costs or delays beyond our control

Landslides, bad weather conditions, itinerary modifications due to a safety concern, illness, pandemics, government policy changes, political instability, strikes, an act of God, etc.

What Should you Bring

Essential packing list

- ☐ Duffle Bag
- ☐ Daypack

Documents

- ☐ Original Passport

Clothing

- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Base Layer
- ☐ Trekking Shirts
- ☐ Hard Shell Jacket and Rain Gear
- ☐ Insulated Jacket
- ☐ Fleece Jacket
- ☐ Trekking Shorts and Trousers

Headgear

- ☐ Hat for Sun Protection
- ☐ Head Band or Beanie
- ☐ Neck Gaiter or Balaclava

Hands

- ☐ Inner Gloves
- ☐ Outer Gloves

Footwear

- ☐ Hiking Boots
- ☐ Trainers (Trekking shoes / sandals)
- ☐ Hiking Socks
- ☐ Thermal Socks
- ☐ Gaiters

Important Accessories

- ☐ Sleeping Bag
- ☐ Trekking Poles
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Headlamp
- ☐ Water Bottle or Hydration Bladder
- ☐ Camera / Videocamera
- ☐ Notebook / Journal and Pen



Personal Gear and Medications



✦ **Trekking Towel:**

A small to medium sized hiking towel can come in great use. LifeVentures or Discovery provide good, quick-drying trekking towels.

✦ **Small Locks:**

To protect your belongings in your rucksack or duffle bag

✦ **Waterproof Ziplock Bags:**

These come in handy for storing important / valuable items like your money, a passport and electrical equipment

✦ **Isotonic Powder:**

Can be used to flavour your water nicely and helps replace electrolytes, improving energy levels and aiding water absorption. Here are some good Isotonic powdered drinks

✦ **Diamox:**

Also known as acetazolamide, is a medication that can be used as a prophylactic (preventative) solution for altitude sickness. It does not cure altitude sickness and should never therefore be used as a method to continue ascending to high altitudes. It can however help prevent the onset of altitude sickness and is commonly used by high altitude climbers and trekkers.

✦ **General Medications:**

We recommend taking paracetamol or aspirin for headaches (a common altitude sickness symptom on the Salkantay Trek) and Imodium for diarrhoea (another common problem as food preparation can be a little unhygienic)

✦ **Basic First Aid Kit:**

If you are joining an organised trek, your guide will most likely be carrying a first aid kit. If you are hiking unsupported or independently then a first aid kit is a must. Here are some compact and good outdoor first aid kits: Outdoor First Aid Kits

✦ **Suncream / Lip balm:**

No one wants burnt skin or cracked lips! Be sure to bring 1 x suncream (SPF 30) and 1 x lip balm

✦ **Baby wipes:**

For quick and easy wet washes when no showers are in sight! bring 1 x baby wipes

✦ **Blister Plasters:**

The dreaded blisters! We recommend taking Compeed blister plasters

✦ **Hand Sanitizer:**

Great for disinfecting hands before and after eating, or when they get dirty during the hike

Our Hiking Team **Our** Tour Guides

Your tour will be led by a trained and highly experienced professional with a very solid guiding background, years of hiking and wilderness experience, medical certifications, and a passion for leading people into unforgettable adventures.



Our Hiking Team **Our Cook**

After a challenging trek we know how important a good hot meal can be to prepare your body and warm you up. That's why on every trek with Salkantay Trekking we employ chefs with years of experience cooking on the trails so that they provide filling.



Our Hiking Team **Meals** What to Expect

All of our hiking tours include a diversity of tasty meals packed full of critical carbohydrates, proteins and fats. We carry foods that travel well in the backcountry – rice, pastas, lentils, beans, couscous, packaged meats, nuts, breads, oatmeal, granola.



Our Hiking Team

Our Horseman & Horses

Our Horseman and his horses are in charge of all our gear and will always await us within the safe and comfortable camp sites.





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