

Willis's Walkabouts: Peru 2027

Mountains and Jungle: 14 July - 21 August 2026

Thanks to guides Rob & Judy Clayton, we are offering a trip to Peru for the first time in many years. It combines spectacular high altitude trekking with a visit to some amazing jungle scenery.



There is no other tour like this on the travel market. By giving you some of the responsibility for preparing yourself properly and providing a carefully laid out acclimatisation itinerary, we can take you to places others won't visit at anywhere near the same price. No full pack carrying for this trip. We will have muleteers who will carry everything except your day pack with lunch and snacks, warm clothes and water etc, maybe 5-7 kg.

Why use a Darwin-based firm for a South American tour?

We've been doing trips to south America since 1990. On pages 69 and 70 of the 1998 edition of the Lonely Planet book, *Trekking in the Patagonian Andes*, the author listed 11 companies from five countries which offer treks in the region. Nine were listed without comment. One was listed as "recommended", one as "highly recommended." Willis's Walkabouts was the latter. We're still going strong and doing the same kind of trips.

Why go with someone else?

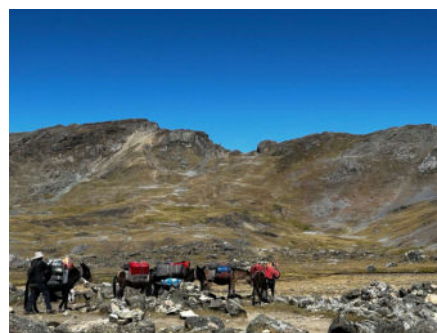
Our trips are not for everyone. They go off the beaten track. No two itineraries are the same. Every trip includes visits to places we have never been before. There are many local and international operators who can give you something more mainstream. Choose one of them if you would prefer:

- to do the "big name" walks like the Inca Trail or
- if you want to go with an operator who does the same thing over and over again or
- if you prefer a certain itinerary to a flexible one that can change with circumstances or
- if you don't want to walk with a guide who has not done some of the walks on the trip or
- if you don't want to explore places untouched by other tour operators.

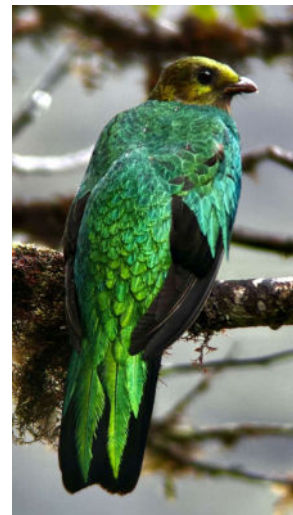
The itinerary

As we have to book the private guides, muleteers, etc. well in advance, it will not be possible to change the itinerary as we go. When it comes to the weather, we have to take what we get.

14 July	Last day to arrive in Cuzco. Pre-trip meeting. Details to be advised before departure. Overnight accom.
15-17 July	Acclimatisation walks & sightseeing. Accom, breakfast included.
18 July	Start Choquequirao trek
19-25 July	On the Choquequirao trek
26 July	Finish the Choquequirao trek in Pisac. Restaurant dinner. Accom.



- 27 July Rest day in Pisac. Accom. Breakfast included.
- 28 July Pisac: Parque Archaeologico Pisac. Accom. Breakfast included.
- 29 July Pisac: optional Quechua village and day walk. Accom. Breakfast included.
- 30 July Return to Cuzco. Visit Cuzco Wildlife sanctuary. Accom. Breakfast included.
- 31 July Start Manu Reserved Zone 9 day jungle tour.
- 1-7 August On Manu tour
- 8 August Return to Cuzco. Accom. Restaurant meal.
- 9 August Rest day in Cuzco. Evening flight to Lima.
- 10 August Lima to Huaraz.
- 11 August Huaraz to Laguna 69 trek. Full day walk to high altitude.
- 12 August Start the Huayhuash trek
- 13-19 August On the Huayhuash trek
- 20 August Finish the trek in Huaraz.
- 21 August Return to Lima. Trip ends.



Now for some details

The Choquequirao Trek

The ancient Inca citadel of Choquequirao – translating from Quechua as ‘Cradle of Gold’ – looks out over the Vilcabamba valley from the slopes of the snow-capped Mount Yanacocha in Peru. It is roughly 50km south of Machu Picchu though those km are punctuated by rising and falling mountains, rivers and valleys.

Locally, Choquequirao is known as the 'sacred sister' of Machu Picchu. Both Inca sites were built in the 15th century and are architecturally similar and very scenic. The biggest difference is numbers. “There are usually around 10-20 people daily who visit Choquequirao. You get around 5,000 people visiting Machu Picchu every single day. Even during the high season, the most people you get visiting Choquequirao in one day is 50-60. No more.”



The ruins of Choquequirao, backdropped by the mighty Peruvian Andes. Photo: Getty

Why is that? It's a lot harder to get to Choquequirao. One of the best treks in Peru is the route from Choquequirao to Machu Picchu. It's a tough, demanding trail designed for hikers who are looking for something new, and are looking for something a little more tranquil and less trodden than the Inca Trail or Salkantay Trek. It's for hikers who are looking for something more remote, still visiting Machu Picchu at the end but seeing other Inca ruins first – without the crowds. Below is a description of how it's normally done.

The Trek from Choquequirao to Machu Picchu

Distance: 100 km (62 miles)

Start/Finish: Capuliyoc (2,915m)/Machu Picchu (2,430m)

The Choquequirao trek to Machu Picchu shouldn't be underestimated. It's tough.

“A trekker needs to do some good training before coming to do this hike. What makes it so difficult is the variation in the terrain. You go from very high areas to very low areas. On day one, you start at a height of over 3,000m above sea level, then you drop down to the canyon, at around 1,400m.

Later in the trek, you have to climb back up to over 3,000m, and then you have to go up to above 4,000m. So the climb is demanding – and it's very dry and very arid. But you are supported by your guide and porters, and you have horses along the way in case someone gets sick or if they are too tired to go on the uphill – the uphill can be very steep.

You go through different ecosystems and you see different Inca sites along the way. We take one day to explore the city of Choquequirao when we arrive - and during that time you'll see around 50% of the city. A lot of it is still hidden in the forest.

“There are specific camps along the way to Choquequirao, run by locals, with really great views. At Pinchuyniyoc you can still camp on Inca terraces, and at Maizal you camp at around 3,000m with views of Choquequirao. It's a beautiful site, looking over the mountains, with great people. And beyond Choquequirao, on the route to Machu Picchu, you pass through cloud forest. The whole thing is beautiful. You pass through Inca ruins you just wouldn't see in other places.”

18 July: CUSCO – CAPULIYOQ – CHIQUISCA – PLAYA ROSALINAS

Cusco Andean Hike will pick you up from your hotel in Cusco at 4:00 am to start our 4-hour trip to the town of Cachora (2,800 m) where we will stop to take a breather and buy some things we need for our adventure, later we will return to our bus to continue our trip for 30 min to Capuliyoc 2850 m. the beginning of our walk. Next, we will see the mountain range of the area, the Apurímac Canyon and the Apurímac River. This river is long and abundant. It passes through all the Andes mountains until it reaches the Atlantic Ocean. We will also be able to observe Choquequirao from a distance. From the starting point, the entire journey is down to our camp in Playa Rosalinas. We begin our descent to the small community of Chiquisca 1930 m where we will have our first lunch. It is about 4 hours of walking, after our delicious lunch we will continue our adventure to our camp in Playa Rosalinas 1590 m, where we will find our tents already ready.

19 July: PLAYA ROSALINA – MARANPATA – CHOQUEQUIRAO

After our delicious breakfast we will continue with our walk towards **Choquequirao** (3030 m.), We will cross to the other side of the Apurímac river by a suspension bridge, later comes the most difficult part of our trek, we will ascend through a winding path where we will be able to appreciate some types of orchids and local fauna, the road will take us to our lunch point in Maranpata 2918 m. a small community on top of the mountain. From Maranpata we will be able to see **Choquequirao** in the distance and the camp site very close to the archaeological center. Later, After our fortifying lunch and our rest, we will continue our walk along a path between small ascents and descents for about 1 hour to the official camp in Choquequirao. where we will find our camp ready. If you still have power, we can visit the surroundings of the **Choquequirao** archaeological centre.

20 July: CHOQUEQUIRAO EXPLORE AND PICNIC – PINCHINUYOQ

This day to explore the incredible Inca Site of **Choquequirao**. We will have a **guided walking tour**. During the tour we will explore all the important sections, such as: palaces, temple, ritual water fountains, amazing Usno (ceremonial platform), agricultural terraces, llama's section and much more. After our tour, we have the lunch picnic close to **Choquequirao**, then we go a head to campsite located just 3 hours from the Choquequirao ruins, Pinchinuyoq is a beautiful Inca site behind Choquequirao, where we will have our dinner.



A birds eye view of the Choquequirao site, and the Incan terraces. Photo: Getty

21 July: PINCHINUYOQ – MAIZAL

We have our delicious breakfast in the middle of the mountains, we will descend to the Rio Blanco (1,990 m/ 6,527 ft), a further 1.5 hours steep descent. Here you can luxuriate in the river and take a bath if you would like. Then we will start a difficult climb to a small cleared agricultural area on the mountain, Maizal. For many people, this is the most difficult section of the whole **Choquequirao trek to Machu Picchu**. The climb is a difficult 3 to 4 hours zig zag uphill. Maizal is located at 3,000 m/9,842 ft. Maizal is our lunch spot and our camp for the night.



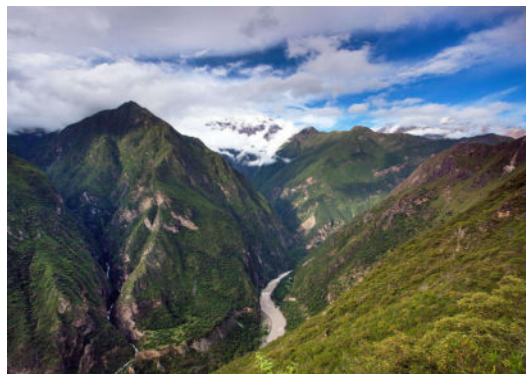
The view as seen from Pinchuyniyoc, between Choquequirao and Maizal. Photo: Getty

22 July: MAIZAL – SAN JUAN PASS – YANAMA

Wake up with a nice cup of coffee or coca tea in Maizal we climb 4 to 5 hours uphill through cloud forest to the Victoria Mines. This ascent takes you from an altitude of 3,000 m to 4,000 m! We'll take a short rest here and admire the shine of the outcropped rocks illustrating the high concentration of minerals and metals, and the reason for the ancient mines. We will then continue our climb to the pass of Abra San Juan (4,130 m/13,546 ft). This is our lunch spot. This is also the best place to see Andean condors. We can also see the Vilcabamba Valley, which is the lowest city of the Incas, as well as the Pumasillo glacier. After lunch we descend to the charming village of Yanama (4,100 m/13,541 ft), a 2 to 3 hour walk. This is our campsite for the night.

23 July: YANAMA – MARIANO LLAMOCCA PASS – TOTORA

From Yanama, we begin a 4 to 5 hour ascent. The first 4 hours are gentle and the last hour is steep, to reach the Mariano Llamocca pass (4,672 m /15,324 ft), the highest point of our **Choquequirao trek**. We will see many waterfalls on the way up and meet local individuals. At the top we will see Apu Salkantay and part of the Salkantay Trek. We will then descend for two hours and have lunch along the way. After lunch we hike 2 ½ hours downhill to our camp at Totorá (3,398 m /11,445 ft).



The Apurimac River as seen from the Choquequirao trekking trail in the Peruvian Andes. Photo: Getty

24 July: TOTORA – LUCMABAMBA – COFFEE EXPERIENCE

We will begin the day hiking from Totorá to Colpapampa 5 to 6 hours on gentle up and down segments, following the path of the Santa Teresa river. Also we have the opportunity to see multiple coffee plantations, banana plantations, and fields of passion fruit. Along this path you will also see the most beautiful waterfall along the **Choquequirao Hike**. Once we reach **Lucmabamba**, our campsite for the evening, around noon. Here we will relax and enjoy a delicious lunch! After lunch, we will have an incredible coffee experience at the plantation adjacent to the campsite. We will begin by browsing the fields, learning about the different types of beans, and picking our own beans. There are also several fields of tomatoes and avocados. We will pick vegetables that the chef will use for dinner that night.

25 July: LUCMABAMBA – LLACTAPATA – HYDROELECTRIC

We start early and have breakfast. Today's hike starts with a moderate 3 ½ hour climb through the rain forest until we reach the Llactapata Inca site (2,700 m/8,856 ft), where we will have a thorough tour. This is the location where you will have your first view of Machu Picchu in the far distance. Leaving Llactapata, we begin a 2 ½ hour descent to Hydroelectric, where we will have lunch. At 3 pm we will board the train for a 40 minute trip to Aguas Calientes.

26 July: AGUAS CALIENTES – MACHU PICCHU – PISAC

You will have breakfast at your hotel before we take an early bus along the winding road to Machu Picchu to see the magnificent sunrise. Once there you will be given a 2 hour walking tour of the site. After you have concluded your amazing Machu Picchu tour, you will have some time to be at Machu Picchu before you return to Aguas Calientes by bus.



Lupinus flowers, with the backdrop of Mount Saksarayuy and the Andes mountains. Photo: Getty

What's Included

- Pick up at your hotel. Private bus to the starting point of the walk.
- Round trip bus tickets – Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu to Aguas Calientes.
- Ticket train EXPEDITION: Aguas Calientes – Ollantaytambo
- Return bus from Ollantaytambo station to your hotel in Cusco.
- Camps for 7 days and 6 nights
- One night in hotel in Aguas Calientes
- Bilingual tour guide (Spanish & English) with many years experience in adventure tourism.
- Professional chef.
- Breakfasts, lunches, snacks & dinners. (Breakfast on day 1, lunch and dinner on the last day are not included.)
- Horses and horsemen to carry the necessary equipment and personal effects of the passengers up to 7 kg.
- Be careful with fragile items in your 7 kg as it will be carried on the horse's back.
- Entrance to the Choquequirao trek.
- Ticket to Machu Picchu.
- High mountain tent for four people. We use it for two people to give you more comfort. If you want a personal tent, we have them available but you must notify us well in advance.
- Single mattress.
- Bathroom.

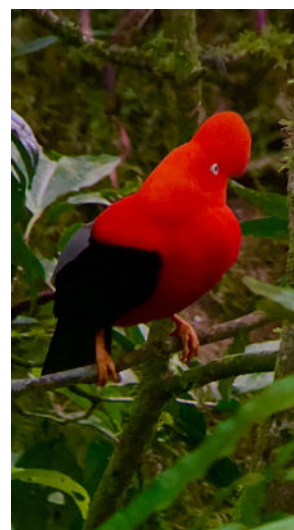
The Amazon

27 July: Cusco – Cloud Forest

We depart early from Cusco by private bus. The winding road through the Andes, offers beautiful views of valleys and snow-capped peaks.

Along the way, we stop in Paucartambo, a charming colonial town, to stretch our legs and enjoy fresh coffee. We climb to the highest point of the Manu Biosphere, at 4,000 meters, to then descend into the lush cloud forest. This is a mysterious world where orchids, ferns, and moss-covered trees thrive.

In the afternoon, we see the strange Cock-of-the-Rock performing its mating dance. As dusk settles, we reach [Posada San Pedro Lodge](#) and spend the night surrounded by nature and its sounds.



Cock of the rock

28 July: Cloud Forest – Cocha Machuhuasi – Pantiacolla Lodge

At dawn, we continue by private bus toward the tropical lowlands. From Atalaya, a small village 650 meters above sea level, we continue by motorized canoe.

We navigate for about 30 minutes down the fast Alto Madre de Dios River. We can see river birds and maybe squirrel monkeys, capybara or deer taking a peek at us from the green jungle walls.

We stop at one of the few lakes along the Alto Madre de Dios River. Cocha Machuhuasi is a quiet place surrounded by nature. We use traditional wooden rafts to go around the lake and spot many **colourful birds**, tropical fish swimming in the clear waters, and sometimes even a caiman resting by the lake shore.

Later, we continue our journey deeper into the jungle, navigating toward Pantiacolla Lodge. Nestled at the foot of the Pantiacolla Mountain Range, this will be our residence for the next two days.

3 August: Clay Lick for Parrots & Shintuya Hot Springs

Early on this day, we take a boat to a nearby clay lick to see parrots and the rare blue-headed macaw. Their colorful display and noisy calls create a mesmerizing spectacle.

Afterwards, we visit the Shintuya Hot Springs. Its mineral-rich waters offer a soothing break. After relaxing, we return to Pantiacolla Lodge.

In the late afternoon, we take a night walk to Ranacocha (Frog Lake) to spot various frog species on our last evening. Some are very tiny and camouflaged by their forest colors, while others have bright colors and are very poisonous.



4-5 August: Pantiacolla – Manu Reserved Zone – Lake Salvador

On day 5, we boat down the Alto Madre de Dios River, to turn up the Manu River after some hours. There begins our 5-hour boat journey into the virgin heart of Manu's Reserved Zone, one of the most biodiverse places on Earth. From the boat, we see riverside birds, sunbathing caimans, and possibly a capybara, the world's largest rodent.



Capybara

In the afternoon, we arrive at our Camping Huts deep inside Manu, which is our base for two nights. During our stay, we hike through untouched forest, explore Lake Salvador by catamaran, and visit Cocha Otorongo (Jaguar Lake).

Cocha Otorongo has a 20-meter-high observation platform offering a spectacular view of this aquatic ecosystem.

This area is home to many colorful birds and 15 monkey species, many of which are easy to spot. And with some luck, we spot a family of giant river otters on one of the lakes. The nights we spend exploring the forest with flashlights or we go caiman-spotting under the moonlight.

6 August: Lake Salvador – Macaw Clay Lick

An early departure from Lake Salvador gives us another chance to see rare mammals on the Manu River. A tapir, or an anteater, a jaguar or even the rare bushdog may appear on its sandy shores.

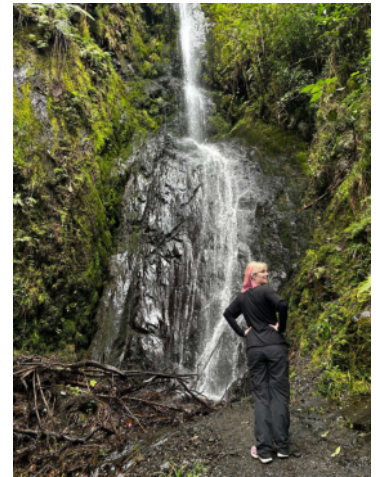
As we join the Madre de Dios River, we will continue to Blanquillo, home to the famous macaw clay lick. In the afternoon, we settle into its lodge, where we can rest before another day of jungle exploration.



7 August: Macaw Clay Lick & Canopy Tower

At sunrise, we visit the macaw clay lick, where hundreds of parrots and macaws gather to feed on mineral-rich clay. Their impactful colors, loud communications and synchronized movements create a spectacular scene to watch.

Later, in the afternoon, we climb a 42-meter canopy tower for panoramic views of the jungle. We may observe raptors, toucans, parakeets, tanagers and sometimes even monkeys, at their eye level. We can take one more nocturnal walk, before our last night's sleep in the jungle.



8 August: Blanquillo – Boca Colorado – Cusco

Early in the morning, we take the boat downstream to Boca Colorado, a small mining village. Here, we witness the environmental impact of gold mining on the delicate rainforest ecosystem. From Boca Colorado, we take local transportation to Puerto Carlos, where we cross the Inambari River by boat.

On the other side, our private bus awaits to take us back to Cusco. On the way, we pass through cloud forest, enjoy stunning views of the Ausangate Mountain, and arrive in Cusco by early evening.

What's Included

- Naturalist guide (English and Spanish)
- Private transportation (Cusco – Atalaya and Mazuco – Cusco)
- Private boat transportation (Atalaya – Pantiacolla Lodge – Lake Salvador – Tambo Blanquillo – Boca Colorado)
- Accommodation in lodges and camping huts
- All meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner)
- Unlimited drinking water and warm beverages (tea, coffee, lemonade)
- Guided hikes and night walks in the rainforest
- Visits to lakes Cocha Machuhuasi, Cocha Otorongo, and Cocha Salvador
- Exploration of the cloud forest, the Pantiacolla Mountain Range and Manu's Reserved Zone
- Excursions to macaw and parrot clay licks
- Shintuya Hot Springs visit
- Wildlife spotting (monkeys, caimans, otters, macaws, peccaries, and possibly jaguars)
- Entrance fees to the Manu Reserved Zone

Cordillera Huayhuash Trek

August 12: Transfer from Huaraz – Llanganuco lake and visit Lake 69 – Return to Huaraz



August 13: Huaraz - Cuartelhuain (4,180 m) - Cacanán Punta Pass (4,700 m) - Mitucocha (4,230 m)

Departure from Huaraz 3 to 4 am. We will travel in a private car heading south to Chiquian (3,100 m). We will continue to travel through the towns of Recuay (3,400 m), Ticapampa (3,470 m) and Catac (3,540 m), appreciating their unique flora and fauna. Finally we Cuartelhuain (4,150 m) starting point of the hike. Hiking time: 5 to 6 hours approx.

August 14: Mitucocha (4,230 m) - Carhuac Pass (4,650 m) -Laguna Carhuacocha at (4,150 m)

We cross the pass Paso de Carhuac (4650 m) then descend to our camp at the big Carhuacocha Lake (4150m). From our camp we look directly up the lake to the peaks and ice fields of Siula and the two peaks of Yerupajá. Hiking time: 5 to 6 hours approx.



August 15: Laguna Carhuacocha (4,140 m) - Paso Siula (4,830 m) - Huayhuash (4,350 m)

This day we will ascend to the Siula pass at a height of 4,800 m. From here we can appreciate the mountains of Siula, Yerupaja Grande and Yerupaja Chico and the 3 famous Huayhuash lagoons. Hiking time 7 to 8 hours approx.

August 16: Huayhuash Camp – Portachuelo Pass (4,750m) – Viconga Camp

We will start the day with a good breakfast as usual. We will begin a 4-hour trek to the Portachuelo Pass at 4,750 m/ 15,584ft. After the pass, we will begin a descent and arrive at Viconga Lagoon (4,360 m/ 14,304 ft), in which we will camp. There are hot springs at this place, the afternoon will be to enjoy it (hot springs are optional). Hiking time 5 to 6 hours approx.



Dinner in the tent

August 17: Laguna Viconga - Punta Cuyoc (5,000 m) - Elefante at (4450 m)

You'll hike over the highest pass in the Huayhuash circuit, reaching 5000 meters of altitude. A beautiful side trail is passable on foot while the donkeys follow a different trail and descent to quebrada Guanacpatay. And camp in Yanapampa or Elefante to 4,450 m. Hiking time 6 to 7 hours approx.

August 18: Elefante Camp (4,450 m) – Huayllapa Camp (3,600 m)

Today the hiking through the valley downwards until reaching the village of Huayllapa (3,600m). Hiking time 5 to 6 hours approx.

August 19: Huayllapa (3,600 m) - Tapush pass (4,770 m) - Gashpapampa (4,570 m)

This day we will walk upwards and thus leave the town of Huayllapa behind. Hiking time: 6 to 7 hours approx.

August 20: Gashpapampa (4,570 m) - Punta Llaucha pass (4,850 m) - Laguna Jahuacocha (4,100 m)

We will have amazing views when the sun rises and enjoy awe-inspiring summit views on the entire region. Tough days as we cross one pass Punta Yaucha 4800 m. Descend to camp at the beautiful lake Laguna Jahuacocha 4150 m 6 to 7 hours



Camping under the stars

August 21: Laguna Jahuacocha - Llamac – Return to Huaraz

After saying goodbye to our muleteers we return to Huaraz. Hiking time 4 to 5 hours approx. (3 hours by car)

What does it cost? USD \$10,990

Conditions

- A deposit of A\$500 is payable on booking. This will be refunded in full if five people have not booked by 1 February. Payment in full is due on 1 February or when you book, whichever is later.
- Cancellation fees are A\$500 before 1 February, A\$1000 before 1 March, A\$2000 before 1 April and the full US\$10,990 after that.
- All participants are responsible for obtaining the necessary passport and visas and must have some form of travel insurance that covers trekking. We cannot finalise your booking until we have proof that you have travel insurance. See www.bushwalkingholidays.org/pdf/TravelInsurance.pdf – updates welcome.
- A medical clearance for remote area, high-altitude trekking may be requested prior to our acceptance of your application.

Inclusions

- Accommodation in a shared room as indicated
- Treks
- Gratuities for all supports (drivers/muleteers/guides/cooks)
- Tents/mats for treks
- Transfers
- 2 x internal flights for section.
- All entry tickets
- All community payments
- Most meals as listed
- Translators x 2
- Experienced RN x 1
- Remote and Wilderness First Aid trained experts x 2
- Small group of like minded people with whom you can share your experiences and expenses.

Some of what you get for your money may not be very visible. There is an incredible amount of organising that needs to be done before anyone departs. Prior to one of the long walks, you might spend a day relaxing or sightseeing while the guide goes out to the supermarkets, then spends an hour (or two or three) doing the final organising for the meals on the walk. Or perhaps, the guide (or interpreter) might have to take time out to assist someone with something like making a phone call while you are free to do whatever appeals. If you can't see the value in services like these, you are unlikely to feel that you are getting real value for your fee.

What is not included:

- Single supplement: there is no single supplement for this trip however most rooms are shared. If you prefer your own room, please advise and a small extra charge may apply. We will aim to avoid this.
- All flights not included in the price
- Visas
- Yellow fever vaccination. This is compulsory and will be checked on your return to Australia.
- Anti-malarials (recommended but not compulsory: contact us before purchasing).
- Personal spending money. Cash is always welcome and obligatory in Peruvian Soles on the treks.
- Lunches and dinner in towns, all meals included on the 3 organised trips/treks except those shown in the inclusions.
- Other items of a personal nature

- Mosquito repellent/medications, etc.
- Personal gear

Notes

1. Prices are subject to change.
2. All prices are quoted in US dollars.
3. It is almost impossible to have a completely vegetarian diet on a trip like this. If you don't eat red meat but do eat fish, it's much easier.
4. All bushwalks are subject to change due to weather conditions. If we get really foul weather at the start of a walk, we may wish to abort it, at least temporarily. If we get really foul weather later on, we may have to cut a route short. If we get really foul weather late in a walk, we could miss a connection. This trip is in the dry season so this should not happen, but nothing about the weather is ever 100% certain.

Is it for you?

This trip is not for the average tourist. Good physical fitness and a good mental attitude are both essential. Although you will not be carrying full packs, there is a lot of steep climbing, much of which is at high altitude. We have a few people who have seriously overestimated their abilities on similar trips. That spoils it for them and everyone else on the trip. **If the you or the guides decide that you cannot continue, you will have to leave the trip. You will need to pay any evacuation expenses. No refund is possible.**

We can neither control nor predict the weather, only accept it as it comes.

If you do not want to take the necessary responsibility and/or you cannot obtain the necessary equipment, it is not for you. Good physical fitness and a good mental attitude are both essential.

Our guides love what they do and it is because they are amazing collaborators and organisers: With these trips you will be expected to contribute to decision making and take on a much greater degree of responsibility than on most other tours.

All members of the group, including the guides, are expected to work together in establishing how the group will function, who will lead on the walks, who will look after the stragglers, etc.

A trip such as this cannot work unless everyone helps out. A few examples may help you understand just how important this is.

You must be prepared to look out for others: Consider hypothermia person who becomes hypothermic is unlikely to realise it. Your guides will be relying on everyone to watch out for others. In an extreme case, he or she may have to be physically restrained from doing something which a rational person would describe as insane. There is no way that any one person, no matter how experienced, can look after an entire group 100% of the time. No matter how careful the guide may be, there is always a possibility that they will be the one to get injured or otherwise incapacitated.

Similarly, **overstating your own abilities can and will endanger those of others in the group if they are forced into a situation of your creation. This has happened.**

Accepting the responsibility that goes with a trip like this is part of the experience we offer, this includes taking responsibility for yourself and your effect on the well-being of others. It is one of the things that sets our trips apart from the vast majority of "adventure" trips on the market.

For those prepared to accept this responsibility, it makes the experience doubly rewarding. Those who are not prepared to accept such responsibility are unlikely to enjoy the trip and plan for a more formal tour.

Terrain and difficulty

Some of the walking will be relatively easy. **Some will be quite difficult.** Our walks will include everything from easy relatively flat trails to scrambling up or down steep hills covered in thick scrub with no sign of a track. Even on some of the trails, the path can be quite broken and involve scrambling up and down over boulders and/or loose rocks of all sizes. If you have never carried a pack on an overnight walk, have never walked off trail, have never camped in cold, windy and wet conditions, it will be harder for you to cope with the likely conditions than for a person who has had the relevant experience. As an example, one of our clients who could happily cover more ground than anyone else in the group on easy terrain was the slowest on the rougher ground. Past experience has shown us that a fit, experienced 70 year old may cope better than a fitter 25 year old who does not have experience in coping with adverse conditions.

Mental attitude. If you are goal oriented rather than experience oriented, you would probably be better off going with someone else. Picture yourself in the following situations, both of which occurred on one of our recent trips:

1. We planned to do a walk which would take us to a base camp from which we hoped to visit the southern ice cap. We got to a hut a day's walk from our proposed camp. The following day it was raining and foggy so we decided to remain where we were. This did not leave us enough time to continue to our proposed camp for two nights so we did a long day walk the following day. This left us with one extra day. Some were content to relax and do short walks near the hut. Some felt that this time was wasted and that we should never have planned the longer walk.
2. On another walk, we had allowed for sitting out at least one day's bad weather. We never got it and finished up with a day to spare half a day's walk from town. The weather was good. Most of the group were content to relax and enjoy their surroundings. Some could not wait to get back to town.

If you would have been happy to relax and enjoy your surroundings in both cases, our trips could be just what you are looking for. If not, then you might be better off on a different type of tour.

Getting There

If you are coming from eastern Australia, the best bet is likely to be a return airfare with Latam who fly direct from Melbourne and Sydney to Santiago (Chile). There is usually a direct flight from Santiago to Cusco a few hours after arrival. This is the most cost effective way to get there. In the experience of our guide this year, with over 12 flights with Latam (domestically and internationally), they were always on time, friendly and accommodating. This is personal experience only. **Please remember that the trip begins in Cusco and ends in Lima when booking your flights.**

Our guides are happy to suggest options if you would like to communicate directly with them.

Communication in country

Our guides use and recommend [Airalo Esims](#) for in country communication which is becoming increasingly available in Peru (no promises here, there are still plenty of black spots and definitely no access in remote areas and some longer sections of road).

Please do your own research for what suits you best. Some Sim cards do not work in this region, be careful when choosing which provider to go with and always check their coverage.

WiFi is also patchy and only available in larger towns for the most part.

A Final Caution

Do not expect everything to run like clockwork. As much as we can try, we can only be guided by what is happening locally. If you want to get maximum value for your money, you can go sightseeing or simply relax while the guides do the food shopping or stand in line for tickets etc. Or, if you wish, you are welcome to join them while they do these things.

There may be occasional days between sections where you will be left to your own devices while the guides do the organising. You are also welcome to join them while they do these things.

There will also be days between sections where you will be left to your own devices while the guides slow down and relax a bit and catch up on the organising. Based on past experience, things will run more smoothly if the guides do this.