



**Welcome to Andean Lodges, the best  
Lodge to Lodge hike in the Peruvian Andes**



**10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS: CUSCO AND ITS SACRED MOUNTAIN**

**AUSANGATE**  
Camino del Apu

[www.andeanlodges.com](http://www.andeanlodges.com)



Hiking at an average altitude of 4,600 meters above sea level requires a period of acclimatization. Thinking about your well-being and for you to better enjoy your experience, visiting Machu Picchu, the Sacred Valley and Southern Peru, Andean Lodges offers you a great opportunity to visit Cusco, in direct contact with its native cultures, as well as with its most important architectural, traditional and scenic expressions, in a special invitation, to discover our region in its fullness, while collaborating with our indigenous communities, through this program, while your body adapts to the high Andes' altitude.



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#### FOLLOW US ON:





# ITINERARY

## DAY 1: FLIGHT TO CUSCO + CITY TOUR

Upon your arrival to Cusco's airport, a member of our team will be waiting for you to welcome you, and show you to your hotel.

In the afternoon, one of our guides will pick you up to take you on your first guided tour of the city starting at Sacsayhuaman. This is one of the most impressive archeological site in the area due to its megalithic structures. Later, we will show you around the Main Square, and take you into Cusco's cathedral which has over 300 paintings from the Cusqueñean School of art decorating its historical stone walls.

Our final stop of the day will be at the center of the Inca Empire known as The Golden Temple or, by its Quechua name, La Koricacha. This impressive title refers back to the days of the Inca rule where the walls of this timeless structure were coated in golden plates. When the Spanish arrived however; the unimaginable amount of gold was melted down and made into "Escudos" (the Spanish currency of the time) to be taken back to Spain. And atop the Inca temple was built Santo Domingo Convent and church, a stunning baroque style construction that reminds us to this day of the imposed dominance of the Europeans over the Americans.

**Overnight stay:** Cusco



## DAY 2: SACRED VALLEY

For the Incas and their descendants, the Urubamba or Vilcanota River brought and still brings fertility to the earth. This river has its source in the high mountains, Southeast of Cusco, and is perceived as a sacred being. Surrounding the river is an extremely fertile valley we now call the Sacred Valley of the Incas, where several important Inca architectural complexes are located.

The bus ride over the ridge will allow us breathtaking views of snowcapped Veronica and Chicon Mountain with a backdrop of the Vilcanota range.

Our first stop will be at the Inca agricultural laboratory of Moray. Here, The Incas did researched on how to adapt plants from higher to lower ecosystems and vice versa.

Next up is Maras, a beautiful colonial town and salt mine which has been exploited artisanally since Inca times. After our visit of the salt mines we will take a beautiful hour long walk to the Restaurant for lunch.

Finally, in the Afternoon, we will visit Ollantaytambo, which is considered the Last Living Incan Village in the Sacred Valley. Above the town are Inca temples and other finely built architectural structures erected during the Imperial Period. We will have plenty of time to visit this magnificent site where General Ollanta challenge the colossal power of Inca Pachakuteq.

In the same area, there are many smaller Incan architectural complexes and archaeological sites.

**Overnight stay:** Cusco





### DAY 3: TRIP TO MACHU PICCHU

We will depart the hotel for the train station. The Poroy - Aguas Calientes route is one of the most spectacular train rides in the world. The rail line follows the Urubamba River through the cloud forest.

Once we arrive at the town at the base of Machupicchu, called Aguas Calientes, we will check into the hotel. Then, we will take a 30 minute bus ride up to the the world wonder.

Our expert guide will give an inspiring tour of the ancient citadel during the mid-evening hour to avoid the crowds and in order to enjoy the magic of the sunset

**Overnight stay:** Machu Pueblo (Aguas Calientes)

### DAY 4: MACHUPICCHU- OPTIONAL HIKES (SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY)

An extra day at Machupicchu will allow you to explore this otherworldly marvel with more depth.

During the day we will hike to the top of Machupicchu Mountain which gives us the perfect vantage point to gaze upon the surrounding sacred “Apus” (Salcantay, Pumasillo, and Huacyhuillca). On the hike up we will take plenty of breaks in order to rehydrate, and learn about the flora and fauna of this unique region.



After our hike we will head back down to the village on the bus and take the train back to Poroy where a member of our staff will be waiting to bring you back to Cusco.

**Overnight stay:** Cusco

## **DAY 5: VISIT TO HUANACAURE AND SAN PEDRO'S MARKET**

At 8:30 in the morning we will pick you up from the hotel and go in our private transportation to Paruro (Half an hour south of Cusco). Here we will take an uphill trail along a sand stone formation which is part of Huanacaure Mountain.

After a leisurely 45 minute uphill hike, we will reach the remains of the first Inca temple. Both of the most famous Inca legends describe this temple as a place of utmost importance in the founding of Cusco. The most famous legend tells the story of Manco Qhapaq, the first Inca, who sank a golden scepter into the ground here during the 12th century. This symbolized the discovery of the valley that would become the capital of the Inca state and; subsequently, the center of the largest empire ever known to the Americas.

In the afternoon, we will visit the Central Market, "a traditional hub where you can experience the rhythm of the day to day Cusqueño's life. Sold from open air stalls, you will find a grand variety of products. From Coca leaves to Rubber boots, frog legs to quinoa, and everything in between. These items are often sold for cash, but sometimes, they are bartered for.

**Overnight stay:** Cusco





## FROM DAY 6 TO DAY 10: AUSANGATE TREK

A five day breathtaking trek in the Cordillera Vilcanota, on a route we call the “Camino del Apu Ausangate” located in close proximity to the highest, sacred mountain in the Cusco region. The “Apu” is the bearer of life and the guardian of one of the most pristine mountain ecosystems in the world. Our treks will be accompanied by llamas and horses that carry our gear, which that are owned by the shepherds of the Chillca community whom are proud to share with us their land and the spirit of this inspiring world.

On our hikes and in our unique “Tambos” or Andean Lodges, daily meals will be prepared by experienced chefs, introducing you to a great variety of delicious Peruvian cuisine and produce. As for entertainment, authentic, vernacular music from members of the communities will accompany some of our nights in the "tambos."

This trek includes general organization, travel insurance, services of expert guides in high mountain trek, private transport to Chillca and back to Cusco, accomodation in double rooms, breakfast and dinner served in the lodges, snacks and lunches served on the way, waterproof bags for the baggage carried by llamas, first aid kit and oxygen. Visit us at our web site: [www.andeanlodges.com](http://www.andeanlodges.com), physical preparation, clothing and equipment needed are detailed on our 5 days / 4 nights Ausangate Trek Program.

### Included:

- All organization .
- Private transport for the tours and transfers.
- Entrance fee.
- Private guide services.
- Vistadome train tickets: Poroy/ Machupicchu / Poroy.
- Bus tickets in Machupicchu

### Does Not Included:

- Flight tickets: Lima / Cusco / Lima.
- Airport taxes.

