

Earthbound Expeditions

Machu Picchu, Rainbow Moutain

10 days, from US$2,157 per person

Duration	Group size	Country
10 days	**15 people**	**Peru**

Machu Picchu, Rainbow Moutain Overview

Explore two of the best-known sights of Peru's Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu and Vinicunca, also known as Rainbow Mountain, on a demanding trek along one of the oldest routes in the region, the Inca Trail.

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This 10-day trekking trip lets you experience the geography and culture of the Peruvian Andes, with hikes to Rainbow Mountain and Machu Picchu.

The first highlight is Machu Picchu, one of the Seven Wonders of the World: an Inca city of fine stonework set between two high Andean peaks. It is believed to have been a sacred archaeological centre for the nearby Inca capital of Cusco. The site was unknown except to local people until 1911, when the archaeologist Hiram Bingham rediscovered it. The Inca Trail to Machu Picchu is one of the best-known and most popular hikes in the world. The trail crosses high mountains and offers views of mountain ranges, varied vegetation and a wide range of ecosystems.

Next, you visit Rainbow Mountain, originally known as Vinicunca, at an altitude of 5,200 metres in the Peruvian Andes. Its natural colours are rare anywhere else in the world. It is a few hours from Machu Picchu, Peru's best-known sight, and is reached from Cusco. The trail up Rainbow Mountain is very challenging, with views along the way of small villages, adobe houses, herds of llamas and alpacas, and Ausangate, the highest mountain in the Cusco region.

Both sites are remarkable places to visit.

Itinerary

Day 1

Fly to Lima

On arrival in Lima, you are met and transferred to your hotel for the night.

Altitude: 150 m On foot: None, arrival day Night: Hotel, Lima Meals: None

Day 2

Fly from Lima to Juliaca and transfer to Puno

After an early breakfast, you transfer from the hotel to the airport for the flight to Puno. On arrival in Puno, you are met and transferred to your hotel.

Altitude: 3,830 m On foot: None, flight day Night: Hotel, Puno Meals: Breakfast

Day 3

Uros Islands and Taquile Island

After breakfast, you tour the Titicaca National Reserve to visit the Uros "floating islands". These are a group of more than 40 islands made of layers of "Totora" reeds. The Uros people have intermarried with the Aymara and no pure Uros remain, but the islanders still live as their ancestors did and keep some Uro traditions. They fish, hunt birds and graze cattle on the islets.

Altitude: 3,830 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Puno Meals: Breakfast

Day 4

Travel from Puno to Cusco

At the scheduled time, you travel to Cusco by private transport. On the way there are several stops to visit the Andahuaylillas Chapel and archaeological sites including the Temple of Raqchi, La Raya and Pukara. A buffet lunch is provided in the village of Sicuani. On arrival, you are met and transferred to your hotel for the night.

Altitude: 3,400 m On foot: None, 9–10 hr drive Night: Hotel, Cusco Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5

Cusco to Wayllabamba, start of the Inca Trail (4 days, 3 nights)

After an early breakfast, the tour starts with a three-hour bus ride through the Sacred Valley to Km 82 (the 54.68-mile post) at 2,750 m (9,022 ft). From here you hike for about five hours through the Sacred Valley along the Urubamba River to the campsite at Wayllabamba, at 3,000 m (9,842 ft). Lunch and dinner are provided.

Altitude: 3,000 m On foot: 12 km, 5–6 hrs Night: Tented camp, Wayllabamba Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6

Trek from Wayllabamba over Warmiwañusca to Pacaymayo

After breakfast, you set off for the Warmiwañusca Pass at 4,200 m (13,779 ft), which has a panoramic view of the Peruvian Andes. The trail then descends to the second campsite at Pacay, at 3,600 m (11,811 ft). Total hiking time is about six to seven hours. Lunch and dinner are provided.

Altitude: 3,600 m On foot: 12 km, 6–7 hrs Night: Tented camp, Pacaymayo Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7

Trek from Pacaymayo via Puyupatamarca to Wiñaywayna

After breakfast, you set off for the Warmiwañusca Pass at 4,200 m (13,779 ft), which has a panoramic view of the Peruvian Andes. The trail then descends to the second campsite at Pacay, at 3,600 m (11,811 ft). Total hiking time is about six to seven hours. Lunch and dinner are provided.

Altitude: 2,650 m On foot: 16 km, 7 hrs Night: Tented camp, Wiñay Wayna Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8

Wiñaywayna to Machu Picchu and Huayna Picchu, return to Cusco

After an early breakfast, the hike starts at 5:30 am to see the sunrise at Intipunku, the “Sun Gate”. You arrive at Machu Picchu at around 8:00 am for a two-hour guided tour. After the tour, you climb Huayna Picchu. At the scheduled time, you take the shuttle bus down to Aguas Calientes for lunch, then the train back to Cusco and your hotel. Lunch is included.

Altitude: 3,400 m On foot: 6 km, 5–6 hrs Night: Hotel, Cusco Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 9

Rainbow Mountain day trip from Cusco

A day tour, including a trek, from Cusco to the mountain known as the 7 Colour Mountain. Located in southern Peru, in the Cusco region, the route passes through landscapes with glaciers, snow-capped mountains, and clear rivers and lakes. You pass villages of Quechua descendants and explore the surrounding countryside. You are picked up from your accommodation at around 3:00 am and travel first to Arco (on the road to Puno) and then to the Checacupe district, a journey of 2 hours. The drive continues to Pitumarca and several small villages until you reach the community of Hanchipata-Quesuno, a further 1.5 hours. The hike starts here. Along the way you can see many surrounding mountains and the Ausangate glacier, as well as local wildlife and camelids in their natural environment. The trek takes about 3 hours to reach Vinicunca (Rainbow Mountain). Here you have about one hour to rest and take photographs. You then hike back to the start of the trek and return to Cusco, arriving at about 7:00 pm.

Altitude: 5,200 m at Rainbow Mountain On foot: 3–4 hrs Night: Hotel, Cusco Meals: Breakfast

Day 10

Fly from Cusco to Lima

After an early breakfast, you transfer from the hotel to the airport for the flight to Lima. On arrival in Lima, you are met and transferred to your hotel. In the evening, we take you to a cultural show and dinner.

Altitude: 150 m On foot: None, flight day Night: Hotel, Lima Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

What's included

- Transport from the hotel in Cusco to Km 82, entrance fees for the Inca Trail and Machu Picchu, camping equipment (double-occupancy tents, mattresses, kitchen tent, dining tent, toilet tent, table, chairs, cooking equipment and utensils), all meals during the hike as shown in the itinerary, cooks, porters to carry and set up all equipment and tents, a bilingual tour guide and assistant, the bus from Machu Picchu to Aguas Calientes, the train ticket from Aguas Calientes to Cusco, an emergency oxygen tank and a first-aid kit.
- Huayna Picchu tickets:
- Tickets cannot be reserved in advance. They must be bought immediately with the full name, passport number, age and nationality of every traveller.
- Tickets are non-refundable.
- Subject to availability.
- No guide is included.

Not included

- Sleeping bags.
- Personal porter (available if arranged in advance) and personal items.
- Note: for the Inca Trail you need items such as toilet paper, a sleeping bag and a backpack.
- We recommend light sportswear during the day, extra layers and jackets at night, sunscreen, insect repellent, sunglasses, a hat or cap, and a torch.
- Keep your passport or personal ID with you at all times in a safe place.

Photos, videos and reviews of this trip: earthbound.rajansimkhada.com/machu-picchu-rainbow-moutain