



MACHU PICCHU WEEKEND TRIP

There are several amazing weekend trips to get involved in during your time with PMGY in Peru. Travelling over the weekends is a huge part of the experience as it gives you the opportunity to explore the country with fellow volunteers on the program.

With PMGY volunteers being based in the urban environment of Cusco, they are usually able to organise trips independently without the need for our team to travel with them. There are many travel agents based in the city who can provide affordable and reputable weekend trip options to our volunteers.

We have outlined a couple of popular weekend trip options to give you an idea of some of the trips you can get involved in during your time with us. We recommend participants adopt a relatively flexible approach until they arrive in Peru as participants will usually travel in a group and our team are a great resource to help you make plans! Sometimes Machu Picchu and the Inca Trail itineraries need to be arranged in-advance so these may require additional planning before you arrive in Peru.

It is common for volunteers to make weekend trip plans for a 3 day period when travelling further afield. This will mean choosing to miss a day from your volunteer project. Subsequently, you should give as much notice as possible to the local team and staff at the project to ensure they can approve your plans before you make any trip commitments and make alternative arrangements if necessary.

A busy two days await you as we head south from Cusco to the iconic and must see Machu Picchu. Step back in time as we learn about the history of this Incan retreat, take in all the astounding architecture the hidden city holds and be amazed by the jaw dropping panoramic views that will surround you.

We will also have some free time across the weekend to soak up the laid back atmosphere of the nearby trendy town of Aguas Calientes. The town is known as the gateway to Machu Picchu and here you will have the chance to take in its thermal baths with a visit to the popular hot springs or have a wander round some of the many shops, eateries and craft markets.

BOOKING YOUR PLACE

If you've already signed up to one of our programs and would like to arrange your weekend trip to Machu Picchu in advance then please contact the local team via WhatsApp as soon as possible on +51 950 301 311.

Machu Picchu tours can sometimes sell out many weeks in advance. To avoid disappointment, volunteers are encouraged to book their places in advance. When contacting the local team via WhatsApp, please provide your contact details and trip dates in Peru. The local team will then assess availability and inform you of next steps and trip reservation procedures.

Please note places on weekend tours are non-refundable and non-transferable once booked in advance via the local team. If you are in-doubt about arranging your Machu Picchu tour in advance or wish to meet other volunteers before booking, then you may choose to wait and check options when in Peru. However, spots are subject to availability. It may be the case that weekend tours to Machu Picchu are more expensive or sold out if planning to arrange your tour when in Cusco.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 - CUSCO TO AGUAS CALIENTES

It's an early morning departure as we take the bus from Cusco to the first checkpoint of Ollantaytambo. From here, we will take the must do train ride onto Aguas Calientes and take in some amazing views en route as we travel through the Andes! A staff member from the hostel where we will be staying for the night will be on hand to meet you as your train arrives and take you to the hostel where you can check in and relax.

Perched up high in the mountains of Peru, the town is very laid back in nature and nowadays more commonly referred to as Machu Picchu Town. Designed to cater for tourists, there are many shops, restaurants and bars to explore at your leisure as the town acts as a gateway to Machu Picchu. If you look to go off the beaten track you can head to the lesser known Machu Picchu Museum which details the use and function of the Inca site, how it was re-discovered and how it is preserved today.

Also be sure to remember your swimsuit and head up to the hot springs that the town is pretty much named after! Spend your afternoon soaking in the curative waters of the springs in an open-air facility with the amazing Andes as backdrop. Make sure you are back at the hostel for the evening where the tour guide will visit you to provide all the instructions for your next day visit to Machu Picchu.



DAY 2 - MACHU PICCHU TO CUSCO

It will be another early morning start as we begin our visit of Machu Picchu. You will receive a guided tour of the ruins lasting around 2 hours. After this you will have all the time you require to explore Machu Picchu independently and

be sure to get all those photos you desire.

The stunning temples and views that Machu Picchu brings are sure to take your breath away. Machu Picchu is the most iconic symbol of the Incan Empire and was recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983. No trip to Peru could be complete without visiting Peru's most visited tourist attraction! It's mysterious nature, cultural attraction, rich history and spectacular views are just some of the things you will embrace during your time in the lost city of the Incas.

Just make sure you are back to Aguas Calientes at least 30 minutes before your train leaves. We will take the train back to Ollantaytambo and then the bus to Cusco from here as we arrive back to Cusco late in the evening.



ACCOMMODATION

You will stay at hostel accommodation on the Saturday night in either shared room or dorm format. The accommodation will be clean and comfortable. You'll have all the amenities you need such as western toilet and hot shower. Wi-Fi is also available, although it may be intermittent.

MEALS

Food and drink are at your expense across the weekend. The trip guide will be on hand to recommend some good places to eat across the trip.

TRANSPORT

We will transport you by bus and train. All transport is included. An experience tour guide will be on hand to take you around the Machu Picchu sites.