

## Luxury Lodges to Machu Picchu, Peru

A fabulous lodge-to-lodge trek along a pre-Inca trade route through the Cordillera Vilcabamba.



### Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

### Holiday overview

Style	Trek
Accommodation	Hotels, Luxury Lodges
Grade	Moderate / Vigorous
Duration	13 days from London to London
Trekking / Walking days	On trek: 6 days Walks on: 1 day
Min/Max group size	4 / 12. Guaranteed to run for 4
Trip Leader	Local Leader Peru Luxury Lodges
Land only	Joining in Cuzco, Peru
Max altitude	4,650m/15,256ft, Salkantay Pass, Day 7

**Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available**



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# Departures

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## Group departures

### 2024 Dates:

Mon 15 Apr - Sat 27 Apr

Mon 05 Aug - Sat 17 Aug

Fri 11 Oct - Wed 23 Oct

### 2025 Dates:

Mon 14 Apr - Sat 26 Apr

Mon 04 Aug - Sat 16 Aug

Mon 13 Oct - Sat 25 Oct

### Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 4 people and for a maximum of 12. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly - we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

### Group prices and optional supplements

Please contact us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or visit our website for our land only and flight inclusive prices and single supplement options.

### Deposit

A higher deposit is required to secure your booking on this holiday, this includes a prepayment for your luxury lodge accommodation. For full details please contact the office or refer to our terms and conditions on our website <http://www.mountainkingdoms.com/essential-information>.

### No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

### Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

### Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

### Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

## Your trip highlights

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- Trek the high Andes in real style, staying in four superb mountain lodges
- Follow a beautiful trail, away from the crowds of the Inca Trail, with a unique view of Machu Picchu
- Enjoy the best acclimatisation programme with walks and time in the Sacred Valley
- Tour the incomparable Inca ruins of Machu Picchu
- Extend your time in Cuzco or add an extension to the Amazon, Lake Titicaca or Peru's famous Nazca Lines

## At a glance itinerary

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Days 1-2	Fly to Cuzco. Drive to the Sacred Valley.
Days 3-4	Sightseeing and acclimatisation walks in the Sacred Valley. Drive to Cuzco.
Day 5	Drive to Challacancha, visit farmhouse en route. Trek to Soray Pampa.
Day 6	Local walks at Soray Pampa.
Day 7	Trek from Soray Pampa to Huayrac Machay, crossing the Salkantay pass.
Day 8	Trek from Huayrac Machay to Colpa Pampa.
Day 9	Trek from Colpa Pampa to Lucma Bamba (includes a short bus ride).
Day 10	Trek from Lucma over Llaqtapata Pass to 'Hidroelectrica'. Train to Aguas Calientes.
Day 11	Tour of Machu Picchu. Train to Cuzco.
Days 12-13	Morning in Cuzco. Fly to London.

## Trip summary

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Mountain Kingdoms was the first British company to offer this Trans-Andean lodge-to-lodge trek. The trip is an alternative to the "Classic Inca Trail" but uses an equally lovely route to reach Machu Picchu following an ancient pre-Inca trade route through the Cordillera Vilcabamba, and crossing a high mountain pass between two snow-covered Andean peaks, Salkantay and Tucurhuay. As a final flourish, from just below the last pass on the trek you have a really unique view of Machu Picchu itself, from an angle few tourists ever see.

Your first lodge is located in the high Andean Valley of Soraypampa. It offers 12 comfortable heated guest rooms with lovely mountain views, plump duvets and attached bathrooms. There is a comfortable sitting room with a wood burning stove, a bar, a spacious dining room and a jacuzzi with views of the south face of Salkantay. The other three lodges are located at strategic points along the route and are smaller but no less welcoming and comfortable. Each of these lodges has 6 en-suite rooms, comfortable sitting and dining rooms, wood burning stoves and jacuzzis. The lodges are staffed by local people and they will really look after you superbly.

Before your trek you will spend carefully designed time for acclimatisation in the beautiful Sacred Valley of the Incas before driving to the lively mountain city of Cuzco with its Inca walls and Spanish colonial architecture. The visit to Machu Picchu will be just the icing on the cake!

## Your guide

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You will be accompanied throughout by local English-speaking guides. For this trip you will have two separate guides, one for the Sacred Valley and one for the Luxury Lodges section. These leaders are very knowledgeable and extremely friendly and in their company you will enjoy an insider's view of Peru.

## Special notes

### Acclimatisation Programme

Cuzco lies at 3,400m (over 11,000ft) and arriving there direct from sea-level can cause altitude problems. Mountain Kingdoms has designed this trek to descend immediately and spend the first couple of nights in the Sacred Valley, returning to Cuzco later when you will be more acclimatised.

# Your trip itinerary

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## Day 1: Fly London to Cuzco.

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Depart London on your overnight flight to Cuzco.

**Overnight: In flight**

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## Day 2: Arrive Cuzco, 3,353m/11,000ft. Group transfer to hotel in the Sacred Valley, 2,800m/9,200ft.

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On arrival in Cuzco, you will be met and will then head off to your accommodation in the Sacred Valley near the small town of Urubamba, situated at a comfortably lower altitude than Cuzco. You may have lunch en route or at the hotel itself. You will stay for two nights at the very pleasant Hotel Casona de Yucay. This lovely hotel, with cosy rooms, is located in an 18th century mansion built round a pleasant courtyard.

**Overnight: La Casona de Yucay, Sacred Valley (Meals: L D)**

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## Day 3: Sightseeing and acclimatisation walk in the Sacred Valley.

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Your acclimatisation walk today combines big views, Inca ruins, ancient towns, local farming techniques and pre-Inca salt pans with an easy descent to the valley below. You will start the day with a visit to the small town of Chinchero with its large church and extensive Inca ruins. Chinchero's attractive church is built within the Inca ruins and has a beautifully painted rustic wooden ceiling and decorated walls. The full extent of Chinchero's Inca terraces and its fine stonework are only now being gradually uncovered and restored. Chinchero is famous for its intricate woollen weavings and there is a market for local handicrafts.



You then head out across the grassy plain to the extraordinary Inca earthworks of Moray. There is no other Inca site quite like Moray - three crater-like depressions are lined with a series of concentric circular terraces disappearing down into the earth. Some think that this may have been the site of sophisticated Inca agricultural experiments with each terrace representing an altitude zone. It is thought that the terraces' containing walls were filled with fertile earth and watered by complex irrigation systems, which enabled the Incas to grow more than 250 plant species.

You will have a picnic lunch at Moray. From Moray you then follow an old mule trail the short distance to the ancient town of Maras with its vast church and outstanding colonial Spanish door arches. Maras was formerly famous for its spies - due to its strategic location above the Sacred Valley the local inhabitants were able to keep track of the movement of all travellers in and out of the valley. From Maras, you will walk back down into the Sacred Valley, a descent of just a couple of hours. En route you will walk through the shimmering terraced salt-pans of Salinas where salt has been harvested since pre-Inca times. The salt pans cover the whole hillside and in sunny weather you will be dazzled by the white of the pools. You then descend into the Urubamba valley where you will meet your transport to return to your hotel.

**Overnight: La Casona de Yucay, Sacred Valley (Meals: BLD)**

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## Day 4: Sacred Valley sightseeing and drive back to Cuzco.

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After breakfast you will have time to explore further the famous Sacred Valley of the Incas. This is a really beautiful valley and was the breadbasket of the Inca Empire. High above the valley snow peaks glisten in the sun while in the fertile fields below local people harvest crops such as maize, quinoa and many kinds of potatoes. Everywhere there is evidence of earlier Inca settlement with a host of terraces, walls, temples and burial towers in varying states of repair.

Firstly you will visit the major Inca temple/fortress of Ollantaytambo at the western end of the Sacred Valley. This amazing edifice was probably built by the great Inca ruler, Pachacuti in the 1460s and it was here that in 1536 Manco Inca temporarily halted the advance of Hernando Pizarro. The fortress and town represent some of the best of Inca architecture and construction, with fine examples of beautifully carved polygonal stones and monumental, monolithic rocks. Large worked blocks, some weighing as much as 100 tons, were quarried from a

site more than a thousand vertical feet above the valley floor using a technique of pecking with hammer stones, then moved down and across the Urubamba River, several kilometres to the temple site. Inclined ramps were built to raise the blocks several hundred feet up hill to the construction area. At ground level below the fortress there are smaller scale ceremonial stonework constructions - here rivulets bubble along cut channels and water tumbles into pools over finely carved rocks.

You will then travel to Pisac which lies at the eastern end of the Sacred Valley. Here, situated above the town of Pisac, is found an extensive and impressive Inca hill-top complex clinging to the mountain top. You will have time to explore on foot for an hour or two with time to take in the best of the ruins and to enjoy the superb scenery. You will have lunch in or near Pisac, and will also have time to visit its interesting artisan market to check out the souvenir shopping. Ask your guide to show you the guinea pig 'castle' located in one of the town's bakeries! From Pisac it is then a relatively short drive out of the Sacred Valley, over the top and down into Cuzco City where you will check in to your hotel.

Cuzco is a beautiful and vibrant City. Formerly the capital of the extensive Inca Empire, today the foundations and walls of Inca buildings are overlaid by Spanish architecture. Fine Inca stonework has survived centuries of both earthquakes and Spanish colonialism. Wanderlust readers have repeatedly voted Cuzco one of their favourite of all worldwide destinations.

Your hotel is located in the attractive San Blas area of Cuzco, formerly the artisans' quarter and located not far from the attractive Plaza de Armas with its Baroque Cathedral and fine colonial buildings. There are plenty of excellent little cafés on the main square and in nearby streets, some with balconies overlooking gardens, fountains and cobbled streets. Later you will have the choice of eating in one of the many fine restaurants in the area where really excellent food from a wide range of national cuisines is available. You may find you have the added bonus of sitting alongside a finely worked Inca wall while you eat your dinner.

In the evening your Mountain Lodges guide will meet you to brief you on your trek.

**Overnight: Quinta San Blas or Similar, Cuzco (Meals: B L)**

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**Day 5: Drive Cuzco to Mollepata, visit farmhouse. Continue to Challacancha to start trek. Trek to Soray Pampa, 3,850m/12,705ft - 3 hours.**

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After an early breakfast, your Mountain Lodges of Peru tour guide and driver will pick you up at your hotel in Cuzco. The first stop will be a visit to the Quillarumiyoc archaeological site. Next, you will stop in the mountain village of Mollepata. There you will visit El Pedregal, a beautiful farmhouse where you can learn about local agriculture and livestock.

Then, the transfer will take you up a winding mountain road to a site called Challacancha. Here you will begin your hike to Soray Pampa along a picturesque path called the "Camino Real" (Royal Path), which is also a good opportunity to acclimate to the higher altitude. As you round the final turn of the Camino Real, the Salkantay Lodge will come into view.

Note: Although we highly recommend participating in the hike as part of your continued altitude acclimatization, guests may opt out and continue by transport to Salkantay Lodge.

**Overnight: Luxury Lodge (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 6: Local walks at Soray Pampa.**

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Today will be a day for exploration and acclimatisation and free time to enjoy this high mountain region. A recommended activity, both for a lovely walk and to aid good acclimatisation, is to make the ascent up to a beautiful lake at 4,100m/13,452ft beneath the snow face of Humantay mountain (many maps incorrectly label this as Tucaruay). You will be able to have a leisurely start to the day and enjoy breakfast before setting off at about 9am. You walk toward the head of the valley for a short way before climbing up to reach the lake, a steady climb of a couple of hours in all - a bit of a huff and puff, but you will not be in a hurry so can take your time. At the lake you will have time to enjoy the views and may also walk round to where the glacier descends right down to the water. You may be invited to take a dip in the lake, but be



warned that the water is quite exceptionally cold. It is then about an hour's descent back to the lodge for a good lunch. In the afternoon you may again enjoy an al fresco soak in the hot tub or take a walk in the surrounding area to look at birds.

In the evening the barman at the lodge may lay on a demonstration of pisco sour making and will give you the chance to try out your own cocktail making skills. At dinner your guide will brief you on the itinerary for the next four days.

**Overnight: Luxury Lodge (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 7: Trek from Soray Pampa to Huayrac Machay, 3,924m/12,874ft, crossing the Salkantay Pass - 6-7 hours.**

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This is the big walking day! You will enjoy a good breakfast before bidding farewell to the lodge staff and setting off on your walk. From this point you will have your own cooks and pony men travelling with you as well as a riding horse in case you get tired along the way.

Leaving the lodge you hike up beside the Rio Blanco River towards the head of the valley. Along the way you will sign the book so the authorities can check that you exit safely at the other end of the route. You then ascend alongside a stream, up to Salkantay Pampa, 4,164m/13,661ft, which will provide a welcome opportunity to rest for a moment. From here your trail continues up zigzags and then descends a short way to another meadow near a small lake, Soyoccocha at 4,489m/14,728ft. Then it is a just a final 40 minutes up more zigzags to arrive finally at the Salkantay Pass at 4,650m/15,256ft. The ascent is about 4 hours in all.



At the pass you may pause for photographs and to take in views of the snow-capped peaks of the Vilcabamba Range in every direction, with the south face of Salkantay towering above you. Also keep a look out for Andean condors, six of which are known to live in this valley. You then continue your descent toward Huayrac Lodge, 'the place where the wind lives', your destination for the evening. You will be served a hot lunch en route, probably at Ichupata, an alpine pasture named after the coarse grass which is a feature of this altitude. On the way look out for granite rocks covered in bright red lichen.

On arrival at Huayrac Machay, 3,924m/12,874ft, you will again be warmly greeted by the lodge staff and they will probably take your boots away to give them a clean! You will get used to being a little spoiled. Tea will be served on arrival and you will again have the opportunity to soak in the hot tub. Now that you have crossed your pass and descended a little you may feel that you can indulge in a pisco sour, a beer, or a glass of wine here.

**Overnight: Luxury Lodge (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 8: Trek from Huayrac Machay to Colpa Pampa, 2,844m/9372ft - 3-4 hours.**

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You will wake up to spectacular views of the surrounding mountain scenery including Humantay, a beautiful pointed peak of around 5,790m/19,000ft. Alpacas, pigs, horses and mules all graze together in the meadows around the lodge. Following the long day yesterday you can enjoy a leisurely breakfast here.

After breakfast you hike downhill above the Salkantay River, through increasingly verdant scenery. There could not be more of a contrast to yesterday's scenery - you soon leave the stark Alpine scenery and walk instead through beautiful lush jungle. You will see tall pampas grasses, creepers worthy of Tarzan, bright orchids and clouds of butterflies flitting amongst the flowers and trees. You also pass by several picturesque settlements. This is a really beautiful walk and as it only takes about 3 or 4 hours you can really take the time to enjoy it. You are now low enough down to encounter occasional biting insects so have the insect repellent handy.

After about 3 hours descent you will see below you, on the other side of the river, the thatched roofs of your lodge. As a bit of a sting in the tail to this walk you descend to the river, cross a bridge and then have to climb, but only for about 10 minutes, to the lodge. Colpa Lodge is located in a beautiful situation on an open promontory at the confluence of three rivers, which here join to form the Santa Theresa River. There is a grassy area in front of the lodge and the hot tub is built so that when you are sitting in it you can enjoy the lovely views over to the village of Colcapampa below.

You will have lunch at the lodge which may well be a traditional Andean 'pachamanca' - this meal is cooked in a hole in the ground on hot stones and will be prepared for you by your cooks.

The afternoon will be free to enjoy the lovely surroundings or relax in the hot tub.

**Overnight: Luxury Lodge (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 9: Trek from Colpa Pampa to Lucma Bamba, 2,150m/7,095 ft (includes a short bus ride) - 4-6 hours.**

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After another good breakfast you head off again. You descend down river to the left of the lodge, down to the river near the hot springs near Colcabamba and cross the Santa Theresa River. Your trail then takes you down alongside this beautiful river through more forest and past the occasional settlement cleared from the surrounding rainforest.



You stop near the river for a hot lunch and then after lunch descend further to arrive at a road. As nowadays horses are not allowed on the next part of the trail you will say "goodbye" to your horseman and riding horse here - porters will carry the luggage for the last section. A bus will be waiting for you at the road, your staff will load the luggage and you will then drive the short distance to the start of the Camino Llactapata (The Llactapata Inca Trail) just beyond the village of La Playa. This ancient trail which links the Santa Theresa Valley with the Inca ruins at Llactapata and the Aobamba valley has been recently beautifully restored and, like the more traditional Inca Trail, no mules or horses are allowed to travel it. From the entrance gate it is a lovely walk up a well-made trail through coffee plantations - all the coffee in this area is grown organically and is said to be of very high quality. You then follow round an open hillside, with more great views, to reach the Lucma lodge about 30-40 minutes from the road. The lodge is situated near Lucmabamba Village amongst coffee and avocado trees. You will be able to relax here at lower, warmer altitudes.

**Overnight: Luxury Lodge (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 10: Trek from Lucma over Llactapata Pass, 2,800m/9,186ft, to 'Hidroelectrica' - 5-6 hours. Train to Aguas Calientes, 1,900m /6,270ft.**

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After a fairly early start and a hearty breakfast, you say farewell to the lodge staff and set off on the last trekking day of your trip. You have another beautiful walk today with your first views of Machu Picchu. Heading uphill from the lodge you leave the coffee plantations and farmland and climb round a more open hillside with fine views back up the valley of the Santa Theresa and snow-capped peaks in the distance. You head uphill for about two to two and a half hours, occasionally passing through cool, mossy, lichen hung glades to reach the top of the ridge. Near the top of the climb are some fine Inca stone steps. At the very top, at 2,800m/9,186ft, you are in forest so there are no views from there, however after descending for about 10 minutes you may glimpse your first view of Machu Picchu through the trees on your left. In any case after a further 10 minutes descent you arrive at the Inca ruins of Llactapata from where you look directly across to a stunning view of Machu Picchu from the south west, an angle that few other tourists ever see.

Hugh Thomson and Gary Ziegler investigated the ruins of Llactapata in 2003 and discovered more than 80 buildings. They concluded that what appears to be one of the most important buildings there is directly aligned to the ceremonial centre of Machu Picchu and that at the all-important June solstice the sun is seen to rise directly over Machu Picchu from this spot. Possibly Llactapata was a sister site to Machu Picchu, or was a ceremonial offshoot of Machu Picchu. In any case there are still many unexcavated ruins all around, swallowed up in the luxuriant jungle. Lunch will be served at a scenic viewpoint, looking out to Machu Picchu.

From Llactapata you begin your final descent, down to the Aobamba River, through lush bamboo forests and more orchards and coffee plantations (approximately 2 hours descent). You cross a bridge over the Aobamba and then walk down to join the Vilcanota River, passing a tumbling 500ft high waterfall, part of the hydroelectric scheme, and then continue the short distance to the tiny railway station of 'Hidroelectrica'. There will probably be time for a celebratory beer here in a small local café before you board the late afternoon train for the short, scenic train ride to Machu Picchu Pueblo (formerly known as Aguas Calientes).

**Overnight: Hotel El Mapi or Similar, Machu Picchu (Meals: BLD)**



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**Day 11: Tour of Machu Picchu. Train to Cuzco.**

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After an early breakfast you will drive the short distance up the zigzag road to Machu Picchu to get there before the main crowds and also when the light is better for those all-important photos. Machu Picchu is a place that really lives up to all expectations. The setting is breathtaking and the ruins themselves are sensational.

If you wish to climb Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Peak please contact the Mountain Kingdoms office as soon as possible, and we will advise the cost. We need to know in advance if you wish to climb it because nowadays only a limited amount of people are allowed to climb the peaks each day.



You will in any case have a full guided tour of the ruins with time beforehand to walk out to the Inca Bridge, or just wander through the ruins revelling in the amazing atmosphere of this fabulous place.

You will then descend to Machu Picchu Pueblo to board the afternoon train back along the Urubamba Valley, a really great train journey. You will alight from the train at Ollantaytambo and your waiting bus will speed you back to Cuzco and your friendly hotel. You will then have time for a final meal out in Cuzco.

**Overnight: Quinta San Blas or Similar, Cuzco (Meals: B L)**

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**Day 12: Morning at leisure in Cuzco. Group transfer to airport for flight to London.**

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You will have the morning free in Cuzco until it is time for you to transfer to the airport for your flight back to London.

If you wish to have more time in Cuzco after your trek, we can arrange extra nights and some sightseeing for you.

**Overnight: In flight (Meals: B)**

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**Day 13: Arrive UK**

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## Our grading system

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Luxury Lodges to Machu Picchu is graded as a Moderate/Vigorous trekking holiday, as described below.

### **Moderate**

Holidays in this grade typically involve 5 to 10 days of walking or trekking. They will often venture into more remote country and can cross mountain passes. Altitudes though are still relatively low, going no higher than around 4,300m/14,000ft. Accommodation can include simple hotels, tea houses, lodges and camping.

### **Vigorous**

Typically these trips involve 8 to 14 days (occasionally more) trekking in relatively remote landscapes. High passes up to 4,900m/16,000ft may be crossed (sometimes snow-covered) and there may also be glacier travel and peak ascents. Walking days can be between 5 and 8 hours with considerable ascents and descents. This grade also covers some European treks of shorter durations. Overnight stops on trek could be in tea houses, mountain huts or camping.

These holidays would suit enthusiastic hill/mountain walkers.

## Trip altitude

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**Important** - please be aware that this trip involves travel at altitude. Whilst all our itineraries are carefully designed to optimise acclimatisation to high altitudes, participants on this trip are likely to experience some symptoms of being at altitude. The Dossier pack we provide when you book your holiday includes comprehensive advice on safe travel at altitude. If you require further information or advice on travel at altitude prior to booking please contact the office to speak to an experienced member of our team. Alternatively we recommend [www.medex.org.uk](http://www.medex.org.uk) as a good source of information.

## What the price includes

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**Mountain Kingdoms** aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

### What's included:

- ✓ Two English-speaking local leaders (one for the Sacred Valley and one for the Luxury Lodge trek)
- ✓ Five nights in luxury lodges on a twin share, full board basis
- ✓ Good standard hotel accommodation in Cuzco, the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu Pueblo on a twin share basis
- ✓ Most meals included - 10 x breakfasts, 10 x lunches, 8 x dinners
- ✓ All park fees and sightseeing where specified
- ✓ Rail fares between Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley
- ✓ All road transport by private vehicles
- ✓ Costs of all portering and porter insurance
- ✓ Economy class return air fares from the UK & UK Departure Tax (flight inclusive only)
- ✓ Single, timed, group airport transfers for international flights on arrival and departure
- ✓ Carbon offsetting with the Ecoan Tree Planting Project (for clients taking our flight inclusive option)
- ✓ A Mountain Kingdoms kit bag

### Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

### What's not included:

- ✗ Travel insurance
- ✗ Visa fees
- ✗ Lunch and evening meals in Cuzco
- ✗ Airport departure taxes, excepting UK Departure Tax
- ✗ Tips
- ✗ Permits for climbing Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Peak
- ✗ Optional trips

### Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Our clients who are not given a free Mountain Kingdoms kit bag for their holiday (these are required for certain treks), will instead receive a free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle. These unique Water-to-Go bottles can also be purchased from us at a discounted rate. For further information about our campaign visit For further information about our campaign visit

<https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign>.

## Your accommodation

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We will endeavour to secure the hotels named in the itinerary but if our first choice of hotel is not available we will book a suitable alternative of a similar standard.



### La Casona de Yucay, Sacred Valley

This charming hotel is situated in a grand 18th century hacienda and features spectacular mountain views and beautiful gardens. Simon Bolivar is said to have stayed here when it was a family home. The hotel is built round a colourful courtyard and has cosy modern rooms with good amenities. The hotel has its own bar and restaurant where much of the food served comes from the hotel's own organic gardens.



### Quinta San Blas or Similar, Cuzco

Located in the charming neighbourhood of San Blas, the Quinta San Blas is a converted Colonial-Republican hotel within easy walking distance of the Cuzco's central sights. Comfy, en suite rooms have Wi-Fi and the hotel provides a buffet breakfast and has a cafe.



### Luxury Lodges

The lodge at Salkantay has 12 en suite rooms. Facilities include wood burning stoves, comfortable seating and a jacuzzi. Cuisine is of a very high standard and service is exceptional.

The other luxury lodges at Huaraymacchay, Coplpampa and Lucmabamba are smaller than Salkantay Lodge with only 6 en suite rooms in each, but they have similar facilities. They feature wood burning stoves, heating in the rooms, hot showers and except for the Lucma lodge also have jacuzzis/hot tubs. Wine, beer and cocktails are also available.



### Hotel El Mapi or Similar, Machu Picchu

Hotel El Mapi. This is a new contemporary hotel, located in the heart of Machu Picchu town (Aguas Calientes) just a few steps from the main square and the train station. The hotel is friendly and rooms are comfortable with all facilities.

## Meal arrangements

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Most meals included - 10 x breakfasts, 10 x lunches, 8 x dinners

## Flight arrangements

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### Flight inclusive from price

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

### Flight upgrades and regional Airports

Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

## Further information

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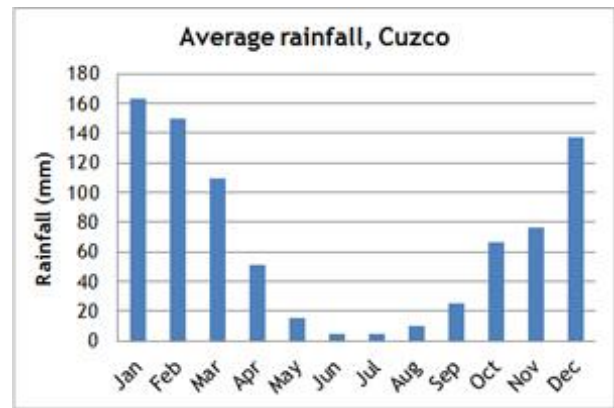
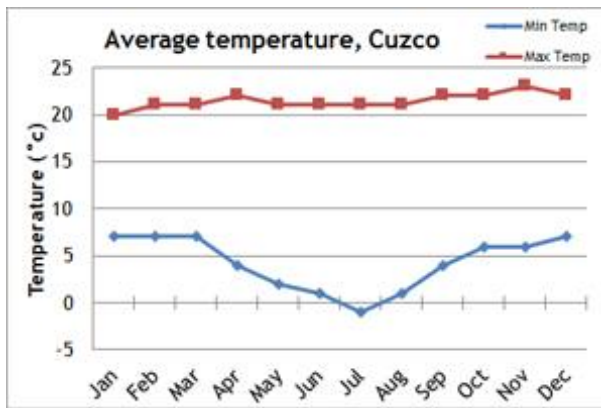
When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

## The nature of adventure travel

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Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

# Climate information



# Extensions

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## Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400. Alternatively, you can download a range of extension information sheets on our website, at [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com).



### Additional hotel nights

If you would like to stay longer in Cuzco we can book extra nights or upgrades from our selection of hotels. We can also arrange a personal sightseeing tour or other exciting activities.

### Amazon jungle

For a complete contrast to your trek or tour in the Andes why not visit the lush Amazon jungle? A short but spectacular flight will take you to the city of Puerto Maldonado from where you will travel down river to your jungle lodge. We offer a selection of lodges with a range of fantastic wildlife experiences. Stay for 2 or 3 nights or we can book an even longer, more adventurous 5 day expedition for you, to the Tambopata Research Centre.



### Lake Titicaca

Lake Titicaca is the largest lake in South America and is generally considered to be the highest navigable lake in the world. Our two night extension begins with a ride on the tourist bus from Cuzco to Puno stopping en route to see several cultural attractions. At Puno, which lies on the shores of Lake Titicaca, you will spend a full day exploring the beautiful landscape and visiting the fascinating people of Taquile Island and the Uros Islands.



### Galapagos Islands

A cruise amongst the Galapagos Islands is an unforgettable experience and we can organise this for you from Peru. You can join a cruise that best matches your interests and budget. We work with a variety of different sizes of boat, with cruises typically of four to eight days duration.

## Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

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- We follow a beautiful, rarely travelled trek route to Machu Picchu, equally as scenic as the Inca Trail and at the end of the trek you come to a pass with a stunning unique view of Machu Picchu.
- We offer the best acclimatisation programme.
- Besides the trek you have time to enjoy some of the impressive Inca sites of the Sacred Valley .
- We use carefully chosen hotels in Cuzco and the Sacred Valley.
- Your holiday will be led by a professional, English-speaking guides who will be delighted to share their expert knowledge of the history, culture and nature of their home country.
- We offer a flexible service and can extend your holiday in Peru with extra hotel nights, upgrades and a selection of exciting tours and activities.
- Operations Assistant Linda Denniff has done this trek. Call Linda on 01453 844400 or email [info@mountainkingdoms.com](mailto:info@mountainkingdoms.com) if you have any questions.
- As part of our commitment to 'Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency', we will be carbon-offsetting all international flights booked through us by donating funds to the Ecoan Tree Planting Project in Peru.
- If you wish to fly with a specific airline, from a regional UK airport or on alternative dates to the main group we would be happy to arrange this for you. Please contact our Flights Manager, April, for flight options, quotes and further information.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com) or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.



## What our clients say

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*A fabulous trekking experience moving from glaciers to jungle in only a few days. Not only beautiful scenery but excellent lodges with lovely meals and high degree of comfort. Juan was an excellent guide with an extensive knowledge of the area.*

*- Mr Osborne, UK*

*The mountain lodges were excellent and the guides, particularly for the trek, were fantastic. All food was of a very high standard and the staff everywhere were friendly and helpful. Everything was extremely well organised and we were taken care of superbly. The itinerary was perfect and the acclimatisation program in the Sacred Valley was an excellent idea. The balance between guided tours and free time was just right.... We couldn't have wished for a better holiday.*

*- Mr & Mrs F, Upminster*



*A fantastic trek and holiday - all organisation went smoothly - Peru is a fabulous country - the trek and lodges were outstanding.*

*-Mr M, Gloucester*



*This trip had everything: the spectacular scenery of the trek through the mountains and the luxury accommodation and service we received throughout the holiday.*

*-Mrs O'G Kendal*

*This trekking holiday has to be the best kept secret in your catalogue. The trekking was demanding, the views magnificent and the lodges and meals were exceptional. The local guides were perfect and couldn't do enough for us! The organisation was spot on from start to finish.*

*- Mr & Mrs C, Buckinghamshire*



*The trip was brilliant, I loved it all. The Sacred Valley was an unexpected delight, the trek was just heaven, especially the Emerald Lake and Salkantay Pass, and the trip to Puno and Lake Titicaca was another delightful contrast. I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity for such a wonderful experience - thank you for making it possible in such comfort!*

*-Ms W, Edinburgh*

*The acclimatisation and trek were excellent. This was my first trek and my first time in South America and first time travelling on my own! A fantastic experience and well organised!*

*-Miss McC, Kincardineshire*



*Our itinerary was very well organised and standard of accommodation excellent - particularly the lodges on our trek, which were quite outstanding in every way.*

*-Mr & Mrs Q, West Sussex*

# Mountain Kingdoms - distinctly different

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## **Truly independent**

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

## **Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality**

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

## **Complete financial security**

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

## **No Surcharge Guarantee**

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

## **Award winning Responsible Tourism**

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com).

## **Genuine small group travel**

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

## **Loyalty Discount**

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

## **Booking your holiday - it couldn't be easier**

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

## **Comprehensive information**

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.



## RESPONSIBLE TOURISM STATEMENT CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN



For over 33 years, Mountain Kingdoms has been offering people the chance to visit amazing places on this extraordinary planet. We now offer trips to all corners of the world, but we are conscious that inevitably our holidays have a detrimental impact on the world around us, and we want to do all we can to reduce our carbon emissions. We are a signatory to Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency, along with a growing number of like-minded, reputable tour operators. For more information, please visit [www.tourismdeclares.com](http://www.tourismdeclares.com)

From 2020 onwards, we will be focusing on how we can reduce the carbon emissions that our holidays produce, and how to counterbalance this carbon by supporting carbon offset measures. Here are some of our current and future plans to minimise the impact of our business as a whole:

### **Carbon Offsetting**

#### **Already doing:**

- ✓ We have been offsetting carbon since 2007, but will be increasing our donations to the [Ecoan tree planting project](#) in Peru this year. This is with a trusted partner where the funds go directly to a project where the community plants trees on its own land.

#### **Will do:**

- ✓ We are working on making our carbon offsetting more accurate and targeted.
- ✓ In future, we will add to that a further estimate for carbon produced by hotels, local road travel, trains and internal flights to arrive at a carbon offset sum for each trip we operate.
- ✓ Carbon offsetting will be included in our holiday prices. For our Flight Inclusive holidays it will include the international flight and any emissions produced by inland travel and accommodation. Our Land Only prices will include the cost of offsetting emissions caused by inland travel and accommodation.

### **Reducing Carbon Emissions**

#### **Already doing:**

- ✓ We already offer the majority of our customers a free filtered water bottle which means they can instantly cut down on their single-use plastic consumption. This will be an ongoing project.
- ✓ We already predominantly use locally owned hotels, but will continue to ensure that, where possible, we use these rather than multinational chains.
- ✓ We have joined the Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency initiative to stand alongside like-minded travel companies, to work together to initiate best practices to make tourism as sustainable as possible.

#### **Will do:**

- ✓ We will re-evaluate our flights to make sure we are using the most fuel efficient airlines with the youngest fleets and, where possible, direct flights for each trip.
- ✓ We will stop offering unnecessary optional flights – for example our Everest sightseeing trip.
- ✓ We will eliminate unnecessary staff flights wherever possible.
- ✓ We will look at minimising internal flights.
- ✓ We will be asking all our worldwide agents and suppliers to look at their own carbon footprint and encourage them to reduce it.
- ✓ We will promote our more low impact trips to give customers an informed choice.

As part of our wider commitment to Responsible Tourism, we will continue to support a number of charities with whom we have had a long standing relationship over many years. These include: Shiva Charity in Nepal (Ginette Harrison School), Simien Mountains Mobile Medical Service and Porter Welfare, as well as setting aside a sum for emergency disaster relief should the need arise.

