Palccoyo Rainbow Mountain

three striped peaks and a forest of stone

DURATION	DIFFICULTY	MAX. ALTITUDE	BEST SEASON
Full day	Moderate	4,900 m	Apr — Nov

Palccoyo is Cusco's other rainbow mountain, and for many travelers the more enjoyable one. Instead of a single slope, you see a chain of three hills striped in red, ochre, green and white, at nearly the same altitude as Vinicunca but with a much shorter walk and far fewer people. The drive is part of the appeal: we head down the Vilcanota Valley, have breakfast in Cusipata and pass the colonial bridge at Checacupe before climbing toward the community of Palccoyo. From the parking area at about 4,600 m, a rolling trail of around an hour takes you past the viewpoints up to 4,900 m, among llamas, alpacas and views of Ausangate. If time allows, the Stone Forest, with its towers of weathered rock, rounds off the visit. It is a great choice for families, older travelers or anyone who wants the colors without a demanding climb.

01 Cusco — Cusipata — Checacupe — Palccoyo — Cusco

Breakfast in Cusipata, a stop at Checacupe and a gentle walk along the viewpoints of Palccoyo's three rainbow mountains (approx. 4,900 m). Optional Stone Forest and buffet lunch.

3 km · 1.5–2 h · 4,900 m

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Hotel pickup and drop-off (central Cusco)
- Round-trip tourist transportation
- Professional bilingual guide (English/Spanish)
- Breakfast in Cusipata
- Buffet lunch (vegetarian option)
- Coca tea
- First-aid kit
- Emergency oxygen
- Guided visit to the viewpoints and the Stone Forest

NOT INCLUDED

- Palccoyo community entrance fee (approx. S/ 20, cash)
- Trekking pole rental
- Extra drinks and snacks
- Tips
- Travel insurance

https://salkantaygo.com/en/tour/palccoyo-rainbow-mountain/