

CHOQUEQUIRAO – MACHU PICCHU

Duration: 8 days / 7 nights

Fitness level: Very high but you can ride a horse



Includes:

- Private transport from Cuzco - Cachora
- Train trip from Machu Picchu - Cuzco
- English speaking professional guide
- Entrance fees into Choquequirao and Machu Picchu
- Camping equipment: large tents, double thickness sleeping mats
- Camping equipment for the guide, horsemen and chef
- All meals including snacks
- Professional chef with assistant and kitchen equipment
- Kitchen and dining tent with camp tables and chairs
- Toilet tent
- Mules/horses to carry all equipment
- First-Aid kit including an oxygen bottle and an emergency horse

Not included:

- Breakfast on first day
- Lunch and dinner on the last day
- Sleeping bag
- Riding-horses can be hired for an additional US\$100
- Tips for the guide, chef and horsemen

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DAY ONE: CUZCO-CHIQUISCA (Approx 6 hours trekking)

We leave Cusco very early in the morning (approx. 4.00am) to start our drive to Cachora. First, stop is at Tarawasi, where we visit the Inca Usno archaeological remains, a place where religious ceremonies and festivals were held in honor of Pacha Mama (Mother Earth).

After leaving Tarawasi we continue down through the Apurimac Canyon and cross the Apurimac River before heading up again through Curawasi towards Saywite, the second stop an hour and a half later. Here we visit the famous Inca rock that was believed to be the construction plan for the Tahuantinsuyo Empire. You will see animal figures that were carved to represent the main deities.

From Saywite, we continue on to Cachora only 30 minutes away at 2800m/9184ft. While our mules and horses are being packed with all our gear we will enjoy a box lunch to gain energy for the trek ahead.

In the afternoon we start our hike ascending and descending for two and a half hours towards Abra Capuliyoc at 2750m/9020ft. Here we will enjoy beautiful views of the surrounding mountains and of the Apurimac River canyon.

Afterwards soaking up the views, we continue to descend in a zig-zag pattern for two more hours towards Chiquisca where we will camp for the night.

Meals Included: Lunch and dinner

DAY TWO: CHIQUISCA-CHOQUEQUIRAO (Approx 8.5 hours trekking)

Today is considered the hardest day. After an excellent breakfast we will leave Chiquisca (approx 5:00am) to walk down to the Apurimac River at 1550 metres above sea level (masl). We will cross a foot bridge and then start our steep zig-zag ascent to the small village of Santa Rosa. Here we will have a well-deserved break.

We then continue to ascend slowly for two hours to Marampata where we will stop for lunch and you can see the first views of Choquequirao.

After lunch, it is a nice two hour walk to Choquequirao archaeological complex at 3,035 masl (10,107 feet). Camp will be set up near the ruins and you have free-time to explore and enjoy some of the eight different sections of the famous ruins. If you are lucky, condors may appear flying over the ruins before the sun starts to disappear.

Meals Included: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

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DAY THREE: CHOQUEQUIRAO- MAIZAL

After breakfast we have plenty of time to enjoy this majestic archaeological place. We can appreciate houses, terraces and other parts of this late Inca-town. You will also see the ruins in progress of excavation and finally areas yet to be explored. This will give us a great insight into this last refuge of the oppressed Inca Empire.

When we are ready, we will leave Choquequirao, with all equipment on the way to our next camp. We follow the old water canal for a while before beginning the 3 hour walk to the Pinchinoyoc ruins only discovered in 1998.

We will walk through cloud forest and later the scenery becomes a steep open prairie with views of the mountains and valleys. On arrival at Pinchinoyoc you will see that these ruins are something very special. All of a sudden they appear in the cloud forest, almost invisible because of the thick layer of mosses and other vegetation that covers it.

Afterwards we walk down through interesting vegetation known as Dry Andean Highland Forest. Trees and plants here look different to those we have seen before. Arrive at the Victoria River after a few hours and use the break here to have a refreshing bath in the cold, clear river water. We will cross the river by walking through it, since there are no bridges.

After our break we start the long and steep climb to our camp in Maizal, high over the river close to the sacred Apus of the Incas. On the way up we catch our breath in the shade of small trees and other vegetations.

In Maizal we will camp. From here we see 3 valleys and a great snow peak right across from us. A wonderful place to reflect on your journey so far.

Meals Included: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY FOUR: MAIZAL-YANAMA

We leave our camp in Maizal and walk towards the San Juan pass. Again a long climb, but we walk in an amazingly beautiful area – first through the cloud forest and then over Andean Puna covered with the well known ichu grass.

We rest at some of the Victoria mines, where metal shining stones tell about a high concentration of minerals and metals.

On our way through the Puna we walk on very well preserved Inca trails, among other characteristics with the classic zig-zag pattern. We will have lunch at the pass at 4000 masl with a view of the mountain, Choquetakarpo, before we start the descent towards Yanama, a small isolated settlement at the bottom of a long valley surrounded by mountains.

Meals Included: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

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DAY FIVE: YANAMA-TOTORA

We continue from Yanama up through the valley towards the highest point of the tour, the Yanama Pass at 4500 masl. On the way we have a magnificent view of the snow capped mountain Sacsarayoc.

Once again we have the chance to see condors, and this mornings smooth climb brings us through new landscapes – especially the wet grass fields under the snowline that are different to from everything else you have seen so far on this trek.

At the pass we might walk over snow, and the descent is a long foggy hike through grassy fields and bush areas, crossing small wood or dirt bridges on the way towards the community of Totora, where we spend the night.

Meals Included: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY SIX: TOTORA-LA PLAYA

We now walk the about 2000 metres down through the changing vegetations to the warmer camp in the village of La Playa.

On the way we see small waterfalls and can take a refreshing natural bath. The area also has a wonderful varied bird life and it is now obvious that the climate and vegetation has changed completely. Here we see plants recognisable from living rooms in Europe and several different types of orchids.

La Playa is the biggest village on the trek, where we can find some small shops to buy snacks and water. In this area we can see small plantations of coffee and bananas.

Meals Included: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY SEVEN: LA PLAYA-AGUAS CALIENTES

Today we travel from La Playa to the Hydroelectric at the Urubamba River. This morning we will walk up one of the newly opened Inca trails. This trail was originally used to transport agricultural products to the population at Machu Picchu and it takes us through an area with coffee plantations and subtropical fruits and crops.

As we climb higher up the trail the vegetation changes from dry and grassy with flowers to moist cloud forest. At the pass we are suddenly in a cool dense wood full of trees covered with thick mosses.

Shortly after we see for the first time the impressive Machu Picchu set high on a mountain saddle further up the valley. 10 minutes more and we arrive to our lunch spot called Llactapata. He we have our lunch while enjoying the views of Machu Picchu and the beautiful mountains.

We continue to walk the last part downhill and along the river to the Hydroelectric. Here we can visit fine Intihuatana while waiting for the train or continue walking to Aguas Calientes where we arrive in the afternoon.

Tonight we spend the night in a nice hotel where you can have a well-deserved shower!

Meals Included: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

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DAY EIGHT: AGUAS CALIENTES-MACHU PICCHU-CUZCO

From Aguas Calientes we walk or take bus to Machu Picchu. We start our visit with a 2-3 hour guided tour, that will bring us to the most important locations at the archaeological site and the guide will tell us about the great importance Machu Picchu enjoyed as astronomical and religious centre.

The rest of the day is spent at this amazing ruin and you will have the chance to climb Wayna Picchu or visit the beautiful moon temple.

We meet in the afternoon in Aguas Calientes where we take the train to Ollantaytambo, and from here a bus to Cuzco. In Cuzco we will transfer you to your hotel.

Meals Included: Breakfast

END OF OUR SERVICES

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