

Peru – Salkantay Lodge to Lodge



Trip Summary

While most visitors spend a day hiking the Inca Trail to reach Machu Picchu, this adventure includes a weeklong lodge-to-lodge trek along the magnificent Salkantay Valley – a path much less traveled, but by many accounts more scenic and exclusive than the Inca Trail itself.

Your journey spans seven days and begins and ends in Cusco. Begin your hiking expedition in Soraypampa, following the ancient Salkantay Route to Machu Picchu. Trek through fifteen different ecosystems, changing altitudes and varied terrain and learn the culture and age-old traditions of local Andean families. By night, indulge in innovative, mouthwatering cuisine and enjoy a dip in an outdoor Jacuzzi before calling it a night in the comfort of an enchanting mountain lodge.

Itinerary

Day 1: Cusco to Salkantay Lodge

After an early breakfast, your Mountain Lodges of Peru tour guide and driver will pick you up at your hotel in Cusco • The first stop will be a visit to the Quillarumiyoc archaeological site • Next you will stop in the mountain village of Mollepata • There you will visit El Pedregal, a beautiful farmhouse where you can learn about local agriculture and local community weavers and have lunch • Then, the transfer will take you through a winding mountain road to a site called Challacancha • Here you will begin your hike to Soraypampa along a picturesque path called the “Camino Real” (Royal Path) , which is also a good opportunity to acclimate to the higher altitude • As you round the final turn of the Camino Real, the Salkantay Lodge will come into view • *Overnight Salkantay Lodge at 12,690 ft (L, D)*

* **Note:** A pre-trek briefing the night before your morning pick up by MLP will take place at Hotel El Mercado at 7:00 PM.

* **Option:** Guests who do not wish to trek may be transported to the lodge by vehicle.

Day 2: A Hike to Humantay Lake

Early start with a half day hike to Humantay Lake, fed by the hanging glaciers of Mt. Humantay • The trek is optional but the views are amazing • This hike is excellent for acclimatization and a first immersion into high- mountain trekking • In the afternoon, relax with a soak in an outdoor Jacuzzi • In the evening, your guides will brief you on gear and your itinerary for the next four days • Breakfast, lunch and dinner at the Lodge • *Overnight Salkantay Lodge at 12,690 ft (B, L, D)*

* **Option:** Horseback Riding Excursion:

* **Short Excursion:** 2 hours ride around Soraypampa in the afternoon (after hike to glacial lake).

Day 3: Crossing the Salkantay Pass

This is the big day! • We leave Soraypampa Valley for our continuing trek to Machu Picchu! • Wake up early and hike the Rio Blanco valley, circling Humantay Peak across from the Salkantay • Trek to the pass (15,213 ft) and take in 360-degree views of the snow-capped peaks of the Vilcabamba Range and the towering, glaciated south face of Salkantay • Hot lunch en route • From the pass, descend toward Wayra Lodge, your home for the evening, keeping your eyes peeled for Andean condors • Dinner at the Lodge • *Overnight Wayra Lodge at 12,812 ft (B, L, D)*



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Day 4: Descending into the Cloud Forest

Sleep in and enjoy a leisurely breakfast in Huayracmachay • Begin your trek by hiking downhill above the Salkantay River, through increasingly verdant scenery • Arrive at the Colpa Lodge for a “Pachamanca,” a traditional festive Peruvian meal cooked by layering meat and vegetables with hot stones • Enjoy a well-earned soak in an outdoor Jacuzzi and take in the lush mountain scenery • Spend the afternoon relaxing or exploring the nearby orchid trail • Dinner at the Lodge • *Overnight Colpa Lodge at 9,414 ft (B, L, D)*

Day 5: Following the Santa Teresa River Valley

Early breakfast before setting off on a trek to the Santa Teresa River Valley • Hike through banana plantations, ‘granadillas,’ and orchards and visit a coffee farm (where some of the best organic coffees in the world are grown!) • Break along the river for a hot picnic lunch • After lunch, we hike one more hour before a private vehicle picks us up to shuttle to the beginning of the Llactapata Inca Trail (30 min) • From the head of the trail, it’s a short climb to the Lucma Lodge, set in an avocado orchard • On the way we visit an organic coffee plantation where we join the owner on a short tour of the farm and learn how coffee is grown, harvested, dried and processed • *Overnight Lucma Lodge at 7,003 ft (B, L, D)*

Day 6: First Views of Machu Picchu from Llactapata Pass

Early start and hearty breakfast before tackling the last leg of your trek • Hike two to three hours uphill towards Llactapata pass (8,500 ft), for a distant but spectacular view of Machu Picchu from the southeast (a view most never see) • Explore the recently restored Llactapata Ruins • Lunch at the view point, with more views of Machu Picchu • Begin your final descent to the Aobamba River through lush bamboo forests, orchards and coffee plantations (2-3 hours descent) • Aguas Calientes and Machu Picchu are a short, scenic train ride away (approx. 1 hour) • Enjoy your stay at your award-winning hotel • *Overnight Inkaterra Pueblo Hotel at 6,232 ft (B, L, D)*

Day 7: Visit Machu Picchu Sanctuary

Morning wakeup call before ascending to Machu Picchu by bus (30 min) for a private guided tour • Your trip leader will give an introductory 2 hour guided tour of the ruins, after which you have the option of climbing the steep staircase of Huayna Picchu, a steep and vertically quite challenging hike that takes about 2 hours, providing great views of Machu Picchu • Return by bus to Aguas Calientes for lunch and an afternoon train ride in the Vistadome car back to Ollantaytambo (1.5 hours) • From here you will be escorted by private vehicle for your transfer to Cusco (additional 1.5 hours) • Upon arrival in Cusco (approx. 7 or 8:00 pm, you will be dropped off at your hotel • (B, L)

***Option:** Spend an extra day at Machu Picchu. Subject to extra cost – inquire about details with your travel specialist.

*** Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, trail conditions, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures and MLP.

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Activities

Hiking: Moderate to Challenging. This trek covers approximately 32 miles of uneven, rocky terrain. Prior hiking experience is recommended as this is not a novice hike.

- **Day 1 – Cusco to Salkantay Lodge:** 3 – 5 hours, moderate.
- **Day 2 – Humantay Lake:** 3 hours, moderate to challenging.
- **Day 3 – Crossing Salkantay Pass:** 6 – 8 hours, challenging.
- **Day 4 – Descending into Cloud Forest:** 3 – 4 hours, easy to moderate.
- **Day 5 – Following Santa Teresa River Valley:** 5 – 6 hours, moderate to challenging (due to distance, not terrain).
- **Day 6 – Llactapata Pass:** 4 – 6 hours, moderate to challenging.
- **Day 7 – Visit Machu Picchu:** time spent at site varies, easy to challenging.

Optional activities (subject to extra cost): Chakana Inca Cross Excursion, Horseback Riding and Canopy Zipline. *Please talk with your travel specialist for additional details.*

Discovery: Crowned by the towering Andes and tucked between the Amazon and the Pacific, Peru offers a captivating mix of adventure, nature and history. Embedded in every active traveler's Top Ten List is the great city of the clouds, Machu Picchu. Start and end along the cobblestone streets of Cusco and venture from ruin to ruin across the Salkantay Valley by train and breathtaking footpath to the ancient city of the Inca. Explore the "back way" to get to Machu Picchu, the Salkantay Trail, named after Nevado Salcantay, the highest peak of the Cordillera Vilcabamba, a small mountain range of the Andes. Catch a glimpse of the Andean Condor, a vulture with the largest wingspan of any land bird – 10.5 feet! Delight in the traditional Peruvian dish of Pachamanca: lamb, mutton, pork, chicken or guinea pig, marinated in spices and baked with the aid of hot stones in an earthen oven known as a *huatia*. Did you know that Machu Picchu is called "The Lost City" because when it was "rediscovered" by Yale explorer Hiram Bingham III in 1911, the jungle had literally swallowed the complex ruins? Even a knife blade can't be inserted between the precise mortarless joints of the stones used in the building of Machu Picchu, and many of these stones weighed more than 50 tons! Come explore Peru with the experts in adventure travel!

Our Partner – Mountain Lodges of Peru

Austin Adventures is proud to offer this trip in conjunction with our partner Mountain Lodges of Peru (MLP). Mountain Lodges of Peru (MLP) offers "Adventure at its finest": the opportunity to experience the essence of adventure within the realm of revitalizing comforts. But for Mountain Lodges of Peru, a great adventure does not end there: in order for it to be a life-changing experience for their guests, they believe that the experience has to be an adventure on many levels. This is why their proposal goes far beyond comfortable lodges and great treks... it is a unique opportunity to experience ancient history in the land of the Incas, contemporary manifestations of deep-founded culture, the most interesting and exotic variety of flora and fauna, surprises, the determination of local people to progress, new friends and like-minded souls.



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Distinctive Accommodation

Nights 1 & 2: Salkantay Lodge and Adventure Resort (12,690 ft)

The Salkantay Lodge & Adventure Resort, located in the high Andean valley of Soraypampa, sits at 12,690 feet above sea level. In addition to high-quality Peruvian/International cuisine, the Lodge offers an outdoor hot Jacuzzi, traditional sauna, cozy reading rooms, a bar/lounge and 12 well-appointed private double (or twin/triple) rooms with private bathrooms and hot showers.

Night 3: Wayra Lodge (12,812 ft)

Wayra Lodge (“Wayra” meaning ‘the place where the wind lives’) sits at an elevation of 12,812 feet in Huayracmachay. With only six rooms total in the lodge, you’ll feel that you have all the mountains to yourself. Relax in the outdoor Jacuzzi in the central courtyard.

Night 4: Colpa Lodge (9,414 ft)

The Colpa Lodge sits at a 9,414-foot elevation in an open promontory at the confluence of three rivers. The outdoor Jacuzzi has prominent views of lush green mountains and a small village nestled in a valley below. Feel free to explore the grounds in search of the magnificent orchid garden.

Night 5: Lucma Lodge (7,003 ft)

The Lucma Lodge is set in an avocado orchard and sits at an elevation of 7,003 feet. Here you’ll have time to explore the coffee plantations and see a demonstration of coffee roasting. You may also choose to soak in the outdoor Jacuzzi.

Night 6: Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

Stay at Inkaterra luxury Machu Picchu Hotel, your ultimate cloud forest vacation paradise, an intimate 85-cottage luxury hotel in a sprawling Andean style village within a secluded twelve acres of exquisite beauty. Follow stone pathways along the terraced hills, melding with the sacred energy of the mountains. Indulge in Inkaterra’s spa services which use sublime natural essences. A first-class restaurant boasts stunning views of the rushing Vilcanota River.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners— as indicated in itinerary – are included. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages, bottled water, sports drinks and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.

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Arrival and Departures

We recommend that you arrive to the city of Cusco (elevation 11,000+ feet) at least two nights prior to the trip starting. This will help you acclimate better for your lodge to lodge trek. The night before your trip begins, a pre-trip briefing will be held at a specified time and place in which you'll have a chance to meet your guides and receive important information about your upcoming trekking experience. On Day 1, a Mountain Lodges of Peru guide will pick you up from your hotel starting at 7:00 am. On day 7, you will take the train back to Ollantaytambo, where a private vehicle will transport you to Cusco. Upon arrival in Cusco (approximately 7-8 pm) you will be dropped off at the hotel of your choice.

Trip Price

Low Season: Starting at \$2,990
High Season: Starting at \$3,990

Trip Length

7 days/6 nights

2019 Dates

Departing Weekly – Call for Availability

Host City

Cusco, Peru Airport Code: CUZ

Reservations & Availability

1.800.575.1540

*Take the path less traveled through
jaw-dropping Salkantay Valley*



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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$750 per person nonrefundable deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800-575-1540

Phone: 406-655-4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- 6 nights lodging (5 nights in MLP lodges, 1 night in Aguas Calientes in 4-Star hotel).
- All meals except Breakfast on Day 1 and Dinner on Day 7.
- Guided visit of Machu Picchu Sanctuary (includes entrance, transportation to the site & Huayna Picchu permits).
- Service of a bilingual guide (Spanish/English) from Day 1 to Day 7. Tours are led in English.
- Gratuities for service staff (MLP lodge staff, mule drivers and route chefs), excluding guides.
- Wireless internet access (Wi-Fi) at all lodges and hotels.
- Transportation of personal items on the trail by pack horses/mules and/or porters.
- All services and transportation (vehicles & trains) from pick up in Cusco on Day 1 to drop off in Cusco on Day 7.
- Water, tea, coffee, soft drinks and fresh juices are free of charge at the MLP Lodges. Only filtered water and tea are available free of charge at the hotel in Aguas Calientes.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt and luggage tags.
- Pre-departure and packing information.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Pre- and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Tips for lead and assistant guides.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance and expenses.
- Optional activities – Chakana Inca Cross Excursion, Canopy Zipline & Horseback Riding.
- Optional extra day at Machu Picchu/Aguas Calientes.
- Massage, spa & laundry services.
- Breakfast on Day 1 and Dinner on Day 7.
- Alcoholic beverages, bottled water and sports drinks.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.

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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you.

Minimum Age

The minimum age on our Mountain Lodges of Peru: Salkantay Lodge to Lodge program is twelve years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 60 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less nonrefundable \$750 per person deposit

Cancellation 45-59 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-44 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.