



Trips-To Machu Picchu

2 Day Inca Trail - Travel Brochure





About this trip

The 2-Day Inca Trail (often called the "Short Inca Trail") is the most popular alternative for travelers who want to experience the legendary trail and enter through the Sun Gate but have limited time or prefer a less strenuous hike than the 4-day version.

The ultimate 2-Day Inca Trail to Machu Picchu: The Short Trek Itinerary

Experience the magic of the Andes with the 2-day Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. This "Short Inca Trail" is the perfect option for travelers who want to hike the historic path to the Sun Gate (Inti Punku) but have limited time. Follow our meticulously planned itinerary to ensure you don't miss a single highlight of this world-class trekking experience.

Day 1: Cusco – KM 104 Chachabamba – Wiñay Wayna – Sun Gate – Aguas Calientes

Your Short Inca Trail adventure begins with a 6:00 AM hotel pickup in Cusco. We provide a comfortable transfer to the train station for a scenic ride through the Sacred Valley to Ollantaytambo. From here, you'll board the Tourist Train for a 1-hour and 45-minute journey to KM 104, the official trailhead of the 2-day Inca Trail.

The Trek to Wiñay Wayna:

After crossing the Vilcanota River and passing the park checkpoint (be sure to have your original passport!), we begin our ascent. Our first stop is the archaeological site of Chachabamba, an ancient Inca water temple. From there, the trail winds upward through a lush cloud forest, offering stunning vistas of the Urubamba River.

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Waterfalls and Ancient Wonders: After roughly three hours of hiking, the trail leads into a refreshing, shaded forest featuring a hidden waterfall. This is the perfect spot for a break before reaching the breathtaking Wiñay Wayna ruins (2,650m / 8,694ft). Wiñay Wayna is widely considered the most beautiful site on the entire Inca Trail, featuring intricate agricultural terraces and urban sectors.

Note: It is crucial to carry at least 2 liters of water for this segment.

Arrival at the Sun Gate (Inti Punku): Following a packed lunch, we traverse a vibrant forest filled with orchids and bromeliads to reach the final section of the original Inca Trail. After conquering the famous "60 Inca Steps," you will arrive at Inti Punku (The Sun Gate). This is the only way to see Machu Picchu for the first time from above, a privilege reserved exclusively for Inca Trail hikers.

After capturing unforgettable photos, we descend to Aguas Calientes (Machu Picchu Pueblo) for a delicious dinner and a restful night in a comfortable hotel.

- Meals: Box Lunch, Dinner.
- Accommodations: Hotel in Aguas Calientes.

Day 2: Exploring the Machu Picchu Citadel – Return to Cusco

Today is the day you've been waiting for! After an early breakfast, we take one of the first shuttle buses (05:30 AM) to the Machu Picchu Sanctuary. Arriving at 6:00 AM allows us to experience the "Lost City of the Incas" in the soft morning light before the large crowds arrive from Cusco.

Machu Picchu Guided Tour: Your professional guide will lead a 2-hour comprehensive tour of the citadel. You will explore the Main Plaza, the Circular Tower, the Sacred Sun Dial (Intihuatana), the Royal Quarters, and the Temple of the Three Windows. You'll learn about the fascinating history, engineering, and mysteries of the Incan Empire.

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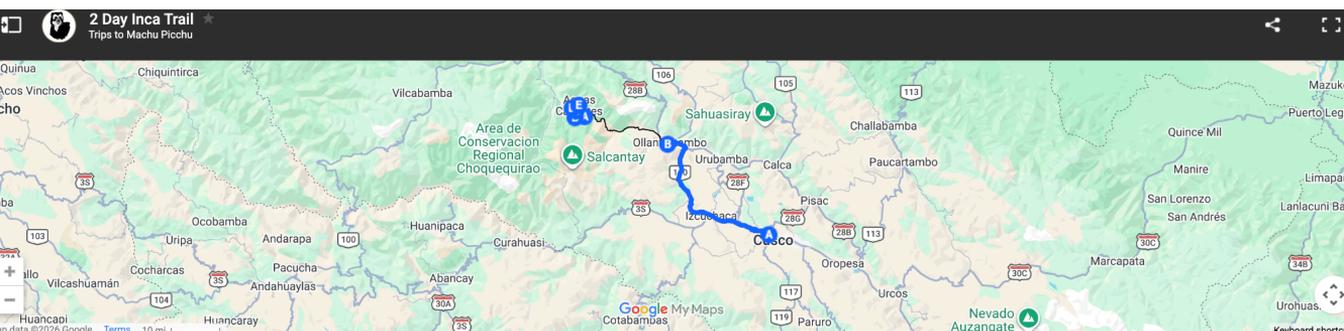


Optional Huayna Picchu Hike: If you are feeling adventurous, you can opt to climb Huayna Picchu Mountain or Machu Picchu Mountain for a bird's-eye view of the ruins (permits are limited and must be booked well in advance).

The Return Journey: In the afternoon, you will descend back to Aguas Calientes to explore the local markets. Your return journey includes a scenic train ride to Ollantaytambo, followed by private transport back to your hotel in Cusco, arriving at approximately 9:00 PM.

- Meals: Breakfast.

[Click here to see Tour Map](#)



What's included

- **Entrance Tickets:** Entrance fee to Inca Trail and Machu Picchu
- **Bus:** Bus Consettur Machu Picchu to Aguas Calientes Down 1st day
- **Bus Up:** Bus Consettur Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu Up 2nd day
- **Train Ticket:** Train Ticket round trip /Ollantaytambo – Km 104 – Aguas Calientes – Ollantaytambo
- **Meals:** Meals 1Lunch, 1Dinner, 1Breakfast
- **Hotel:** 1 Night in hotel in aguas calientes
- **Oxygen:** Oxygen balloon for any emergency
- **Guide:** Two-hours guided tour upon your arrival in Machu Picchu (to explore every important temple of the Sanctuary)
- **Transfers:** Transfer train or bus station-hotel in Cusco

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- **First Aid kit:** First Aid kit for Emergencies
- **Free Luggage storage:** When you go on the trek it is best to leave any luggage that you are not going to need behind in Cusco. Nearly all the hotels in Cusco provide a secure luggage deposit. Put any valuables in their safe. Very rarely do hotels charge for this service especially if you are returning to the same hotel after the trek. If there are any problems with your hotel we can arrange to store your luggage at our office

What's not included

- **Breakfast:** Breakfast on the first day
- **Lunch and dinner on the last day:** after the guided tour at Machu Picchu, you can enjoy free time to further visit the ruins and choose to have lunch either in Machu Picchu or in Aguas Calientes at your own expense. dinner being at your own expense too
- **Bus:** Bus Consettur down second day, optional walk for about 1h – 30 minutes
- **Visit to the hot springs:** Visit to the hot springs in Aguas Calientes: a relaxing way to end-up the trek while you're awaiting the return train to Cusco, only 10 minutes from the village center, entrance fee is s/15.00 (Peruvian Soles). Towels can be hired in Aguas Calientes
- **Huaynapicchu:** Huaynapicchu entrance fee: if you would like to climb this mountain a new entrance fee applies (US\$65)(Circuit #3) will cost US \$55 per person
- **Tips:** please note that our agency staff is well paid so please feel free to tip or not as you wish

What to bring:

- An original passport plus a photocopy of Passport
- Cotton short-sleeved shirts or t-shirts
- Light colored long-sleeved shirts
- Fleece or Wool sweater and/or trousers
- Lightweight pants
- Hiking shorts

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- Regular and long underwear (at over 13,000 ft/4,000 m. asl)
- Medium weight parka with fiber fill or down.
- Light cap and wool hat,
- Rain poncho (or rain gear)
- Light gloves
- Medium weight socks
- Tennis or running shoes and hiking boots
- Trekking poles (optional)
- Sleeping bag (0o to -15oC) and small day pack
- Strong waterproof duffel bag
- Sun glasses
- Sun block, lip balm and Insect repellent
- Flashlight with spare batteries and bulb
- Towel
- Swimsuit.
- Water bottle.
- Personal first aid kit. On each trip we carry a medical kit but we suggest a small personal first-aid kit for bruises and blisters. A knee and ankle brace are sometimes useful especially if you suffer from weak knees or ankles. Include any special medication your doctor might suggest for you.





FAQs

When is the Briefing?

The briefing will take place the night before the trek departs at 6pm or 6:30pm in the lobby of your hotel so please let us know the name of your Hotel.

Where can I store my luggage?

During your trek or tour your primary luggage can be stored at our office or our deposit, you can also store it at your hotel for free.

How to Book a Tour?

To book a tour or trek requires a 50% deposit from the total tour price to be made online or a wire money transfer. To purchase Inca Trail permits, entrances to Machu Picchu, or make hotel or train reservations (it is a government requirement) we need the following information:

- Personal information (your full name, exactly as on your passport):
- Gender:
- Passport number:
- Birth Date (dd / mm / yyyy):
- Nationality:
- Hotel Name:
- Food allergies, mention if you are vegetarian:

What about the Price Balance?

If you would like to avoid the high credit card fees in Peru, you may pay in cash USD at our office or your hotel here in Cusco. There are many ATMs within the historical center to withdraw money. Most banks in Cusco allow you to choose to withdraw either US dollars or Peruvian soles (\$500.00 a day) Many only accept VISA cards, although our clients have found a couple banks which accept Mastercard and will distribute dollars. According to our clients, Banco de la Nación also accepts Mastercard but will only distribute Peruvian soles.

If I cancel, can I get a refund?

NO, we won't provide a refund, please contact your Travel Insurance Company, we will be very happy to provide you with a cancellation certificate.

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How do I qualify for the student discount?

According to Peruvian Law, you must be under 18 years of age at the time of your trek or tour to Machu Picchu (students 18 & above need student cards). For example: if you book a trek at the age of 17 but you turn 18 before you do your trek, you must have a valid university ID card to qualify for the student discount.

University students must provide a copy of their ID card showing a photo, University name and card expiration date. Cards must be valid for the current academic year only.

All students from 11 to 17 years, the discount is \$30 USD.

For children from the age of 2 to 11 the discount is \$40 USD.

Children from the age of 0 to 2 are free.

All students must provide a copy of their passport at the time of their booking to get the student discount. Send us a copy at tripstomachupicchu@gmail.com

Can I change the departure date after the tour is booked?

Unfortunately the answer is NO (this applies to the Inca Trail). Once the permits or entrance tickets have been bought the government does not allow any changes, so we can't change any departure date after the permits or ticket has been bought. Tickets are also not transferable nor refundable. You must ensure you are reserving the correct dates! Double check the date on your booking form because we buy your permits as soon as we have your booking form and deposit. Often there are limited spaces and we must purchase them immediately. They are paid for completely as soon as you complete your booking and deposit, which means that you must buy completely new permits if you change your dates. All of the permits and tickets sold by the Peruvian government are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

In regards to Alternative Treks, it may be possible to change your date for an additional fee. Please contact the office as soon as possible if this occurs so we can assist you in this matter.

*** If you cancel your tour or trek, the deposit is NOT refundable!

Do I Need to Bring my original Passport for the Inca Trail and the Alternative Treks?

Yes! You have to bring your original passport and it is very important that it is the same passport number you sent to us to book your Inca Trail Machu Picchu permit, entrance to Machu Picchu, train ticket or other entrances and reservations depending on your choice of trek.

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In case you are renewing your passport or changing your name, go ahead and send us your old passport information to secure your permit, and we can change it when you get your new passport number or update your name for a fee of \$25 per person. We must have a copy of your old and new passport to make the change. Before you change your passport, keep a copy of your old one.

If you do not wish to pay this fee you will need to bring both passports to Peru with you. You can enter Peru with your new passport but you will need to show both passports, old and new to enter the Inca Trail, Machu Picchu or the train. If you do not have both you will not be allowed to enter the Inca Trail, Machu Picchu or get on the train.

YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE VALID FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS FROM THE DAY YOU ENTER PERU! Most airlines will not let you board your flight if your passport has less than 6 months left from the date you enter Peru.

What is the Weather Like?

The weather is very unpredictable and it's difficult to foresee. You will have many different varieties of weather as you pass through the numerous microclimates and it will depend on the location. We highly recommend you dress in layers to adapt to the climate changes.

What about altitude sickness?

In general, if you exercise regularly and spend 2 to 3 days in Cusco or in the Sacred Valley. You will acclimate normally!

The recommended remedies for altitude sickness is WATER, COCA TEA and OXYGEN IF NEEDED; our guides are trained to treat you for Altitude Sickness

How many people are there in the group?

The maximum group size for all treks is 8 persons. Usually our groups are between 4-6 persons. Trips to Machu Picchu specializes in SMALL and PRIVATE groups and provides personalized services.

Where are we dropped in Cusco after the tour?

In all our tours we will pick you up and drop you off at your hotel on the return from your trek or tour. If you have booked your hotel in the Sacred Valley like Ollantaytambo or



Urubamba, we will drop you there too! Also, if you spend the night at Ollantaytambo before your trek (if you are doing the Inca Trail), we will pick you up there.

At what time does the train depart from Aguas Calientes?

It will depend on the train availability (high season could be booked out) but the idea is to give you as much time as possible in Machu Picchu and enjoy the amazing views on the way back to Cusco from the train. Therefore, we usually book the train at 14:55 or 15:20. With this train schedule, you will have plenty of time to enjoy Machu Picchu

Vistadome Train upgrade, how much is it?

The upgrade to Vistadome train which has slightly nicer seats, panoramic windows and windows in the ceiling. You will be offered some snacks and a dance show will take place on board. The price is \$75 USD per person which includes the transfer from Poroy (Cusco) train station to your hotel in Cusco. It is 2 hours by train from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo and then another 2 hours from Ollantaytambo to Cusco by bus. If you upgrade to the Vistadome Train, the trip from Aguas Calientes to Poroy (Cusco) takes 3.5 hours, and then 25 minutes by taxi to your hotel. Usually our clients are back at their hotel by 8pm

Are you Sustainable?

Yes, we are a local sustainable & responsible tour operator that incorporates the universal principles of tourism: protect the environment and benefit the local communities respecting their culture and religion. With this in mind, we have trained all our staff to know, understand and respect local places and its people.

What is the best period to travel to Machu Picchu?

Usually, May to October is considered the best period to visit Machu Picchu, as it is the dry season. However, it can get pretty crowded, especially during July and August, somewhat ruining the spiritual dimension of the experience. Besides, nights can get quite cold during these months.

The rainy season, from November to April, brings heavy rains, with most precipitations coming down in January and February. It's usually clear and dry most mornings with outbursts of heavy rain in the afternoons. During this period, some roads might be closed by landslides or flooding, in particular those leading to villages off the beaten track. And still, some people will take more pleasure in travelling during this period, as there are much less tourists around and a more mystic atmosphere can be experienced. Just

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consider the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu is usually closed during February for maintenance.

Inca Trail - When is the best time to hike the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu?

The dry season, which runs from April to October is the best time (and most popular) to hike because of the milder daytime weather. You will need to make your reservations 3-6 months in advance if you want to be assured of space during this time. During the rainy season, the Trail is less crowded and less advance time is required for reservations. The Inca Trail is closed during the month of February each year.

Are the guides bilingual and licensed?

All guides for tours are bilingual (Spanish and English) and have received course work and graduated from a certified guide program. They are licensed by the INC. If they are doing any tours at Machu Picchu, they must have additional courses and certification to do so.

Note that most of your guides will also be fluent in Quechua, the language of the native people in rural areas. They may also speak German, French, or other languages.

I have heard about a "local" train, can I take it?

Yes, there is a "local" train between Cuzco and Aguas Calientes but the government has decided that it is only for Peruvian and local residents and they have to show a Peruvian ID. Tourists cannot take it.

What to do with my luggage during the tour?

If you choose the 1-day tour, your luggage will theoretically stay in Cusco. However, if you choose the 2-day tour, you will maybe need to leave your luggage in Cusco. Most of the places where you might stay (hotel, hostel, guest house) offer to guard your luggage for free during the tour. But we can also gladly do it; just bring your luggage to our Agency the day before the tour.

What equipment is required to be supplied by the individuals taking the trip?

All camping equipment will be provided by the tour operator, including tents, sleeping bags, cookware etc. please check our inclusion link.



What standard of accommodation do you use?

This entirely depends on your preferences and budget. In our example itineraries all accommodation is chosen primarily for its character, location and quality of service, and rooms will normally have private bathrooms. We offer 2-3 star hotels.

If you have more questions please feel free to email us at tripstomachupicchu@gmail.com



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