

Machu Picchu's Balcony Full Day Trek

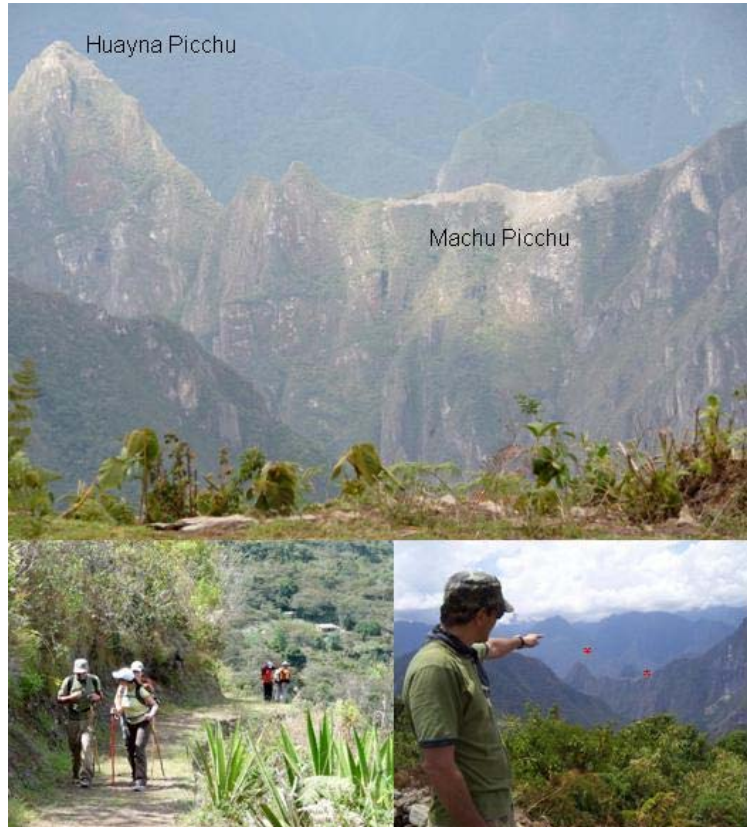
A condor's view of Machu-Picchu

Ever wonder what lies beyond Machu Picchu mountain?

There is much left unseen around the town of Aguas Calientes.

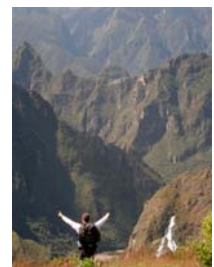
The Incas built a dramatically positioned Temple of the Sun perched at the peak of a remote hill against a backdrop of an impressive valley with views of the lost city of Machu Picchu

Visit this recently rediscovered complex on a full day, fully-catered compact excursion along a lost Inca Trail.



Day Description

- 6:00 am Wake-up call
- 6:30 am Breakfast at hotel
- Knowledgeable guides arrange our equipment* and day backpacks
- 7:00 am Transfer to Aguas Calientes Train Station (5 minute walk)
- 7:30 am 40 minute ride on local train to Hydro Train station, where a private transport is waiting ready to move on
- 8:30 am After a brief stop at the bustling town of Santa Teresa, we reach the trek's starting point in a bit more than an hour
- 9:00 am Arrival to trek starting point, last minute arrangements and equipment check
- 9:15 am Uphill trek along Inca Trail
- 12:30 pm Deluxe Picnic
- 1:00 pm Start descent towards the Aobamba Valley



3:30 pm	Arrival t Hydro Train Station
4:00 pm	Train ride back to Machu Picchu
4:45 pm	Arrival to hotel in Aguas Calientes (Machu Picchu)

The Excursion

Strolling along the gradual-slope of an ancient Inca Trail –a true engineering marvel, we pass by coffee plantations, local villages and *campesinos* on a day’s work.

Birds fly past us, as we gaze at the *tinku* or river junction and take a glimpse over our shoulders at the towering *apus* that rise beyond far clouds.

Our first rest stop takes place a bit after an hour, near a set of steps carved into the natural rock. As we continue, pristine streams flow cutting across the Inca Trail along century old grey-stone canals.

At the summit, refreshing forest shadows welcome us to a majestic sight: **Machu Picchu as the Incas saw it**. Far ahead, travellers gaze at tourists wondering around the citadel 4kms in front across the valley... they have no clue our eyes watch from the jungle.

We rest at the Sun Temple’s plaza, double-jam doors speak of this high status location. Our guide recalls archaeological and astronomic theories that cast a light on this mysterious outpost while picnic is served and enjoyed.

Going down is not all that’s left to it: taken aback by amazing views of the natural surroundings while a steeper slope adds a touch of adventure and a huge waterfall welcomes us back.

After a well deserved toast, we rest at the local train station that will take us back to our hotel.



How to insert “Machu Picchu’s Balcony FD trek” into a traditional program

OPTION A: Machu Picchu’s Balcony FD Trek on **DAY 2**

Day No.	City Code	Program 1 Service short description
01	Sacred Valley	Sacred Valley Overnight at Sacred Valley
02	Machu Picchu’s Balcony FD Trek	Early transfer to Hydro train station Trek (picnic) Transfer back to Machu Picchu Overnight at Machu Picchu
03	Machu Picchu	Full Day Machu Picchu ruins visit a) Overnight at Machu Picchu or b) Return to Sacred Valley or Cusco

OPTION B: Machu Picchu’s Balcony FD Trek on **DAY 3**

Day No.	City Code	Program 2 Service short description
01	Sacred Valley or Cusco	Sacred Valley Overnight at Sacred Valley
02	Machu Picchu	Transfer to Machu Picchu Full Day Machu Picchu ruins visit Overnight at Machu Picchu
03	Machu Picchu’s Balcony FD Trek	Early transfer to Hydro train station Trek (picnic) Transfer back to Machu Picchu Overnight at Machu Picchu

NOTE: Since the Machu Picchu’s Balcony FD Trek finishes at around 5:00 pm, an additional night at Aguas Calientes is required for Option B. Option A saves time and offers an excellent compact experience.

IV. *Equipment / Requirements:

- hat
- camera
- long sleeves/pants are suggested
- 1.5 lts hydration fluid

- sun block
 - sunglasses
 - neckerchief
 - walking stick
 - Hiking shoes
 - repellent (DEET)
 - day backpack
 - rain poncho
- A high dose of *The Spirit of Travel*; this is not a hard trek but it does require some fitness, patience and will.