



HUCHUY QOSQO & MACHU PICCHU

It's incredible what this trip includes in just three days – a long hike, homestay with a charismatic local family, spectacular high-Andes mountain scenery, the enigmatic, inaccessible ruin of Huchuy Qosqo, plus Ollantaytambo and Machu Picchu!

DAY 1: HIKE TO HUCHUY QOSQO

We'll pick you up at 8am and take a short drive to where our hike begins at Tambo Machay, a short drive from Cusco. From here we climb gently through alpine pasture to the first of four mountain passes we'll cross today, affording incredible views of the Cordillera Urubamba.

We'll pass serene Lake Quellacocha before descending, partly on Inca roads, through the rapidly changing ecological layers that characterise the Andean sierra to the isolated traditional community of Huchuy Qosqo, where we'll stay the night in a memorable homestay.

Accommodation: Irene's place, Huchuy Qosqo

Meals: Lunch and dinner included

Walking time: 6-8 hours

Walking distance: 14km (8.7 miles)

Min. Altitude: 3,300 meters (10,000 feet)

Max. Altitude: 4,250 meters (13,940 feet)

Altitude of camp: 3,460 meters (11,350 feet)

DAY 2: FROM HUCHUY QOSQO TO AGUAS CALIENTES

This morning we'll explore Huchuy Qosqo. Thought to have been one of the palaces of the eighth Inca, Viracocha, it's an impressive Inca site with a variety of architecture featuring both stone and mud brick buildings. Because there's no road access to Huchuy Qosqo, there are few visitors and we'll probably have the site to ourselves.

After this it's a steep descent to the road and the village of Lamay, where we'll have lunch before heading to Ollantaytambo in our vehicle. From here we'll take the train to Aguas Calientes, where we'll spend the night.

Accommodation: Family-run hotel in Aguas Calientes

Meals: All meals included

Walking time: 2 hours, all steep downhill

Walking distance: 2km (less than 1 mile)

Min. Altitude: 2,700 meters (10,000 feet)

Max. Altitude: 3,460 meters (8860 feet)

DAY 3: MACHU PICCHU!

An early start rewards us with sunrise at Machu Picchu – a peak moment for anyone. A spectacular stone city surrounded by incredibly steep, incredibly green mountains, Machu Picchu needs no introduction and is deservedly one of the new Seven Wonders of the World. A guided tour is a necessary start to orient you in this massive site, then you'll have plenty of time to explore the ruin and some of the surrounding peaks on your own before we catch the train back to Cusco where we'll drop you off at your accommodation.

Meals: breakfast and lunch included

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- All accommodation (based on twin share. Single Supplement available for US\$25)
- All ground transport (private vehicle and train)
- All activities specified in itinerary
- Dedicated Aspiring Adventures guide
- Entrance to all attractions specified in itinerary
- Extra permit to climb Huayna Picchu at Machu Picchu (if available at time of booking)
- All meals as specified
- Drinking water while hiking and with meals on last day

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

- Tip for your guide and horse wrangler