



The Classic Trek to the
Quelccaya Glacier

04 days | 03 nights

Description



The Quelccaya Glacier and its impressive lagoons

This is one of the most attractive routes in the entire Cusco region. We'll travel through the surroundings of the Vilcanota mountain range and enjoy diverse landscapes surrounded by beautiful crystal-clear lagoons such as Sibinacocha and Cascara. You'll also witness fantastic views of the immense Quelccaya Glacier, also known as Qoyllur Puñuna, which means "where the stars rest." If you love nature and want to experience the living culture of people who inhabit small, traditional communities, then this program is perfect for you.

We'll start by heading in private transportation to the town of Pitumarca, where we'll enjoy a hearty breakfast. Then, we'll continue our journey toward the Chilca viewpoint and Sibinacocha Lagoon. Near the latter, we'll have lunch. In the

afternoon, we'll head to our first campsite in Mormorani.

Next, we'll hike toward the Yayamari estate and take in some incredible landscapes. After that, we'll ascend to the pass of the same name, from where you'll get a broader view that includes the Chumpe and Yayamari glaciers.

Later, we'll make our way to our campsite near Cascara Lagoon. On the final day, we'll cross the vast Phinaya valley until we reach our lunch spot, where we'll witness the world's largest tropical glacier: the famous Quelccaya. After taking in this magical place, we'll return to camp and then head back to Cusco with unforgettable memories of our adventure.



Full Itinerary

Day 01

Cusco > Chilca Viewpoint > Sibinacocha Lagoon > Mormorani



Following the footsteps of Quelccaya

We'll pick you up early from your hotel in Cusco and begin our adventure in the Andes. We'll head in our private transport to the town of Pitumarca, where we'll have breakfast at a local restaurant. Then, we'll continue driving along a narrow road through the mountains until we reach the community of Chilca, a small village that will surprise us with its incredible view of the imposing Ausangate and the glaciers that surround it.

After taking a moment to enjoy the landscape, we'll continue by car for two more hours until we reach Lake Sibinacocha, the starting point of our hike. This place is considered a natural paradise thanks to its breathtaking views and rich diversity of wild flora and fauna. While there, we'll also witness its two glaciers: Chumpe and Yayamari.

After enjoying a delicious lunch prepared by our chef, we'll walk along the shores of Lake Sibinacocha, accompanied by the muleteers, until we reach our campsite located in Mormorani—an ideal place to recharge and rest for the next day.



Day Facts

Meals:
Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

Accommodation:
Campsite

Difficulty level:
Moderate

Hiking distance:
9 km / 5.59 miles

Hiking time:
5 hours

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

Minimum altitude:
4,300 m / 14,107 ft

Maximum altitude:
4,900 m / 16,076 ft

- 01 Panoramic view of Sibinacocha Lagoon
- 02 Sibinacocha Lake
- 03 Llamas in the Sibinacocha lagoon

Day 02

Mormorani > Yayamari Estate > Lake Cascara



Fantastic view of the stunning Lakes and the Andean mountains

We'll wake up to the wonderful view of the lake and its beautiful surrounding landscapes. After enjoying a delicious breakfast, we'll head toward the Yayamari estate, where we'll have the chance to connect with Mother Nature and become privileged spectators of incredible scenery.

Then, we'll go to the other side of the great Lake Sibinacocha, where Yayamari is located, and enjoy lunch prepared by the skilled hands of our chef. We'll witness the beautiful mountains of the Peruvian Andes and the snow-capped Yayamari.

In the afternoon, we'll gradually ascend until we reach the Yayamari Pass. Once at the top, you'll take in the Vilcanota mountain range with its fantastic panoramic view of the Chumpe and Yayamari glaciers. We'll then continue hiking for about

three more hours until we reach our campsite, located very close to Lake Cascara.



Day Facts

Meals:

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

Accommodation:

Campsite

Difficulty level:

Moderate to Challenging

Hiking distance:

17 km / 10.5 miles

Hiking time:

9 hours

Starting altitude:

4,900 m / 16,076 ft

Minimum altitude:

4,900 m / 16,076 ft

Maximum altitude:

5,100 m / 16,732 ft

- 01 Llamas in Sibinacocha Lagoon
- 02 Panoramic view of Sibinacocha Lagoon
- 03 Sibinacocha Lagoon

Day 03

Lake Cascara > Ruita Campsite > Qori Kalis Viewpoint



Wake up in the **Heart** of the Andean **Mountains**

Today we'll wake up surrounded by the mountains and the lake that are part of this stunning landscape. After enjoying a nutritious breakfast, we'll take a short descent to Lake Cascara, where we'll observe a variety of native birds. Then, we'll head to our lunch spot, passing through the vast Phinaya Valley; along the way, we'll see South American camelids such as llamas, alpacas, and vicuñas.

In the afternoon, we'll continue toward our campsite in Ruita. Near this area, we'll admire Lake Blanca and the largest tropical glacier in the mountain range: Quelccaya. Afterward, we'll walk for about 45 minutes to the Qori Kalis viewpoint. Once there, we'll enjoy the sunset over the mountains and capture unforgettable moments in our photos. We'll then return to our campsite to enjoy a comforting hot tea and a delicious dinner.



Day Facts

Meals:

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

Accommodation:

Campsite

Difficulty level:

Moderate to challenging

Hiking distance:

19 km / 11.80 miles

Hiking time:

8 hours

Starting altitude:

4,900 m / 16,076 ft

Minimum altitude:

4,740 m / 15,551 ft

Maximum altitude:

4,950 m / 16,240 ft

- 01 Landscape on the road to the Quelccaya glacier
- 02 Landscape with snow and llamas

Day 04

Ruita Campsite > Lake Blanca > Quelccaya Glacier > Ruita Campsite > Cusco

The largest
Tropical Glacier
in the **World** at
Your Feet



We'll wake up early and have a hearty breakfast. Then, we'll begin the hike toward Quelccaya, considered the largest tropical glacier in the Cusco region and in the world. We'll explore the surroundings of this magical place from beginning to end with our guide, who will be ready to share all the information to help us learn more about this wonder crafted by Mother Nature.

After witnessing such breathtaking landscapes, we'll return to our campsite and enjoy a well-deserved lunch. In the afternoon, we'll say goodbye to this incredible place and head back to Cusco, taking with us unforgettable memories of this beautiful experience.

Day Facts

Meals:
Breakfast and lunch

Difficulty level:
Moderate

Hiking distance:
12 km / 7.45 miles

Hiking time:
6 hours

Starting altitude:
4,850 m / 15,912 ft

Maximum altitude:
5,250 m / 17,224 ft

01 Lake Blanca

02 Panoramic view of the
Quelccaya glacier

03 Quelccaya Glacier



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**
 - 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

- **3 Nights Accommodation in Tents**
Ausangate Peru uses the best equipment to ensure your safety and comfort. Every 2 people will share a Eureka Timberline or Mountain Hardwear tent with a capacity of 4 people.

Meals

- **4 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, and 3 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 the Chilca community, the starting point of the Trek.
 - Day 4: Once you complete the tour, we will take you back to the door of your hotel in Cusco.
- **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 to the Quelccaya Trek**



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

* Day 4 Dinner

* 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 know 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 never 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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