

Classic Inca Trail

4 days, 3 nights



"... The roads of the Incas were the most useful and stupendous works ever executed by man."- Alexander Von Humboldt.

The Classic Inca Trail is the most famous hike in South America – perhaps the world. It is a must-do and one of the biggest highlights of your trip to Peru. It offers 4 days of trekking along original paved Inca pathways and a range of spectacular Inca ruins along the way. The stunning scenery is breath taking. The trail spans through altitudes in the valley from 2,700 m (8,856 ft) to mountain passes of 4,215 m (13,825 ft). Finally it passes through the cloud forest to arrive at the majestic Inca Citadel of Machu Picchu itself.

Hiking the Inca Trail is one of those things that everyone should do once in their life. Be you young or old, in good shape or not, the Inca Trail is for everyone!

Overview:

Day 1: Cusco – Km 82 – Ayapata

Day 2: Ayapata – Chaquicocha

Day 3: Chaquicocha – Wiñay Wayna

Day 4: Wiñay Wayna – Machu Picchu – Cusco

- Duration: 4 days/3 nights
- Distance trekked: 45 km/28 miles
- Elevation: 2,400 - 4,215 m / 7,872 - 13,825 ft.



Pre-trek briefing:

We provide a full pre-trek briefing at our office in Cusco. This gives you the chance to ask questions about the trek itinerary and you will also be given your duffle bag so that you can pack your gear for the trek. Briefings are generally scheduled for the morning of the day before your trek starts. If your trek begins on a Monday then the briefing will be scheduled for the Saturday before.

Please take this into consideration when booking your travel plans to Cusco, ensuring you arrive in time for the briefing.

Day 1: Cusco - Trailhead at Km 82 - Ayapata

We will pick you up at your hotel in Cusco at 4:30 AM! The ride to the trailhead at Kilometer 82 is beautiful! Along the way we will stop at the Raqchi look out to take photos. This gorgeous location overlooks the valley of Urubamba with the Chicon glacier in the background. From this position you can also see Mount Veronica (5,682 m/ 18,637 ft) and the Urubamba river.

After driving an additional 45 minutes we will reach the town of Ollantaytambo. We will stop here briefly to view and take pictures of this remarkable Inca Site.

We will then get back in the van to travel the final 45 minutes to reach the trail head at Kilometer 82. Our porters and chef will meet us here. A delicious breakfast prepared by our chef will be waiting for us! After breakfast, we will go through the Inca trail checkpoint and begin our Inca Trail hike.

The hike begins with 2 ½ hours of relatively flat terrain until we reach the Wilkaraqay Inca site. From this location we will have gorgeous views of the Llactapata (2,750 m/ 9,020 ft) archeological site, which was a check point on the Inca trail approach to Machu Picchu. At this point we will go over the history of this site as well as have an overview of the history of the Inca trail.

Back on the trail we will hike for 2 hours until we reach Hatunchaca (2,598 m/8,525 ft) where we will have lunch.

After lunch we will hike for 2 ½ hours until we reach our camp at Ayapata (3,300 m / 10,829 ft). This camp is a little further along the Inca trail than the traditional night one camp site of Wayllabamba. This is nice because it is quieter. We will take advantage of this feature of the camp in order to enjoy the stars and beauty of the evening on the Inca trail in serenity.

Meals:	Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner + snacks
Accommodations:	Camping
Minimum altitude:	2,598 m/ 8,525 ft
Maximum altitude	3,300 m/ 10,824 ft
Distance to walk:	14 km/ 8.7 miles
Approximate walking time:	7 hours
Difficulty:	Moderate



Day 2: Ayapata – Dead Woman’s Pass – Pacaymayu -Chaquicocha

After a delicious breakfast we will begin our hike to the famous Dead Woman’s Pass! For the first two hours we will be in the cloud forest. We will pass through various biozones including the low sierra and the high puna. There are many opportunities to see a variety of plant and birdlife and if we are lucky we may also spot White Tailed Deer.

After this two hour hike we reach Lluchapampa (3,800 m / 12,460 ft). This is a small camp and it is the absolute last location on the trail to buy supplies. After a 15 minute break we will continue on the trail.

The portion of the trail leading to Dead Woman's Pass at Warmiwañusca (4,215 m/ 13,825 ft) lasts two hours and takes you through beautiful mountains and the grasslands of the high Andes. We will pause at the top of this pass to admire the majesty of the highest point of the Inca trail.

We will then descend to the Pacaymayu camp for lunch. After lunch we will ascend 45 minutes to the Inca site of Runcuraccay. We will tour this ruin and then continue uphill for an additional hour to the Runcuraccay pass (3,950 m/ 12,959 ft).

After a descent of 90 minutes we will arrive at the Inca site of Sayacmarca (3,657 m /12,000 ft). At this location we will have the chance to see one of the most amazing sunsets of the Aobamba valley!

From here it is 25 minutes to our campsite for the night at Chaquicocha (3,600 m/11,800 ft). We have chosen this camp for the night instead of the traditional night 2 campsite at Pacamayu for reasons similar to why we choose Ayapata on night 1. It is less crowded and will allow us a more peaceful encounter with nature!

Meals:	Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner + snacks
Accommodations:	Camping
Maximum altitude	4,215 m/ 13,825 ft
Minimum altitude:	3,300 m/ 10,824 ft
Distance to walk:	16 km/ 10 miles
Approximate walking time:	8-9 hours
Area:	Andes and Cloud Forest
Difficulty:	Challenging

Day 3: Chaquicocha – Phuyupatamarca - Wiñaywayna

After another fantastic breakfast we will hike for two hours until we reach Phuyupatamarca (3,680 m/ 12,073 ft). From this location we will have astonishing views of Aguas Calientes, Machu Picchu Mountain, and Huayna Picchu mountain. We will also have a guided tour of the Phuyupatamarca Inca site.

Now it is time to head into the rain forest! We will walk downhill for 2 ½ hours until we reach our camp. During this stretch of the trail we will visit Inti Pata. Many people feel that the most



beautiful pictures of the entire Inca trail can be taken from this location! After Inti Pata it is a further 30 minutes to our campsite at Wiñay Wayna (2,680 m /8,792 ft). When we arrive at the camp we will have lunch. After relaxing for a short time we will visit the archeological site that bears the same name as the camp.

Wiñay Wayna is the largest and most beautiful archeological site on the Inca trail and means forever young in Quechua. We are one of the few companies that provide a guided tour of Wiñay Wayna.

Meals:	Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner + snacks
Accommodations:	Camping
Maximum altitude	3,600 m/11,808 ft
Minimum altitude:	2,680 m/8,792 ft
Distance to walk:	10 km/ 6.2 miles
Approximate walking time:	5 hours
Area:	High Cloud Forest
Difficulty:	Easy

Day 4: Wiñay Wayna – Sun Gate - Machu Picchu - Cusco

We will rise very early to complete the final stretch of the Inca Trail, which brings us to Inti Punku or the Sun Gate, the principal entrance of the crystal city of Machu Picchu. The trail here is fairly easy going and after about an hour we will arrive to Inti Punku (2,400 m/ 7,875 ft), an awesome location to observe the citadel of Machu Picchu and sunrise in the Andes.

From Inti Punku it is a further 40 minute downhill hike to the citadel of Machu Picchu. We will go to the classic “photo” spot and take pictures once we arrive. Then there will be a short break prior to starting our tour of Machu Picchu. The tour will last two hours.

When you are finished exploring the extraordinary city of Machu Picchu you will travel to Aguas Calientes by bus. You will then take the train from Aguas Calientes to Poroy or Ollantaytambo where our private van will be waiting to transport you back to your hotel in Cusco. Arrival time in Cusco depends on the time of your train ticket.

Meals:	Breakfast
Maximum altitude:	2,700 m/ 8,856 ft
Minimum altitude:	2,430 m/ 7,972 ft
Distance to walk:	5 km/ 3.73 miles
Approximate walking time:	2 hours

Note: This itinerary is subject to change without prior notice according to weather conditions, strikes, roadblocks, or other events which are beyond our control. At Action Treks Peru we will always do our best to follow the itinerary as closely as possible.



Services Included:

- Professional licensed guide fluent in English, Spanish, and Quechua
- Pre-trek briefing 1 to 2 days before the trek.
- Pick up from your hotel and transfer to Kilometer 82 to start the hike
- Porters to carry all group gear
- **Personal porter to carry 7 kg of personal gear for each hiker**
 - Your sleeping bag and mattress will count towards this weight limit. Approximate weight of the average sleeping bag and sleeping mattress is 3 kg.
- Four breakfasts, three lunches, three dinners plus snacks
- Daily boiled and cold water to fill water bottles
- Water for washing
- Dining tent with table, stools, and all dining implements
- Eco-friendly portable toilet and toilet tent
- Professional chef and an assistant chef
- Kitchen tent
- Four-person tent for every 2 hikers
- Thermarest mattress and pillow
- Emergency supplies, including first aid kit, oxygen, and emergency radio
- Inca Trail permit
- Entrance fee to Machu Picchu
- Train ticket from Aguas Calientes to Poroy
- All transfers, private van to trailhead at km 82, bus from Machu Picchu to Aguas Calientes, and private van from Poroy to your hotel in Cusco.

Services Not Included:

- Sleeping Bag – can be rented from us
- Hiking poles – can be rented from us
- Ticket to climb Huayna Picchu mountain (ticket can be purchased for US \$75)
- Lunch on day 4
- Tips for porters, chef, and guide.

Price

- **US \$690** per person (group Service)
- **US \$750** per person (private service)

Discounts

- Under 15 years will pay as student: US\$20.00
- Under 7 years Discount: US\$35.00

Rentals

- Hiking poles - US\$20.00 (pair)
- Sleeping bag - US\$25.00



Upgrades

- Huayna Picchu mountain ticket – US \$75 per person.
- [Vistadome train](#) (US \$35) or [Hiram Bingham train](#) (US \$375) for trip from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo
- Buffet lunch at the [Tinkuy restaurant](#) in the Belmond Sanctuary Lodge in Machu Picchu on day 4 – US \$45
- Private tent – US \$30

What to Bring

- Original passport (if you have acquired a new one after you made your booking, bring both)
- Down or synthetic feather sleeping bag (can be rented from us)
- Clothes (trekking boots, warm fleece jacket, a few t-shirts, socks, sun hat, warm underwear, light long pants, gloves, rain jacket)
- Toiletries (toilet paper, wet wipes, personal towel)
- Sunscreen SPF 35+ recommended
- Head lamp
- Sunglasses
- Camera with spare batteries (batteries run down faster at high altitudes)
- Binoculars
- Trekking poles (recommended especially for the steep descents, can be rented from us)
- Insect repellent