



MOUNTAIN LODGES OF PERU

PRESENTS

THE *FIRST* TRANS-ANDEAN LODGE-TO-LODGE RIDE
TO MACHU PICCHU

2011



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Welcome!

Your journey begins here...

...a **once in a lifetime** physical, cultural, and spiritual journey that will take you through the magnificent Salkantay Valley en route to the legendary ruins at Macchu Picchu.

Challenge yourself as you ride through nine different biozones, changing altitudes and varied terrain...

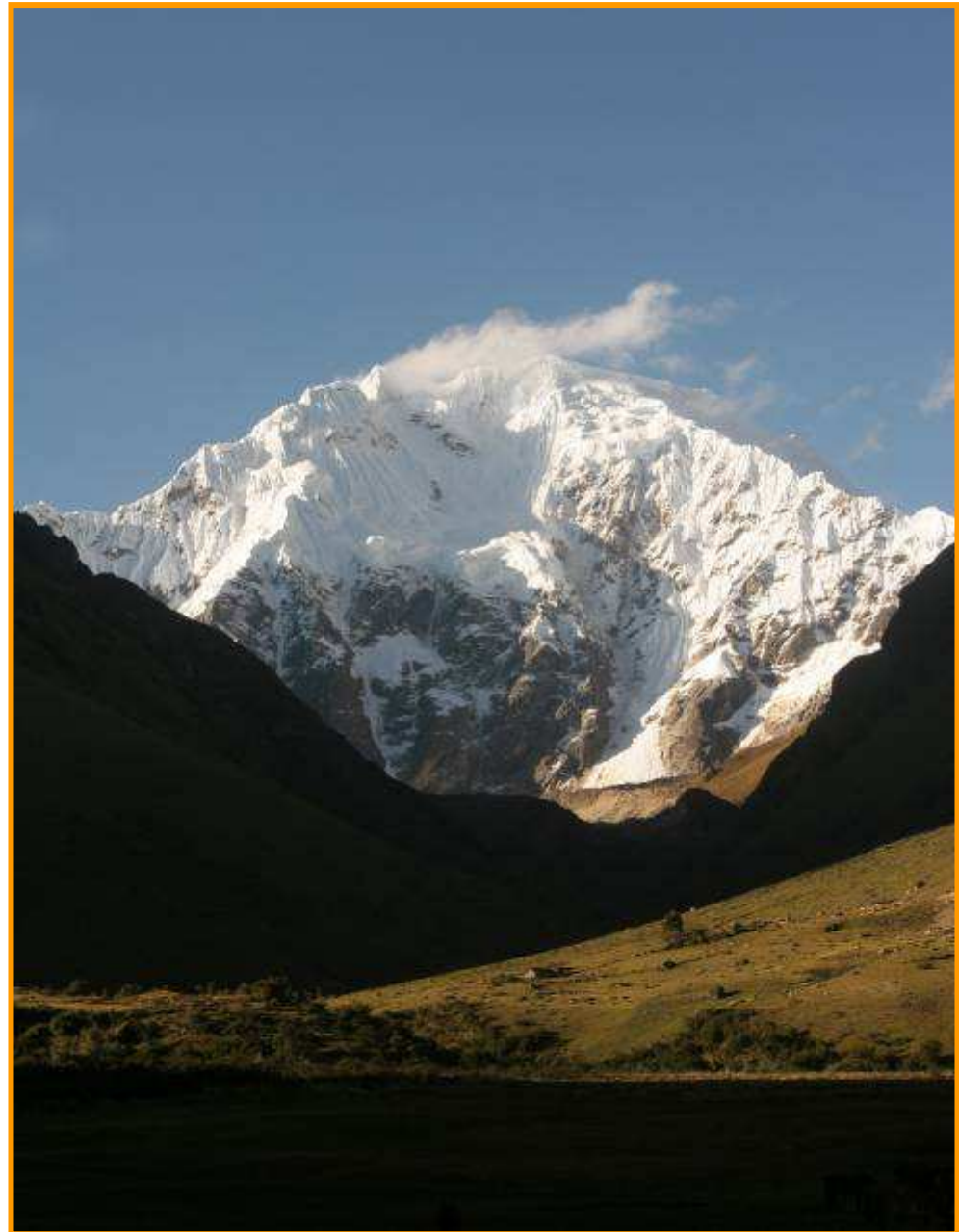
...**Marvel** at the exquisite beauty of the Salkantay Peak, Salkantay Glacier and Humantay Glacier Lake...

...**Share** in the culture and customs of local Andean families who maintain age-old traditions...

...**Witness** environmental and social initiatives to maintain the natural integrity and improve quality of life in the region...

...**Indulge** in the comfort of our enchanting mountain lodges, the re-vitalizing salts and minerals of natural hot springs, the innovative local cuisine, the warmth of our people, and your daily retreat to a mind-and-body recovery shangri-la...

...**Be inspired** by the majesty of your surroundings and the knowledge that you are following in the footsteps of the Inkas...



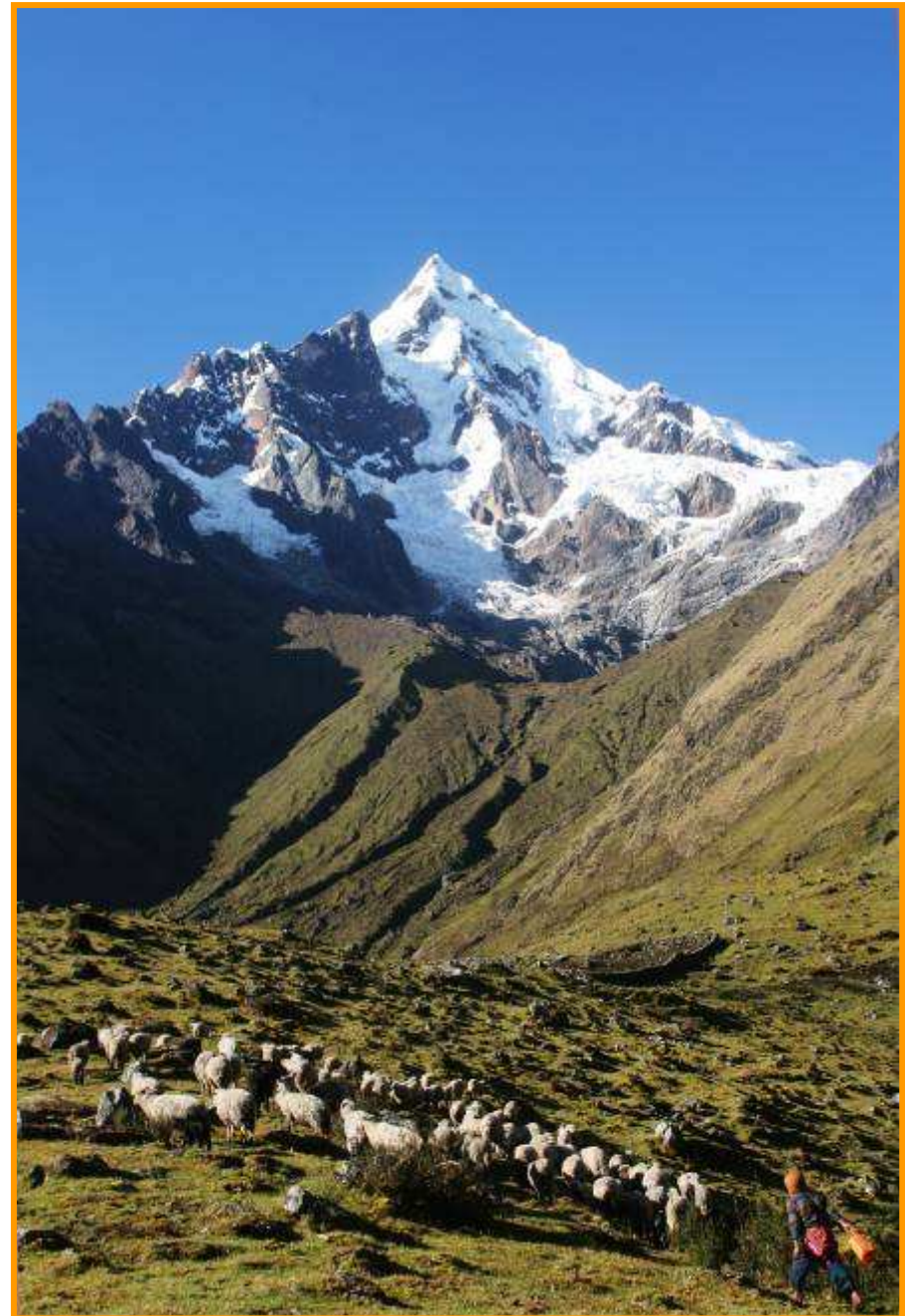
This is a journey.
This is a journey of new horizons.
This is a journey of life-changing experiences.
This is a journey of adventure and comfort.
This is a journey with a purpose.
This is a journey to Machu Picchu.



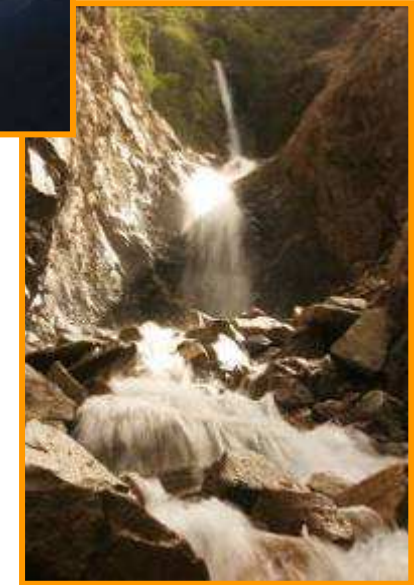
Introduction

Mountain Lodges of Peru offers "Adventure at its finest": the opportunity to experience the essence of adventure within the realm of creature comforts. But for Mountain Lodges of Peru, a great adventure does not end there: for it to be a life-changing experience for our guests, we believe that the experience has to be an adventure on many levels.

This is why our proposal goes far beyond comfortable lodges and great rides... it is a unique opportunity to experience ancient history in the Land of the Incas, contemporary manifestations of deep-founded culture, the most interesting and exotic variety of flora and fauna, culinary surprises, the determination of local people to progress, new friends and like-minded souls.



The proposal



We propose an expedition... one that takes guests on an ancient trail called the "Salkantay Route", going from lodge to lodge along four mountain lodges in the Cordillera Vilcabamba, a spectacular Andean mountain range which cradles the famed Sanctuary of Machu Picchu.

Within MLP's lodge system, the crown jewel is the **Salkantay Lodge & Adventure Resort (SLAR)**, located in the high Andean valley of Soraypampa at 3,850m/12,705ft above sea level. In addition to high-quality "Andean Energetic Cuisine" (as created and named by MLP's Food & Beverage Director), the Lodge offers an outdoor hot tub, cozy reading rooms, a bar/lounge (with Pisco Sour classes and all!) and 12 well-appointed private double (or twin) rooms with private bathrooms and hot showers.

The enchanting valley of Soraypampa is also the starting point of the "other" four-day ride to Machu Picchu – one that is much less traveled but, by many accounts, more scenic and exclusive than the famous "Inca Trail". In MLP's **Machu Picchu Lodge-Lodge** experience, riders spend one night each at three Rider's Lodges located at strategic points along the route: Huayracmachay, Collpapampa and Lucmabamba. Although MLP's Rider's Lodge are smaller in size (only 6 guest rooms per lodge), each one of them offers the same amenities as the base lodge.

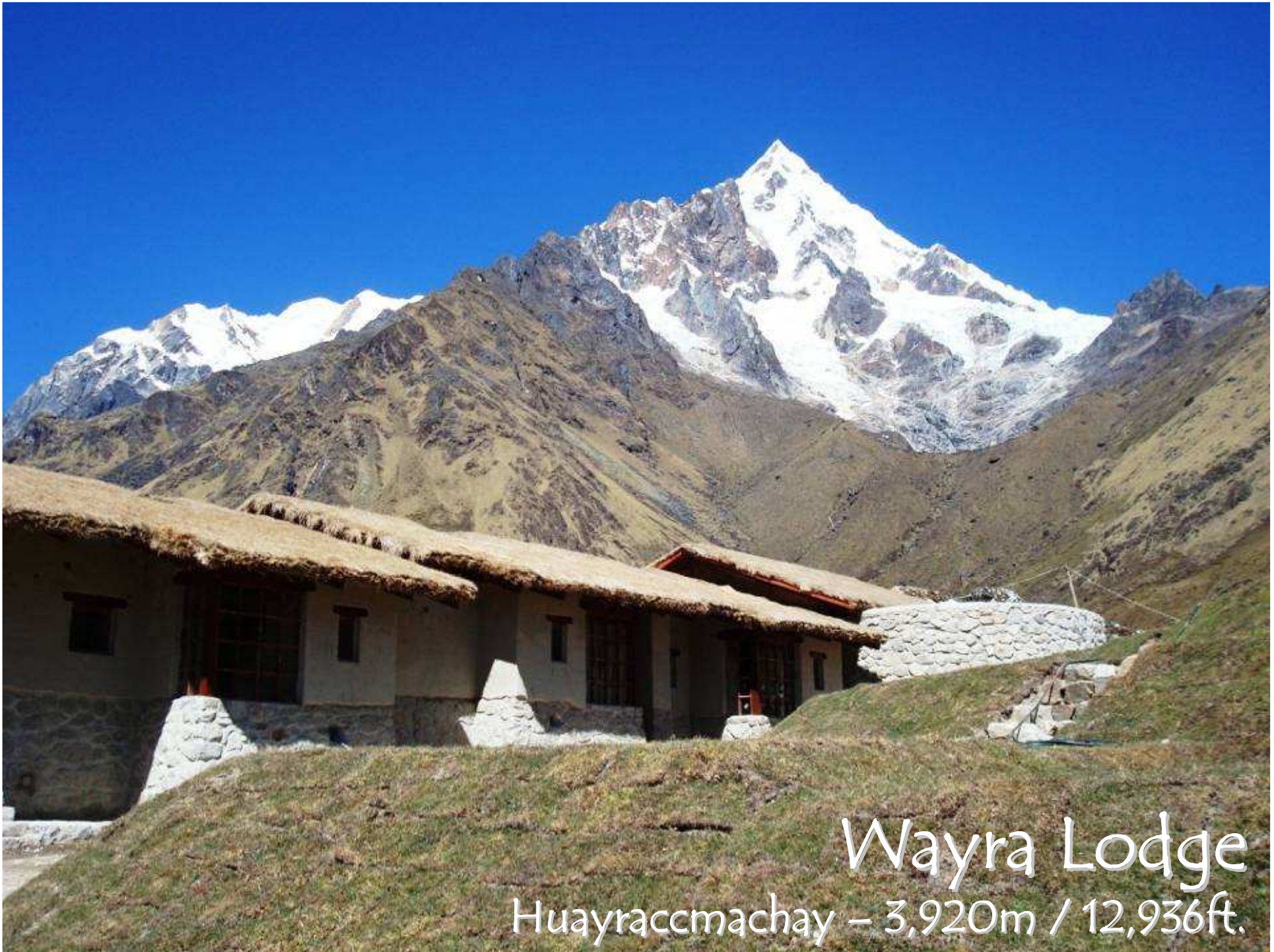
The Lodges





Salkantay Lodge & Adventure Resort

Soraypampa – 3,850m / 12,705ft.



Wayra Lodge

Huayracmachay – 3,920m / 12,936ft.

Colpa Lodge

Collpapampa - 2,840m / 9,372ft.





Lucma Lodge

Lucmabamba – 2,150m / 7,095ft.

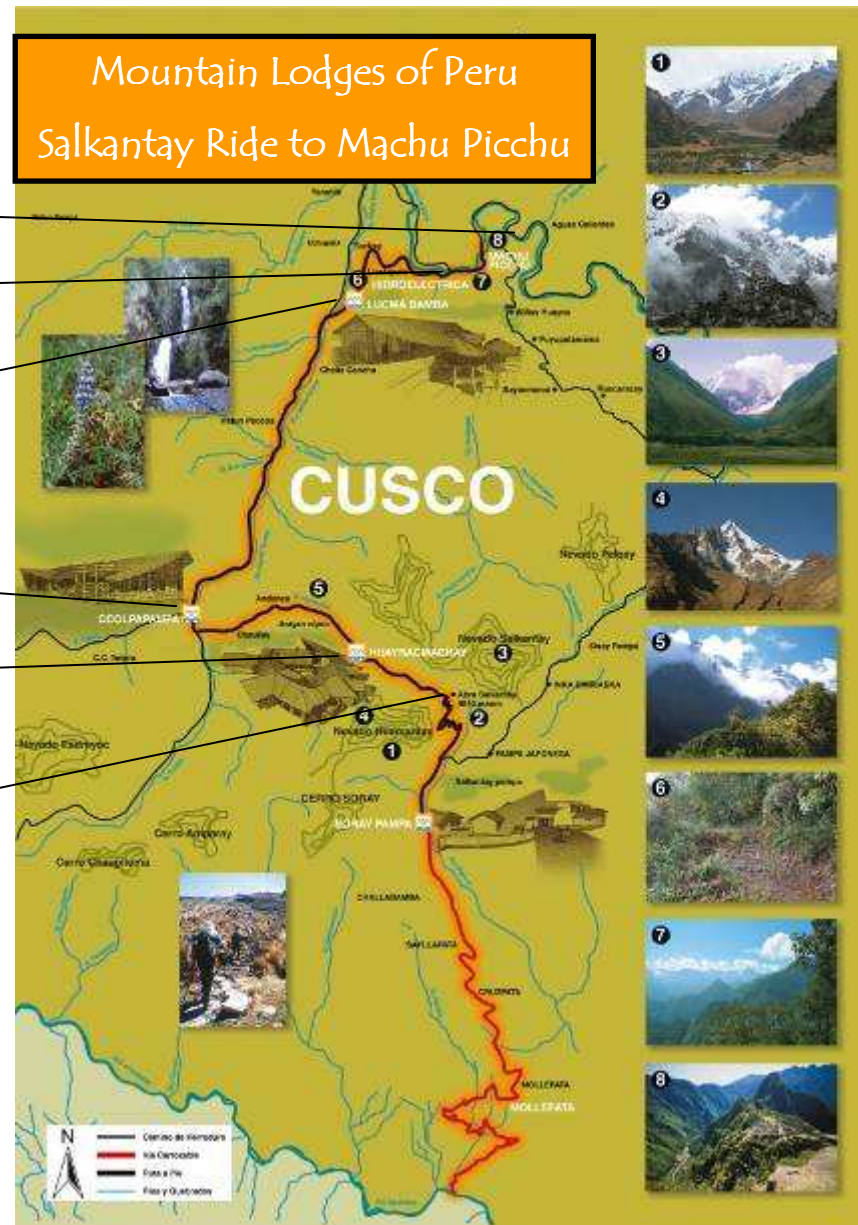
The Riding Route

Mountain Lodges of Peru Salkantay Ride to Machu Picchu

FINISH: Aguas Calientes

- ✦ End of ride at Hydroelectric train station
- ✦ Lucmabamba (7,095 ft / 2,150m) – Site of Lucma Lodge
- ✦ Collpapampa (9,372 ft / 2,840m) – Site of Colpa Lodge
- ✦ Huayracmachay (12,936 ft / 3,920m) – Site of Wayra Lodge
- ✦ Abra Salkantay (14,800 ft / 4,500m) – High pass crossed on first day of the ride

START: Soraypampa (12,500 ft / 3,800m) – Site of the Salkantay Lodge & Adventure Resort



Detailed Itinerary

THE NIGHT BEFORE DEPARTURE: EVENING BRIEFING IN CUSCO MEET & GREET

DAY 1

After an early breakfast, guests will be picked up starting at 7:00 am at their hotel in Cusco by an MLP guide and vehicle in direction to the Salkantay Lodge & Adventure Resort (SLAR) in Soraypampa. En route we will take a short break to visit the Inca ruins of Tarawasi near the town of Limatambo (approx. 1.5 hrs from Cusco). After leaving Limatambo, we pass through the mountain village of Mollepata where we stop for a short coffee break before ascending a winding mountain road to Coronilla Ranch.

Here, after a short period of familiarization, we will begin our ride to Soraypampa. This is a good opportunity for guests to acclimate and enjoy a mild & beautiful 3-4 hour ride on their first day. The SLAR takes its name from the majestic peak at the head of the valley – the “Salkantay”, the 2nd most sacred peak in Inca mythology and, at 20,600 ft (6,270 m), the highest in the region. After a warm welcome by our friendly staff, guests will be shown to their rooms and have time to wash-up. The first afternoon is spent at leisure to adjust to the altitude, taking advantage of the outdoor jacuzzi or just walking in the beautiful surroundings. An evening briefing by the fireplace is followed by aperitifs and dinner.



Technical Description:

- Riding Hours: Approx. four hours
- Type of Terrain: Open roads, some steep ascending trails
- Type of Riding: Walk, trot, canter, gallop
- Note: Lunch is a picnic lunch en route.
Non-riders will be transferred directly to the Lodge.

DAY 2

Today we ride out for three hours in the surrounding area of Soraypampa to visit the Humantay Lake, fed by glaciers far above on the slopes of Humantay. A short walk of about thirty minutes is necessary in order to reach the lake, but the view is well worth it and those brave enough can go for a swim. This activity is excellent for acclimatization. We return to the lodge for lunch, after which we have the option to ride out again for around three hours in the surrounding area, or guests may choose to trade the glacial swim for a relaxing soak in our outdoor jacuzzi. We spend the night at the Salkantay Lodge and Adventure Resort with gourmet food and warm, comfortable beds. In the evening, the guide will brief the ride party on gear and the itinerary for the next four days. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are taken at the Lodge.



Technical Description:

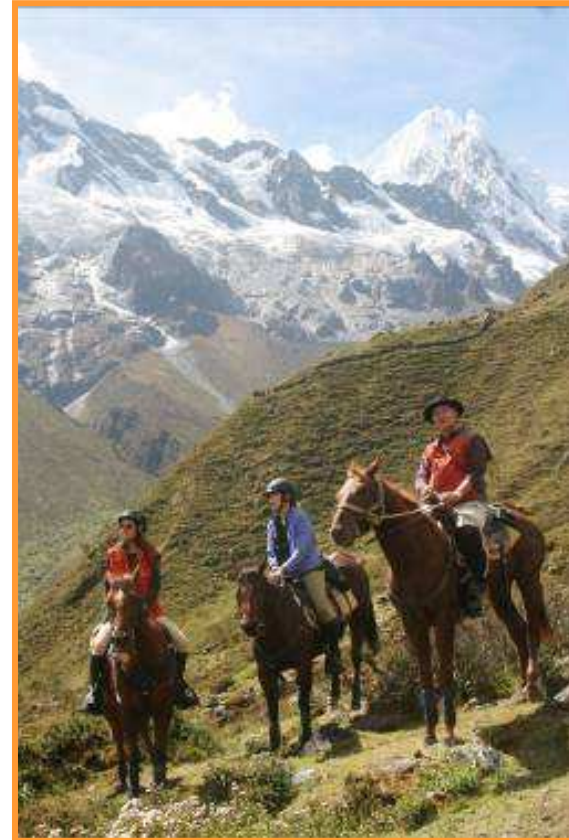
- Riding Hours: Approx. three hours
- Type of Terrain: Open roads, some steep ascending trails and open fields
- Type of Riding: Walk, trot, canter
- Non-rider activity: Hike to Humantay Lake

DAY 3

Today we continue our ride (about four hours) towards Machu Picchu, riding up the Rio Blanco valley and circling Humantay opposite Salkantay. In the process we reach the highest part of the ride, a pass at 4500 metres (14,800 ft) where we keep our eyes open for Andean condors, common to the area. At the pass we stop to take in views of snow-capped peaks of the Vilcabamba Range in every direction, the south face of Salkantay towering above us. We will keep our eyes out for Andean condors, often visible in this area. From the pass we continue our descent toward the Wayra Lodge (“Wayra”: wind; ‘the place where the wind lives’) our destination for the evening. A hot lunch is taken en route. Dinner and overnight at the Lodge

Technical Description:

- Riding Hours: Approx. four hours
- Type of Terrain: 80% steep trails and 20% open land
- Type of Riding: Walk, trot
- Non-rider activity: transfer to Ollantaytambo

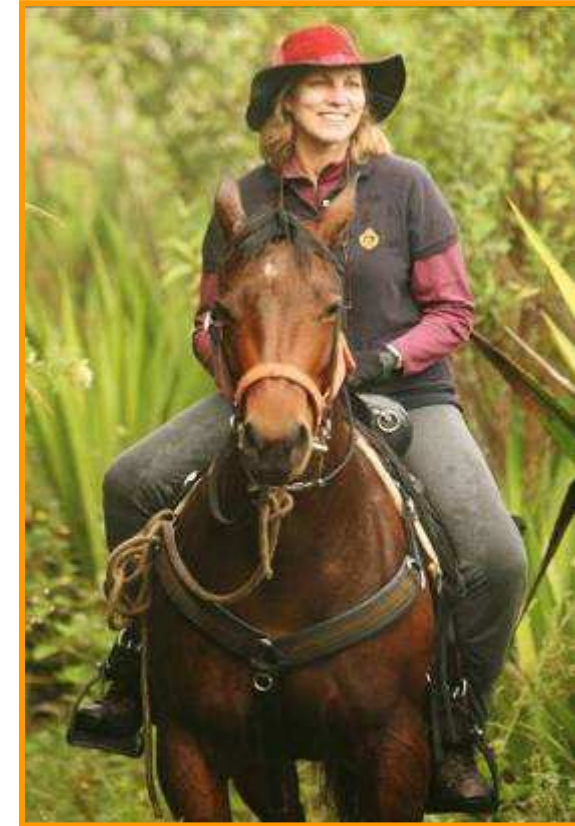


DAY 4

Today we continue downhill above the Salkantay River, descending into the cloud forest, through increasingly verdant scenery. Upon arrival at Collpa Lodge we are greeted with a Pachamanca (subject to availability; traditional underground stone cooking). This traditional meal is famous for its cooking method which consists of layering meat with hot stones and then covering the whole thing up to bake. After observing the uncovering of the Pachamanca, which consists of a variety of meats (chicken, lamb, beef, pork and guinea pig) and vegetables (potatoes, sweet potatoes and yucca) we enjoy our meal. Collpa Lodge is located on an open promontory at the confluence of three rivers. The outdoor jacuzzi has almost panoramic views of lush green mountains. We spend the afternoon relaxing or walking in the surrounding area. Dinner and overnight at the lodge.

Technical Description:

- Riding Hours: Approx. three hours
- Type of Terrain: Steep trails
- Type of Riding: Walk, trot
- Non-rider activity: Day free in Ollantaytambo



DAY 5

Today we head down the Santa Teresa river valley, through banana and passion fruit orchards and coffee plantations. The coffee grown here is said to be one of the best organic coffees in the world. Along the way we stop for a picnic lunch. Afterwards, we continue our ride (a total of around five hours) to the beginning of the Lactapata Inca Trail, which is where we say goodbye to our horses. A short thirty-minute walk through an avocado orchard brings us to Lucma Lodge. We arrive in time to allow for exploration of the small village of Lucmabamba and possible meeting with members of the local community.

Technical Description:

- Riding Hours: Approx. four hours
- Type of Terrain: Steep trails and some open roads
- Type of Riding: Walk, trot, canter
- Non-rider activity: Transfer by train and vehicle to Lucma Lodge



DAY 6

Today we are transferred to the train station by van in order to catch the train to Aguas Calientes, also known as Machu Picchu town. Those who wish to can hike this distance instead. (The guide confirms guests' preferences the night before.)

Description of OPTIONAL hike

We leave the lodge around 9am and head uphill for around two hours towards Llactapata pass (2600 metres/8500 feet). After heading downhill for about ten minutes we come upon the recently restored Llactapata Ruins from where we also have a distant but very special view of Machu Picchu from the southwest, a perspective that few tourists get to enjoy. We walk another ten minutes or so to our lunch spot where we enjoy a picnic lunch with the same view of Machu Picchu. We then descend to the Vilcanota River through bamboo forests, orchards and coffee plantations, a descent of between two and three hours. Aguas Calientes, the town of Machu Picchu, is a short train ride away and we check into our hotel for dinner and a well-earned rest.

** The whole group spends the night in Aguas Calientes.*



DAY 7

Today we have a very early start in order to make the thirty-minute bus ride up to Machu Picchu and arrive before sunrise. We then enjoy a private guided tour of the city, followed by several hours in which we are free to explore the ruins by ourselves. Afterwards we return to Aguas Calientes by bus for lunch and then take the afternoon Vistadome train to Ollantaytambo (about an hour and a half), where we are transferred by car to Cusco (about one hour) and our hotel.

END OF SERVICES



Data Chart: Locations, Altitudes, Distances, Vertical Changes, Times & Temperatures

DAY	LOCATION	ALTITUDE		VERTICAL		VERTICAL		DISTANCE		DISTANCE	
		FEET	METERS	FEET	METERS	FEET	METERS	MILES	KM	MILES	KM
1	CUSCO	11,021	3,360			2,040	622			72	115
	Cusco - Izcuchaca	11,008	3,356	(13)	(4)			17	27		
	Izcuchaca - Huillque (Salkantay view pont)	12,120	3,695	1,112	339			17	27		
	Huillque - Tarawasi Archeological Site (Limatambo)	8,751	2,668	(3,369)	(1,027)			14	23		
	Limatambo - Mollepata Town (coffee break)	9,371	2,857	990	302			13	21		
	Mollepata - Marcocasa (start of acclimatization trek)	11,001	3,354	1,630	497			6	9		
	Marcocasa - Challacancha	11,979	3,651	978	298			3	4		
	Challacancha - Soraypampa (Salkantay Lodge)	12,690	3,869	711	217			2	4		
2	Soraypampa - Humantay Lake	13,845	4,221	1,155	352	0	0	2	3	4	6
	Humantay Lake - Soraypampa	12,690	3,869	(1,155)	(352)			2	3		
3	Soraypampa - Salkantay Pampa	13,625	4,154	935	285	121	37	2	3	8	13
	Salkantay Pampa - Soyrococha	14,730	4,491	1,105	337			2	3		
	Soyrococha - Salkantay Pass	15,213	4,638	482	147			1	1		
	Salkantay Pass - Ichupata (lunch spot)	13,799	4,207	(1,414)	(431)			2	3		
	Ichupata - Huayracmachay (Wayra Lodge)	12,812	3,906	(987)	(301)			2	3		
4	Huayracmachay - Rayampata (resting spot)	11,460	3,494	(1,351)	(412)	(3,398)	(1,036)	3	4	6	9
	Rayampata - Collpapampa (Colpa Lodge)	9,414	2,870	(2,047)	(624)			3	5		
5	Colpa Lodge - Wiñaypocco (resting spot)	8,246	2,514	(1,168)	(356)	(2,411)	(735)	5	9	18	29
	Wiñaypocco - Lluscamayo (lunch spot)	7,938	2,420	(308)	(94)			1	2		
	Lluscamayo - Loreta (vehicle pick-up)	7,104	2,166	(833)	(254)			3	4		
	Loreta - Llactapata Inca Trail	6,616	2,017	(489)	(149)			9	14		
	Llactapata Inca Trail - Lucmabamba (Lucma Lodge)	7,003	2,135	387	118			1	1		
6	Lucmabamba - Llactapata (Machu Picchu view point)	8,974	2,736	1,971	601	(771)	(235)	3	5	14	22
	Llactapata Pass - Train Station	5,809	1,771	(3,165)	(965)			4	7		
	Train Station - Aguas Calientes	6,232	1,900	423	129			6	10		
7	Aguas Calientes - Machu Picchu	7,872	2,400	1,650	503	N/A	N/A	2	4	N/A	N/A
	Aguas Calientes - Cusco	11,021	3,360	3,149	960			69	110		

TOTAL RIDING DISTANCE: 39 MILES / 62 KM
TOTAL TRIP DISTANCE: 191 MILES / 307 KM

Terms & Conditions (VALID FOR TRAVEL JANUARY-DECEMBER 2011)

RATE:

US\$ 2,950 per person for a 7 day & 6 night program based on shared accommodations in a twin, double or triple room.

Single Occupancy Notes:

- Willing to Share Basis (in case we are unable to find somebody to share with): US\$ 147.50 Supplement
- Single Requested Supplement: US\$ 295 Supplement

Rate does NOT include a mandatory entrance fee (instated July 2008) of US \$50 per person to ride on the Salkantay Trail. Please note that this must be paid in cash on Day 1 of the ride. (More on page 24)

Minimum age permitted: 12 years old.

- Tour price is subject to change without prior notice due to circumstances beyond our control.

THE RATE INCLUDES:

- All services from pick up in Cusco on Day 1 to drop off in Cusco on Day 7.
- Transportation from hotel in Cusco to Soraypampa on Day 1 and from Ollantaytambo back to hotel on Day 7.
- 6 nights lodging (5 nights in MLP lodges and 1 night in Aguas Calientes in a 4* hotel)
- All meals except breakfast on Day 1 and dinner on Day 7
- Service of a bilingual guide from Day 1 to Day 7.
- Transportation of personal belongings on the trek by packhorse/mules and/or porters
- Guided visit of Machu Picchu (includes entrance and transportation to the site)
- Trains (Hydroelectric station – Aguas Calientes & Aguas Calientes – Ollantaytambo)
- All beverages except alcoholic drinks
- Tips for Route & Hospitality Staff (Lead & Assistant Guide tips are not included; please tip Lead & Assistant Guide at the end of the trek)

Terms & Conditions (continued)

RESERVATIONS, PAYMENT & CANCELLATIONS

- A non-refundable deposit of **US\$375.00 per person** is required at time of booking regardless of single, double or triple occupancy.
- A reservation will not be CONFIRMED until the deposit is made. Space may be allocated to the next request on the waiting list, if applicable.
- MLP will issue a 48 hour HOLD on a reservations and will contact the responsible party before releasing space.
- MLP will honor and guarantee any reservations with status of PAYMENT IN PROCESS.
- Full payment is required 60 days before departure date.
- MLP requires full guest information to be handed in 30 days prior to departure.
- For a single willing to share, MLP will request payment of the US\$ 147.50 single supplement at 60 days prior to departure, together with full payment, in the case that a roommate has not been found. If a roommate is found for that guest between 60 and 0 days prior to departure, MLP will fully refund the single supplement paid by that guest.

CANCELLATIONS

- For cancellations between time of booking and 60 days prior to departure, MLP will charge the non-refundable deposit of US\$375 per person as the cancellations penalty.
- For cancellations between 59 and 30 days prior to departure, MLP will charge a cancellation fee of 50% of the ride rate
- For cancellations between 29 and 0 days prior to departure, MLP will charge a cancellation fee of 100% of the ride rate

TRANSFER FEES

If a guest wants to change tour dates, the following fees apply:

- 60 or more days prior to departure: US \$100.00 per person
- 59 to 30 days prior to departure date: US \$250.00 per person
- 29 to 8 days prior to departure date: US \$350.00 per person
- 7 to 0 days prior to departure date: US \$540.00 per person

Terms & Conditions (continued)

GUIDES

MLP programs a main guide for a group up to 7 guests. For groups of 8 or more, MLP programs an assistant guide. MLP does not accept additional, "private" guides, unless they pay the full rate and participate as guests, in guest rooms.

MLP can offer additional ground services which are quoted on request. These services will be quoted net and are not commissionable.

In the case that a guest must abandon the trip by choice or as a consequence of MLP's medical emergency protocol (which allows the MLP guide or MLP's resident doctor to deny further participation of guest on a trip), MLP will issue no refunds on the trip cost. Alternative plans can be arranged at added cost.

BRIEF TECHNICAL TRIP DESCRIPTION

6 days (2 days optional) of moderate to strenuous riding at elevations of 6,600-15,000 feet (2,00-4,600m) on steep and rocky trails and a section of stone paved Inca paths. Riding entails traversing through 12 different eco-zones, which involves changing weather conditions.

MLP recommends that guests spend at least 2 nights in Cusco prior to departure. This helps with acclimatization to the altitude and also provides an opportunity to explore the beautiful city of Cusco.

MLP encourages guests to undergo preparation by regular cardio-vascular exercise and eating healthy prior to the trip.

DESCRIPTION OF THE LODGES

All 4 lodges have been designed and built in accordance with traditional building techniques, Inca architectural & mythological concepts and respect for the environment.

The Salkantay Lodge & Adventure Resort has 12 private double, twin or triple rooms with private bathroom facilities. Each Lodge (Wayra, Collpa, Lucma) has 6 private double, twin or triple rooms. Rooms can hold up to 3 people maximum. Lodges are fully equipped and serviced. Salkantay Lodge & Adventure Resort, Wayra Lodge and Colpa Lodge have an outdoor hot tub. Every lodge guarantees an ample supply of hot water for showers; there are no bathtubs in any of the lodges. Room heating ensures the temperature remains a comfortable 68°F (23°C).

We have satellite telephones at each lodge which work with phone cards; these can be purchased at each lodge. Internet is also available at all lodges (see page 27 for more information).

Terms & Conditions (continued)

PRE-RIDE BRIEFING AND MEET & GREET GROUP

MLP provides a pre-ride briefing in Cusco for guests which consists of the following::

- meet and greet with the group and the guide
- detailed itinerary and any last-minute changes
- confirmation of specific dietary and medical information of the participants
- frequently asked questions (and answers)
- participant gear & equipment verification
- specific requests for additional information

IMPORTANT NOTE: The pre-ride briefing takes place in Cusco the night before the ride departure. You will be receiving via email an invitation with the time and place of the briefing, including a map with directions to the briefing.

Please note that if your arrival into Cusco is delayed and you are unable to join your group for the transfer on Day 1 to the first lodge, MLP can arrange a private transfer for you at added cost.

Salkantay Trail Entrance Fee

The INC (*Instituto Nacional de Cultura* or National Institute of Culture) of Peru, through a legal ruling, charges **US\$50 or S/127 (Peruvian `Nuevos Soles`) entrance fee** for all tourists hiking on the Salkantay Trail from Mollepata to Santa Teresa.

This is a mandatory fee that will have to be paid by all tourists in the town of Mollepata in cash. There are no ATMs in Mollepata where the fee must be paid, so guests must make sure to take the money for the entrance fee with them from Cusco.

Guides will remind guests of the Salkantay entrance fee the night before departure at the pre-ride briefing.

Terms & Conditions (continued)

CHECK-IN: SIGNATURE ACCOUNT

At check-in at the 1st lodge, you will be asked to open a voucher on your credit card for potential extras during the trip like alcoholic beverages, clothing/souvenirs and others. At the 4th lodge you will need to settle your bill and can do so by charging the credit card previously presented or by paying in cash. If paying in cash, please take note that we only accept US\$ 5, US\$ 10, US\$ 20, and US\$ 50 dollar bills; we do not accept US\$ 1, US\$ 100 or coins. We accept Peruvian currency. If paying with a credit card, please note you will not be able to present a new credit card when settling the bill.

MASSAGE SERVICES

MLP offers professional massage services at the Salkantay Lodge & Adventure Resort from March-December of every season. MLP offers professional massage services at the Wayra, Colpa and Lucma lodges—subject to availability, please inquire prior to departure. The cost for a massage service is US\$65.00 per 60 minute session.



Terms & Conditions (continued)

COMMUNICATIONS

MLP offers satellite-based communications at all 4 lodges along the Salkantay Trail to Machu Picchu. Due to the satellite-based nature of the system, signal reception may not be guaranteed in cases of continuous or extreme bad weather conditions.

RURAL SATELLITE PHONE

- Each Lodge has a stationary rural satellite phone which the guests can use.
- These phones work on phone cards which can be purchased at the lodges.
- International calls can be placed and received. However, we kindly ask to refrain from receiving incoming calls unless in case of emergency, as a sign of respect and courtesy for other guests.
- As a reference, a US\$10 phone card provides 10 minutes to the US/Canada and 5 minutes to Europe.

RURAL SATELLITE INTERNET

Though it is our goal to try and maintain our guest's experience as pure and natural as possible, with as less contact with urban traits (like internet) as possible, we understand that internet might have become a necessary service for some guests. Thus, MLP provides rural wi-fi internet service at all 4 lodges. However, as a sign of respect and courtesy to other guests, we kindly ask that the use of the internet service is limited to use within the guest rooms and is prohibited in the common areas of each lodge.

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF INTERNET USE

- If you decide to bring your own laptop the rate is US\$12.00 per day, at each lodge, for unlimited Internet access. A username and password will be provided to you when the service is requested. A "public" laptop is available at each lodge for the guests to use for a flat fee of US\$6.00 per session. Each session has a maximum duration of 45 minutes per guest.
- Payment of the services will be charged to your credit card at the end of the ride.
- Please keep in mind that good internet reception is not guaranteed due to the satellite-based nature of the system. Continuous and/or extreme bad weather conditions might negatively affect the internet signal.

*** MLP IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF THE GUESTS LAPTOPS OR ANY OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICE.**

Terms & Conditions (continued)

ACCIDENT AND MEDICAL EVACUATION INSURANCE

MLP includes accident and medical evacuation insurance, valid for the duration of the program, with no added cost. Please note that this is NOT travel insurance. If you wish to purchase additional days of coverage outside of the ride portion of your trip, it is US\$ 8 per day per person – please let us know and we can add this to your invoice.

If you want more information about the coverage terms, please visit our insurance provider's website*. Due to the detailed and specific regulations regarding insurance, MLP is not authorized nor can we answer questions regarding this insurance. Any questions must be directed to IHI BUPA.

WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE OUR GUESTS TO PURCHASE TRAVEL INSURANCE

*To view our insurance coverage, please follow this link:

<https://global.ihl.com/travel+insurance/single+trip/cover.aspx>

Note: After you press the link, MLP insurance coverage terms apply to the table “Basic Cover” only.



Optional 2nd Day at Machu Picchu

Book an extra night in Aguas Calientes

- Enjoy a 2nd visit to Machu Picchu: visit the Sun Gate, climb Huayna Picchu, go to Intipunku, and enjoy many other marvels the site has to offer.
- Spend a relaxing day enjoying nature walks (bird watching, orchid gardens) or visiting the hot springs.
- Enjoy all the amenities your hotel has to offer, including spa services.



Rate: US\$ 265.00 per person based on a double room

Notes:

1. Please request this service when making your reservation.
2. Does not include transportation to the site, entrance tickets, guide for Machu Picchu for a 2nd visit. These services can be requested.
3. Transfer from Ollantaytambo to hotel in Cusco is an additional charge. Please request quote at the time of booking.
4. Single Room Rate: US\$ 420.00



Pre & Post-Ride Additional Services

Need help with your travel plans?

Don't know where to book hotels, domestic flights or other services in Peru?

Or simply... need advice on what to do?

Let us give you a hand in making your travel hassle-free and enjoyable.

Hotels in Lima

Did you know that most international flights arrive into Lima airport either late at night (11pm) or early in the morning (5am) and that connecting flights to Cusco start at 6am? Sometimes, booking a night at a Lima hotel (even for a few hours) makes all the difference in feeling rested for enjoying your trip. We offer hotel booking services in Lima in an array of 3 to 5 star hotels.

Hotels in Cusco

We always recommend to stay at least two nights in Cusco (if your travel allows it) prior to your ridding adventure in order to acclimatize for your lodge to lodge ride. We can help you with booking hotels in Cusco for your pre & post ridding needs. This is ideal for exploring the city of Cusco and its surroundings, which have much to offer culturally and historically. Additionally, you can enjoy fine dining, traditional shows, shopping, night-life, amongst other entertainment.

Extension Packages

Feel like exploring more of Peru? Ask for all the possibilities we have for you. Explore Puno's "Lake Titicaca" (highest sailable lake in the World), adventure into the Peruvian Amazon jungle, or visit the Colca Canyon.

Recommended Equipment List

Here is a basic packing list. These items are essential to ensure adventure travelers' comfort and safety.

DAY PACK
BROKEN-IN COMFORTABLE RIDING BOOTS
RAIN GEAR (PONCHOS OR FULL RAIN GEAR)
GLOVES
LIGHTWEIGHT RIDINGPANTS OR SHORTS (PANTS RECOMMENDED).
BREATHEABLE LIGHTWEIGHT TOP-WEAR
COMFORTABLE SHOES / FLIP-FLOPS
COLD-WEATHER JACKET
LONG-SLEEVE FLEECE / SWEATER
WOOL HAT
SPORT HAT (BASEBALL STYLE OR SOMBRERO STYLE OUTDOOR HAT)
HEADLIGHT
SUNGLASSES
COMFORTABLE RIDING SOCKS
SUNSCREEN
INSECT REPELLENT
BATHING SUIT
CASUAL MOUNTAIN WEAR FOR EVENINGS
PHOTO/VIDEO CAMERAS & CHARGERS
RE-FILLABLE WATER BOTTLE
LIGHT-WEIGHT, SMALL BINOCULARS

Notes.-

- We appreciate no hard suitcases or carry-ons; soft duffel bags and / or backpacks ("soft" luggage) are recommended.
- Sleeping bags are not required as the lodges provide ample bedding.
- We provide a limited amount of hair-dryers at each lodge, due to limitations in energy supply and environmental concerns.
- At the 1st lodge, all guests are provided with an "Amenity Kit" that includes bath gel, shampoo, conditioner, mositurizing cream and a shower cap. This Amenity Kit will be given to guests at the first lodge and guests should pack the kit in their luggage, as there are no additional kits once you leave the first lodge.

Important Baggage Specifications

Peru Rail, the company that operates the trains from Aguas Calientes/Machu Picchu to Cusco, instated on July 9, 2008 a new weight limit for all luggage coming on board the trains.

The new weight limits from Peru Rail (and thus for the ride) are as follows:

1 backpack – 11 lbs / 5 kg (per person, which guests carry with them on the train)

AND

1 duffel bag – 22 lbs / 10 kg (per person, which goes on a separate cargo train)

Anything over this weight limit, Peru Rail will charge guests directly at the train station in Aguas Calientes (Rate: US\$0.82 per pound extra or US\$1.80 per kg extra). Please note that MLP does not charge a penalty for surpassing the weight allowance established by Peru Rail.

Most Cusco hotels will allow guests to store extra luggage at the hotel while guests are on the ride. Please inquire directly with your pre-ride hotel. If your hotel does not provide this service please advise MLP of this.

If you do not have an appropriate sized duffel bag, MLP can provide a duffel bag for loan at the pre-ride briefing (the night before departure). You may return them to your guide after the ride.

If your luggage exceeds the weight limit, please note that your luggage will be on board a separate cargo train from Aguas Calientes/Machu Picchu to Cusco. This means your luggage will not travel with you on this portion of the trip. Therefore, on Day 7 before you depart for Machu Picchu, will be the last time you see your luggage until you return to your Cusco hotel that evening. If you wish to have a change of clothes or anything else you may want with you that day, please pack it in your backpack that morning.

Equestrian Information

1. Horses: MLP uses for this trip specially trained Quarter Horses. All horses are picked from a pre-selected pool especially for each trip, according to their level of fitness at the time.

2. Saddles: MLP offers our guests two different types of saddles:

- a) Uruguayan Endurance Saddles: assimilates to English-type; leather
- b) American Endurance Saddles: assimilates to Western-type; synthetic

3. Level of difficulty: Intermediate to advanced. Beginners are welcome but they will have a different type of horse and direct assistance from a horseman.

4. Safety: MLP strongly recommends the use of safety equipment such as helmets and back protectors on this ride. Helmets, chaps and back protectors can be rented at the beginning of the ride, subject to availability. Please notify us in advance if you wish to rent any such equipment as we can add the cost to your invoice. If you decide to use the equipment at short notice or on the day of the ride, the cost can be added to your spending at the lodges and added to your final bill, payable at the last lodge.

Note 1.- Our horses are especially trained for high altitudes and rugged terrains.

Note 2.- Our horses are fitted with “booties” to protect their extremities.

Note 3.- MLP takes “replacement” or “back-up” horses on every trip.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the weight limit for luggage/clothing/equipment that each traveler can take on the ride?

A: THE WEIGHT LIMIT FOR THE RIDE IS 15KG / 35 lbs PER GUEST, AS THIS IS THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT THAT MULES AND PORTERS CAN CARRY. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT "HARD" LUGGAGE POSES A PROBLEM; SOFT, "DUFFEL-BAG" TYPE LUGGAGE IS RECOMMENDED.

Q: What should guests do with their remaining bags and clothing?

A: REMAINING LUGGAGE CAN BE STORED IN CUSCO AT YOUR PRE-RIDE HOTEL.

Q: How is luggage transported from lodge to lodge? Is it with us at all times?

A: GUESTS SHOULD CARRY A DAY-PACK WITH THEM WITH EVERYTHING THEY NEED FOR THE DAY. MULES AND PORTERS CARRYING THE LUGGAGE WILL NOT WALK WITH THE GROUP. YOUR LUGGAGE WILL MEET YOU UPON AT ARRIVAL AT EACH LODGE.

Q: What is the weather like on the Salkantay ride during the year?

SEE DATA CHART ON PAGE 20 FOR AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

A: WEATHER IN THE REGION IS EXTREMELY VARIABLE AND YOU SHOULD PACK FOR A VARIETY OF CONDITIONS. IN ADDITION, OUR ride PASSES THROUGH 9 BIO-ZONES RANGING FROM HIGH ALTITUDE ALPINE CONDITIONS TO HIGH JUNGLE. HERE IS A ROUGH GUIDELINE:

DECEMBER-MARCH: RAIN/COLD

APRIL-JUNE: FAIR

JULY-AUGUST: DRY/COLD

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER: OCCASSIONAL RAIN/FAIR

(FAQ continued)

Q: How many guides will be with the group on the ride?

A: WE WORK WITH ONE GUIDE FOR GROUPS UP TO 7 TRAVELERS. FOR GROUPS OF 8 TO 14 WE HAVE AN ASSISTANT GUIDE. HOWEVER, THE COOKS AND THE HORSEMEN KNOW THE AREA AND THE RIDE VERY WELL AND ARE ABLE TO ASSIST THE GUIDES AT ALL TIMES; EVEN IN CASES OF EMERGENCY EVACUATION. ALL MLP GUIDES HAVE "WILDERNESS FIRST AID CERTIFICATION"

Q: What kind of emergency procedures are in place if a guest injures themselves in a way that disables them from continuing the ride (i.e. falls and breaks a leg)? What is the nearest hospital and how can they get there? Can the rest of the group continue without them or must they all turn around?

A: THERE IS BASIC MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND ATTENTION AT THE LODGES; THE MLP PERSONNEL TRAVELING WITH THE GROUP ARE TRAINED TO HANDLE EMERGENCIES. MLP ALSO WORKS WITH A MEDICAL HELICOPTER RESCUE OPERATION FOR EMERGENCIES. FOR MINOR MEDICAL ATTENTION THAT CANNOT BE TAKEN CARE OF AT THE LODGES BUT WHICH REQUIRE SPECIAL MEDICAL ATTENTION, THE NEAREST MEDICAL CENTERS, IN THE WORST CASE, ARE ONE DAY DISTANCE BY HORSE OR MULE. GUIDES CARRY FULL FIRST AID KIT AND PORTABLE OXYGEN WITH THEM AT ALL TIMES.

Q: Do the guides have naturalist training of any kind?

A: MLP WORKS WITH THE BEST GUIDES IN CUSCO. THESE GUIDES ARE ALSO TRAINED IN THE ROUTE "MLP STYLE" AND IN THE FULL OPERATION OF THE LODGES AND THE MLP PRODUCT. WE WILL HAVE SPECIALIST GUIDES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST (BIRD SPECIALISTS, HISTORY SPECIALISTS, ETC.)

Q: Do clients carry their lunch food in their daypacks?

A: ON DAYS 3, 5, AND 6, WHICH CALL FOR A PICNIC LUNCH EN ROUTE, LUNCH WILL BE PREPARED FRESH ON-SITE BY THE COOKS AND WILL CONSIST IN HOT SOUP, GOURMET SANDWICHES OR A HOT LUNCH, SNACKS AND SALADS. ADDITIONALLY, GUESTS WILL BE HANDED A "SNACK-PACK" TO CARRY IN THEIR DAY PACKS WITH DRY FRUITS, PEANUTS, CHOCOLATES AND FRESH FRUITS.

(FAQ continued)

Q: What is the electrical current found at the lodges if a guest wants to use their own electrical appliances?

A: THE LODGES HAVE AN ELECTRICAL CURRENT OF 220 VOLTS. IF GUESTS HAVE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES THAT WORK WITH 110 VOLTS, THEY SHOULD BRING THEIR OWN ADAPTORS SINCE THERE ARE IS A LIMITED SUPPLY OF THESE IN THE LODGES FOR THEIR USE.

Q: Where do we meet our group/guide? When and where will we be picked-up on Day 1?

A: THERE IS A PRE-RIDE BRIEFING THE NIGHT BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE WITH YOUR GUIDE/GROUP AT A LOCAL CUSCO HOTEL. WE WILL BE SENDING YOU AN INVITATION VIA EMAIL SPECIFYING THE EXACT TIME AND PLACE OF THE BRIEFING.

Q: What is the terrain like? How challenging is it?

A: THE RIDE IS RATED AS MODERATE TO CHALLENGING AND COVERS APPROXIMATELY 32 MILES ON UNEVEN, ROCKY TERRAIN. DAY 3 IS THE MOST CHALLENGING WITH AN ELEVATION GAIN OF 3,000 FEET IN A SPAN OF 3 MILES TO REACH A MAXIMUM ALTITUDE OF 15,000 FEET. PRIOR HIKING EXPERIENCE IS RECOMMENDED AS THIS IS NOT A NOVICE HIKE. PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS.

For additional information and reservations please contact:

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