



MOUNTAIN
LODGES
Peru

THE SALKANTAY RIDE TO MACHU PICCHU

a unique inca trail experience



Experience The Salkantay Ride to Machu Picchu from the saddle.

Your story begins with a dream of visiting Machu Picchu. The dream comes alive during a once-in-a-lifetime experience: The ultimate lodge-to-lodge Ride along the Salkantay Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. This is an exploration of a sacred haven of the Incas as much as a physical, cultural and spiritual journey of transformation.

The pristine natural beauty that envelops you throughout the 7 days of the trip, takes you through 15 unique ecosystems, and will inspire you to challenge yourself, as you navigate changing altitudes (even a 4,572 m/15,000 ft mountain traverse!) and varied terrain. Along the route you encounter picturesque hamlets populated by Andean families, who maintain

centuries-old traditions, while you simultaneously witness environmental and social initiatives created to maintain the integrity of their culture and improve the quality of life.

Our warm staff and enchanting lodges welcome you at the end of each day. Our innovative Andean cuisine and mountain-luxury amenities help to restore both body and mind as you continue your adventure, following in the footsteps of the Incas.

This is your journey, a chance to create your own amazing story. Welcome to The Salkantay Ride to Machu Picchu!

ITINERARY

THE SALKANTAY
RIDE TO MACHU PICCHU

7 day journey

Day 01

Cusco to
Salkantay Lodge

Day 02

Ride to Lake
Humantay and
the Chakana

Day 03

Crossing the
Salkantay Pass

Day 04

Descending into
the cloud forest

Day 05

Following the
Santa Teresa
River Valley

Day 06

Lucmabamba:
Exploring
Llactapata Pass

Day 07

Machu Picchu
The Sanctuary



The Salkantay Ride to Machu Picchu

Legend

- Route
- Hike
- Llactapata Inka Trail
- Train





**Look *deeply* into nature, and then you
will understand everything *better***

CUSCO TO SALKANTAY LODGE

After an early breakfast, your MLP guide and driver will pick you up at your hotel in Cusco. The first stop is a visit to the Quillarumiyoc archaeological site en route to the mountain village of Mollepata. Enjoy lunch at El Pedregal, a beautiful farmhouse in the village, where you will also have the opportunity to learn about local agriculture and livestock.

After lunch, you will take a scenic ride to Coronilla Ranch to meet and get to know your horse. Along with the MLP equestrian team, you will then begin your ride to Soraypampa, a great opportunity for everyone to acclimate to the altitude while enjoying a beautiful 3-4 hour ride to the Salkantay Lodge that takes its name from the majestic peak at the head of the valley. [Mt. Salkantay is the second most sacred peak in Inca mythology and, at 6,270m (20,600 ft), is the highest in the region.] Upon arrival, our friendly staff will welcome you and show you to your room, where you can freshen up before tea time and a fireside trip briefing with your guide. In the evening, enjoy aperitifs and dinner before settling in to rest for the next day's ride.



RIDE

🕒 5 hrs.
(Including picnic lunch en route)

Σ Walk, trot, canter, gallop on open roads, some steep ascending trails.

OVERNIGHT

Salkantay Lodge at 3,869 m/12,690 ft.

RIDE TO LAKE HUMANTAY AND THE CHAKANA

Today's excursion takes us first to Humantay Lake, fed by glaciers far above on the slopes of the impressive Mt. Humantay. Our 1-hour ride there is followed by a short 20-minute walk, which is necessary in order to reach the lake, but the view is well worth it and those brave enough can go for a swim! After a short snack break we hike back down to where we left the horses, and from where we begin a 30-minute ride to our next dismount spot: the gateway to the "Chakana" (the mystical Cross of the Incas, located on a view point high above Soraypampa). From here, we begin a one-hour excursion on foot to our destination, the actual "Chakana". This excursion allows guests to enjoy the best views of the Soraypampa Valley, Mt. Salkantay and Mt. Humantay, and is truly one of the high points of our journey...which should not be missed! A mystical offering to Mother Earth (or "Pachamama") at the Chakana, performed by a local Shaman, in full view of the awe-inspiring Mt. Salkantay, tops off this unique experience.


We return to the lodge for lunch with your afternoon at leisure, after which you may choose to trade the glacial swim for a relaxing soak in our outdoor jacuzzi. Additionally there is the option of riding out again for a couple of hours in the surrounding area. In the evening, the guide briefs us on gear and the itinerary for the following day. All meals are served at the Lodge.



Lake Humantay

RIDE

 Approximately 4 hours.

 Walk, trot, canter, gallop on open roads, some steep ascending trails and open fields.

OVERNIGHT

Salkantay Lodge at 3,869 m/12,690 ft.

Salkantay
**CROSSING THE
SALKANTAY PASS**

Today we continue our journey towards Machu Picchu, riding up the Rio Blanco valley and circling Humantay Peak across from Salkantay Peak. The highest point of the ride is the Salkantay Pass at 4,638 meters (15,213 ft). At the pass we stop to take in views of snow-capped peaks of the Vilcabamba Range in every direction, with the glaciated south face of Salkantay towering above us.

We will keep our eyes out for Andean condors, often visible in this area. From the pass we descend towards the Wayra Lodge, (“Wayra”: wind; from the name of the location “Wayracmachay”: ‘the cave where the wind lives’) our destination for the evening. A hot lunch is taken en route; dinner and overnight at the Lodge.



RIDE

⌚ Approximately 5 hours.
(including hot lunch en route)

Σ Walk, trot on mostly steep
trails and some open slopes.

OVERNIGHT

Wayra Lodge at 3,906 m/12,812 ft.

DESCENDING INTO THE CLOUD FOREST

On this day we enjoy a leisurely breakfast at Wayra Lodge, and then we continue downhill above the Salkantay River, descending into the cloud forest, through increasingly verdant scenery. We can feel the warm air rising from the jungle, accompanied by colorful butterflies and striking orchids. Upon arrival at Colpa Lodge we are greeted with a Pachamanca, a traditional festive Peruvian meal cooked by layering meat and vegetables with hot stones. Everything is then covered with hot stones, plantain leaves, high Andean grass and local herbs and the contents are baked in this underground oven. Colpa Lodge is located on an open plateau at the confluence of three rivers. The outdoor jacuzzi has panoramic views of lush green mountains. We spend the afternoon relaxing or exploring the nearby orchid trail. Dinner and overnight at the lodge.



RIDE

 Approximately 4 hours.

 Walk or trot on narrow trails.

OVERNIGHT

Colpa Lodge at 2,870 m/9,414 ft.

FOLLOWING THE SANTA TERESA RIVER VALLEY


Today we ride along the Santa Teresa river valley, through more populated rural areas. We pass through banana, passion fruit, avocado orchards and coffee plantations. The coffee grown here is said to be one of the best organic coffees in the world. Our ride takes us to the beginning of the “Llactapata Inca Trail”, which is where we say goodbye to our horses and equestrian staff. A short 30-minute walk through an avocado orchard brings us to Lucma Lodge. Dinner and overnight at the lodge.



Time to relax

RIDE

 Approximately 5 hours.

 Walk, trot, and canter on steep trails and some open roads.

OVERNIGHT


Lucma Lodge at 2,135 m/7,003 ft.

EXPLORING LLACTAPATA PASS

After a hearty breakfast, we tackle the last day of our trek. At this point, we will say goodbye to our beautiful horses and get ready for a 3 hour-hike towards Llactapata Pass (2,736 m/8,974ft), where we come upon a distant but spectacular view of Machu Picchu Sanctuary from the southeast, a view few travelers ever get a chance to admire. We take a short break to explore the Llactapata Ruins, which have recently been restored. Lunch is served at a scenic viewpoint, looking out to Machu Picchu. After which we begin our final descent to the Aobamba River through lush bamboo forests, orchards and coffee plantations. We then board a train for a scenic ride (approx. 1 hour) to Aguas Calientes, the town of Machu Picchu.



HIKE

 4-6 hours.

 Moderate to challenging

OVERNIGHT

Aguas Calientes at 1,900 m/6,232 ft.

Note: Peru Rail is the train company used for the The Salkantay Trek. If a special train service is required, please advise your Travel Specialist.

VISIT MACHU PICCHU SANCTUARY

After a very early buffet breakfast at the hotel, you will make your way to the bus station for the ride up to Machu Picchu Sanctuary (approximately 30 minutes). Your trip leader will give an introductory 2 hour guided tour of the ruins, after which you will have the option to explore freely through the site for approximately 2 hours.

Afterwards, you will meet up with your guide again to return by bus to Aguas Calientes for a late lunch and an afternoon train ride back towards Cusco. The ride from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo takes about 1½ hours, from where a private vehicle will then take over for the drive back to Cusco (an additional 1½ hour). Upon arrival in Cusco (approximately 7 or 8 p.m.), you will be dropped off at the hotel of your choice.



Machu Picchu



Explore

ACTIVITY MENU

Morning to noon

OPTIONAL HIKE

⌄ Huayna Picchu Mountain

⌚ Approximately 4 hrs.

⚡ Challenging

Note: Tickets for Huayna Picchu Mt. (8,924' / 2,720m) may be available subject to additional cost. In the event that Huayna Picchu permits are not available for your desired date, you may opt for a hike up Machu Picchu Mt. (10,112 / 3,082m), located next to the Machu Picchu Citadel on the southern side. Please consult with your MLP Travel Specialist for detailed information.



inspire

SPEND AN EXTRA DAY AT MACHU PICCHU



Even though you have enough time to see the core of Machu Picchu Sanctuary during the regular guided tour, most of our guests realize that they would have liked to stay a little longer since there is so much to explore! Let us know at time of reservation if you would like to add this optional day.

OPTION A

- One (1) additional night at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, including dinner and breakfast & lunch the next day
- One (1) single-entrance ticket to Machu Picchu
- Round-trip shuttle bus transportation from Aguas Calientes
- Transportation from Ollantaytambo train station back to Cusco

OPTION B

- One (1) additional night at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, including dinner and breakfast & lunch the next day
- Transportation from Ollantaytambo train station back to Cusco

OPTION C

- One (1) additional night at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, including dinner and breakfast & lunch the next day

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

FULL-SERVICES PACKAGES

Let us make your MLP Adventure even better with some itinerary add-ons to simplify planning and make your journey truly unforgettable!

Our MLP travel specialists are happy to organize hotel reservations, airport transfers, and personalized tours during your stay in Peru.

Andenes



XO Art



MLP recommends arriving in Cusco 1-2 days prior to the start of your adventure to get comfortable with the altitude while you explore this fascinating historical city. You may also want to consider spending an extra day in Machu Picchu during your journey.

We are pleased to offer these new lodging and services packages designed for your convenience.

PACKAGE 1

- Round-trip Cusco airport transfers
- Two (2) nights lodging at MLP Properties
- One (1) night lodging at MLP Properties upon return to Cusco
- One (1) additional night at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, including dinner and breakfast & lunch the next day
- One (1) single-entrance ticket and round-trip shuttle bus transportation from Aguas Calientes
- Transportation from Ollantaytambo train station back to Cusco

PACKAGE 2

- Round-trip Cusco airport transfers
- Two (2) nights lodging at MLP Properties before or after your MLP adventure
- Additional Day at Machu Picchu – Option A:
- One (1) additional night at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, including dinner and breakfast & lunch the next day
- One (1) single-entrance ticket and round-trip shuttle bus transportation from Aguas Calientes
- Transportation from Ollantaytambo train station back to Cusco

PACKAGE 3

- Round-trip Cusco airport transfers
- Three (3) nights lodging at MLP Properties before or after your MLP adventure
- Transportation from Ollantaytambo train station back to Cusco

HOTEL AND TRANSFER INFORMATION



Airport Transfers

Private vehicle transfers to and from the Cusco airport. Upon arrival in Cusco, guests will be met at the airport by an MLP representative and escorted to their vehicle.

MLP Travel Extension Packages

Let our MLP travel specialists help you expand your itinerary beyond Cusco and Machu Picchu! Visit other iconic destinations in Peru's colorful Andean highlands, lush Amazonian jungle, and expansive desert coastline. We offer curated trip extensions in The Sacred Valley of the Incas, Arequipa/ Colca Canyon, Nazca/Paracas, Lake Titicaca, the Amazon, and more.

Andenes - new!

Andenes, our new property in Cusco features 16 beautifully appointed guest rooms, including two superior deluxe suites, plus an independent Apart Suite. The property's interiors are curated with a mix of colonial ambiance and modern aesthetics, inspired by the culture and tradition of this unique destination including the andenes or agricultural platforms that make up the foundation of the original colonial house. It is located in the San Blas neighborhood, just steps away from the picturesque main square.

www.andenesCUSCO.com

X.O Art House

X.O Art House, by Mountain Lodges of Peru is a unique luxury lodging experience housed in a restored Spanish Colonial casona in the city's San Blas art quarter. This intimate property is comprised of only seven guest rooms that feature works of art by notable contemporary Cusqueñan artists and offers full-service personalized attention.

www.xoarthouseCUSCO.com

Palacio Del Inka

A Luxury Collection Hotel, Palacio del Inka offers 5-star accommodations in a historic Spanish Colonial mansion, centrally located and adjacent to the Inca Temple of the Sun. www.libertador.com.pe/en/hotel/palacio-del-inka-luxury-collection/

THE LODGES

Our mountain lodges have brought together traditional Inca building techniques and sensitivity to the surrounding environment with all the comforts of home. At the end of each day, you will enjoy hot showers, fine gourmet meals, select wines, goose-down bedding, massages, outdoor jacuzzis and highly personalized service from our local staff.



GUIDES

Our 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. Many of them are considered pioneers in this area, having scouted many of the current routes in the country. All Mountain Lodges of Peru guides have excellent language skills, and are highly trained in managing group dynamics. All guides undergo continuous medical and rescue training, with a certification in “Wilderness First Aid.” 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 guide or history book.



HORSES

Mountain Lodges of Peru has bred a number of its own Quarter Horses which are specially exercised and trained for this trip, so they are highly aware and accustomed to the local terrain, wildlife and to performing at high altitude, making them a very secure ride. They combine responsiveness, energy, bravery and manners to produce the perfect trail horse. All horses are picked from a pre-selected pool especially for each trip, according to their level of fitness at the time.

For extra precautions horses are fitted with boots or bandages to protect their extremities. Our horses are trained Western so they are used to neck reining and going on a loose rein. We mostly use American endurance saddles, but there are English saddles available for those who prefer them. We are very careful in checking that the saddles fit each horse well and we constantly ensure that the tack and shoeing are in excellent condition.

We keep groups small, carefully match horses to riders, see that people of similar skills ride together, and train ride leaders carefully.



GIVING BACK



In 2006 Mountain Lodges of Peru sponsored the creation of Yanapana Peru, a not-for-profit Civil Association dedicated to social and environmental responsibility. Yanapana is committed to improving the quality of life through sustainable community development, in an effort to reduce extreme poverty in the Andean highlands.

Main activities of the association include donations for the enhancement of

nutrition and infrastructure at a local public school, funding and training for local entrepreneurs, which include jam and honey, handmade textiles and organic coffee production. Other supportive efforts are directed towards child sponsorship programs, as well as medical prevention, detection and treatment programs.

In our own journey through sustainability, we realized that it

was necessary to take steps beyond what was traditionally being done in social inclusion, which is why in 2012, a joint-venture was born between the community of Huacahuasi and Mountain Lodges of Peru, naming it Kuska Purispa: Walking Together.

We are convinced that sustainable tourism in the region should be built around a model that empowers local communities, making them active

investors in local development projects for the long-term benefit of all. We are committed to work under this innovative business model and keep empowering and generating added value to local communities in Peru.



MOUNTAIN
LODGES

Peru

let your story begin

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