

Peru Machu Picchu & Salkantay Lodge-to-Lodge Trekking

The Epic Less-Traveled Trail to Machu Picchu

Thank you for checking out our adventures and for downloading this itinerary. Please note that this itinerary and accommodations may be subject to change depending on the specific departure date. Be sure to check with us before scheduling any flights.

We love talking travel!
Contact us at info@mtsobek.com
or call **800-974-0300**



Feel the difference

with **Mountain Travel Sobek**

Unrivalled Expertise

MT Sobek started it all! Since our first Everest Base Camp trek in 1969, we've been leading award-winning adventures and building authentic connections in far-flung locations around the world. We were named Best Adventure Travel Company by Newsweek Readers' Choice Awards.

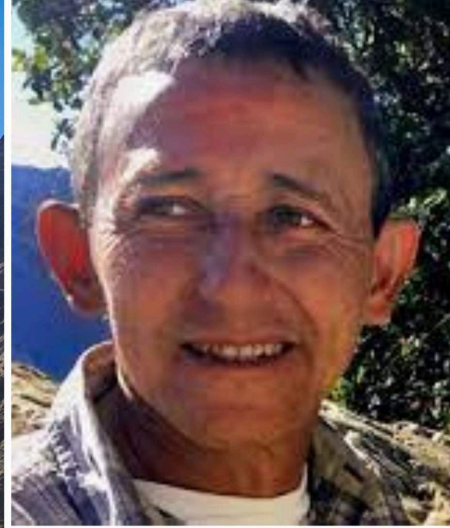
Unique Trip Design

Our adventures are perfectly paced, with incredible attention to detail — the right mix of fun, learning, and challenge that guarantees lifelong memories. Plan nothing, enjoy everything. We take care of all of the logistics so that you can have more time to do what's most important: relax, take in the experience, and enjoy!

Small Groups

We keep our groups intentionally small — usually fewer than 10 people. This allows you a more intimate experience with the people and wildlife you encounter. With a smaller group size, we can take advantage of many unexpected invitations and opportunities that would be impossible with larger groups.





Leading the Way

World-Class Local Guides

Our knowledgeable and passionate expert guides effortlessly create an immersive local experience for you. They are trained to the highest professional standards and are at the heart of everything we do. They make it possible to meet the challenges of adventure travel, and help create lasting memories and lifelong friendships... we can confidently say our guides are the best in the business.





Why take this trip with us?

REASON 1

MT Sobek has been leading adventure travelers in Peru for more than 40 years, working with professional local guides who are Salkantay Trail experts.

REASON 2

Our popular lodge-to-lodge itinerary takes you on a spectacular trek past snowcapped peaks, turquoise lakes, and lush semi-tropical forests and was selected as one of National Geographic Traveler's "Tours of a Lifetime."

REASON 3

Leave the crowds and vehicles behind! Journey exclusively on foot for five days while enjoying the nightly comfort and warm hospitality of tiny remote lodges in spectacular settings under the stars.

At A Glance

ACTIVITIES

Moderate to strenuous high-altitude hiking from 3 to 8 hours a day, following the Salkantay Trail.



LODGING

Nightly stays in comfortable, well-appointed lodges, adobe casitas, and luxurious hotels - no camping required.



CLIMATE

April through October expect to see mostly sunny days followed by cooler nights and the possibility of morning frost. In December expect periodic showers.



KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

"What a total comfort to know that with MT Sobek, you're in the hands of professionals who have been doing it so long and so well. That was part of why we landed on them as our operators for our dream trip, and everything about the experience they gave us—from tailored expertise to unswerving professionalism—confirmed the company's emphasis on excellence." - Alex M.



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The Epic Less-Traveled Trail to Machu Picchu

Experience Peru's most famous sites on this memorable 10-day adventure. Your trip begins and ends in Cusco, a timeless town dominated by the fine stonework of ancient craftsmen and the evocative remnants of the Inca Empire. Journey lodge to lodge along the lightly traveled Salkantay Trail through the Cordillera Vilcabamba, the magnificent Andean Mountain range. After days of hiking amid sparkling glaciers, azure lakes, dreamy cloud forests, and snow-capped peaks, enjoy ample time to explore Peru's star attraction: Machu Picchu, whose mystical ruins and misty peaks have lured humankind for centuries.

10 Days

Start: Cusco, Peru

End: Cusco, Peru

Departing: May, June, July, August, September, October, December

Activities: Hiking & Trekking, Cultural Discovery

Lodging: Comfortable Hotels, Luxury Hotels

Group Size: 4-12 Guests

ACTIVITY:



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"This is a luxury trip in every meaning of the word. It is a once in a lifetime experience. The Andes are amazingly beautiful. The trip was meticulously planned and executed. The lodges and food were amazing and the guides were knowledgeable. MT Sobek staff at all levels did a fantastic job."

- Eyad N.

The Itinerary

DAY
01

Arrive in Cusco

Meet your MT Sobek representative at the airport in Cusco and transfer to your hotel. Enjoy an early afternoon guided walk through the enchanting former capital of the Inca Empire, taking in its ornate cathedrals, adobe walls, carved balconies, hidden courtyards, and cobblestone streets. Also stroll around the central square, where artisans display many fine Quechuan handicrafts. This evening, gather for a pre-trek orientation, followed by a welcome dinner at one of the many fine restaurants in town.

ACCOMMODATION: Palacio del Inka

MEALS: Dinner

DAY
02

Journey to Salkantay Lodge

After an early breakfast, your 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 comes a scenic ride on a winding mountain road to Challacancha. Here you will begin your hike along a picturesque path called the "Camino Real" (Royal Path), to the Salkantay Lodge at Soraypampa.

Note: Although we highly recommend participating in the hike as part of your continued altitude acclimatization, those who prefer to continue in the van to the lodge are welcome to do so.

ACCOMMODATION: Salkantay Lodge

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 3-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 2.5 hours/4 miles hiking with 1,200' elevation gain



Hike to Humantay Lake

After breakfast, begin an invigorating morning hike, following a trail that ascends steeply to Humantay Lake, at 13,780 ft above sea level. As you ascend, marvel at ever-closer views of the high Vilcabamba Range, capped by the Salkantay and Humantay peaks. An hour and a half later, your hard work will be rewarded with a first glimpse of the lake's glistening turquoise waters and the Humantay glacier looming overhead. Upon arrival, you will have a chance to relax, enjoy a snack, and enjoy the tranquility of this magical spot, and participate in a traditional ceremony to honor "la Pachamama" (Mother Earth). After your descent back to the lodge, a hot lunch awaits you. The afternoon is at leisure to relax, enjoy a massage, or take a soothing soak in the outdoor Jacuzzi. Enjoy spectacular views of the Salkantay Peak at sunset. Meet up in the evening for a briefing and savor a hearty dinner.

Note: While the morning hike to Lake Humantay is optional, we strongly recommend your participation in preparation for the strenuous hike on Day 4.

ACCOMMODATION: Salkantay Lodge

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 4 hours/3.8 miles hiking with 1,430' elevation gain and loss



Trek over Salkantay Pass to Wayra Lodge

Today your trek towards Machu Picchu begins in earnest. Pack some hearty snacks provided by the lodge to enjoy en route, then start early on an ascent to the Salkantay Pass. You will circle Humantay Peak, gradually making your way along expansive plateaus connected by enormous boulders, remnants of the Rio Blanco Valley that was once bisected by a fast-flowing river. The last and most challenging part of the ascent is conquering the mountain switchbacks that lead you to the pass, the highest point on the trek (15,213'). Pause a moment in the thin air and take in the views of the surrounding Vilcabamba Range. The journey continues with a dramatic descent through fields of large boulders and natural stone formations often shrouded in fog, and then through rolling hills and marsh-like plateaus to the Wayra Lodge at Wayracmachay. Enjoy a very welcome hot lunch on arrival at the lodge, where you can later wash away the trail dirt and relax in the Jacuzzi.

ACCOMMODATION: Wayra Lodge

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 7 hours/7.6 miles hiking with 2,630' elevation gain & 2,480' elevation loss



Hike in Dramatic Cloud Forest Scenery to Colpa Lodge

After a leisurely breakfast at Wayra Lodge, continue the descent toward the cloud forest along the banks of the Salkantay River, through increasingly verdant scenery down to the Collpapampa Valley. The warm air will begin to rise from the edge of the jungle, accompanied by colorful butterflies and striking orchids. Today you will see more local Andean people as the trail takes you past their homes. At approximately midday, arrive at Colpa Lodge, located on a high promontory at the confluence of three rivers. Enjoy a *Pachamanca*-style lunch, a traditional Peruvian meal cooked below ground with hot stones that create a natural oven. Spend the afternoon lounging in the sun or relaxing in the outdoor hot tub while you take in the panoramic views of the lush green mountains that surround you.

ACCOMMODATION: Colpa Lodge

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 4 hours/5.6 miles hiking with 3,490' elevation loss



Follow the Santa Teresa River Valley to Lucma Lodge

After an early breakfast, continue downhill, hiking through the Santa Teresa River Valley along a rolling trail or road (depending on conditions) that winds past tropical fruit orchards and bisects several streams originating from glacier-fed waterfalls. At the end of the morning, meet a transport vehicle for the short drive to the bottom of the Llactapata Inca Trail steps. Take a short climb up the steps to Lucma Lodge, hidden away in a wooded tropical enclave. Enjoy lunch on arrival at the lodge. This afternoon, visit an organic coffee plantation, one of many in the area that produce some of the best organic coffees in the world. You will also begin to notice another shift in the climate; in Lucmabamba the hot air and increased humidity signal that you are even closer to the edge of the Amazon jungle.

ACCOMMODATION: Lucma Lodge

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 6-7 hours/8-10 miles hiking with 3,350' elevation loss and 935' elevation gain



Final Trek to Aguas Calientes with First Views of Machu Picchu

Begin the final day of your trek by climbing 2-3 hours through the cloud forest up a path mostly comprised of original Inca steps. A lush tree line creates green canopies overhead and the constant sound of rushing water suggests that the river is nearby. Your first milestone today will be the top of the peak, the last one before you descend to the Aobamba River Valley that connects you to Machu Picchu. Upon arrival at Llactapata Pass (8,974'), you'll get your first glimpse of Machu Picchu off in the distance - a southeast view of the site that few travelers ever get to see. Continue on to Llactapata ruins, a recently rediscovered Inca fort that vegetation is starting to reclaim, before enjoying a picnic lunch at a mountain lookout point with panoramic views. Begin your final steep descent along a trail that zigzags down to the roaring Aobamba River, through lush bamboo forests, varied fruit orchards, and more coffee plantations. Celebrate as you cross the bridge over the river and take your final steps of the trek en route to the Hidroelectrica train station for a scenic, one-hour train ride to the town of Aguas Calientes, on the banks of the Urubamba River at the base of Machu Picchu.

ACCOMMODATION: Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1-hour train ride

ACTIVITY: 6 hours/7.5 miles hiking with 2,360' elevation gain & 3,460' elevation loss

DAY 08

Explore Machu Picchu

Discover the secrets of Machu Picchu, the "Lost City of the Incas," with a full-day visit. Your journey to the site begins with a rollicking uphill bus ride on a switchback road. Take your time exploring the vast city that was once at the heart of one of the world's most powerful empires. The landscape here is stunning, with orchids on the grounds and a massive cliff face known as Huayna Picchu towering overhead. Take a challenging climb up either Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain (optional and based on availability for the date) and be rewarded by breathtaking views of the citadel and the surrounding mountains. Enjoy lunch at the Sanctuary Lodge, and learn the significance of the many temples, sanctuaries, and parks on a tour of the Machu Picchu citadel's three sections: the Sacred District, the Popular District, and the District of Priests and Nobility. Return to the hotel in Aguas Calientes in the late afternoon, and enjoy dinner at the hotel.

ACCOMMODATION: Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 30-minute shared shuttle each way to Machu Picchu

ACTIVITY: 3 hours guided walking tour of Machu Picchu, plus 2-3 hours/2 miles optional hiking with 1,000'-2,000' elevation gain and loss





Return to Cusco

Take the morning train from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo. Ollantaytambo is the site of a monumental fortress that was one of the few places where the Inca Empire won a major battle against the Spanish, and the town below retains fascinating vestiges of Incan town planning. Explore both the well-preserved ruins and the town, and enjoy a special lunch before continuing by bus back to Cusco for a mid-afternoon arrival, in time to take a stroll or do some last-minute shopping. Gather for a farewell dinner in Cusco this evening.

ACCOMMODATION: Palacio del Inka

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1.5-hour train ride & 1.5-hour vehicle transfer



Depart from Cusco

After breakfast at the hotel and a leisurely morning, depart on homeward-bound flights. If you're traveling on one of our late June departures, we recommend that you extend your stay to enjoy the pageantry of the spectacular Inti Raymi festival, a colorful celebration of the winter solstice. Call us for details.

MEALS: Breakfast



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Palacio del Inka

Housed in a 500-year-old mansion, the exquisite Palacio del Inka is located in the historic center of Cusco, just a five-minute walk from the main square. The rooms are beautifully appointed, decorated with Peruvian art, handcrafted furnishings and modern conveniences and comforts, such as LED TV, high-speed Internet access, and comfortable beds.

Salkantay Lodge

Nestled in the Andean valley of Soraypampa, Salkantay Lodge is designed as a harmonious blend of nature and comfort. The lodge has 12 guest rooms with private facilities, an expansive living area and bar, and a separate dining room. Enjoy mountain views from the large outside Jacuzzi and star gaze around the fire pit at night.

Wayra Lodge

This charming lodge with six lovely guestrooms is managed with care by a local family, giving it the feeling of a private mountain home. Feast on Peruvian fare cooked in the kitchen's impressive wood oven and enjoy candlelit dinners at night. Take a welcome dip in the courtyard Jacuzzi, and admire views of the mountains and cloud forest.



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Collpa Lodge

Perched on a bluff across from a local village, this adobe lodge has lovely views of green hills and rolling fields. Relax in one of the six guestrooms or the large public areas that open onto the grass. While you're there, take a tour of the orchid garden and unwind in the relaxing outdoor Jacuzzi.

Lucma Lodge

Located at the head of the Inca trail, this elegant lodge sits amid avocado and coffee orchards and has six comfortable rooms with private bathrooms. Soak in the outdoor Jacuzzi or relax in the large circular living room. The walls of windows in the sitting area and dining room showcase the grandeur of the rainforest.

Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

A village in its own right, Inkaterra Machu Picchu comprises 83 whitewashed casitas set among 12 acres of cloud forest complete with terraced hills, waterfalls, and lush gardens. The individual casitas feature inviting beds and rustically elegant decor. Diners in the first-class restaurant can indulge in Peruvian cuisine with a modern twist, while admiring views over the Vilcanota River.

Departure Dates

This trip is available to run in: May, June, July, August, September, October, December

Book early for a greater choice of available dates.

Once you book, your price is GUARANTEED!

May 15-24, 2025

May 30-June 8, 2025

June 13-22, 2025

June 29-July 8, 2025

August 1-10, 2025

September 5-14, 2025

September 26-October 5, 2025

October 3-12, 2025

October 17-26, 2025

May 15-24, 2026

May 29-June 7, 2026

June 12-21, 2026

June 26-July 5, 2026

July 3-12, 2026

August 14-23, 2026

September 4-13, 2026

September 11-20, 2026

September 25-October 4, 2026

October 2-11, 2026

What's Included

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses



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