



## Short Inca Trail

If you'd like to experience the drama and beauty of the Inca Trail but feel that 4 days trekking is a bit much then perhaps our 'Shorter Inca Trail' is for you. This trek begins by getting the train to Km 104 of the main trail, from where you have roughly six hours of trekking before you reach the famous sun-gate at the end of the main Inca Trail, looking out over Machu Picchu.

You then have a guided tour of the city before going down the mountain to have a relaxing night in Aguas Calientes. The next day you will return to Machu Picchu at dawn to see the ruins in perfect condition and without hordes of tourists. You have a full day at the site to explore at your leisure, before you return to Cusco by train.



### Day One - Start the Inca Trail

This morning we will pick you up and take you to the station to catch the train from Cusco, following the Urubamba river to Km.104 of the railway, where you will descend and cross a footbridge to begin your hike at the Inca site of Chachabamba. After a brief visit to this lovely ruin with its water channels and fountains, you start the four-hour ascent that takes you past spectacular overlooks above the great valley, then below a lovely waterfall near the delightful site of Wiñay Wayna (Forever Young). You ascend through this largest and most exquisite of the Inca Trail sites, passing its chain of ritual baths and elegantly curved terracing, and then joining the main Inca trail. You then follow it across a steep mountainside and up narrow stairways through lush, humid cloud-forest of giant ferns and broad-leaf vegetation. Suddenly, you cross the stone threshold of Intipunku (Sun Gate) and encounter an unforgettable sweep of natural beauty and human artistry –a backdrop of twisting gorge and forested peaks framing the magical city of Machu Picchu.

You then walk the last half-hour or so down the royal flagstone walkway, past outlying shrines and buildings and through the heart of Machu Picchu, taking a bus to the town of Aguas Calientes where you will stay overnight in a local hotel.



### Day Two - Tour of Machu Picchu

Today, you will enjoy an early morning visit to the famous lost city so we make sure you get there before everybody else: even the people doing the full four-day trail! You then have the rest of the day in both guided and individual exploration. After we've seen the most fascinating features of this astounding and mysterious Inca city, you may want to take the optional hike to an amazing overview of the site, or just to investigate Machu Picchu's hidden nooks and corners.

After having a full experience of this amazing site, we return to Aguas Calientes and board the return train to Cusco.