

Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu 5 Days

from ice to jungle

DURATION	DIFFICULTY	MAX. ALTITUDE	BEST SEASON
5 days / 4 nights	Challenging	4,630 m	Apr — Oct

The Salkantay Trek is a journey of extraordinary contrasts. In five days you cross a high mountain pass, sleep facing a glacier, walk through cloud forest and reach Machu Picchu on a trail few people know. Our version improves the classic: truly small groups, hand-picked campsites, expedition cooks and a pace that lets you be present. Machu Picchu entrance, official guide and train return are included.

01 Cusco — Soraypampa — Humantay Lake

Pick-up at 4:30 am and drive to Mollepata for breakfast. We continue to Soraypampa (3,900 m), our camp facing Mount Salkantay. In the afternoon we hike to Humantay Lake (4,200 m), a turquoise mirror beneath the glacier.
7 km · 4 h · 4,200 m

02 Salkantay Pass — Chaullay

The big day. We zigzag up to the Salkantay Pass (4,630 m), surrounded by glaciers, with an offering to Pachamama. Then we descend into the valley and the cloud forest to Chaullay.
22 km · 9 h · 4,630 m

03 Chaullay — La Playa — Lucmabamba

We walk among waterfalls, orchids and banana and passion-fruit farms. In the afternoon we visit an organic coffee farm and, optionally, the Cocalmayo hot springs.
16 km · 6 h · 2,000 m

04 Llactapata — Hidroeléctrica — Aguas Calientes

We climb an original Inca path to Llactapata, with a distant view of Machu Picchu. We descend to Hidroeléctrica and walk along the river to Aguas Calientes. Night in a hotel.
18 km · 7 h · 2,700 m

05 Machu Picchu — Cusco

We take one of the first buses for a 2–3 hour guided tour. Free time, then train to Ollantaytambo and bus to Cusco (arrival approx. 9:30 pm).
3 h visit · Return 9:30 pm

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Pre-trek briefing
- Professional bilingual guide
- Transport Cusco – Soraypampa

- 3 nights camping + 1 night hotel
- All meals on the trail (4B, 4L, 4D)
- Machu Picchu entrance ticket
- Bus up to Machu Picchu
- Expedition train return + bus to Cusco
- Mules for 7 kg of personal gear
- First-aid kit and oxygen

NOT INCLUDED

- First breakfast and last lunch
- Sleeping bag (rental available)
- Cocalmayo hot springs
- Tips

<https://salkantaygo.com/en/tour/salkantay-trek-5-days/>