

Salkantay – Machu Picchu Trek, including Rainbow Mountain Hike, Peru

Salkantay to Machu Picchu Trek - 12 Days, including Rainbow Mountain Hike

Date: 17 July – 28 July, 2026

Price: \$3,590.00 USD

Per Person/Twin Share

(Price subject to change due to exchange rate fluctuation and minimum group numbers).

*A single room/tent supplement is available for USD 600.00 (please request at the time of booking).

Other dates: If my guiding trek dates do not suit your preferred schedule, I can arrange a specific one with my exceptional local operators to meet your needs. Please get in touch with me to discuss your desired personalised trekking adventure.

About Salkantay – Machu Picchu Trek

The Salkantay to Machu Picchu Trek follows a beautifully remote and ancient footpath in the same region as the classic Inca Trail. This adventure is exceptional because the less frequented trekking route is spread over extended days, allowing you to relish myriad diverse and spectacular views and truly enjoy the natural beauty of the Andes away from jam-packed trekking crowds.

This breathtaking journey is an excellent option for adventure travelers who wish to challenge themselves in remote higher altitudes or for trekkers simply looking for an alternative to the traditional Inca Trail.

The distinctiveness of this incredible trek enables you to see the change in different ecological floors, from subtropical areas and stunning peaks and glaciers, to finally reach the acclaimed "Lost City of the Incas, Machu Picchu."

The first steps of this exciting journey begin in Mollepata, west of Cusco, a different place from the rest of the Machu Picchu-bound Inca trails. After a few exciting and challenging days at altitudes above 4,000m, the trek will see us descend to join the traditional Inca Trail beyond Paucarcancha at Huayllabamba. This unique itinerary of superb walking with fewer trekkers allows you to fully appreciate and relish in breathtaking Peruvian nature and Andean peaks. You will experience raw, dramatic scenery not seen on the Classic Inca Trail. We will explore the beautiful Rio Blanco Valley before crossing an exceptionally steep and snowy high pass at an altitude of 4,600m – the Salkantay Pass. Trekking under the grand, snow-girt mass of the thrilling Sacred Inca Mountain, Salkantay (6,264m), will astound us as the south face of this revered peak towers high above us. Mesmerizing panoramic views across the sprawling Valcabamba Range will captivate the senses and make every step of your trekking adventure exceptionally memorable.

To conclude this incredible trek, we will hike to the summit of "Rainbow Mountain," hidden deep in the Andes. This one-day hiking journey will see us pass through a vibrant green valley

with the impressive Peruvian (Ausangate) mountains towering in the distance. The undiscovered land of wild desert landscapes, snow-capped peaks, and herds of alpacas is remarkable. Finally, they arrive at the ultimate destination, the top of Rainbow Mountain, standing at 5,200m. This spectacular mineral-coloured landscape will provide a 360-degree view of this sacred land, an experience vividly painted in your memories forever.

Suppose you desire a trek with an unparalleled and exclusive difference. In that case, the Salkantay – Machu Picchu adventure is the number one alternative with fewer distractions and disturbances than you encounter on the Inca Trail. You will experience a remarkable blend of awe-inspiring scenery, high snow-capped mountains, lowland jungle, challenging trekking, culture, and natural beauty unique to the Andes.

Escape the congested Machu Picchu-bound Inca Trail and explore the magnificent Salkantay—Machu Picchu trek with me at Cherie Horne Adventure Trekking.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival at Jorge Chaves International Airport, Lima (1,550m) – Transfer to Hotel in Miraflores, Lima

Drive time: 20 minutes from the airport to the hotel

Day 2:

Lima (1,550m) – Connecting Flight to Cusco (3,400m) – Transfer to Hotel, Cusco, Peru

Flight time (Cusco): 1 hour

Meal Plan: Breakfast

Day 3:

Acclimatisation day in Cusco (3,400m) – Hotel

Tour of Sacred Valley – history and culture of the Incas and Peruvian lifestyle. Exploration of Cusco.

Salkantay – Machu Picchu Trek orientation with Cherie and her Peruvian guides. Clothing & equipment check.

Meal Plan: Breakfast

Drive time: Tour bus around Cusco for the day

Day 4:

Cusco (3,400m) – Mollepata (2,900m) – Soraypampa (3,850m) – Hike up to Humantay Lake (4,200m) – Soraypampa (3,850m) – Salkantaypampa Tent Campsite (4,000m)

Meal Plan: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Drive time: 2-3 hours driving from Cusco

Walking time: 6-7 hours

Day 5:

Salkantaypampa Tent Campsite (4,000m) – Salkantay Pass (4,600m) – Huayracmachay – Qollapampa (3,100m) – Colpapampa Camp (2,850m) – Tent Camping

Meal Plan: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Walking time: 7-8 hours

Day 6:

Colpapampa Camp (2,850m) – La Playa (2,400m) – Lucmabamba (2,150m) – Tent Camping

Meal Plan: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Walking time: 5-6 hours

Day 7:

Lucmabamba (2,150m) – Llactapata (2,650m) – Hydro-electrica (1,800m) – Train to Aguas Calientes (2,040m) – Hotel

Meal Plan: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Walking time: 5-6 hours

Train time: 30min

Day 8:

Aguas Calientes (2,040m) – Machu Picchu (2,450m) – Cusco (3,400m) – Hotel

Meal Plan: Breakfast

Walking time: 3-4 hours exploring Machu Picchu

Drive time: Aguas Calientes – Machu Picchu (60min return)

Train time: Aguas Calientes – Ollantaytambo – 2 hours

Drive time: Ollantaytambo – Cusco – 2 hours

Day 9:

Cusco (3,400m) – Rest Day in Cusco – Hotel

An extended tour of Sacred Valley & Exploration of Cusco (optional)

Meal Plan: Breakfast

Drive time: 1 hour

Day 10:

Cusco – Day Hike to Rainbow Mountain (5,200m) – Cusco (3,400m) – Hotel

Meal Plan: Breakfast/Lunch

Walking time: 4-5 hours

Drive time: Cusco – Rainbow Mountain – Cusco – 8 hours total

Day 11:

Cusco (3,400m) – Rest Day and sightseeing in Cusco – Hotel

Meal Plan: Breakfast

Day 12:

Cusco – (3,400m) Transfer to the airport for onward flights to Lima or alternative travel plans

Meal Plan: Breakfast

Drive time: 1 hour

* Itinerary subject to change

* A single room/tent supplement is available for an additional USD 600. Please request it at the time of booking.

*** Detailed trek itinerary and information (clothing & equipment list; medical declaration & clearance; FAQ's) issued upon booking.**

Trek Inclusions:

- Arrival/Departure transfers on both domestic and international flights
- Transfer from the hotel in Cusco to Mollepata or Soraypampa
- Acclimatisation Day in Cusco
- Sacred Valley Tour
- Quality Hotel accommodation in Lima, Cusco, and Aguas Calientes (twin-share – including breakfast)

- Hotel in Lima (1 night)
- Hotel in Cusco (6 nights)
- Hotel in Aguas Calientes (1 night)
- Train ticket from Hydroelectric to Machu Picchu town
- Train ticket from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo
- Bus drive from the final train station back to Cusco hotel
- Bus drive from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu and back to Aguas Calientes
- Private transportation for the sightseeing tours in Cusco, Salkantay Trek, and Rainbow Mountain Day hike
- Local guide service for all different activities (sightseeing tour in Cusco, Salkantay trek, Machu Picchu, and Rainbow Mountain)
- Professional Peruvian Mountain Guide – English speaking (Cherie's co-guide)
- Experienced Salkantay trek specialist assistants
- Boiled water during the trek
- Complete meal plan during Salkantay trek – Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner
- Camping equipment/high-quality 4-season performance tents
- Experienced camping chef and cooking equipment
- Catering equipment – Dining tent with tables and chairs, kitchen tent, toilet tent
- Free use of quality trekking gear – sleeping bag & sleeping mattress for the trek
- Transportation for personal belongings on the trek by pack horses/mules and or/porters
- Horses to carry tents, food, and cooking equipment
- Muleteers to manage horses
- Trip briefing
- Emergency horse if needed during the 3-day Salkantay trek
- All Park fees and permits
- Rescue fee on the trek
- 1.5L bottled water on the first day of the trek and 4-5L boiled water each day during the trek
- Transfer to and from Lima and Cusco International Airport
- Expedition Kit-Bag
- Professional and experienced Peruvian mountain co-guides and assistants well-trained in Wilderness First Aid
- Comprehensive First-Aid Kit
- Pulse Oximeter
- Supplementary oxygen

Trek Exclusions:

- International flights to and from Lima, Peru
- International flights from Lima – Cusco – Lima
- International airport departure taxes
- Tips to Peruvian guides and assistants
- Alcoholic beverages and bottled drinks (other than boiled water during the trek)
- Lunch on Day 1,2,3,8,9,11

- Dinner on Day 1,2,3,9,10,11
- Single room/tent supplement
- Travel Insurance
- Visa (if applicable)
- Vaccinations
- Any add-on tours or activities not mentioned in the program
- Personal gear (see clothing and equipment list)
- Sleeping bag
- Flat sleeping mattress
- Expenses of personal nature (laundry, phone calls)
- Excess baggage charges and airport taxes
- All costs incurred during early departure (evacuation fees, transport, extra hotel nights, etc.)
- Charges incurred as a result of delays beyond Cherie Horne Adventure Trekking's control

Would you like to experience other tours and activities in South America?

I can arrange various other South American tours and activities at your request. Please let me know if you would like to arrange extended travel plans.

FBI Travel, Group Travel experts are my preferred travel manager for all Adventure Treks.

FBI Travel requires a non-refundable booking fee of **AUD 250** per person to confirm your reservation and guarantee a seamless experience. This essential fee solidifies your participation in the tour and allows us to begin the meticulous preparation process that defines the quality and reliability of our services.

From trek bookings, flights, and accommodation to travel insurance and visa assistance, they'll help you with everything you need to make getting there and back easy.

Please get in touch with FBI Group Travel Leader Deanne: 03 8573 0900 or email:

groups@fbitravel.com.au