

AMAZON TRAILS PERU



CHOQUEKIRAO TO MACHU PICCHU TREK

8 days - min. 2 persons

This trek takes you to one of the last retreats of the Incas: Choquekirao (3.033 m) and then onwards through Andean scenery, over high passes and through scenic valleys all the way to Aguas Calientes. A little frequented trek with great views but also with strenuous climbs. On day 8 we visit Machu Picchu. Highest point 4668 m.

Day 1 : CUSCO - CACHORA - PLAYA ROSALINA : 4:00 am pick up from your hotel and travel to Cachora (4 hours by private bus). While we are having breakfast the crew will arrange the horses for the trek. On this day we walk 22 km, first flat to Chiquisca and then a little uphill, passing through Abra Capuliyoc, from where we have a great view of the Apurimac Canyon. Finally we descend to Playa Rosalina on the banks of the Apurimac River, the main tributary of the Amazon River. Campsite at 1550 m (on some occasions we camp in Chiquisca, a bit higher than Playa Rosalina).

Day 2 : PLAYA ROSALINA TO CHOQUEQUIRAO RUINS : After an early breakfast we start walking uphill - through Opuntia-plantations and later through cloud forest - towards Choquequirao. The first part of the trail is very steep but with great views, we arrive to the camp around 3 pm. The ruins are just next to the camp so we start exploring them after arriving. The view of the canyon is spectacular from here; it is also possible to see Andean Condors soaring in the mountains. Campsite at Choquequirao, 3033 m.

Day 3 : CHOQUEKIRAO TO MAIZAL : On this day we walk uphill for a while up to 3299m and then descend to Rio Blanco, 1909 m. On the way we pass by Pinchiunuyoj ruins with Inca terraces. The changes of habitats are very spectacular and it is a good area for seeing birds, different varieties of orchids and coca plants at around 2750 m. From Rio Blanco we climb up to Maizal for about 3 hrs. Our camp is at 3000 m.

Day 4 : MAIZAL TO YANAMA : From here we start walking uphill passing by impressive Inca mining sites called Minas Victoria which were exploited until the 20th century. Almost on the top of our trail we can appreciate original paved Inca trails. We pass over 4154 m and then descend to our campsite in Yanama at 3800 m.

Day 5 : YANAMA TO TOTORA : After breakfast we start climbing slowly to our highest pass 4668 m; again the view is amazing as we are surrounded by snow capped mountains: the Mt. Sacsarayoj and Mt. Padreyoj. Our campsite today is at 3632 m.

Day 6 : TOTORA TO PLAYA : Today we descend to the Totora River. As we go down we reach cloud forest vegetation and the birdlife is very interesting, especially with hummingbirds and woodpeckers as well as many species of orchids and begonias. We set up camp at 2125 m in Playa, which is located in the valley, so it is warm.

Day 7 : PLAYA TO AGUAS CALIENTES : On this day we walk our last uphill to Llactapata at 2810m which takes around 3 hours; from here the view of Machu Picchu on the opposite mountain is fabulous. After a rest we walk down to the Hydroelectric plant on the Urubamba River and from here we walk through the valley to Aguas Calientes or take the train (not included). Night in a hostel.

Day 8 : MACHU PICCHU FULL DAY - CUSCO : After an early breakfast we walk up or take the bus to Machu Picchu, here we have a 2 – 2.5 hour guided tour; afterwards we have free time to explore on our own, maybe to visit the Inca Bridge or climb up to Wayna Picchu. We return to Aguas Calientes (on our own) to take the return train in the afternoon. Transfer to your hotel in Cusco.

Note: This itinerary is variable and may be modified according to the progress of the group, weather conditions etc.

Tour price includes:

- private transport to Cachora
- English speaking professional guide
- horses to carry food and equipment
- emergency horse (with saddle)
- double tents and mats, tables, chairs
- all meals during the trek, drinking water
- entrance to Choquequirao & Machu Picchu ruins
- 1 night at Hostel in Aguas Calientes including breakfast
- tourist train ticket from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo or Poroy
- transfer from train station to hotel
- first Aid Kit

Not included:

- sleeping bag (for rent at our office)
- hiking poles
- drinking water (partly, especially day 8)
- meals in Aguas Calientes
- entrance to Wayna Picchu (+ 18 US\$)
- horse for personal luggage (if more than 5 kg)

