

SHORT ADVENTURE ON THE INCA TRAIL TO MACHU PICCHU

2 day 1 night

Easy to Moderate

If your time is limited this short hike always you to see part of the world famous trail and experience the feeling over entering Machu Picchu form the "Intipunku" or Sun Gate. This is a great alternative for those who are crunched for time.

Day 1: Cusco to Machu Picchu

Early this morning we either take a train or go with private transportation from Cusco to Ollantaytambo, and from here we continue a little further in train until reaching km. 104. Here we hop off the train, cross the Urubamba River and register at the trail head checkpoint. After a short walk we arrive at Chachabamba a well preserved Inca ruin before ascending the Inca Trail making our way to the beautiful Inca ruins of "Wiñay Wayna" or Forever Young. Masterful Inca engineering is a highlight of "Wiñay Wayna" as these spectacular Incan ruins feature a series of Inca baths that helps pressurize water for an efficient irrigation of the numerous agricultural terraces that produced food for its inhabitants and for nearby Machu Picchu. A long stone irrigation channel also brought water from Wiñay Wayna all the way to Machu Picchu. At this point we break for a picnic lunch before continuing on the Inca trail until we reach



"IntiPunku" or Sun Gate. Here you will be overwhelmed with your first view of the spectacular city of Machu Picchu below. A quick descent along the wide royal Inca road will lead us to the centre of this world famous site. A quick descent along the wide royal Inca road and we enter the mysterious citadel for a tour of the citadel and to spend some time wandering and wondering in the midst of its eternal beauty. In the evening we take the bus down to the town of Aguas Calientes to stay at our comfortable hotel. You may enjoy a visit to the town's natural hot springs to relax before

turning in for the evening. Meals Included: **Box Lunch**.

Day 2: Machu Picchu

We recommend an early start on day 2 so you can maximize your time at the ruins, and so we get on that early bus to get up to the ruins before the train from Cusco arrives and the ruins begin to fill up. You could take this opportunity to do the short but challenging hike to Wayna Picchu, a small mountain that features stunning bird's eye views of Machu Picchu. As you will have the whole day to do your own exploring there are many different things that you could try. For instance you could head down to the Temple of the Moon, revisit some of the places from the previous day to line up your photos, or simply find a spot to sit and take it all in before heading back down to the town of Aguas Calientes and boarding the train for the 4 hour train ride back to Cusco. Upon arriving in Cusco we will transport you back to your hotel. Meals Included: **Breakfast**



Made known to the World by Hiram Bingham in 1911, Machu Picchu was inhabited by local farmers but probably remained unknown to the Spaniards. The purpose of an Inca city in such a spectacular location remains under debate: Some argue it was built and populated by the family of a powerful Inca ruler (Pachakutec). Others have proposed that the principal function of Machu Picchu was a “trading centre” to maintain a reliable supply of coca leaves and other tropical supplies for the priests and royalty in Cuzco. Bingham fostered the school of thought that the city existed primarily for strategic and defensive purposes, yet another theory supports the idea that Machu Picchu was an indoctrination centre or school to teach the leaders and their children about other Andean cultures conquered by the Incas.

Price Includes:

- Inca Trail entrance (\$ 56)
- Machu Picchu Entrance Fee 1 & 2. day
- Service of local official tour guide(s).
- Box Lunches.
- First-aid kit including emergency oxygen bottle.
- Bus tickets up and down from/to Aguas Calientes to/from Machu Picchu (\$ 17).
- Transportation from Cusco to Ollantaytambo, either by train or private transportation.
- Train ticket from Ollantaytambo to Km104 and from Machu Picchu to Cusco (\$ 180).
- Transfer from train station to hotel.
- 3 star accommodation in Aguas Calientes.

Price does not include:

- Wayna Picchu entrance (\$ 58), please let us know with anticipation if you would like this, these tickets are limited and should be bought approximately 2 months before going.
- Meals not specified on itinerary.
- Optional tipping of the staff.
- Travel insurance.
- Other expenses of a personal nature.

Note 2: This hike needs Inca trail permits and is included in the Inca Trail passenger limit of 500 people per day. We recommend to reserve at least 5 months in advance.

Note 1: Entrances for Wayna Picchu is limited to 400 people every day, and should be booked in advance, if you would like to this on day 2.