



HIGHLIGHTS

- Follow in the footsteps of the Inca to Machu Picchu, arriving at the Sun Gate at sunrise
- A fascinating archaeological trip following the pilgrimage route of the Incas to their most important temple for Sun worship
- Trek through the Andes going up to 4200m, walking through a diverse range of vegetation zones from high altitude moorland to dense cloud forest
- Guided walking tour of Cuzco

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE CUZCO

Elevation: 3400m

The Kandoo team will meet you at Cuzco airport and transfer you to your pre-trek hotel. Later you will attend a pre-trek briefing with your Lead Guide to prepare you for the challenge ahead.

DAY 2: CUZCO CITY WALKING TOUR & FREE TIME

Elevation: 3400m

To help your acclimatisation we will spend a day in Cuzco. In the morning your guide will collect you from your hotel to take you on a half day city walking tour. Cuzco was once the foremost city of the Inca empire and is the continent's oldest continuously inhabited city. At the heart of the city is the Plaza de Armas. Colonial arcades surround the plaza, while alleyways leading away from the plaza are bordered by Inca walls. On the plaza's northeastern side is the imposing Cathedral, flanked by the churches of Jesus Maria and El Triunfo. On the southeastern edge is the ornate church of La Compania de Jesus.

You will have the afternoon free to rest or explore this beautiful city.

DAY 3: CUZCO – KM 82 – WAYLLABAMBA

Elevation: 3400m to 2800m to 3000m, Trekking distance: 12km, Trekking time: 5-6 hours

We will leave Cuzco at 5:00 am by a private bus heading to the Sacred Valley of the Incas. We will make a short break in Ollantaytambo for breakfast. The official beginning of the Inca Trail is called Km 82. Here we will meet our crew and register for your trek.

After crossing the Rio Urubamba we start the legendary Inca Trail. The first day of the trail is relatively easy and a good warm up for the following days. On the way we will pass a beautiful archaeological site called Llactapata before we reach Tarayoc. After that, we will continue our hike to Wayllabamba (3000m), the camping site where we will spend the night.

DAY 4: WAYLLABAMBA - PACAMAYO

Elevation: 3000m to 4200m to 3580m, Trekking distance: 12km, Trekking time: 8-9 hours

Leaving early in the morning, our trail first leads through the Valley of Llulluchapampa (3750m). The first 4 km trekking are steep and take approximately 3 hours. From Llulluchapampa the path continues less steeply for another 2 hours until we reach the Warmihuañusca Pass (Dead Woman Pass), the first of three passes on the Inca Trail and the highest point of our trek at 4200m. This climb is the most difficult part of the Inca Trail. After a short break at the summit, we continue our hike down with a long and steep descent to the Pacamayo River where we will camp overlooking the cloud forest.

DAY 5: PACAMAYO – WINAY WAYNA

Elevation: 3580m to 3900 to 2650m, Trekking distance: 16km, Trekking time: 8-9 hours

This morning we climb up to the oval-shaped ruin of Runkurakay, which is believed to have once been an Inca tambo or post house. From here we continue to ascend to the summit of our second pass, Runkurakay Pass at 3900m. From here you will be rewarded with spectacular views of the entire snow-capped Vilcabamba range, before another steep descent. We will then climb up to our third pass, to Phuyupatamarca, an Inca ruin named “The Town in the Clouds” from where there are great views of the Urubamba river far below. From Phuyupatamarca we continue to descend into a beautiful orchid-filled cloud forest, visiting the site of Intipata (Terraces of the Sun), before reaching our campsite at Wiñay Wayna.

DAY 6: WINAY WAYNA - MACHU PICCHU (VIA THE SUN GATE) – CUZCO

Elevation: 2650m to 2400m to 3400m, Trekking distance: 5km, Trekking time: 2-3 hours

An early start is required today, and we will have breakfast around 4:30 am so that we are ready to hit the trail. We say goodbye to our porters and set off on the final section of the Inca Trail to the famous Inti Punku (The Sun Gate) which will take around 2-3 hours. Weather permitting, from here you will enjoy your first views of Machu Picchu, the Lost City of the Incas. You will be given a guided tour of the site which will take around 2½ to 3 hours. There is also an option to climb Huayna Picchu, the famous mountain behind the ruins, but you will need to book a permit in advance. In the afternoon, we will catch the train from Agua Calientes to Ollantaytambo, where you will be met by our driver who will transfer you to your hotel in Cuzco.

DAY 7: DEPART CUZCO

We will collect you from your hotel and transfer you to Cuzco Airport for your departing flight.

SUMMARY

This is the original pilgrimage route for the Inca to their most sacred temple and is by far the most popular route. This beautiful trail starts at the Kilometre 82 gate (so called because it is 82 km along the railroad from Cuzco) and takes in many of the Inca ruins including Runcuracay, Sayacmarca, Phuyupatamarca, Wiñay Wayna and of course Machu Picchu.

