

The World's Most Luxurious "Hut-to-Hut" Hikes



Courtesy of Mountain Lodges of Peru
On the Salkantay Trek with Mountain Lodges of Peru, you end your daily adventures in the Andes at a gorgeous lodge.

Not all multi-day trekking experiences are created rugged; some allow you to conquer challenging terrain by day and luxuriate in utter comfort (and maybe a hot tub) by night.

For some avid trekkers, "luxury" means not having to set up a tent and campsite at the end of a long day of trekking in the wilderness. These people seek out the networks of simple, serviceable huts scattered across mountain ranges, forests, and rolling countrysides all over the world.

Other hikers prefer their backcountry comforts to be more traditionally luxurious but still want the challenge of hiking a multi-day route. As a result, a number of extravagant trekking experiences have cropped up that beg the question, "If your spacious, multi-room 'hut' has a wall of windows, high-thread-count bed linens, a gourmet chef, and an outdoor hot tub, can it really be considered a hut?" Perhaps not, but "hotel-to-hotel hike" doesn't quite have the same ring to it.

Lodge-to-lodge, chalet-to-chalet—whatever you want to call them, the following trips will get your feet moving every day and let you unwind in plush surroundings with an excellent glass of wine every evening. Of course, five-star opulence isn't always possible in places as remote as these, but having an ultra-comfortable place to lay your head and someone else organizing everything—logistics, luggage transfers, and maybe even a quick van transfer or two—leaves you with the luxury of simply focusing on the natural world around you.

Salkantay Trek

Peru

For decades, people have flocked to Machu Picchu to follow in the footsteps of the ancient Inca. Most zero in on the Inca trail, but in fact, the Inca made tracks all over the Sacred Valley, and luxury outfitter **Mountain Lodges of Peru** (MLP) has been guiding people through some of those lesser known rocky mountain passes, cloud forests, and steep, forested river valleys since 2007, connecting its guests to the indigenous Andean communities that still live there, and doing it all in style.

MLP's seven-day **Salkantay Trek** does culminate in a visit to Machu Picchu Sanctuary, but first, you'll travel through blissfully crowd-free sections of the Andes, traversing 15 different ecosystems, exploring the stacked-stone walls of archaeological sites such as Quillarumiyoc, and crossing the Salkantay Pass at 15,213 feet above sea level.

Nights are spent in four of MLP's proprietary lodges—the Salkantay, Wayra Lodge, Colpa Lodge, and Lucma Lodge—where you can sooth sore limbs in the outdoor Jacuzzis, opt for spa treatments, and enjoy gourmet meals made with ingredients you may have passed on the trail earlier in the day, such as quinoa and local mint. Each lodge blends Andean building concepts, such as thatched roofs, with contemporary design touches, such as huge, multi-paned windows that you can sit beside and take in commanding views of the landscape you conquered earlier in the day. —*From \$2,990 per person.*