



PRIVATE JOURNEYS



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WorldwideQuest

EXPERIENTIAL TRAVEL SINCE 1970

Lodge-to-Lodge Trekking in Peru

Duration: **7 days** | Best time to travel: **April – October**

This is a wonderful way to experience some of the most scenic parts of Peru, one step at a time. This lodge to lodge trek provides the comfort and service of top quality mountain lodges located in pristine areas with the adventure of a trek led by expert guides. During the week, you will trek from 3900m to 2100m, traversing magnificent mountain passes, enjoying enormous and mystical snow capped peaks, seeing nature in its purest form and exploring more than 15 different ecosystems from beginning to end. You will enjoy authentic cultural exchanges with people who remain closely attached to their heritage and are very willing to share it with open minds. On this Private Journey, you will have time for a good look at the beautiful city of Cusco and the thrill of visiting Machu Picchu.

Your trekking guides are among the best in Peru (some even having won international awards!) and have on average at least 15 years of experience guiding in the mountains, not only in Peru, but around the world. You will appreciate their knowledge of history and cultural traditions, as well as their interpretation of local flora and fauna, and their great insights (and stories!) that go far beyond any history book! Since the private guides have been guiding this particular trek for several years, they have made friends in the local communities, thus allowing genuine and spontaneous encounters during the journey, which often provide unforgettable experiences for our travellers.

Signature moments include:

- ☞ Feeling the warm air rise up from the jungle as you descend along the Salkantay River
- ☞ Enjoying fresh, energizing meals at deluxe lodges
- ☞ Meet local families maintaining centuries-old traditions
- ☞ Taking in the distant yet spectacular view of Machu Picchu from Llactapata Pass



How is a Private Journey created?

With a Worldwide Quest Private Journey you have the perfect match of safety, security and organization with the flexibility and freedom that suits your timeframe, budget and interests. We bring the same passion and expertise of our small group tours to creating Private Journeys for friends and family, typically to destinations that reward dedicated advance planning. We can adapt many of our small group trips for you or plan a completely hand tailored itinerary to suit your exact specifications. Our Travel Planners will work with you to create incomparable experiences wherever you would like to go.

1

Consulting

It starts with consultation with one of our team of in-house travellers. From this, we'll send you one of our Private Journey tour brochures, like this one. Our conversation continues as we ask you about what kind of travel experience you're looking for, how active you like to be, whether it's about fabulous hotels or fabulous food or awe-inspiring sights or creative experiences or all of the above. Next we tweak the itinerary and work with you to get the balance just right. Once we've agreed an itinerary and budget, you approve the next stage with your deposit.

2

Designing

We hone in on developing the perfect itinerary designed to meet your unique requirements. We review the nuts and bolts from flight arrangements to accommodation that's just right to transportation by car, camel or rickshaw. We work with our guides to make sure each day delivers what you want, whether that's an early morning game drive to observe the wildebeest migration or time to discuss life with a priest by the Ganges in Varanasi.

3

Delivering

Once the itinerary has been finalized, we require a second payment to secure your accommodations and services. A final balance of payment is required 90 days prior to your departure. A Private Journey is a totally customized and personalized journey designed to your own (and our own) exacting standards. And once you're on the road with us, you won't notice it, but we'll be with you every step of the way. Our local hosts will be your discreet fixers, making it all unfold effortlessly so that you have the luxury of making the most of every moment.

Detailed Itinerary

This itinerary contains only the small-group services on this fixed program. You will require at minimum a hotel in Cusco before and after this itinerary. We are happy to design custom arrangements for you in Cusco, Lima and beyond to round out your trip to Peru.

Day 1: Cusco to Soraypampa

After an early breakfast, your guide and driver will pick you up at your hotel in Cusco. The first stop will be a visit to the Inca ruins to Tarawasi near the town of Limatambo. Next, visit the mountain village of Mollepata for a short break before ascending a winding mountain road to a site called Marccocasa. Here you will begin your hike to Soraypampa along a picturesque path called the “Camino Real” (Royal Path), which is also a good opportunity to acclimate to the higher altitude. As you round the final turn of the Camino Real, the Salkantay Lodge will come into view. Standing like a sentry behind the lodge is the glacier peak of Mt. Salkantay, among the most sacred in Inca mythology and the highest in the region.

Trekking: 6 hours

Difficulty: Moderate to Challenging

Overnight: Salkantay Lodge (3869m)

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Day 2: Hike to Humantay Lake

Today presents another opportunity to gauge your altitude-acclimatization with a half-day hike to Lake Humantay. After breakfast, you begin an ascent up the slopes that border the plateau behind the Salkantay Lodge. An hour and a half later, after making your way over the final hill, you will be stunned to see the turquoise water of the lake, made even more spectacular by the sight of the Humantay glacier looming behind it. Here you will have a chance to relax, enjoy a snack, meditate in the tranquility of this magical spot and be part of a traditional offering to “Pachamama” (Mother Earth). While this morning hike to Lake Humantay is optional, we strongly recommend your participation in preparation for the challenging hike tomorrow. The second half of your day is spent at leisure. You may opt to soak in our Jacuzzi, indulge in a relaxing massage or even take a long nap.

Trekking: 4 hours

Difficulty: Moderate

Overnight: Salkantay Lodge (3869m)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 3: Crossing the Salkantay Pass

Today is the longest and most strenuous day, but arguably the most magical day of your trek. There is an option to do today's trek on horseback (entirely or partially; additional cost). After an early start, you hike up the Rio Blanco valley, circling Humantay Peak. As you gradually make your way up these mountain trails, you will encounter expansive plateaus dotted with boulders of varying sizes, the remnants of a valley that was once bisected by a fast-flowing river. The final and most challenging part of your ascent is conquering the mountain switchbacks that take you to the Salkantay Pass, the highest point on the trek (4,636 m). What follows is a dramatic descent through fields of giant boulders, often shrouded in fog. After a very welcome hot picnic lunch, you will continue down through bucolic rolling hills and marsh-like plateaus as you take your final steps to your lodge, the most remote of the lodges on your program.

Trekking: 6–8 hours

Difficulty: Very challenging

Overnight: Wayra Lodge (3906m)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Dinner

Day 4: Descending into the Cloud Forest

After a leisurely breakfast at the Wayra Lodge, continue the descent along the banks of the Salkantay River through increasingly verdant scenery. The warm air begins to rise from the edge of the jungle, accompanied by colorful butterflies and striking orchids. Today you will see more of the local people as the trail takes you past their simple homes and makeshift fences. At lunchtime you will arrive at Colpa Lodge, located on a high promontory at the confluence of three rivers. Enjoy a Pachamanca lunch, a traditional Peruvian meal cooked in the earth by hot stones that create a natural underground oven. Afterwards, spend the afternoon lounging in the sun or relaxing in the outdoor jacuzzi while you take in the panoramic views of the lush green mountains that surround you.

Trekking: 3–4 hours

Difficulty: Easy to moderate

Overnight: Colpa Lodge (2870m)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5: Following the Santa Teresa River Valley

Today you will hike in the Santa Teresa River valley where you will hop over small streams fed by waterfalls descending from the glaciers and cross through fruit orchards. After breaking for a hot picnic lunch by the river, you will walk for one hour before we meet your vehicle for a short drive to the beginning of the “Llactapata Inca Trail” that leads us to Lucma Lodge. On the way you will visit an organic coffee plantation, one of many in that area that produces some of the best organic coffee in the world. You will also begin to notice another shift in the climate. Here in Lucmabamba, the hot air and increased humidity signal that you are even closer to the edge of the Amazon Jungle.

Trekking: 5–6 hours

Difficulty: Moderate to Challenging

Overnight: Lucma Lodge (2135m)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 6: Lucmabamba & the Llactapata Pass

During a 2-3 hour climb up a path mostly comprised of original Inca steps, you will get a sense of what hiking through the rainforest would be like. A lush treeline creates green canopies overhead and the constant sound of rushing water suggests that the river is still nearby. Your first milestone today will be the top of the peak, the last one before you reach the Aobamaba River valley that connects you to Machu Picchu. When you arrive at the ruins of Llactapata at the Llactapata Pass (2,736 m), you will be delighted to see a southeast view of the “back” of the Machu Picchu ruins, a sight few travelers ever get a chance to admire. The final descent toward the roaring Aobamba River takes you through lush bamboo forests, as well as more fruit orchards and coffee plantations, until you end the day's hike at the Hidroelectrica train station. A scenic train ride brings you to the town of Aguas Calientes at the base of Machu Picchu.

Trekking: 4–6 hours

Difficulty: Moderate to Challenging

Overnight: Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7: Machu Picchu - Cusco

At dawn, you begin your journey to Machu Picchu with a short and rollicking uphill bus ride. As you enter The Sanctuary, the morning sun rises over the iconic Sun Gate and washes the structures and terraces with resplendent light. Prepare to be awed by the imposing architecture of the Watchtower, the Temple of the Sun, and the royal Inca residences, among many others. Take a moment to quietly sit and listen to the wind or to meditate and absorb the mystical energy that envelops you. Your imagination will soar as you contemplate the history of Machu Picchu and its mysterious origins. Some may even choose a hike to Huayna Picchu (subject to availability), the iconic towering mountain often seen in photographs, for dramatic views that stretch from the Urubamba River valley to the edge of the Amazon Jungle. After your visit, you will have lunch in Aguas Calientes before your train and transfer back to Cusco.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch





Tour Details

Private Journey Cost (per person):

	March 1 – 31, Nov. 1 – Dec. 14	April 1 – Oct. 31, Dec. 15 – 31	Single Travellers
2021	US \$2990	US\$3990	50% supplement for a single room and 25% for single willing to share.
2022	US\$3090	US\$4090	

Services on the above itinerary are provided on small-group shared basis. The price is approximate and a guideline only. We can also adapt this itinerary to private services for you.

What's Included:

- Accommodation in mountain lodges based on double occupancy
- Ground transportation by minibus as indicated
- Transportation of personal belongings on the trek by pack horses/mules and/or porters
- Expert English-speaking guides
- Entrance fees and permits to sites
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- Local taxes and service charges
- Tips for staff at the Lodges and staff in the field (excluding guide)

Not Included:

- Roundtrip airfare from your home
- Internal flights
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance
- Items of a personal nature: laundry, drinks, telephone calls, etc.
- Gratuities to trekking guide
- Meals and services not listed
- Airport and departure taxes
- Fuel surcharges, if any
- Additional arrangements required due to emergency or other situation
- Private services arranged outside of this set program

Payment Details:

A deposit of US\$500 per person is required to proceed with Private Journey arrangements. A second deposit may be required. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure, unless otherwise indicated.

What to Expect

Pre- and Post- Trip Services

The above itinerary describes only the shared small-group services of this set program. You will require pre- and post- trip services in Cusco, and possibly Lima and other regions in Peru. We are happy to design custom arrangements for you around this set itinerary. At least two days in Cusco prior to this program is recommended to acclimatize to the altitude.

Transportation

All transportation, unless otherwise indicated, is by air-conditioned private vehicle.

Local Arrangements

During the trek, you only carry a day-pack with everything you may need for a day's hike (water bottle, rain gear, cameras, snacks). Additional drinking water is available on the trek. Mules and porters carrying the luggage will not walk with the group. Your luggage will meet you upon arrival at the next lodge.

Level of Difficulty: Moderate to Challenging

The trek is rated as moderate to challenging and covers approximately 63 km / 32 miles on uneven, rocky terrain with steep uphill and downhill sections. Day 3 is the most challenging with an elevation gain of 1000 meters / 3,000 feet in a span of 5 km / 3 miles to reach a maximum altitude of 4640 meters / 15,200 feet. Prior hiking experience is recommended. The trek crosses twelve different eco-zones in six days, with the possibility of changing weather conditions.

Accommodation

All four mountain lodges have been designed and built in accordance with traditional building techniques, Inca architectural and mythological concepts, and respect for the surrounding environment. All rooms have private facilities with ample supply of hot water for showers.

Travel Documents

You will require a passport for your trip to Peru. Please make sure that it is valid for six months after the date of your return home.

Additional Info

Flights

Roundtrip international flights are not included in the cost of your Private Journey and must be arranged separately. Please contact our office for suggested routing and a quote on airfare. If you are making your own flight arrangements, please verify your schedule with your consultant to ensure that your schedule fits the program prior to confirming your arrangements.

Cancellation Policy

All deposits are non-refundable, however you may transfer your deposit to another trip 90 days or more prior to your scheduled departure date. If you cancel within 90 days prior to trip departure, all associated trip costs are non-refundable. The tour price is quoted as a package. No partial refunds or credits will be given for services not used. In the event of a cancellation, you must notify Worldwide Quest immediately and in writing.

Travel Insurance

Please note that all payments are non-refundable. We urge you to ensure that you have adequate cancellation and medical insurance in place, should an unexpected event cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip or should the tour not be operable per our terms and conditions. We will offer you Manulife insurance coverage. Should you decline this coverage, you must sign a waiver and provide details of your own medical coverage. Medical insurance including emergency medical evacuation coverage is mandatory on all our tours.

Terms and Conditions

For additional information about our terms and conditions, please refer to your booking form, the current brochure or our website. All participants booking with Worldwide Quest are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act (Worldwide Quest International, Ontario - License # 2667946).

Worldwide Quest Explorers Club

Travel twice with us and you become a member of the Worldwide Explorers Club. Earn 5% off all your subsequent, catalogue-advertized group tours. The bonus is non-transferable and cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount or credit. Note that some exceptions may apply. Members also get access to special offers and exploratory tours!



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