



MOUNTAIN  
LODGES  
*Peru*

# THE SALKANTAY RIDE TO MACHU PICCHU

*a unique inca trail experience*



## Experience The Salkantay Ride to Machu Picchu from the saddle.

Your story begins with a dream of visiting Machu Picchu. The dream comes alive during a once-in-a-lifetime experience: The ultimate lodge-to-lodge Ride along the Salkantay Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. This is an exploration of a sacred haven of the Incas as much as a physical, cultural and spiritual journey of transformation.

The pristine natural beauty that envelops you throughout the 7 days of the trip, takes you through 15 unique ecosystems, and will inspire you to challenge yourself, as you navigate changing altitudes (even a 4,572 m/15,000 ft mountain traverse!) and varied terrain. Along the route you encounter picturesque hamlets populated by Andean families, who maintain

centuries-old traditions, while you simultaneously witness environmental and social initiatives created to maintain the integrity of their culture and improve the quality of life.

Our warm staff and enchanting lodges welcome you at the end of each day. Our innovative Andean cuisine and mountain-luxury amenities help to restore both body and mind as you continue your adventure, following in the footsteps of the Incas.

This is your journey, a chance to create your own amazing story. Welcome to The Salkantay Ride to Machu Picchu!

## ITINERARY

### THE SALKANTAY RIDE TO MACHU PICCHU

*7 day journey*

#### Day 01

*Cusco to  
Salkantay Lodge*

#### Day 02

*Ride to Lake  
Humantay and  
the Chakana*

#### Day 03

*Crossing the  
Salkantay Pass*

#### Day 04

*Descending into  
the cloud fores*

#### Day 05

*Following the  
Santa Teresa  
River Valley*

#### Day 06

*Lucmabamba:  
Exploring  
Llactapata Pass*

#### Day 07

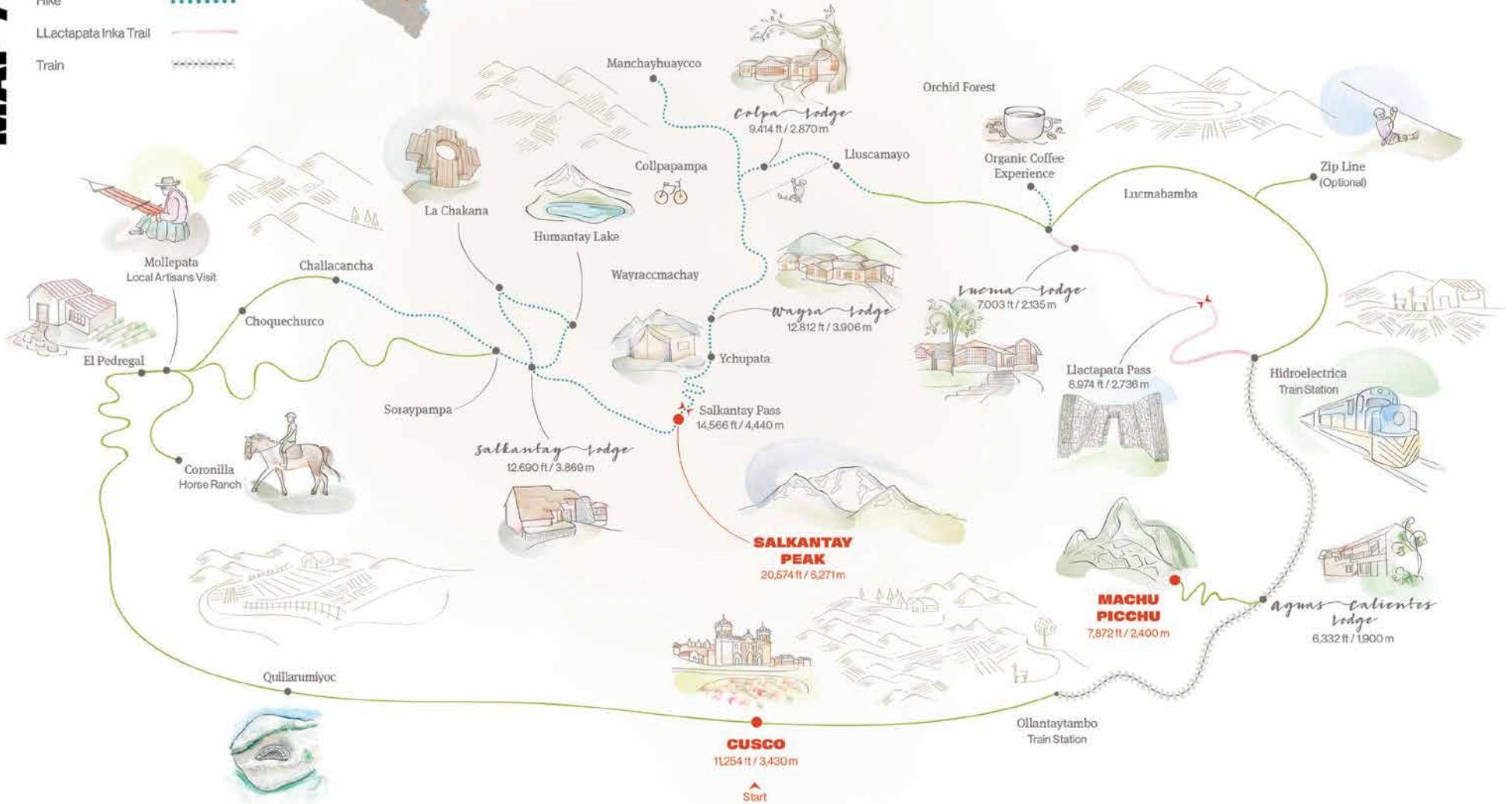
*Machu Picchu  
The Sanctuary*



The Salkantay Ride to Machu Picchu

Legend

- Route
- Hike
- Llactapata Inka Trail
- Train





**Look *deeply* into nature, and then you  
will understand everything *better***

## **CUSCO TO SALKANTAY LODGE**

After an early breakfast, your MLP 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, 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.



*Tarawasi*



### **RIDE**

🕒 5 hrs.  
(Including picnic lunch en route)

Σ Walk, trot, canter, gallop on open roads, some steep ascending trails.

### **OVERNIGHT**

Salkantay Lodge at 3,869 m/12,690 ft.

## **RIDE TO LAKE HUMANTAY AND THE CHAKANA**

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 one-hour 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.


We return to the lodge for lunch with your afternoon at leisure, after which you may choose to trade the glacial swim for a relaxing soak in our outdoor jacuzzi. Additionally there is the option of riding out again for a couple of hours in the surrounding area. In the evening, the guide briefs us on gear and the itinerary for the following day. All meals are served at the Lodge.



*Lake Humantay*

### **RIDE**

 Approximately 4 hours.

 Walk, trot, canter, gallop on open roads, some steep ascending trails and open fields.

### **OVERNIGHT**

Salkantay Lodge at 3,869 m/12,690 ft.

**Salkantay**

**CROSSING THE  
SALKANTAY PASS**


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.



**RIDE**

 Approximately 5 hours.  
(including hot lunch en route)

 Walk, trot on mostly steep trails and some open slopes.

**OVERNIGHT**

Wayra Lodge at 3,906 m/12,812 ft.




## **DESCENDING INTO THE CLOUD FOREST**

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. 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, 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.



### **RIDE**

 Approximately 4 hours.

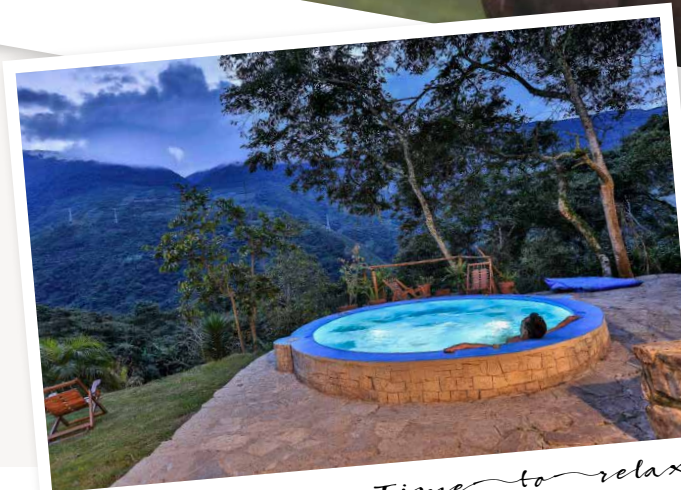
 Walk or trot on narrow trails.

### **OVERNIGHT**

Colpa Lodge at 2,870 m/9,414 ft.

**FOLLOWING THE  
SANTA TERESA RIVER VALLEY**


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. Dinner and overnight at the lodge.



*Time to relax*

**RIDE**

 Approximately 5 hours.

 Walk, trot, and canter on steep trails and some open roads.

**OVERNIGHT**

Lucma Lodge at 2,135 m/7,003 ft.

## **EXPLORING LLACTAPATA PASS**

After a hearty breakfast, we tackle the last day of our trek. At this point, we will say goodbye to our beautiful horses and get ready for a 3 hour-hike towards Llactapata Pass (2,736 m/8,974ft), where we come upon a distant but spectacular view of Machu Picchu Sanctuary from the southeast, a view few travelers ever get a chance to admire. We take a short break to explore the Llactapata Ruins, which have recently been restored. Lunch is served at a scenic viewpoint, looking out to Machu Picchu. After which we begin our final descent to the Aobamba River through lush bamboo forests, orchards and coffee plantations. We then board a train for a scenic ride (approx. 1 hour) to Aguas Calientes, the town of Machu Picchu.




*Panoramic view*



### **HIKE**

 4-6 hours.

 Moderate to challenging

### **OVERNIGHT**

Aguas Calientes at 1,900 m/6,232 ft.

*Note: Peru Rail is the train company used for the The Salkantay Trek. If a special train service is required, please advise your Travel Specialist.*

## VISIT MACHU PICCHU SANCTUARY

After a very early buffet breakfast at the hotel, you will make your way to the bus station for the ride up to Machu Picchu Sanctuary (approximately 30 minutes). Your trip leader will give an introductory 2 hour guided tour of the ruins, after which you will have the option to explore freely through the site for approximately 2 hours.

Afterwards, you will meet up with your guide again to return by bus to Aguas Calientes for a late lunch and an afternoon train ride back towards Cusco. The ride from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo takes about 1½ hours, from where a private vehicle will then take over for the drive back to Cusco (an additional 1½ hour). Upon arrival in Cusco (approximately 7 or 8 p.m.), you will be dropped off at the hotel of your choice.



Machu Picchu



Explore

### ACTIVITY MENU

Morning to noon

### OPTIONAL HIKE

⌄ Huayna Picchu Mountain

🕒 Approximately 4 hrs.

🧗 Challenging

*Note: Huayna Picchu Mountain tickets are subject to availability.*

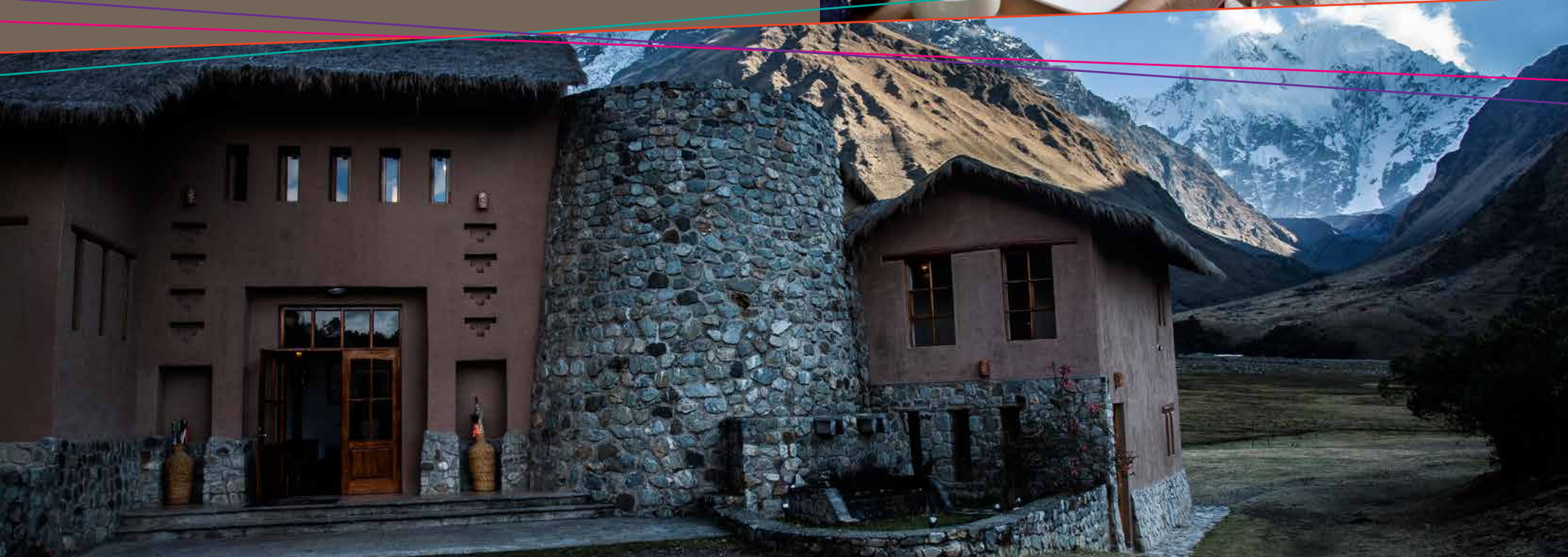


*inspire*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### THE LODGES

Our mountain lodges have brought together traditional Inca building techniques and sensitivity to the surrounding environment with all the comforts of home. At the end of each day, you will enjoy hot showers, fine gourmet meals, select wines, goose-down bedding, massages, outdoor jacuzzis and highly personalized service from our local staff.



## ADDITIONAL SERVICES

We are happy to take care of your hotel reservations, transfers and can set up personalized tours during your stay in Peru. Our operation is highly focused on customer service and attention to detail. Our goal is to design superb travel experiences and create wonderful memories for our guests.

El Mercado



El Retablo



### Cusco

Enjoy exploring the vibrant city of Cusco and its surroundings, which offer many great cultural and historical attractions, along with a variety of fine dining, traditional shows, and bargain shopping. Spending time in Cusco is the perfect starting point to acclimatize and gain initial perspective on local history and culture.

### Where to stay in Cusco

Mountain Lodges of Peru welcomes you to El Mercado and El Retablo, two boutique hotels in the city of Cusco.

### El Mercado

An elegant and intimate property located a stone's throw from the Plaza de Armas, the main square of Cusco. Formerly part of the

old farmers' market, El Mercado has been designed to incorporate some of the elements of the market, both in its original decor, relaxed atmosphere and innovative cuisine. With only 32 rooms, provides the best of colonial and contemporary architecture, all the latest comforts and truly exceptional service. For more information visit: [www.elmercadosusco.com](http://www.elmercadosusco.com)

### El Retablo

A two story 17 room art boutique B&B that celebrates vibrant Peruvian traditions and rich cultural heritage of Cusco. Mountain Lodges of Peru resurrected and converted the historic building into a stylish destination three blocks from Plaza de Armas. The innovative yet intimate El Retablo blends contemporary comfort with customs of

Peruvian artisans, taking inspiration from retablos, which are a sophisticated form of Andean folk art with three-dimensional figurines in vibrantly colored portable boxes. For more information visit: [www.elretablo.com](http://www.elretablo.com)

### Lima

Historically referred to as the "City of Kings", Lima still holds its essence as a historic and bustling capital one needs to visit. Spend some time at the Plaza Mayor, and experience the change of guard at the Presidential Palace, or maybe the tour of the catacombs of San Francisco Convent. Take in the sunset while you stroll on the boardwalk in the Miraflores district, heading towards the historical Barranco district, filled with artisan boutiques

and local flavor. If you were wondering about what and where to eat, Lima is now considered the gastronomical capital of South America, so great cuisine, from street vendors to fine dining, can be found in every corner.

### Extension Packages

Do you feel like exploring more of Peru? Maybe explore the colorful island communities of Lake Titicaca (the highest navigable lake in the world), or adventure into the rich wilderness of the Peruvian Amazon jungle, or visit Colca Canyon, with its incredible depths, Inca terraces, and soaring condors. There is plenty to do so please let us know if you would be interested in receiving any suggestions.

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES



### Spend an Extra Day in Machu Picchu

Even though you have enough time to see the core of Machu Picchu Sanctuary during the regular guided tour, most of our guests realize that they would have liked to stay a little longer since there is so much to explore! Let us know at time of reservation if you would like to add this optional day.

### By spending an extra day at Machu Picchu, you will be able to:

- Make the best of your time visiting a World Heritage Site situated on a spectacular mountain ridge.
- Explore areas of the site that are less visited by most travelers, such as climbing Machu Picchu Mountain (special permit to be purchased in advance) or hiking to the Inca Bridge or the Sun Gate.
- Visit the town of Aguas Calientes and shop the local craft markets.
- Treat yourself to a relaxing end to your vacation and fulfill the hospitality of the unique Inkaterra Pueblo Hotel.

### Prices:

Cost of the one-day extension at Machu Picchu:	US\$ 395 per person based on shared accommodation.
Single room rate:	US\$ 540

*Note: Prices subject to change.*

### Includes:

One additional night at the Inkaterra Pueblo Hotel with dinner on day 7, breakfast and lunch on day 8, bus tickets to/from the site, entrance tickets to the Sanctuary, and transfer back to Cusco from Ollantaytambo (train ticket is included in your program

cost). This extension cost does not include a guided visit of the Sanctuary or a climbing permit for Machu Picchu mountain. Both can be provided at additional cost. Please inquire with your Travel Specialist for additional information.



## **GUIDES**

Our guides are among the best in Peru (some even having won international awards) and have on average at least 15 years of experience guiding in the mountains, not only in Peru, but around the world. Many of them are considered pioneers in this area, having scouted many of the current routes in the country. All Mountain Lodges of Peru guides have excellent language skills, and are highly trained in managing group dynamics. All guides undergo continuous medical and rescue training, with a certification in “Wilderness First Aid.” You will appreciate their knowledge of history and cultural traditions, as well as their interpretation of local flora and fauna, and their great insights (and stories!) that go far beyond any guide or history book.



## HORSES

Mountain Lodges of Peru has bred a number of its own Quarter Horses which are specially exercised and trained for this trip, so they are highly aware and accustomed to the local terrain, wildlife and to performing at high altitude, making them a very secure ride. They combine responsiveness, energy, bravery and manners to produce the perfect trail horse. All horses are picked from a pre-selected pool especially for each trip, according to their level of fitness at the time.

For extra precautions horses are fitted with boots or bandages to protect their extremities. Our horses are trained Western so they are used to neck reining and going on a loose rein. We mostly use American endurance saddles, but there are English saddles available for those who prefer them. We are very careful in checking that the saddles fit each horse well and we constantly ensure that the tack and shoeing are in excellent condition.

We keep groups small, carefully match horses to riders, see that people of similar skills ride together, and train ride leaders carefully.



## GIVING BACK



In 2006 Mountain Lodges of Peru sponsored the creation of Yanapana Peru, a not-for-profit Civil Association dedicated to social and environmental responsibility. Yanapana is committed to improving the quality of life through sustainable community development, in an effort to reduce extreme poverty in the Andean highlands.

Main activities of the association include donations for the enhancement of

nutrition and infrastructure at a local public school, funding and training for local entrepreneurs, which include jam and honey, handmade textiles and organic coffee production. Other supportive efforts are directed towards child sponsorship programs, as well as medical prevention, detection and treatment programs.

In our own journey through sustainability, we realized that it

was necessary to take steps beyond what was traditionally being done in social inclusion, which is why in 2012, a joint-venture was born between the community of Huacahuasi and Mountain Lodges of Peru, naming it Kuska Purispa: Walking Together.

We are convinced that sustainable tourism in the region should be built around a model that empowers local communities, making them active

investors in local development projects for the long-term benefit of all. We are committed to work under this innovative business model and keep empowering and generating added value to local communities in Peru.

## 2019 RATES & INCLUSIONS

<b>MARCH 1 - 31, NOVEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 14</b>	<b>US\$ 3,125</b>
<b>APRIL 1 - OCTOBER 31, DECEMBER 15 - 31</b>	<b>US\$ 4,125</b>

Included	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accommodations.</li> <li>All meals (except breakfast on the first day and dinner on the last day).</li> <li>Transfer services.</li> <li>Guided tours during the whole trip.</li> <li>Entrance fees and permits to touristic and archeological sites.</li> <li>Tips for staff at the Lodges and staff in the field are included (except Guide tips, it is suggested US\$ 5 - 10 per day).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rates per person, based on shared accommodations in a twin, double or triple room.</li> <li>20% supplement for requested single room and 10% for single willing to share.</li> <li>Private services, additional services and specialty guides are available upon request at an additional cost.</li> <li>Standard languages are Spanish and English. For other languages please contact your Travel Specialist.</li> <li>Daily activities menu will be subject to factors such as weather and other events beyond our control.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For season rates other than 2019, please inquire with your Travel Specialist.</li> <li>We kindly request that every guest presents valid proof of insurance coverage as a minimum for Medical Emergency Treatment and Evacuation. Make sure that the insurance policy includes Adventure Travel Activities or similar coverage.</li> </ul>

*"EXPORT SERVICES (DL NO. 919) Regarding the General Tax Sales (IGV). Peruvian Law considers accommodation to non-resident guests as an export service. In order to be exempted and as a requirement, all non-resident guests must show upon check in their original passport and Andean Immigration card, provided at your arrival to the country and with no more than 60 days after your arrival date indicated at the immigration card."*



**MOUNTAIN  
LODGES**

*Peru*

*Let your story begin*

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