Salkantay Trek 4 Days to Machu Picchu

four days, one snowy pass and the lost city

DURATION	DIFFICULTY	MAX. ALTITUDE	BEST SEASON
4 days / 3 nights	Challenging	4,630 m	Apr — Oct

The 4-day Salkantay Trek covers the essentials of the route in less time: Humantay Lake, the 4,630 m (15,190 ft) pass below Salkantay's glacier, the descent into cloud forest and the arrival at Machu Picchu. It's the right choice if you're fit, have only a few days in Cusco and still want to reach the citadel on foot. Day one is for acclimatization with the hike up to Humantay; on day two you cross the pass and descend to Collpapampa; on day three you follow the Santa Teresa valley to a coffee farm in Lucmabamba and, after a short drive, walk beside the railway to Aguas Calientes, where you sleep in a hotel. Horses carry your duffel of up to 6 kg and our cook handles every meal. On day four you tour Machu Picchu with your guide and return to Cusco by road from Hidroeléctrica or by train.

01 Cusco — Mollepata — Soraypampa — Humantay Lake

Early drive to Soraypampa with breakfast in Mollepata, an acclimatization climb to Humantay Lake (4,200 m) and a night at camp.

7 km · 5–6 h · 4,200 m

02 Soraypampa — Salkantay Pass — Wayracmachay — Collpapampa

Climb to Salkantay Pass (4,630 m), lunch in Wayracmachay and descend into cloud forest to Collpapampa (2,900 m).

22 km · 9–10 h · 4,630 m

03 Collpapampa — Lucmabamba — Hidroeléctrica — Aguas Calientes

Hike the Santa Teresa valley to a coffee farm in Lucmabamba, drive to Hidroeléctrica and finish with a walk beside the railway to Aguas Calientes.

25 km · 8–9 h · 2,900 m

04 Machu Picchu — Return to Cusco

An early start up to Machu Picchu, a 2 to 2.5 hour guided tour and the trip back to Cusco via Hidroeléctrica or by train from Aguas Calientes.

Machu Picchu · 2–2.5 h · 2,430 m

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Pre-trek briefing in Cusco the day before, plus your duffel bag
- Hotel pickup in Cusco and tourist transport to Soraypampa
- Professional bilingual guide (English and Spanish)
- Horsemen and pack horses for up to 6 kg of personal gear
- 2 nights in shared mountain cabins
- 1 night in an Aguas Calientes hotel with private bathroom and hot water

• Meals listed in the itinerary, cooked by our trail chef (4B, 3L, 3D)
• Vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free or dairy-free meals at no extra cost
• Visit to a family coffee farm in Lucmabamba
• Machu Picchu entrance ticket (circuit based on availability)
• 2 to 2.5 hour guided tour of Machu Picchu
• First aid kit and emergency oxygen
• Return to Cusco by tourist van from Hidroeléctrica (train upgrade available)

NOT INCLUDED

• Humantay Lake entrance (about 20 soles for foreigners, cash)
• Lucmabamba – Hidroeléctrica transfer (about 40–50 soles per person)
• Aguas Calientes – Machu Picchu bus (about US$12 each way); you can hike instead
• Sleeping bag and trekking poles (available to rent)
• Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain ticket (subject to availability)
• Water refills between meals, snacks and drinks
• Hot showers and Wi-Fi at camps (paid on site)
• Travel insurance and tips

https://salkantaygo.com/en/tour/salkantay-trek-4-days/