

2wish Trek to the Lost City

16-25 October 2027



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Trip overview

The trek

Voted one of the top 25 treks in the world, this challenging expedition will take you over the spectacular Andean peaks, through epic Peruvian landscapes and misty cloud forest. We will start our adventure in the Colonial town of Cusco with an acclimatisation trek to the Inca ruins of Tambomachay. After two-days of acclimatising and sightseeing, we will begin our hike towards Machu Picchu along the Salkantay trail. The route follows an ancient and remote Inca footpath, where snow-capped mountains collide with lush tropical rain forests. The paths are filled with wild strawberries, colourful butterflies and other exotic flora and fauna. Off the beaten path, this trek is one of the most interesting and challenging ways to experience the land of the ancient Incas. One of the highlights will be catching our first glimpse of Machu Picchu across the valley! We will spend our last night at the spa town of Aguas Calientes and in the morning we will take a short transfer to the ancient site where you can enjoy a guided tour, unlocking the mysteries of this glorious ancient city. After returning to Cusco we will have our final celebratory meal and more time to enjoy the sights of this stunning UNESCO World Heritage Site, before returning home via Lima.

Peru

Peru is the third largest country in South America and can be split into three regions: the Andes Mountains, the Amazonian lowlands and the Pacific coastal strip. Peru borders Chile, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador, while the western strip hugs the Pacific Ocean. The country possesses an enormous biological diversity and the flora and fauna are largely determined by the Andes and Amazon River. Peru is unequalled in South America for its archaeological and historical wealth and has witnessed many cultures and civilisations; the most well-known being the Incas, even though they were only dominant for around 100 years.

Machu Picchu

The awe-inspiring Inca site is instantly recognisable throughout the world. Reaching Machu Picchu at a height of 2,380m is a tremendous and exhilarating feeling. The city of Machu Picchu was hidden by lush vegetation until 1911 and is one of the best-preserved ancient kingdoms in the world. The quality of the buildings and their inaccessibility has inspired numerous theories about their purpose over the years.

Cusco

Formerly the head of the Inca Empire, Cusco is a fascinating and vibrant city full of history, dramatic scenery and the host of many fiestas and carnivals. This UNESCO World Heritage site is situated at an altitude of 3,400m so you need time to acclimatise. The city is an eclectic mix of Inca and Spanish architecture - everywhere you look you can see the remains of original Inca walls, doorways and arches.

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What is the experience like?



Who accompanies us?

You will be accompanied throughout the trek by English-speaking local guides who have an excellent knowledge of the local culture and hiking in the region. The guides are first aid trained and will support you throughout your journey. You will also be supported by a team of professional cooks and muleteers from local communities and a Different Travel UK tour manager. You will be in very safe hands!

How tough is it?

This trek is graded '*challenging*' as you will be trekking over varying terrain, exposed to high altitudes (up to 4,630m) and sleeping in campsites with basic facilities. You should be prepared for all weather conditions and variable temperatures. Each day's trek is between 5-8 hours and there are some big hills to climb! This is an endurance challenge so you are strongly advised to build up a good level of fitness – the fitter you are the more you will enjoy the challenge.

What's the terrain like?

The steep terrain and high altitude will make the going tough at times, but anyone with good fitness and the right attitude will love it. The first day is generally flat with a gradual incline as you gain altitude, there may also be some small streams to cross. The second day will be tough with a steep zigzagging ascent on rocky ground to the high pass, followed by an undulating descent through the rainforest where the terrain may be muddy and slippery. The next two days of trekking are undulating and will be a mixture of jungle and alpine trails, which can be muddy underfoot. There are a number of hills to climb, including a steep climb through the coffee plantations on the final day. You must ensure your training includes plenty of hills!

What's the food like on the trek?

Experienced chefs will be on-hand to make amazing, hearty meals in the middle of the mountains. Breakfast is eaten as a group in the mess tent (hot drinks, bread, butter and jam, pancakes, scrambled eggs or oatmeal etc.) and the cooks will prepare delicious traditional Andean food for lunch and dinner. This will include dishes such as soup, chicken, beef or lamb, fish with potatoes, quinoa, rice or pasta. Snacks include fruit, chocolate, sandwiches, hot drinks and popcorn. Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions.

How far will we trek?

Each day we will trek between 6-8 hours depending on group pace, altitude, weather and steepness of terrain. As there is a lot of ascent and descent, the distances covered may not always sound very much (8-20km per day) but this does not demonstrate the difficulty of the terrain and hills you'll have to climb.

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Where will we stay?

You will spend the first three nights in hotels on a twin-share basis (one night in Lima and two nights in a historical colonial hotel in Cusco). During the trek you will spend three nights camping in three-man tents (two people per tent) and on the last night of the trek, you'll stay one night at a guesthouse in Aguas Calientes for a good night's sleep before heading up to Machu Picchu the following day. After the trek you will spend two further nights at a hotel in Cusco. Tents, sleeping mats and sleeping bags are provided for camping.

Will we be at high-altitude?

Yes, the maximum altitude on this trek is 4,630m (Abra Salkantay high pass); however your exposure to high altitude will start from your arrival in Cusco (3,400m). Approximately 3,000m and above is considered high altitude. Upon arriving in Cusco, it quickly becomes evident to anyone un-acclimatised that they are at a higher altitude than they are used to, as simple activities such as walking upstairs feels more laboured than expected. The first two days in Cusco are acclimatisation days which will give your body a chance to adjust. These days are important to help you cope with the altitude demands during the trek.

What's the climate like?

The only one thing you can say about the weather in Peru is that it is difficult to accurately predict. You can have beautifully clear hot days in the middle of the wet season and hail storms in the dry season – it's one of the beauties of Peru.

In the Andes, there are two main seasons – wet and dry. The wet season runs from November to April and the dry season from May to October. You are likely to experience average day time temperatures of around 20°C and night time average lows around -10°C during the trek.

Why not the Inca Trail?

The Inca Trail has all the fame, but we have chosen the Salkantay trek as it's a more scenic and less crowded trek. It passes through more breath-taking and varied landscapes, past Inca Ruins and still ends at Machu Picchu. You'll also have more time and energy to explore Machu Picchu itself. Filled with challenging passes and high altitudes, it's not for the faint-hearted. However, if you're up for the challenge, we promise you'll be really glad you did the Salkantay Trek, over the busy and over-crowded Inca Trail – you might even catch a glimpse of the local wildlife from chinchillas, foxes and spectacled bears! Something which disappeared from the Inca Trail a long time ago.

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Practical information

What's the minimum age?

The minimum age is 18 (or 16-17 if accompanied by a parent/guardian). There is no upper age limit.

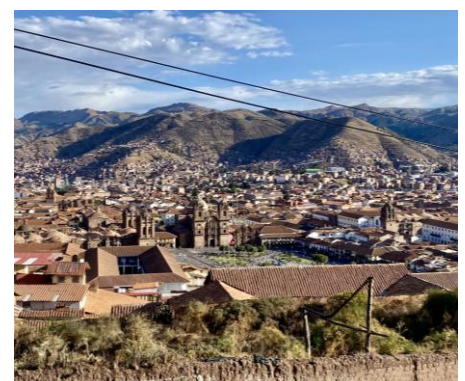
Who can take part?

An ideal candidate is someone who is open minded, positive, flexible and enjoys the challenges of the great outdoors. Adventure travel involves elements of the unexpected so do not expect the standards to be the same as you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable (be it because of group pace, weather conditions etc.) and itineraries may be altered to allow for this. You must also be willing to train hard for this challenge!

How should I prepare?

If you do not already regularly exercise you should aim to start training (including plenty of hills) as early as possible. The best training is hill walking, which will prepare you for the type of terrain you will experience trekking to Machu Picchu.

Other activities which can complement hill walking include running, cycling, gym workouts, boot camps etc. Building up your core and leg muscle strength is important so exercises such as squats, lunges, push-ups, planks and crunches will really enhance your training. These exercises can be done at home – no gym needed. You can download a number of free apps, which will help you train and track your progress, e.g. MapMyWalk, C25K (couch to 5k run), MyFitnessPal (for a variety of sports). You must take your training seriously and arrive as fit as you can be, so you get the most out of this challenge.



Medical declaration

We require a medical form to be completed by everyone upon registering, and any pre-existing conditions, medications used and other medical issues must be specified.

All your data, including medical details, is treated in the strictest confidence. The information will be securely screened by a qualified medical professional, and details provided to your tour manager and local guides so our staff are adequately informed and prepared to support you during the trip. It is a condition of your registration that you give full and accurate details. If any details change, you must update us. By completing the booking form, you are giving consent for us to contact you confidentially with any follow-up questions regarding your health. If your medical issues at the time of booking represent a concern for your safety and wellbeing, or the safety and wellbeing of others in the group, it may be recommended that you do not take part. If this happens, your deposit will be refunded. If you develop a new medical condition after making a booking and this results in your withdrawal from the Event, this will be treated as a cancellation by you. Please refer to the terms and conditions at the time of booking. Please note that we will never unreasonably deny participation on a trip nor contravene the Equality Act 2010.

Health & Safety Assurance

Your health and safety are our highest priorities, and we are committed to ensuring your trip is not only memorable but also safe.

We closely monitor guidance from the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), which provides up-to-date travel advice and recommendations. All adventure travel involves an element of risk. We will **never operate a trip in an area against the advice of the FCDO**, whether due to health concerns, political instability, natural disasters, or any other safety threat.

If travel restrictions in the destination country prevent the trip from going ahead safely, we will offer the option to postpone or cancel your booking **at no cost to you**.

We will keep you fully informed of any updates relevant to your travel arrangements.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to us at info@different-travel.com.



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Trip costs

There is a £499 non-refundable, non-transferable, registration fee payable at the time of booking to secure your place. (This is payable in instalments upon request by emailing accounts@different-travel.com).

You must then pay trip costs* of £3,061 to Different Travel by 6 August 2027. An instalment payment of £250 must be paid by 16 April 2027. You are also asked to fundraise a minimum of £1,500 for 2wish.

*NB Trip costs are based on the overall group size and are subject to change.

What's included:

- ✓ Return flights from London and domestic flights from Lima to Cusco (inc. airport taxes and supplements)
- ✓ All transport in Peru
- ✓ Accommodation in 3* hotels (5 nights), high quality tents on the trek (3 nights) and guesthouse in Aguas Calientes (1 night)
- ✓ All meals except lunch on day 9
- ✓ Local English-speaking guides, porters and full support crew on the trek
- ✓ Trekking permits and entrance fees to Machu Picchu
- ✓ UK Different Travel tour manager
- ✓ Fundraising and training support

What's not included:

- ✗ Personal expenses (e.g. drinks, souvenirs, etc.)
- ✗ Lunch on day 9
- ✗ Vaccinations
- ✗ Travel insurance
- ✗ Tips for local guides and support crew (approx. £55-£65)
- ✗ Trek kit and equipment
- ✗ Peru visa (not currently required for British citizens)
- ✗ UK transfers to and from the airport

