

9-DAY ADVENTURE

INCA TRAIL & FESTIVAL OF THE SUN

Peru

With over 12 years of experience providing memorable experiences on the ancient Incan trails, you are in safe hands with our experienced Peruvian team. Lead by our knowledgeable manager, Jose, our local staff are our priority and we ensure their welfare needs are aptly met, meaning they can focus their skills on making your trip a fantastic experience. When you trek with Kandoo Adventures, you may also rest in the knowledge that your trip is fully carbon offset as standard.

The most well-known of all the trekking routes to Machu Picchu, the Inca Trail is the original pilgrimage route to this most sacred temple. As well as soaking up the local culture, these first two days in Cuzco will also help your body to acclimatise before you begin the trek itself.

Starting at the KM 82m, the trek to Machu Picchu provides a combination of mountain scenery and archaeological sites. We trek for 4 days, crossing Dead Woman's Pass 4200m on the second day, before arriving at Machu Picchu through the Sun Gate.

Access to this route is restricted by permits to 500 people per day, which includes all the guides and porters. All permits go on sale in October and dates in the high season sell out on the first day. The earlier you can book your trek, the better chance we have of securing your permit.

Our Festival Of The Sun departure includes an extra nights accommodation in Cuzco after your trek, transport and guide for the festival and grandstand tickets so you don't miss a thing!

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Trek through the Andes up to 4200m
- Arrive at the Sun Gate at sunrise
- Experience the Festival of the Sun

- Trip fully carbon offset as standard



ITINERARY

DAY 1

ARRIVE IN CUZCO

All trekkers need to organise their own flights to Cuzco Airport (CUZ). From the airport we will arrange an airport transfer for you to our hotel in Cuzco.

Max. altitude: **3400 m**

Accommodation: **Hotel**

DAY 2

ACCLIMATISATION IN CUZCO

To help your acclimatisation we will spend a day in Cuzco. In the morning your guide will collect you from your hotel to take you on a half day city walking tour. Cuzco was once the foremost city of the Inca empire, and is the continent's oldest continuously inhabited city. At the heart of the city is the Plaza de Armas. Colonial arcades surround the plaza, while alleyways leading away from the plaza are bordered by Inca walls. On the plaza's northeastern side is the imposing Cathedral, flanked by the churches of Jesus Maria and El Triunfo. On the southeastern edge is the ornate church of La Compania de Jesus.

Max. altitude: **3400 m**

Accommodation: **Hotel**

Meals included: **Breakfast**

You will have the afternoon free to rest or explore this beautiful city. This evening you will meet your Kandoo guide and have a full pre-trek briefing.

DAY 3

CUZCO – CHALLAKANCHA – SALKANTAYPAMPA

We will pick you up from your hotel very early and leave by private transport to Mollepata (2800m), stopping for panoramic views of the Apurimac Valley, where you can take a break and have something to eat in a typical restaurant. After that we will drive for a further hour until we reach the trailhead at Challakancha (3400m). There we will start trekking to Soraypampa (3800m), where we will stop for lunch and meet our arrieros (horsemen) and trekking staff. After lunch, we will continue hiking for another 2½ hrs until we will arrive at our first campsite, Salkantaypampa (4000m).

Hiking time: **6 - 7 hours**

Ascent: **600 m**

Max. altitude: **4000 m**

Accommodation: **Camping**

Meals included:

Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

DAY 4

SALKANTAYPAMPA – HUAYRAQMACHAY – COLLAPAMPA

At the start of the second day we ascend to the highest point of our trek, the Salkantay Pass (4600m) from where we can enjoy the views of Mount Salkantay, a stunning snow-capped mountain (6271m). A further 3 hours walking with spectacular views of the mountains Humantay and Huayanay will bring us to our lunch site, Huayraqmachay (3700m). We then descend for 3½ hrs until we reach our second campsite, Collpapampa.

Hiking time: **8 - 9 hours**

Ascent: **600 m**

Descent: **1700 m**

Max. altitude: **4600 m**

Accommodation: **Camping**

Meals included:

Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

DAY 5

COLLPAPAMPA – LUCMABAMBA

On the third day of the trek, we will walk for 7-8 hrs downhill at a steady rate moving into the jungle zone at Ceja de Selva where coffee, coca and fruit plantations can be seen. If we have time you can stop to shower in a waterfall here and with luck can see the famous Peruvian National Bird "Gallito de las Rocas". We arrive at our third campsite, Lucmabamba, in time for lunch. This campsite is located in a coffee farm and in the afternoon we can watch a coffee demonstration and you will be able to taste the best coffee in Peru! There is also an option to visit the hot springs in Cocalmayo.

Hiking time: **6 - 7 hours**

Descent: **800 m**

Max. altitude: **2900 m**

Accommodation: **Camping**

Meals included:

Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

DAY 6

LUCMABAMBA – LLACTAPATA – HIDROELECTRICA – AGUA CALIENTES

After breakfast, we walk for about 4 hrs until we reach the archaeological site of Llactapata. From here we can see the Lost City of Machu Picchu in the distance. Then we walk for 2 hours downhill to the Hydro-Electric station where we will have our last camping lunch. We then continue walking for a further two and a half hours following the railway to Agua Calientes where you stay in a hotel for the night.

Transport: **Train**

Hiking time: **8 - 9 hours**

Descent: **50 m**

Max. altitude: **2100 m**

Accommodation: **Hotel**

Meals included: **Breakfast**

DAY 7

MACHU PICCHU – CUZCO

An early start to take the bus to the Citadel of Machu Picchu where you will have a guided tour for around 2½ to 3 hours. There is also the option of climbing Huayna Picchu, the mountain behind Machu Picchu, but you must book your permit in advance. After the tour of the ruins we will take the bus down to Agua Calientes where you will catch the train to Ollantaytambo to be met by our driver who will take you back to your hotel in Cuzco.

Transport: **Bus**

Accommodation: **Hotel**

Meals included: **Breakfast**

DAY 8

INTI RAYMI FESTIVAL

We will pick you up early so that you can experience as much as possible of this spectacular festival. Inti Raymi originates from the days of the Incan empire, celebrating the winter solstice in the southern hemisphere and the official Incan New Year. The ceremony honours the Inca god of the sun 'Inti' and his wife, the goddess of earth 'Pachamama', to ensure good harvests for the year.

The festivities begin at Koricancha, the square in front of the Santo Domingo church that was built over the ancient Temple of the Sun. With the arrival of representatives from the four suyos of the Inca Empire (Qollasuyu, Kuntisuyu, Antisuyu y Chinchaysuyu), the Sapa Inca opens the festivities with invoking praise to the sun god - Inti. Sapa Inca is carried in procession with his Queen through Cuzco, accompanied by musicians, dancers, high priests, officials of the court. We will make our way to the Plaza de Armas where a ceremonial reading of the sacred coca leaf takes place. While the royal entourage proceeds on foot to the archaeological site Sacsayhuman, we will travel by private vehicle, arriving in plenty of time to take our reserved seats in the grandstand before the main ceremony continues. The highlight of the Inti Raymi is in the oration given by the Sapa Inca and the high priest in the original language of the Incas, Quechua. After the festival, we will transfer you back to your hotel in Cuzco. The festivities continue into the evening, with live concerts staged in the Plaza de Armas.

Transport: **Private transfer**

Accommodation: **Hotel**

Meals included: **Breakfast**

DAY 9

DEPART CUZCO

We will collect you from your hotel and transfer you to Cuzco Airport for your departing flight.

Transport: **Private transfer**

Meals included: **Breakfast**

PLEASE NOTE

Please note that due to restricted availability at campsites, your itinerary may be different to the one shown. The start and end points will still be the same, however some campsites and distances may change. Please speak to a member of the team if you would like more information.

TRIP INFORMATION

DIFFICULTY

If you are used to **multi-day hiking** with ascents and descents each day then the Inca trail is well within your ability. You need to bear in mind that even though the paths are generally good there are a huge number of steps to tackle. And you will be trekking at altitude which in itself is a challenge.

Most Inca Trail treks begin at Cusco, which, at 3,400 metres, is already considerably higher than Machu Picchu. By staying there prior to your trek, you will give your body time to acclimatize to the Inca Trail altitude. The Inca Trail altitude varies greatly throughout the trek and your body will notice the differences, especially at the higher points.

The second day is the toughest on the Inca Trail as it is spent hiking up and over Dead Woman's Pass at 4,200 metres. Your body will almost certainly feel the effects of the altitude here as the air is providing less oxygen than your body is used to. You do not spend long at this altitude and the rest of the day is spent descending down to 3,850 metres where you camp at Pacamayo.

FOOD & DRINK

Staying well-fed on your trek is absolutely vital, especially when conditions are such that you might not want to eat or drink as much as you should.

Because so many trekkers experience a loss of appetite at altitude, our head chef has developed special menu plans that are appealing, healthy, and filled with all the energy you need to make it to Machu Picchu. By default, our meals include fresh fruit and vegetables every day, as well as fresh meat and fish.

BREAKFAST

Breakfast is usually fairly hearty. Of course, you'll also have hot drinks, generally a choice of tea, coffee or hot chocolate. Let your guide know if you are still hungry, or even if you think you could 'pack in a few more bites'. Our cooks always try to provide more food than necessary to ensure everyone gets a good meal.

LUNCH

We stop for a hot lunch, freshly prepared by our cook.

AFTERNOON TEA

Afternoon Tea is served at the end of the days walking, once you get to camp. In addition to tea and other hot drinks, there are plenty of snacks to help restore some of the energy you've just burned off.

DINNER

Dinners are quite filling. They usually begin with a nice hearty soup, and then a main course with fresh vegetables, and plenty of rice, pasta or potatoes, followed by a yummy dessert.

DRINKING WATER

On the trek, we filter and boil all the water that we give to you for drinking. You may wish to bring purification tablets as an extra precaution but they are not essential. Every morning we will fill up your water bottles or hydration bladder with at least 2 litres of water.

COCA TEA

Coca tea is thought to help relieve the symptoms of altitude sickness. In Cuzco, all the hotels have dried leaves and hot water available throughout the day so you can make your own tea whenever you wish. On the trek we will take coca leaf tea bags for you.

ACCOMMODATION

We use only the very best **high altitude mountain tents**, Eureka K-2 XT, to ensure you stay warm, dry and comfortable on your Inca Trail trek. Please bear in mind, these are proper mountain tents, designed to cope with extreme conditions so don't expect to be able to stand up and walk around inside!

Your meals will be taken in a **separate mess tent** where you will be able to sit comfortably, while you relax and chat to your team mates and enjoy the wholesome food that our cook has freshly prepared for you. Inside, you'll be pleased to find a table (of course) and a proper, comfortable chair. With a full 2 metres of headroom, even the tallest climbers will be able to stretch a bit, and move about without hunching over. They are fully waterproof, and regularly withstand the worst weather the Andes has to offer.

The hotels in we use in Peru all have western, flushing toilets. Whilst on the trek the toilet situation will be a little less luxurious. At camp each evening we will set up a **toilet tent**. This is a simple facility that provides a little privacy and comfort whilst on the trail. The toilet tent will contain a portable, sit down toilet. Whilst trekking, if you need to go you will have to find somewhere hidden, off the path and go wild. There's plenty of places to hide in the Peruvian forests!

Our pre- and post-trek accommodation is based in Cuzco, with an additional night in the Sacred Valley. Where your hotel basis is B&B, you can usually purchase snacks or meals at the hotel, which can be paid in Peruvian Sols, or often in US Dollars. Alternatively, there are plenty of restaurants in Cuzco within walking distance of your hotel.

TRANSPORT

We insist on using a **high standard of vehicle and driver** for all of our transfers. In Peru it is not a legal requirement to have seatbelts fitted in the back of vehicles, and while we try to use vehicles that do have rear seatbelts fitted, this cannot always be guaranteed. If you are unhappy about any aspect of the vehicle or the standard of driving, please speak to the driver or our local office immediately.

LUGGAGE

Bag weight: 7kg

Kandoo Adventures operates a **strict limit of 7kg** for your main equipment bag. This limit includes your sleeping bag, even if it is rented from us. This is more than sufficient for your needs on the trek. Your bag will be weighed before you leave the hotel to start the trek and if it is overweight you will have to take items out and leave them at the hotel.

It is much easier for our porters if you bring a lightweight holdall or duffle bag for them to carry, and not a large rucksack. You can hire one from us if required.

HOW DO I GET THERE?

There are several good ways to get to Cuzco from the UK. The first is to fly KLM to Lima with a stopover in Amsterdam. The second is to fly with Air France who offer flights to Lima via Paris, or alternatively you can use Iberia who fly to Lima via Madrid. From Lima you will have to get a domestic flight to Cuzco. Domestic airlines include LATAM, Avianca, Star Peru or Peruvian Air. We recommend flying with LATAM as their planes have the capability to land in the foggy conditions that can affect Cuzco and Lima. Most flights from Europe land in the evening, local time. Most flights for Cuzco don't leave until the morning, so if you don't fancy loitering in the airport all night (which we do not recommend), you'll need an overnight stay in Lima.

Trekkers starting off in North America have a much wider set of options. American Airlines and US Airways both offer flights into Lima, as do several other carriers. In addition to existing security measures at international airports, passengers MAY be required to show that the electronic devices in their hand luggage are charged up. You may therefore be asked to turn on any electronic devices such as mobile phones, tablets, e-books and laptops in front of the security team and/or demonstrate the item's functionality. We recommend that any electronic devices that you are carrying in your hand luggage are fully charged before you travel. If you have any further questions then you should check with your departure airport.

If you are changing airlines or re-checking your luggage at an airport on route, please ensure you leave a minimum of 3 hours between flights. This will account for any delays on arrival, travel time across airports (this can take longer than you think) and time taken to re-check baggage.

Travelling Responsibly

Here at Kandoo, we like to support our guests to make their travel more sustainable. As of 2025, we are offsetting the carbon on all of our trips from arrival in destination to dropping you back off at the airport. As we don't include flight travel in our trips these aren't included in our offsetting calculations, so we are providing you with the calculator below for you to do this yourselves.

[eCO2 Flights Calculator](#)

BUDGET & CHANGE

The **Peruvian Sol** can be purchased in advance, although US Dollars are also widely accepted in larger establishments. If you want to change money when you arrive we can take you to an ATM or foreign exchange bureau. When changing money, request small denominations (10's, 20's and 50's) as the larger notes can be hard to spend. If you withdraw money from an ATM, you are likely to receive 100 sol notes. Peru is generally still a cash society, particularly whilst you are travelling through the smaller villages and towns it is worth having enough cash with you for personal expenses. ATMs will also not be available in these areas so ensure you have exchanged enough money whilst in Cuzco, before leaving on your trek. If you are relying on a credit or debit card for emergency funds, make sure you tell your card issuer that you will be using it abroad, or you may find that it won't work when you really need it.

In Cuzco, the cost of public transport is around 22p (33 cents) for a one-way ticket. If you prefer to travel by taxi, starting price is about £1.10 (US\$1.40) for a 1km ride. When eating out, a meal in a budget restaurant for 2 people is around £5 (US\$7) or a mid range restaurant (for 2 people) will cost around £22 (US\$28). For souvenirs to take home, we recommend budgeting around £40 (US\$50) which should get you plenty of little gifts. If you wish to buy a big blanket or poncho then budgeting a little more would be worthwhile.

Our recommended guidance for spending budget in Peru would be between £80-100 (\$100-125) on top of your tips, to give you ample souvenir and meals out spending money.

TIPS

We realize that tipping may not be a common practice in all countries but for Peru it is a standard practice that all operators support. The decision on how much to tip should be determined by how well the team served you while you were on the trek. Tips are always discretionary and if you are not happy with the service you have received you do not have to pay tips. Tips can be made in US dollars or Peruvian Sols. It is very important that US bills be new (less than 10 years old), crisp and unturned.

Recommended tips per trekker for entire trip:

Lead guide: \$100

Assistant Guide: \$60

Cook: \$36

Assistant Cook: \$27

Porters (amount per porter): \$18

Different crew members will be with you for different stages of your trip to Peru:

- Your guide/s will be with you every day in Peru.
- Your cook/s and porters will be with you while you are on the trek itself (The number of porters will differ depending on group size. You will be given this information three weeks before departure)
- An assistant guide and cook will only be necessary for larger groups (You will be given this information three weeks before departure)

We say goodbye to our porters in Winay Wayna before we visit Machu Picchu. Any tips that you wish to give to the porters will need to be carried on the trek with you.

FORMALITIES & HEALTH

PASSPORT

Please double check that your passport is valid for 6 months beyond the date of arrival in Peru. We recommend that you take a photocopy of your passport and keep it separate from the original, and this will be useful if the original is lost while you are travelling.

VISA

Most visitors (including nationals from the UK, Europe, USA and Australia) do not require a visa to enter Peru, and will be granted a 183 day stay. You will need at least two blank visa pages in your passport. Certain nationalities not mentioned above must apply for a visa in advance, so check with your local Peruvian Embassy.

Chinese and Indian nationals may enter Peru without a visa if they have a UK, Canada, Australia, Schengen or US visa valid for a minimum of 6 months at the time of entry to Peru.

VACCINATIONS

The standard vaccinations required for Peru are diphtheria, tetanus, typhoid and hepatitis A, but you should always consult your doctor or travel clinic for the most up to date advice. Yellow Fever is recommended for some areas of Peru, which includes the Amazon basin.

INSURANCE

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are fully and adequately insured for the duration of your trip. Please ensure that all activities, excursions and destinations in your itinerary are included in your travel insurance policy, in addition to your regular cover for cancellation and medical expenses. Most of our treks in Peru do not exceed 4700m with the exception of the Ausangate Trek which will reach 5200m. If you are only doing the Short Inca trail your trek will not exceed 3500m. Please ensure that your insurance policy covers you for trekking at these altitudes.

We ask that you keep a copy of your policy summary (containing policy number and the emergency contact number for your insurer) in your day sack at all times, so that we can access this information should we need to contact the insurer on your behalf.

HEALTH

Altitude Sickness

Altitude sickness, called soroche in Peru and also known as Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) or hypobaropathy, is an illness caused by exposure to low air pressure, especially low partial pressure of oxygen, which many climbers experience at high altitudes. AMS is caused by exerting yourself at high altitudes, especially if you have not been properly acclimatised. It is most common at altitudes above 2400 metres. Our routes have been designed to aid your acclimatisation wherever possible, but the following will also help your body adjust:

Slow and steady. You need to keep your respiration rate low enough to maintain a normal conversation. If you are panting or breathing hard, you must slow down. There is no pressure on you to keep up with other members of your group.

Drink much more water than you think you need. Proper hydration helps acclimatisation dramatically. You need to drink at least three litres each day.

Diamox

There has been a lot of research on Diamox that shows that it has been reasonably well proven to be helpful in avoiding AMS by speeding up the acclimatisation process. In the UK it is a prescription drug which must be prescribed by a doctor, but some doctors are reluctant to prescribe it. The concern is that by taking Diamox, people believe that they are immune from AMS and can ignore the symptoms. In reality, although Diamox can help prevent the symptoms, should symptoms still develop it means that you are not acclimatising and you have to take notice. Diamox is taken before you start trekking to prevent altitude sickness, not once you are on the mountain and symptoms have developed.

Malaria

There is no risk of malaria in Cuzco or on the Inca Trail due to the altitude. However, there is a risk of malaria in rural areas of Peru below 2,000m. This would include Tambopata National Park, so if you are planning an extension to the Amazon Rainforest, you need to plan anti-malarial medication for this part of your trip. In addition to taking medication, we would recommend you take every precaution to prevent mosquito bites by wearing long-sleeved trousers and shirts at dusk and dawn when the mosquitos are active, and by using a DEET based mosquito repellent. If you are planning on taking Diamox, please let your doctor know, as daily malaria tablets taken alongside Diamox can cause an upset stomach and nausea. A weekly malaria tablet may be a better option, but you would need to discuss this with your doctor.

Dehydration

You can easily become dehydrated at high altitudes. The lower air pressure forces you to breathe more quickly and deeply, and you lose a lot of water through your lungs. You will also be exerting yourself, and sweating, and may even suffer from diarrhoea. As a result, you will have to drink much more water than you normally would and you should drink at least 3 litres of fluids every day while climbing. Even when you do not feel thirsty you have to drink this amount as a minimum preferably more. Stay on the look-out for signs of dehydration in yourself and your fellow climbers. The most common symptoms include thirst, dry lips, nose or mouth, headache and feeling fatigued or lethargic.

EQUIPMENT & CLOTHING

EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED BY KANDOO ADVENTURES

High quality mess and sleeping tents with a comfortable insulated sleeping mat.

RENTAL GEAR

If you've decided to rent gear, then below is a list of equipment available. Just let our team know what you'd like to hire at your Pre-Trek Briefing.

All payments are made locally in US Dollars (cash only):

North Face 0° Sleeping Bags \$15 per trek

Trekking Poles \$10 per trek

Duffle Bag \$5 per trek

All items must be packed in your main equipment bag.

They should not be attached to the outside, as we are not responsible if items fall off when the bags are being carried on the trek. The sleeping bags weigh approximately 2kg each

CLOTHING TO BRING

HEADGEAR

- Warm beanie style hat – knitted or fleece
- Neck gaiter or scarf - comes in useful for keeping dust out and can double as a warm layer for your neck / face!
- Sun hat – preferably wide-brimmed for protection
- Sunglasses – high UV protection
- Headlamp (plus extra batteries)

UPPER BODY

- Thermal or fleece base layer (x1)
- Long sleeve shirt/tshirt – light or medium weight, moisture wicking (x 1)
- Short sleeved shirt/tshirt – lightweight, moisture wicking (x2)
- Fleece or soft shell jacket (x1)
- Insulated jacket – down or primaloft
- Lightweight water/windproof hard shell outer jacket
- Poncho – a cheap plastic poncho is the best way to cope with a sudden downpour
- Gloves – lightweight, fleece or quick drying fabric

LEGS

- Trekking shorts (x1)
- Trekking trousers – light or medium weight (x1) – convertible trousers work well
- Waterproof hard shell trousers – ski pants work fine

FEET

- Trekking boots – mid weight with good ankle support
- Training shoe or similar – to wear around camp
- Mid-weight trekking socks (x3 pairs)
- Breathable, high-wicking liner socks (x2 pairs)

EQUIPMENT TO BRING

- Small Rucksack or Daypack (25-30 litres) to carry water and personal items
- Lightweight duffle bag (approx 50 litres) – max weight when full should be 7kg. This weight restriction includes your sleeping bag, whether you brought one with you or rented one from us. Your duffle will be carried by a porter
- Sleeping bag (3 season or 0 Deg C) and compression sack
- Trekking poles with rubber tips
- Water bottle or hydration bag – must be able to carry 1.5-2L of water

OTHER ACCESSORIES

- Sunscreen high SPF
- Toiletries, **including toilet paper**, wet wipes and hand sanitiser – please carry all rubbish back off the trek
- Camera and spare batteries
- Personal medication and first aid kit
- Insect repellent – ideally contains DEET
- Personal snacks and energy bars – dried fruit and nuts are also a good source of energy
- Isotonic drink powder / energy drink powder to mix in with your water. This improves flavour and helps replace electrolytes
- Microfibre towel for wiping hands and face each day
- Ear plugs, if you are a light sleeper
- Pee bottle, if you prefer not leaving the tent at night
- Dry bag (only required if your main duffle bag is not waterproof)

HOW TO BOOK THIS TRIP

1 CHOOSE YOUR DATE AND CHECK AVAILABILITY

A full list of available dates can be found on our website.

2 CONTACT US

Contact us by phone, email or through our website. We will answer any questions you may have and send you a personalized itinerary and quote.

3 COMPLETE BOOKING AND PAYMENT

When you are ready to book, we will send you a link to our online booking forms and participation agreements. We accept all major credit and debit cards and require a low 20% deposit to secure your place.

