



Women's Travel Club
Friends • Fun • Travel
www.womens-travel-club.com

1-844-749-0725
info@womens-travel-club.com
<https://www.womens-travel-club.com>



Salkantay Trail to Machu Picchu 2024 Itinerary

Sep 18, 2024 - Sep 27, 2024

Challenge yourself and follow the road less traveled to Machu Picchu. The Salkantay Adventure goes beyond deluxe lodges and a great trek (or ride). It is also a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in Andean culture as you learn about the Inca civilization and the extraordinary legacy that they left for generations to come.

This tour is available in both a trekking option or a horseback option.

September 18 - Day 1



Welcome to Peru!

Upon arrival at the airport today you will be met by a local guide and transfer to your hotel. The adventure begins tonight. We will have a quick welcome meeting before dinner, after introductions, your tour leader will review the details of your tour. Then we will enjoy our first dinner together and get better acquainted.



Dinner



Andenes by Mountain Lodges of Peru

Choquechaca 176, 00800 Cusco, Peru

Phone : +1 877 491 5261

Andenes by Mountain Lodges of Peru check-in time: From 11:00 AM (local time)

September 19 - Day 2



Cusco – Cooking Class

This morning we will set out to learn all about Cusco on a half day city tour. Cuzco is the continent's oldest continuously inhabited city and the gateway to Machu Picchu. This is a city of contradiction. Ornate cathedrals squat over Inca temples, a rural Andean woman feeds bottled water to her pet llama while the finest boutiques sell pricey alpaca knits.

This evening we will make our own dinner at a rooftop cooking class. Learn to cook Andean food under the stars with a breathtaking view of downtown Cusco.



Breakfast, Dinner



Andenes by Mountain Lodges of Peru

September 20 - Day 3



On the Way to Soraypampa

After an early breakfast, your guide and driver will pick you up at your hotel in Cusco. The first stop is a visit to the Quillarumiyoc archaeological site en route to the mountain village of Mollepata. Enjoy lunch at El Pedregal, a beautiful farmhouse in the village, where you will also have the opportunity to learn about local agriculture and livestock.

After lunch comes a scenic ride on the winding mountain road to Challacancha. Here you will begin your hike to our flagship Salkantay Lodge at Soraypampa along a picturesque path called the “Camino Real” (Royal Path).

Trekking Time: Approximately 3 hours

Hiking Level: Easy to Moderate

RIDING OPTION:

After lunch, you will take a scenic ride to Coronilla Ranch to meet and get to know your horse. Along with the MLP equestrian team, you will then begin your ride to Soraypampa, a great opportunity for everyone to acclimate to the altitude while enjoying a beautiful 3-4 hour ride to the Salkantay Lodge that takes its name from the majestic peak at the head of the valley (Mt. Salkantay is the second most sacred peak in Inca mythology and, at 6,270m (20,600 ft), is the highest in the region). Upon arrival, our friendly staff will welcome you and show you to your room, where you can freshen up before tea time and a fireside trip briefing with your guide. In the evening, enjoy aperitifs and dinner before settling in to rest for the next day's ride.



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Salkantay Lodge

September 21 - Day 4



Hike to Lake Humantay

After breakfast, you begin an ascent up the slopes that border the plateau behind Salkantay Lodge*. An hour and a half later, your hard work will be rewarded with a first glimpse of the lake's glistening turquoise waters and the Humantay glacier looming overhead.

Upon arrival, you will have a chance to relax, enjoy a snack, meditate in the tranquility of this magical spot, and participate in a traditional ceremony to honor "Pachamama" (Mother Earth).

After your descent back to the lodge, the Salkantay staff will be waiting with a hot lunch. Afternoon at leisure to relax, enjoy a massage, or soak in the outdoor hot tub for a spectacular view of the Salkantay Peak at sunset.

Trekking Time: Approximately 4 hours

Hiking Level: Moderate

RIDING OPTION:

Today's excursion takes us first to Humantay Lake, fed by glaciers far above on the slopes of the impressive Mt. Humantay. Our 1-hour ride there is followed by a short 20-minute walk, which is necessary in order to reach the lake, but the view is well worth it and those brave enough can go for a swim!

After a short snack break we hike back down to where we left the horses, and from where we begin a 30-minute ride to our next dismount spot: the gateway to the "Chakana" (the mystical Cross of the Incas, located on a view point high above Soraypampa). From here, we begin a onehour excursion on foot to our destination, the actual "Chakana". This excursion allows guests to enjoy the best views of the Soraypampa Valley, Mt. Salkantay and Mt. Humantay, and is truly one of the high points of our journey...which should not be missed! A mystical offering to Mother Earth (or "Pachamama") at the Chakana, performed by a local Shaman, in full view of the awe-inspiring Mt. Salkantay, tops off this unique experience.



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Salkantay Lodge

September 22 - Day 5



Crossing the Salkantay Pass

After an early start, the ascent toward the Salkantay Pass begins. You will circle Humantay Peak, gradually making your way along expansive plateaus connected by enormous boulders, remnants of the Rio Blanco Valley that was once bisected by a fast-flowing river.

The last and most challenging part of the ascent is conquering the mountain switchbacks that lead you to the pass, the highest point on the trek (15,213' / 4,636m).

The journey continues with a dramatic descent through fields of large boulders and natural stone formations often shrouded in fog, followed by a very welcome hot picnic lunch. After lunch, you will have some time to rest before the final hike through the area's bucolic countryside; its rolling hills will eventually lead you through marsh-like plateaus to the Wayra Lodge at Wayracmachay.

Trekking Time: Approximately 6 hours
Hiking Level: Challenging

RIDING OPTION:

Today we continue our journey towards Machu Picchu, riding up the Rio Blanco valley and circling Humantay Peak across from Salkantay Peak. The highest point of the ride is the Salkantay Pass at 4,638 meters (15,213 ft).

At the pass we stop to take in views of snow-capped peaks of the Vilcabamba Range in every direction, with the glaciated south face of Salkantay towering above us.

We will keep our eyes out for Andean condors, often visible in this area. From the pass we descend towards the Wayra Lodge, ("Wayra": wind; from the name of the location "Wayracmachay": 'the cave where the wind lives') our destination for the evening. A hot lunch is taken en route; dinner and overnight at the lodge.



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Wayra Lodge

September 23 - Day 6



Descending Into the Cloud Forest

After a leisurely breakfast at Wayra Lodge, you will continue the descent toward the cloud forest along the banks of the Salkantay River through increasingly verdant scenery. The warm air will begin to rise from the edge of the jungle, accompanied by colorful butterflies and striking orchids.

Today you will see more local Andean people as the trail takes you past their simple homes and makeshift fences. At approximately midday, you will arrive at Colpa Lodge, located on a high promontory at the confluence of three rivers.

The Colpa staff will greet you with a Pachamanca lunch, a traditional Peruvian meal cooked below ground with hot stones that create a natural oven. After lunch, spend the afternoon lounging in the sun or relaxing in the outdoor hot tub while you take in the panoramic views of the lush green mountains that surround you.

Trekking Time: Approximately 3-4 hours
Hiking Level: Moderate

RIDING OPTION:

On this day we enjoy a leisurely breakfast at Wayra Lodge, and then we continue downhill above the Salkantay River, descending into the cloud forest, through increasingly verdant scenery. We can feel the warm air rising from the jungle, accompanied by colorful butterflies and striking orchids.

At the pass we stop to take in views of snow-capped peaks of the Vilcabamba Range in every direction, with the glaciated south face of Salkantay towering above us.

Upon arrival at Colpa Lodge we are greeted with a Pachamanca, a traditional festive Peruvian meal cooked by layering meat and vegetables with hot stones. Everything is then covered with hot stones, plantain leaves, high Andean grass and local herbs and the contents are baked in this underground oven. Colpa Lodge is located on an open plateau at the confluence of three rivers. The outdoor jacuzzi has panoramic views of lush green mountains. We spend the afternoon relaxing or exploring the nearby orchid trail. Dinner and overnight at the lodge.



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Colpa Lodge

September 24 - Day 7



Following the Santa Teresa River Valley

Today you will hike through the Santa Teresa River Valley along a rolling trail that crosses fertile fruit orchards and bisects streams originating from glacier-fed waterfalls. After a hot picnic lunch by the river and some time to relax, the group will continue for one more hour before you are met by an MLP transport vehicle for the short drive to the bottom of the Llactapata Inca Trail steps that lead to Lucma Lodge.

On the way to the lodge you will visit an organic coffee plantation, one of many in the area that produce some of the best organic coffees in the world. You will also begin to notice another shift in the climate; in Lucmabamba, the hot air and increased humidity signal that you are even closer to the edge of the Amazon Jungle.

Trekking Time: Approximately 5-6 hours

Hiking Level: Moderate to Challenging

RIDING OPTION:

Today we ride along the Santa Teresa river valley, through more populated rural areas. We pass through banana, passion fruit, avocado orchards and coffee plantations.

The coffee grown here is said to be one of the best organic coffees in the world. Our ride takes us to the beginning of the "Llactapata Inca Trail", which is where we say goodbye to our horses and equestrian staff. A short 30-minute walk through an avocado orchard brings us to Lucma Lodge.



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Lucma Lodge

September 25 - Day 8



Lucmabamba

After breakfast, depart from Lucma Lodge and embark on a 2-3 hour climb through the cloud forest up a path mostly comprised of original Inca steps. A lush tree line creates green canopies overhead and the constant sound of rushing water suggests that the river is nearby.

Your first milestone today will be the top of the peak, the last one before you descend to the Aobamba River Valley that connects you to Machu Picchu.

Upon arrival at the Llactapata Pass (8,974ft / 2,736m), you will delight in a southeast view of Machu Picchu, a sight few travelers get the chance to admire. After exploring Llactapata, the Inca tambo (fort) that marks the pass, enjoy a picnic lunch at a mountain lookout point with panoramic views. The final descent along a trail that zigzags down to the roaring Aobamba River will take you through lush bamboo forests, varied fruit orchards, and more coffee plantations. Celebrate as you cross the bridge over the river and take your final steps of the trek en route to the Hidroelectrica train station for a scenic one-hour train ride to the town of Aguas Calientes, on the banks of the Urubamba River at the base of Machu Picchu.

Trekking Time: Approximately 4-6 hours

Hiking Level: Moderate to Challenging



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

September 26 - Day 9



The Citadel of Machu Picchu

Your journey to Machu Picchu begins with a morning rollicking uphill bus ride. As you enter the 'sanctuary' (as locals refer to it), prepare to be awed by the imposing, skillful architecture of the Watchtower, the Temple of the Sun, and the royal Inca residences, among others.

After a two-hour guided tour, you will have free time to explore on your own, including a hike up Huayna Picchu*, the iconic mountain that looms over the citadel, for dramatic views that stretch from the Urubamba River Valley to the edge of the Amazon Jungle. At some point, be sure to take a moment and sit quietly—listen to the wind, meditate, and absorb the mystical energy that envelops you.



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

September 27 - Day 10



Aguas Calientes – Depart

Enjoy your morning at leisure, after lunch enjoy the scenic Vistadome train ride to Ollantaytambo (approximately 1.5 hours). It is time to say good-bye to this beautiful area and fabulous new friends as you transfer to the airport for your flight home.



Breakfast, Lunch