



Adventure tours that delve deeper

Peak Andes

TRIP LENGTH: Seven days
STARTS AND ENDS: Cusco

Three of South America's peak moments in the outdoors - Rainbow Mountain, Huchuy Qosqo, and Machu Picchu – plus hike little-known trails, experience authentic local culture, and stay with locals!

It's incredible how much authentic cultural encounter, Inca history, and world-class hiking this trip packs into one week!

Day 1 Welcome to Peru!

Cusco, the historic capital of the Inca Empire, is one of the most beautiful cities on Earth! The trip starts at 1pm when your guide will pick you up and take you for a traditional Peruvian meal at one of our favourite local restaurants. Then spend the afternoon on a relaxed walking tour around Cusco's stunning historic centre – it's important to take it easy if you've arrived from sea level today, as you need to adjust to Cusco's 3,400m (11,200ft) altitude.

Accommodation: Cusco hotel
Meals: Lunch included

Day 2 Hike to Huchuy Qosqo

We'll pick you up at 8am and take a short drive to where our hike begins at Tambo Machay. 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: All meals included
Walking time: 6-8 hours
Walking distance: 14km (8.7 miles)
Min. Altitude: 3,300m (10,000ft)
Max. Altitude: 4,250m (13,940ft)
Altitude of accommodation: 3,460m (11,350ft)

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Day 3 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:	Breakfast included
Walking time:	2 hours, all steep downhill
Walking distance:	2km (less than 1 mile)
Min. Altitude:	2,700m (8,860ft)
Max. Altitude:	3,460m (11,350ft)

Day 4 Machu Picchu!

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.

We'll be up at sunrise so there's time for your guide to show you around Machu Picchu's main citadel, as well as our favourite hidden nooks and crannies, before the crowds arrive. Then there's time for your own exploration of the massive, still-mysterious site, before we catch the train back to Cusco.

Accommodation:	Cusco hotel
Meals:	Breakfast and lunch included

Day 5 The South Valley

The Valle Sur just outside Cusco is one of our favourite places to take our guests, because it offers a one-day snapshot of the incredible variety of this whole region. We'll see lakes, wetlands and mountains, and visit the eye-wateringly ornate church of Andahuaylillas and a crazy museum of shrunken skulls! Along the way we'll sample local specialty foods like toqto (pigskin), cuy (guinea pig), or for the less adventurous palate, chicharrónes (pork chunks), and the area's famous chuta bread – within Peru, the South Valley is a noted gastronomic destination.

We'll spend the night in the village of Raqchi, home to a group of gracious, funny people we're proud to call our friends. They'll open their homes and lives to you, giving you a unique insight into traditional Andean life.

Accommodation:	Raqchi homestay
Meals:	All meals included

Day 6 Rainbow Mountain!

Today we'll hike Rainbow Mountain. Known locally as Vinicunca, this mountain offers a challenging day hike to view an amazing mountainside where a combination of sedimentary layers and erosion has created a colourful spectacle. It's a challenging 15km hike, to an altitude of 5,200m (17,060ft), over a rough trail... but the incredible views make it all worthwhile!

This evening we'll enjoy our final dinner together in Cusco.

Accommodation: Cusco hotel
Meals: All meals included

Day 7 Departure Day

You can book your flight out of Cusco for any time today. If you're staying on in Peru, we'd be delighted to help out with suggestions and assistance for the rest of your time here.

Meals: Breakfast included

What's included:

- All accommodation (*based on twin-share. Single Supplement available for US\$200*)
- All ground transport
- All activities specified in itinerary
- Aspiring Adventures guide
- Entrance to all attractions specified in itinerary
- Meals as specified (*six breakfasts, five lunches, three dinners*)
- Drinking water

What's not included:

- Tips for your guides

Accommodations:

Accommodations on our Peru trips are our favourites in each place. In Cusco and Aguas Calientes we stay in basic, comfortable, family-run hotels. In Raqchi and Huchuy Qosqo we stay in humble family homes. Here, conditions are basic, and hygiene may not be what you are used to at home, but any slight discomfort you experience will be well compensated for by the great company of your hosts, and the incredible insight into a very different way of life.