ULTIMATE EXPEDITIONS

7 DAY INCA TRAIL + MARAS-MORAY + SALT MINES

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Trip Duration: 7 days
Trip Difficulty:
Destination: Peru
Begins in: Cusco
Activities:

INCLUDED

- Airport transfers
- Ground transportation
- Accommodations
- Entrance fees
- Water (boiled)
- Meals as described in itinerary
- 4 person tent, double occupancy
- Foam sleeping pad
- Oxygen & first aid kit
- Expert guides, cook, porters, horses & horsemen

EXCLUDED

- Sleeping bags
- Inflatable mattress
- Trekking/hiking poles
- Waynapicchu Mountain hike
- Tips

Ultimate Expeditions®

The Best Adventures on Earth.

Ultimate Expeditions® was born out of our need for movement, our connection with nature, and our passion for adventure.

We Know Travel. Our staff has traveled extensively to 40-50 countries each and have more than 10 years of experience organizing and leading adventures in all corners of the globe through the world's most unique, remote, beautiful and exhilarating places. We want to share these destinations with you.

Why Ultimate Expeditions®? We provide high quality service without the inflated cost. Our goal is to work with you to create the ideal itinerary based on your needs, abilities and desires. We can help you plan every aspect of your trip, providing everything you need for an enjoyable experience.

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7 DAY INCA TRAIL + MARAS-MORAY + SALT MINES

Itinerary

DAY 1 Arrive Cusco
Arrive Cusco with a transfer to your hotel; a welcome meeting will be organized by your guide for a quick briefing of the tour. The rest of the day can be spent exploring Cusco, the ancient capital of the Inca Empire, set in the Andes Mountains. Discover Spanish churches and mansions that sit alongside Inca remains and enjoy the vibrant nightlife or sampling Peruvian restaurants.

DAY 2 Cusco - Maras - Cusco
An early departure by bus to Maras will lead us to the bizarre and beautiful salt mines. The salt park is located on an open hillside above the Urubamba Valley a natural salt water stream that runs underground. A considerable volume of solid salt is obtained, which is then granulated, packed in sacks and sent to the region's markets. The day's tour continues a short distance to Moray which is a unique archaeological site where massive natural depressions or hollows in the ground surface were used for constructing irrigated farming terraces around them. The main depression is roughly 100 feet deep and the temperature difference between the top and bottom can be as much as 27 degrees (F). In the afternoon, we return to our hotel in Cusco. (Breakfast, Lunch)

DAY 3 Cusco – Trailhead at Km 82 – Camp at Ayapata
Travel by bus from your hotel in Cusco to Ollantaytambo for breakfast and then onto Piskacucho or kilometer 82, where the Inca Trail starts. The hike begins by crossing the Vilcanota River and following its route to the right. The Urubamba mountain range divides the jungle and the Andes. On the way we'll see the Inca sites of, Huillca Raccay and Llactapata, as well as incredible views of the snow-capped Veronica Peak. The 7 mike hike to our first campsite is relatively easy and takes approximately 5 to 6 hours. In the evening, we will unwind at the Ayapata campsite. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

DAY 4 Ayapata Camp – Dead Woman's Pass – Runkuraqua Pass
Today will be the most challenging day of the trek as you ascend a long steep path to reach the highest point of the trail, known as Dead Woman's Pass or Warmiwanusqa, the site sits at 13,780 feet above sea level. We continue for another 2 hours to reach the Runkuraqay Pass, which is 12,467 feet above sea level. On the way we will encounter hummingbirds and other birdlife and discover a variety of native plants and trees in the cloud forest. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

DAY 5 Runkuraqua Pass – Camp at Wiñay Wayna
The trail begins with a gentle climb towards the archaeological site of Phuyupatamarca, which means "Town in the Clouds." This site is located at the third highest point on the trail at 11,811 feet and the views of the mountainscape, canyons and surrounding area are spectacular. A further walk brings us to 3,000 steps, through the cloud forest and the impressive agricultural Inca site of 'Intipata' until we arrive at our campsite Wiñay Wayna. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

DAY 6 Machu Picchu

An early morning start of 4am will get us into Inti Punku or Sun Gate before daybreak and as the sun begins to rise, the dramatic views of Machu Picchu are revealed. We will spend some time here taking photos and upon completing the final steps of the Inca Trail we will visit Machu Picchu itself with a guided tour (approximately 2 hours). After the tour you are free to explore the mysterious city by yourselves.

You will meet your guide in Aguas Calientes for lunch (not included) and given your train tickets that will take you to Ollantaytambo and a final bus transfer will take you to Cusco. It is important to be at the train station 30 minutes before departure train times will be given to you by your guide. (Breakfast)

DAY 7 Depart

Breakfast at the hotel, and then we will take you to the airport according your flight times. (Breakfast)

PERU

Best Time to Visit

Peru experiences two main seasons. The dry season, May through October offers sunny blue sky days and chilly nights. November through April is the rainy season with significantly more rain from January through April. Traveling during off-peak season means less crowds, greener scenery and lower rates, however, expect frequent showers, unpredictable weather with varying conditions.

Temperature

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Average High (F)	65	65	66	67	67	66
Average Low (F)	43	43	43	41	36	32

Month	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average High (F)	66	67	68	69	69	69
Average Low (F)	32	35	39	41	42	43

Entry Requirements

No visas required for Peru. A passport valid for six months after date of entry is required. Visitors must hold return/onward tickets and all documents required for their next destination.

Vaccinations

Hepatitis A and B, Tetanus, and Typhoid immunizations are recommended for all travelers. Malaria prophylaxis is recommended if you are traveling to jungle regions and you should consult your local doctor or physician to advise which malaria medication is best suited for you. Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the CDC's Internet site at http://www.cdc.gov/travel.

Travel Advisories

Make two photocopies of valuables such as your passport, tickets, visas and travelers' cheques. Keep one copy with you in a separate place to the original and leave another copy with someone at home.

Be sure to inform your credit card company as well as your bank you will travel internationally into South America. This will eliminate any credit card holds for fraudulent activity.

Currency

Carrying cash, an ATM or traveler's check card and also a credit card that can be used for cash advances in case of emergency is advisable. The best places to exchange money are normally bureau de change, which are fast, have longer hours and often give slightly better rates than banks. Local currency is Peruvian Nuevo Sol (PEN), and it is advised to carry hard notes of USD. Better hotels, lodges, and camps might accept credit cards; however it is advised to withdraw cash when visiting remote areas and villages.

Government

Peru – is a constitutional republic.

Religion

Roman Catholic 81.3%, Evangelical 12.5%, other 3.3%, unspecified or none 2.9%.