



INCA TRAIL TO MACHU PICCHU

PERU • TREK • TOUGH

ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

Machu Picchu is one of the most iconic sights in South America, and the culmination of our magnificent Inca Trail trek through the Peruvian Andes. Join us as we trek this breathtakingly beautiful route through valleys and high passes, scattered with fascinating Inca ruins.

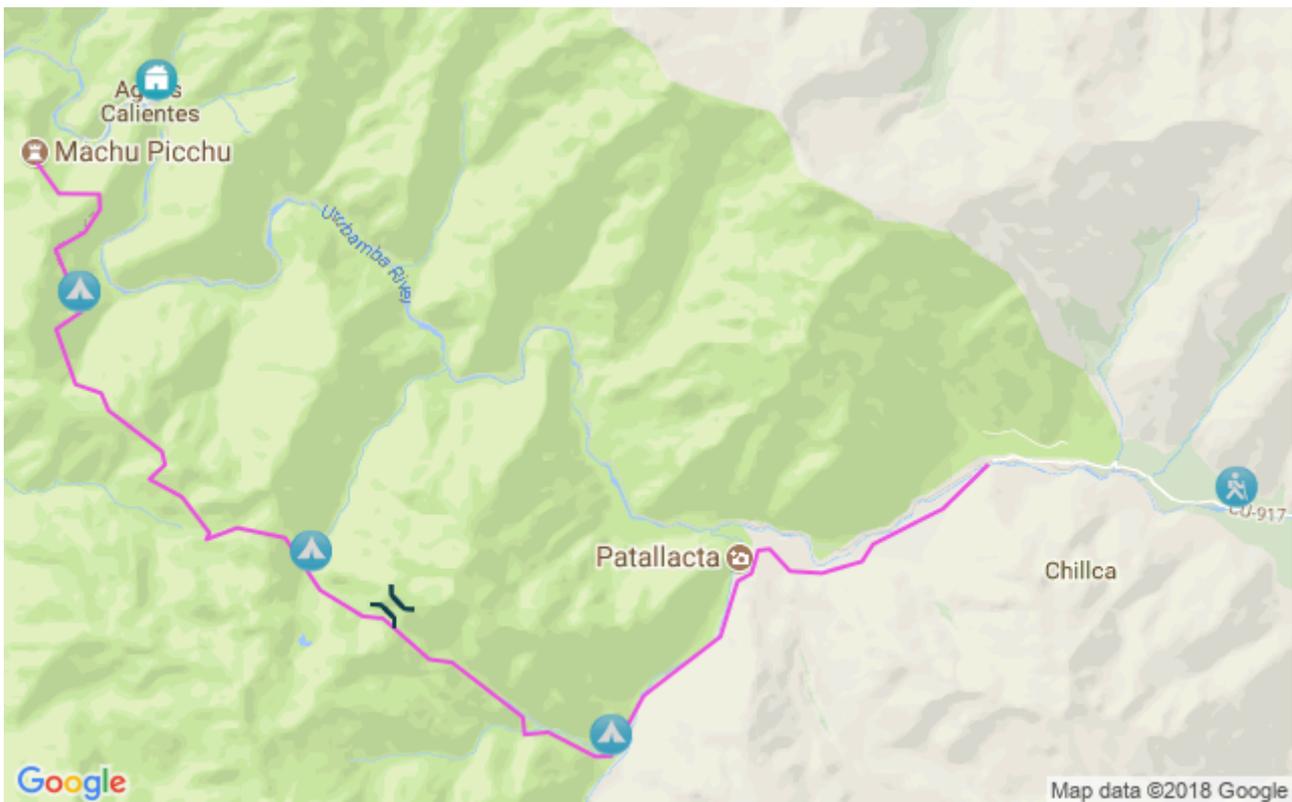
Trekking on Inca-paved paths and steps, our route takes us up through lush cloudforest to the demanding Dead Woman's Pass (4200m). Continually climbing up or dropping down, our way is steep at times, and the altitude adds to the challenge. We finally come to the Sun Gate, which overlooks Machu Picchu, where your first magical glimpse provides an unforgettable reward for your efforts.

[Find out about some of the lesser known, yet amazing parts of the Inca Trail on our blog](#)

Each year, the Peruvian Government release a limited number of trekking permits for the upcoming 12 months. Permits for April - October departures (peak trekking season) sell out extremely quickly and demand for these permits increases year on year.

Permits will be released in October 2017 for 2018 departures. To avoid disappointment and in order for Discover Adventure to secure your permit, you will need to book your place early for this challenge.

INCA TRAIL TO MACHU PICCHU • 10 DAYS



Day 1: Fly London to Lima

Day 2: Arrive Cuzco

Morning arrival in Cuzco (3400m); transfer to our downtown hotel. After a trip briefing, the afternoon is free to explore the sites of this historic city, or simply adjust to the altitude by watching the world go by in one of the numerous cafés on the Plaza de Armas. Night hotel.

Day 3: Tambo Machay – Cuzco

Our first day's trek takes us from Tambo Machay, an ancient ruin high in the hills above Cuzco. We pass some of the amazing Inca sites in the surrounding country-side as we walk downhill to Sacsayhuaman, the huge and impressive Inca ruin on the outskirts of Cuzco. As well as beautiful scenery and fascinating ruins, today's trekking offers excellent acclimatisation to the altitude. Night hotel.

Trek approx 5 hours

Day 4: Cuzco – Km82 – Wayllabamba

After a second night at altitude we should all be feeling ready for action! We leave Cuzco behind us, heading out along the Sacred Valley via Ollantaytambo to the Trail's starting-point at Km82. The first half-day walk is fairly easy and on an

undulating path which follows the Urubamba River for much of the way. After lunch a gentle climb takes us to our camp at Wayllabamba. There are a couple of steep drops and climbs into gullies along the way, with great views of Mt Veronica standing at 5000m. We pass a couple of small places to buy cokes. The path is dusty but firm and there are no steps. Night camp (3000m).

Drive approx 3 hours; trek approx 5-6 hours

Day 5: Wayllabamba – Pacamayo

Today we have the big climb – rising from camp all the way to Dead Woman’s Pass at 4200m. This is a relentless and steep climb on narrow trails, first through grassland, then cloud forest (where some people start to feel the altitude), where the path is steeper and can be muddy. Eventually it opens out onto pasture where we will have lunch with snow-capped mountains behind us and a distant view up to the top of the pass, still several hours ahead. The final stretch to the top of the pass is well maintained with steps but the pace is slow because of the altitude. From the top we descend on steps to our evening’s campsite at Pacamayo, below the ruins of Runkurakay. Night camp (3500m).

Trek approx 8-12 hours

Day 6: Pacamayo – Winay Wayna

Now on the Inca Trail proper, the path is mostly steps which are steep in places and there are ruins every mile or so along the way. We have our second high pass at 4000m, again with steps leading up to the top and down the other side. The descent takes around an hour to Sayacmarca ruin (3600m), which is perched above more steps. From here the trail is very pretty, wide and easy-going with interesting fragments of cloud forest en route. The third pass is reached easily after passing through an Inca tunnel in the rock and a gentle climb. We continue on to the ruins of Puyupatamarca and then descend steep steps to our campsite at Winay Wayna. Night camp (2640m).

Trek approx 8-10 hours

Day 7: Winay Wayna – Machu Picchu – Cuzco

We start early and have a three hour walk to Inti Punku, the Sun Gate, along a beautiful stretch of trail, scattered with ruins and some steep flights of steps, with a few large drops down the side to the Urubamba River. We should arrive at Machu Picchu before the crowds arrive from Cuzco. We enjoy a guided tour around this extraordinary site, and then have plenty of time to soak up the unique atmosphere. There’s no rush to leave as we have plenty of time before meeting up in Aguas Calientes in the afternoon. Anyone who wishes can go down early to soak their aching limbs in the village’s hot springs. In the late afternoon we take the train back to Ollantaytambo and return to Cuzco by bus. Night hotel.

Trek approx 3 hours; train/bus travel approx 3 hours

Day 8: Free day Cuzco

After a good night’s sleep and a relaxing lie-in we have the remainder of the day free to explore Cuzco or do any last-minute shopping. There may also be an opportunity to visit one of the local community projects we support, before meeting up again to celebrate our achievement at dinner this evening. Night hotel. *(Lunch not included)*

Day 9: Depart Cuzco

We board the morning flight to Lima and, depending on our flight schedule, we may be able to hire a bus (optional) to take us into Lima or the relaxed coastal suburb of Miraflores for a few hours, before returning to the airport in time for our onward flight back to London. *(Lunch not included)*

Day 10: Arrive London

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All transport from London to Cuzco return
- Internal flight departure taxes
- All meals except where specified, accommodation and camping equipment
- Discover Adventure leaders; doctor with group of 15 or more participants; local guides, porters and cooks
- Local support and back-up equipment
- Entrance to Machu Picchu and other sites visited as part of the itinerary

WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- Any meals specified 'not included' in the itinerary
- Travel insurance
- Personal spending money, souvenirs and drinks
- Tips for the local guides and support crew
- International airport departure tax
- Sleeping bag & sleeping mat
- Fees for any optional sites, attractions or activities
- Airline taxes: we cap these so £250.00 is the maximum you will pay
- Any applicable surcharges as per Terms and Conditions

TREK TRAINING WEEKEND

£170 Special Offer - Only when you book at the same time as registering for your main challenge

Discover Adventure Trek Training Weekends take place in Snowdonia National Park, Wales. This training weekend is designed to put you through your paces to enable you to gauge fitness levels and gain advice from our experienced leaders.

GRADE | TOUGH (3)



Trip grades range from Challenging (1) to Extreme (5).

TOUGH trips can involve tough terrain, with some very rigorous days; weather, altitude and/or basic living conditions will add to the challenge. They demand good stamina, fitness and a determined attitude.

See [Trip Grading Explained](#).



Discover Adventure reserves the right to change the route or itinerary for safety reasons should local conditions dictate.

Please note: This document was downloaded on 8 Mar 2018, and the challenge is subject to change.