

Blackrock & Friends Peru Inca Quarry Trek



Duration: 8 days

Machu Picchu is one of the most iconic sights in South America, and the culmination of our magnificent trek through the Peruvian Andes. Join us as we trek through valleys and over high passes, scattered with fascinating and little-visited Inca ruins.

Trekking on remote paths, our route takes us through forest and meadows and up to the more exposed higher passes, culminating in Kuychicassa (4450m), before descending to the old stone quarry of Kachiqata, where the Incas were intercepted by the Spanish conquistadors. Our way is steep at times, and the altitude adds to the challenge. We finish at the village of Aguas Calientes, at the foot of Machu Picchu, and have plenty of time to explore this magical site – an unforgettable reward for your efforts.

This is a challenging and beautiful Andean alternative to the Inca Trail, and perfect for those who have missed out on permits, or prefer the solitude of a lesser-trekking route.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive Cuzco

After arriving in to Cusco (3400m) this morning, there will be one group transfer from the airport to our downtown hotel (based on the majority of the group's flight arrival times; those arriving after this time will need to make their own transfer arrangements). 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 2: 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 3: Cuzco – Rafq'a – Q'orimarca

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 our trail-head at Rafq'a. En route we stop at a small ruin where Incas worshipped the moon. At the trail-head we meet our pack-horses and start our gradual ascent through the lush green hillsides, emerging at a beautiful waterfall. Here we can soak up the views before contouring grassy hillsides through scenic meadows with wonderful views of the surrounding mountains. Our camp lies in a beautiful spot, and we should have time to explore the nearby ruin of Q'orimarca, which was once an Incan checkpoint. Night camp (3700m).

Drive approx 3.5 hours; trek approx 5-7 hours

Day 4: Q'orimarca – Choquetacarpo

Today is our big day – and our most rewarding! Our trail ascends gradually through grass-covered mountain slopes scattered with huge granite boulders, leading us to the top of our first big pass, Puccaqasa (4370m). Most people will feel the effects of being at altitude on this fairly relentless ascent, and we keep the pace slow and steady. From the pass we enjoy incredible views as the green ridges and valleys unfold before us, before dropping down a little to our lunch-stop. Then we ascend again, to a lung-bursting 4450m – Kuychicassa Pass, our highest point. Here we are 250m higher than Dead Woman's Pass on the Inca Trail. We descend to Intipunku, a sacred site with spectacular views of snow-capped Mount Veronica rising to 5000m, and over the valley below. We continue downhill to camp. Night camp (3750m)

Trek approx 7-9 hours

Day 5: Choquetacarpo – Aguas Calientes

With the high mountain passes conquered, it's predominantly downhill, back into pasture and more sheltered hillsides. We stop at the rock quarry of Kachiqata, which was never finished; the Incas were intercepted here by the Spanish. We continue down into the Sacred Valley, accompanied by wonderful views, and come back to Ollantaytambo. We walk through this photogenic town with its cobbled streets before a short train journey takes us to Aguas Calientes. Named for its soothing hot springs, this bustling village lies below Machu Picchu. Night hotel.

Trek approx 4-6 hours

Day 6: Aguas Calientes – Machu Picchu – Cuzco

An early bus ride takes us along the winding hair-pin bends to Machu Picchu, aiming to arrive before the crowds

starting from Cuzco. We enjoy a guided tour around this extraordinary site, with an option to walk up to the famous Sun Gate for the famous view back down over the site, meeting up in Aguas Calientes. In the afternoon we take the train back to Ollantaytambo and return to Cuzco by bus. Night hotel.

Train/bus travel approx 3 hours

Day 7: 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. Those looking for an adrenaline fix may wish to pre-book on to a White Water Rafting Activity (see website for details). Alternatively, there may 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 8: Depart Cuzco

Our itinerary ends today, so you are free to make your own return travel arrangements home.

(Lunch not included)

Please note: Flights are **not** included in the tour cost

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](#).

BUY YOUR KITBAG

Only £45 (inc p&p) - designed to deal with the rigours of your challenge.

Easier for accessing gear than a rucksack (especially when camping) this is probably the most cost-effective way to take your luggage on a Discover Adventure challenge!



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 20 Apr 2024, and the challenge is subject to change.