Short Inca Trail 2 Days / 1 Night

one day on the inca road and the citadel at dawn

DURATION	DIFFICULTY	MAX. ALTITUDE	BEST SEASON
2 days / 1 night	Moderate	2,720 m	Apr — Nov

The Short Inca Trail lets you experience the sacred path without camping or crossing passes above 4,000 m. In a single day you hike 12 km (7.5 miles) of original Inca paving from Kilometer 104 on the rail line, past the Chachabamba temple, the terraces of Wiñay Wayna and the cloud forest, until you walk through the Sun Gate and see Machu Picchu from above, just as Inca pilgrims did. You spend the night in a comfortable hotel in Aguas Calientes, with a hot shower and dinner included, and the next morning you head up early for an unhurried guided tour of the citadel. It's a great fit if you're short on time in Cusco, traveling with teens, or want a real hike without extreme altitude: the high point is just 2,720 m (8,924 ft). We handle the official permit, trains, entrance tickets, hotel and transfers from where you're staying. All you need to do is walk and take it in.

01 Cusco — Km 104 — Wiñay Wayna — Sun Gate — Aguas Calientes

Train to Km 104 and a 12 km hike past Chachabamba and Wiñay Wayna to the Sun Gate. Your first view of Machu Picchu and a night in Aguas Calientes.

12 km · 6–7 h · 2,720 m

02 Machu Picchu — Aguas Calientes — Cusco

Early bus to the citadel and a guided tour of about two and a half hours. Free time on your circuit, train to Ollantaytambo and transfer to Cusco.

3 km · 2.5 h · 2,490 m

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Briefing the evening before at our Cusco office
- Pickup from your hotel in Cusco or the Sacred Valley
- Private transport to Ollantaytambo station
- Train from Ollantaytambo to Km 104
- Official named permit for the Short Inca Trail
- Machu Picchu entrance (arrival via the Sun Gate and guided tour on day 2)
- Professional bilingual guide (English/Spanish) on both days
- 1 night in a hotel in Aguas Calientes
- Meals as listed (1B, 1L, 1D)
- First-aid kit and emergency oxygen
- Return train from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo
- Transfer from Ollantaytambo to your hotel in Cusco

NOT INCLUDED

- Breakfast on day 1 and lunch on day 2
- Aguas Calientes – Machu Picchu bus tickets, unless shown in your quote
- Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain tickets

- Vistadome train upgrade
- Trekking poles (rental available)
- Travel insurance
- Tips and personal expenses

https://salkantaygo.com/en/tour/short-inca-trail-2-days/