Rainbow Mountain (Vinicunca) Full Day

bands of mineral color at 16,522 feet

DURATION	DIFFICULTY	MAX. ALTITUDE	BEST SEASON
Full day	Challenging	5,036 m	Apr — Nov

Vinicunca, better known as Rainbow Mountain, is one of the most striking day trips from Cusco. Its red, ochre, green and purple stripes are mineral-rich sediments exposed when the glacier that once covered it retreated, and today you take them in from a natural viewpoint at 5,036 m (16,522 ft), with snowcapped Ausangate in the background. We leave before dawn, have breakfast in Cusipata and drive on to the trailhead at around 4,700 m. From there it is a 60 to 90-minute climb at an easy pace, with your guide carrying oxygen and a first-aid kit. If you still have energy at the top, you can add the Red Valley, a rust-colored viewpoint just beyond the summit. On the way back we stop for a buffet lunch in Cusipata and reach Cusco by mid-afternoon. The challenge here is altitude, not distance: two or three days of acclimatization and warm layers will make all the difference.

01 Cusco — Cusipata — Rainbow Mountain — Cusco

Early departure, breakfast in Cusipata and a guided hike to the summit of Vinicunca (5,036 m). Optional Red Valley, buffet lunch and return to Cusco by mid-afternoon.

8 km · 2–3 h · 5,036 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 in Cusipata (vegetarian option)
- Coca tea
- First-aid kit
- Emergency oxygen
- Guide support throughout the hike

NOT INCLUDED

- Rainbow Mountain entrance fee (approx. S/ 30, cash)
- Red Valley entrance fee (approx. S/ 20, optional)
- Horse rental (paid directly to the community)
- Trekking pole rental
- Extra drinks and snacks
- Tips
- Travel insurance

https://salkantaygo.com/en/tour/rainbow-mountain-full-day/