



P E R U:

INCA TRAIL / AUSANGATE TREK COMBO

Featured as one of "The 25 trips of a lifetime" by Outside magazine - March 2002

DURATION : 18 days / 17 nights (9 nights tent camping)
SEASON : May through October
DEPARTURES : Guaranteed with a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 12 participants
TRIP RATING : Strenuous Trek, Grade (IV) - This program includes two treks: a scenic 4-day "warm-up" along the world renowned *Inca Trail* leading to Machu Picchu (averaging 6.1 miles per day and reaching 13,780' in elevation) followed by a second, challenging 6-day loop around Mount Ausangate (averaging 7½ miles per day & reaching elevations up to 16,564'—crossing 4 high passes).

2006 DATES : APR 07 - 24 ○ JUL 21 - AUG 07
MAY 05 - 22 ○ AUG 04 - 21 ○
MAY 19 - JUN 05 SEP 01 - 18
JUN 16 - JUL 03 ✨ SEP 29 - OCT 16 ○
JUL 07 - 24 ○ OCT 20 - NOV 06
✨ Inti Raymi Festival Departure NOV 03 - 20 ○
○ Full moon departures

INTRODUCTION :

This is the best trekking combination in the Andes—designed for active travelers who want to enjoy the full spectrum of incredible experiences that the southern Peruvian Andes have to offer! Our program features the intriguing architectural legacy of the Inca stonemasons, the rich cultural heritage of the highlands, the unique natural history and wildlife of the Altiplano and cloud forest and some of the finest mountain scenery and hiking in the world. We explore enigmatic Inca fortresses and hilltop citadels such as Pisac, Sacsayhuaman and Machu Picchu, and discover the true Andean spirit through interactions with local weavers, Quechua porters and remote llama herders. Colorful butterflies guide us past flowering orchids on the stone-paved Inca trail, and we savor the thrill of being face-to-face with the impressive ice walls and turquoise hanging glaciers of Mount Ausangate (20,900') as we circle the highest peak in the Vilcanota range!

We start our adventures with a couple of days in Cusco for acclimatization. We visit the remains of Inca temples and colonial palaces, raft or hike in the Urubamba Valley and explore picturesque Quechua villages. Next, we don our hiking boots and enjoy a 4-day, fully supported trek along the *Royal Inca Road*, South America's most scenic and diverse trail, leading directly to Machu Picchu! Along the way we explore Inca ruins that become progressively more complex and better preserved until we arrive to the *Intipunku*, or Gateway of the Sun, overlooking the world-renowned citadel. We have a full day to explore this magnificent archaeological site before returning by bus and train to Cusco. After a restful day at leisure in the city we're off on our second trek, heading southeast to the Vilcanota range. Our 6-day route crosses high passes with spectacular views, traverse through remote llama and alpaca pastures where we can meet Quechua herders and photograph large numbers of these graceful creatures, and finishes with a camp near relaxing, natural hot springs. Since this loop is not frequently trekked, we feel the solitude of these mountains as we enter deep gorges surrounded by towering snow-clad peaks.

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DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

DAY 01 (FRI):	USA/LIMA OR CUSCO
DAY 02 (SAT):	LIMA/CUSCO
DAY 03 (SUN):	SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS
DAY 04 (MON):	CUSCO/HUAYLLABAMBA CAMP
DAY 05 (TUE):	PACAYMAYO CAMP
DAY 06 (WED):	PHUYUPATAMARCA CAMP
DAY 07 (THU):	MACHU PICCHU
DAY 08 (FRI):	MACHU PICCHU/CUSCO

For further details on the daily activities above, please see the *Inca Trail to Machu Picchu* Trip Profile.

DAY 09 (SAT): CUSCO

The day is unstructured to explore **Cusco** on your own with time to get some laundry done and prepare for the second trek. Those who wish to may visit the Pre-Columbian Art Museum or the Inka Museum, or walk through the artisan quarter of San Blas to explore art galleries, shop for woodcarvings and other elaborated handicrafts. Lunch is on your own. We join our guide for a briefing and dinner this evening at the Libertador Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 10 (SUN): CUSCO/TINQUI

Leaving **Cusco** midmorning, we drive southeast for about 4½ hours to reach the trailhead for our second trek, near the highland village of **Tinqui**. Along the way, we stop to visit a couple of typical Andean towns like Urcos, well-known for its fresh produce market and locally baked bread. Leaving the paved highway, we continue gaining altitude as we follow a winding dirt road up to *Pilluyo Pass*. From the top at 13,500', we have our first panoramic view of the Vilcanota range and its glaciated peaks in the distance. After some time to enjoy the vistas, we descend through the agricultural and weaving communities of Ccatcca and Ocongate, the last main towns on the route before we arrive to **Tinqui**. We set our first camp nearby. This afternoon, time permitting, we hike in the surrounding area, looking for an ideal spot to watch the Andean sunset before dinner. **Driving distance:** 84 miles or 5½ hours; **Camp elevation:** 12,513'

(B,L,D)

DAY 11 (MON): UPIS

Our first day of walking is relatively easy. We begin by crossing the **Mapocho River** and heading steeply uphill for 15-20 minutes. Then we continue across a large, open plateau covered with ichu grass, the highland vegetation widely used for roof thatch as well as fodder for llamas. Following along behind us are our friendly *arrieros*, or mule handlers, whose pack animals (mules or llamas) accompany us on our journey, carrying our camping equipment and personal gear. In this area, a clear trail winds gently uphill past herders' huts and potato fields on the north side of the **Ausangate** massif whose spectacular 20,900-foot height and impressive glaciers inspire the local Indians to worship the mountain as a god. Arriving to the top of Huahuayocrumi (14,765'), we enjoy a commanding view of the stark, beautiful highland landscape reflected in the surrounding small lakes. This is a great location for observing the *huallata*, or Andean goose, which mates for life and is always seen in pairs. We descend to the valley floor and continue trekking through vast herds of sheep and/or alpacas to our second camp near the remote hamlet of **Upis**. **Trek length:** 7½ miles or 5½ hours; **Camp elevation:** 14,432'

(B,L,D)

DAY 12 (TUE): JATUN PUCACOCHA

After breakfast, we follow a mountain trail to reach our first high pass, **Arapa** (15,580'), passing fewer and fewer herders' huts as we gain elevation. From this vantage point we observe a clear contrast in landscapes. Dry, desert-like hills reach the glaciers and moraines of Mount Ausangate, while below the valley is a verdant green. We might glimpse a condor soaring high above us in the clear, blue skies. For

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lunch we descend to an area of azure ponds and sparkling waterfalls to eat within view of the peaks Sorimani and Tacusari. In this area we are likely to encounter large herds of alpaca and llama (whose colorful ear ribbons are used for identification as well as decoration) and a variety of highland bird species including caracaras, puna ibis or buff-necked ibis (locally called *bandurrias*), hawks, Andean gulls and Andean lapwings. Continuing on a clear, undulating trail, we set our next camp at **Jatun Pucacocha**, which in Quechua translates to "great red lake". Here, we can admire the impressive hanging glaciers on the southwest face of Ausangate. **Trek length:** 7½ miles or 6 hours; **Camp elevation:** 15,095'

(B,L,D)

DAY 13 (WED): PAMPACANCHA

We begin this spectacular, but challenging, day by crossing **Apacheta Pass** at 15,908'. In the distance we can sometimes spot Mount Salcantay overlooking the Inca Trail near Cusco. After descending past the frozen waters of *Ausangatecocha*, or "Ausangate Lake", we regain the altitude we lost as we climb the barren edge of a glacial moraine to reach the high point of our trek at **Alto Palomani Pass** (16,564'). The silence of this remote wilderness area is inspiring. Standing on the south shoulder of Ausangate, we have an excellent view of the towering Santa Catalina peak (19,060'), and can observe the "normal" route used by climbers to approach Ausangate's sacred summit. As we enter the next watershed on a narrow but safe trail, we may occasionally see a small herd of 6 to 8 graceful vicuñas (the wild relative of llamas and alpacas). Producing some of the finest wool in the world, these delicate creatures were revered by the Incas. We continue hiking steeply downhill to our next camp set near the shepherds' huts at **Pampacancha**, enjoying the awesome views as we lose elevation. **Trek length:** 7½ miles or 7 hours; **Camp elevation:** 14,924'

(B,L,D)

DAY 14 (THU): JAMPA

Today is an easier trekking day. Leaving camp, we descend along the Pampacancha gorge to the small settlement of **Uchuy Finaya** where we enter the peaceful **Jampamayo River** valley. Our route then takes us gradually uphill through a beautiful mountain environment of placid rivers and rocky slopes where curious vizcachas (an Andean rodent similar to a rabbit) run among the boulders. We enjoy an excellent view of the southern face of Mount Jatunpampa (19,985') as we arrive to the isolated village of **Jampa**, whose residents maintain very traditional customs and speak Quechua the language of the Incas. A mile or so beyond the village, we reach one of our highest campsites, set on the highlands facing several peaks of the Vilcanota range. The remainder of the afternoon is available to relax or explore the area. **Trek length:** 6.2 miles or 4½ hours; **Camp elevation:** 15,252'

(B,L,D)

DAY 15 (FRI): PACCHANTA

We leave camp in the early morning to begin one of our longest, and most rewarding, trekking days. Following trails still used by the local Indians to cross the range and reach nearby market towns or to bring their herds to pasture, we arrive to the top of **Campa Pass** at 16,400'. Surrounded by many *apachetas* (stone cairns built by Andean dwellers to ask the mountain deities, or *apus*, for good luck and strength), we have a spectacular panoramic view of Ausangate's glaciers as well as the massive rock and ice walls of such peaks as Mount Caracol, Tinquí, Chimbaya, and Campa - so sheer they are seldom attempted by climbers. Ahead we spot the lakes of **Comercocha** & **Caycocha** where our trek becomes a gentle, downhill hike toward the village of **Pacchanta**. We set our last camp near hot springs—a welcome treat after 5 days of demanding trekking! Villagers usually come to visit our camp, bringing with them their colorfully woven or knitted crafts to sell or trade. Their weaving tradition, which uses the backstrap loom, has been handed down through the generations since the Incas. The afternoon (time permitting) is spent preparing our traditional *Pachamanca* dinner feast using an ancient Quechua method of cooking meat and vegetables underground with heated stones. **Trek length:** 9½ miles or 7½ hours; **Camp elevation:** 13,924'

(B,L,D)

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DAY 16 (SAT): TINQUI/CUSCO

The circle is completed today as our final day of trekking takes us back to **Tinqui**. First, we cross a high plateau and saddle where we enjoy excellent, enduring views of the Vilcanota range's highest peaks. The sight of Cayangate (20,210'), Collque Cruz (19,549'), Chimbaya (19,720'), and, of course, sacred Mount Ausangate (20,900'), lingers in our memory as we begin a relatively easy, mostly downhill route to the trail's end. Our morning hike through small villages gives us one last opportunity to interact with some of the highland farmers and shepherds. At Tinqui we say goodbye to our *arriero* friends, and after lunch, we drive back across the highlands to **Cusco** where we, again, enjoy the comfort of the familiar Libertador Hotel. **Trek length:** 6.2 miles or 4 hours; **Driving distance:** 84 miles or 5½ hours (B,L)

DAY 17 (SUN): CUSCO/LIMA OR USA

We are picked up at the hotel this morning for the drive to the airport in **Cusco** to catch the flight back to **Lima**. Upon arrival, we are met and transferred to El Pardo Hotel. This afternoon we join our local guide for a private tour of the fascinating Larco Herrera Museum with an extensive collection of pre-Columbian artifacts, then we have a typical *Criollo* farewell dinner at one of the city's finest restaurants. Lunch is on your own. Participants leaving tonight have a day-room and transfer to the airport included.

(B,D)

DAY 18 (MON): LIMA/USA

Those leaving today are picked up at the hotel early for the drive to the airport where they are assisted with checking in for their return flight.

(B)

NOTES ON THE ITINERARY: Although we do our best to adhere to the schedule listed above, the day-by-day activities on this itinerary are subject to change for numerous reasons beyond our control, including group acclimatization, interests and pace, weather, road/river/trail conditions or train and plane schedules. Driving and hiking distances as well as altitudes are approximate and times indicated are NET hiking or driving times that do not include lunch breaks, rest stops, time to explore the ruins or villages, etc. This combination is suitable for physically fit participants accustomed to outdoor activities, minimum 12 years old. On **Day 17** the farewell dinner may be offered as a lunch in Lima or may take place in Cusco the night before depending on the group's flight schedules.

2006 LAND COST:	\$4,875 p.p.d. (4-5 participants)
	\$4,525 p.p.d. (6-9 participants)
	\$4,225 p.p.d. (10-12 participants)
	\$ 755 Single Supplement


p.p.d.=per person based on double occupancy - for the 18-day trip

Note: This program is the combination of Southwind's most popular adventure, our *Inca Trail to Machu Picchu* with the Ausangate Trek. Individual travelers may book only the 10-day Inca Trail portion, or the full 18-day combination as described above. As a result, there may be different sized groups on each part of the adventure (e.g., 8 on the Inca Trail and just 4 on the Ausangate). Your final Land Cost is determined by the final group size on each segment of the trip.

For the following topics as well as other details, please review our *Inca Trail to Machu Picchu* Trip Profile.

- NOTES ON THE ITINERARY
- SERVICES INCLUDED & NOT INCLUDED
- EARLY ARRIVALS, WEATHER & GUIDES
- ESTIMATED AIR

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 **Note:** On the Ausangate circuit we use mules, horses or llamas and their handlers. Tips to these horse handlers is included.

A **limited** number of REI Kilimanjaro or similar synthetic sleeping bags rated to 0°F are available for rent for \$90 per person. Advance reservations and prepayment are required.

✿ **2006 INTI RAYMI DEPARTURE:** Our June 16 Combo departure incorporates the fabulous *Inti Raymi Celebration* in Cusco. The schedule of activities is as follows:

JUN 16-23: As described on pages 2-4 for DAYS 01-08 of the *Inca Trail to Machu Picchu* profile.


JUN 24 (SAT): This is the principal day of the **Inti Raymi Festival**, the greatest of all Inca celebrations, which is re-created each year on June 24th, the time of the Winter Solstice, in honor of *Apu Inti Tayta*, or the Sun God—the source of life in the Andes. The current event is a re-enactment of the original pageantry. It is possibly one of the most spectacular Andean festivals in South America, with parades, processions, dance contests and folk music culminating in the main ceremony on June 24th. We join our local guide shortly after breakfast and head first to the Coricancha, or Sun Temple, where the Inca (a local resident selected to play this role) starts the celebrations with an invocation. Dancers and musicians offer their praises to Inti Tayta. Then the Inca and his procession goes to the main square where we witness the rite of coca—in which the future of the Empire is made known through the sacred leaf. Afterwards, we continue up to the Sacsayhuaman ruins where we have excellent seats to watch as the Inca rekindles the sacred fire and offers sacrifices to bring the sun back from its long journey north. We return to the Libertador Hotel. Dinner is on your own. (B,L)

JUN 25-JUL 03: As described above on pages 2-4 for DAYS 10-18.

2006 INTI RAYMI LAND COST:	\$5,025 p.p.d. (4-5 participants)
	\$4,655 p.p.d. (6-9 participants)
	\$4,355 p.p.d. (10-12 participants)
	\$ 755 Single Supplement

p.p.d.=per person based on double occupancy - for the 18-day trip

HOW TO SIGN UP: A \$1,000 per person deposit for the combination departure of your choice (payable by check or credit card) is required to make a reservation. You can call 1-800-377-9463 or reserve securely online at www.southwindadventures.com. Click "Book a Trip" and you are on your way! Due to the popularity of Cusco & Machu Picchu, we recommend making reservations 4 to 6 months in advance.

 **Note:** Due to the new mandatory Inca Trail trekking permit system, a **valid passport number** is needed at the time of deposit or soon thereafter. Only 500 spaces (for trekkers & staff including porters) are allow into the park each day on a first-come first-serve basis. Generally the trekking permits sell out 2-3 months in advance.

Trip Reservation Form: Please send us your completed and signed form within 10 days of placing your deposit (online under "Forms" on our homepage or call Southwind). Upon receipt of your reservation form and once your trip is guaranteed to operate, a comprehensive pre-departure packet will be sent to you.

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Land Balance: Payment is due at 60 days by Visa, Mastercard, Discover or check. American Express balance payments are due 90 days in advance. You will receive an invoice with your pre-departure packet. A rush service fee of \$150 per person will be applied to your invoice for reservations placed 45 to 21 days before departure.

Cancellation Fees and other policies are outlined under Terms & Conditions on Southwind's website (click [Book a Trip>Terms & Conditions](#)).

Save! Early Sign-up Discounts

Sign up 10 months in advance for **10% savings** per person*
Save **4% to 9%** for booking 4 to 9 months in advance respectively
Call **1-800-377-9463** for details, questions or to make a reservation

*Discounts are calculated on the lowest published 2006 land cost.

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