



ANDINA TRAVEL

Plazoleta Santa Catalina 219 - Cusco, Peru Tel/Fax: (51)(84) 251892
www.andinatravel.com - sales@andinatravel.com

Ausangate Circuit 2014 – 5 days/4 nights

This five-day trek through the Cordillera Vilcanota's rugged snow-capped peaks offers spectacular scenery and a unique encounter with life in the Andean altiplano. Hiking around the mystical Mount Ausangate (6,380 m.), we camp near hot springs and glacier-fed multicolored lakes inhabited by numerous bird species, including Andean geese and the magnificent Andean Condor. We walk among herds of llamas and alpacas in remote native Quechua villages and appreciate the colorful clothing and daily rhythm of the local inhabitants. Sections of the high plains in this area also provide the natural habitats for the marmot-like vizcacha and the rare vicuña, a wild relative of the alpaca and llama. With three high passes over 5,000m, spectacular glacial views, and unmolested beauty and solitude, this is a superb trip for seasoned trekkers who love a true outdoor adventure.

Length Approx: 50 km

Walking time each day: approx 8 hour (including lunch and rest stops)

Daily Itinerary, Services, Information, and Prices

Trek rating: Moderate to Rigorous

Day 1: Cusco- Tinquí - Upis - Early in the morning we depart Cusco in our private bus and travel about 3 hours to reach the small Andean village of Tinquí at the foot of the Vilcanota Mountain Range, passing through several traditional villages such as Urcos, Cattca, and Ocangate along the way. In Tinquí, we will meet our pack animals and arrieros, or mule-drivers, whom will carry our equipment and backpacks. The route will lead us across a pampa of grassy meadows below the jagged stone flanks of Mount Ausangate (6,350 m), the highest snow peak in Southern Peru. After trekking for approximately six hours, with stops along the way for lunch and rest as well as time to take pictures, we arrive to the hot springs of Upis, our first campsite. From here, we'll get some marvelous views of Mount Ausangate at the end of the valley **L, D**

Day 2: Upis to Lake Pukacocha – After trekking approximately 2.5 hours, we get to our first pass, Arapa pass (4,850m) From the pass, we'll enjoy wonderful views, not only of Mount Ausangate, but also of many other nearby snow-capped peaks. We continue down the corridor past a number of small, multi-colored lagoons until we reach the largest of them, Lake Vinococha, where we'll have our lunch for the day. A short walk in the afternoon brings us to the illustrious, red-colored Lake Pucacocha, where we will set up our campsite for the night. From here, we'll get a dramatic, close-up view of Mount Ausangate and we may even hear some chunks of ice falling into the lake from the sides of the mountain. Don't worry though; we are not in any danger. **B, L, D**

Day 3: Pukacocha to Uchuy Finaya – In the morning, we make a short ascent to our second pass of Apuchata, (4,900 m.) with the aquamarine Laguna Ausangate Q'ocha below. From here, we climb to the Palomani pass (5,200 m.), the highest of our journey. We can enjoy fantastic views of Ausangate and the Vilcanota range from this point. After approximately 2 hours of walking down into a valley, we arrive to our incredibly beautiful campsite at Uchuy Finaya. **B, L, D**

Day 4: Uchuy Finaya to Lake Minaparayoc – Leaving our campsite, we begin a winding ascent alongside a widening stream until we reach the Valley of the Viscachas, named for the gorgeous furry animals that can be found here. We pass through the small community of Campa, from where we can see the fabulous snow-capped peaks of Puka Punta and Tres Picos. Upon reaching the final pass at Q'omer Q'ocha, we have lunch among the wild vicuñas and picturesque lakes. A short downhill walk brings us to the mystical, Lake Minaparayoc, where we will camp along the shore. **B, L, D**

Day 5: Lake Minaparayoc to Tinquí to Cusco – Hiking down through the valley, we pass many herds of grazing llamas and alpacas until we get to gorgeous hot springs of Pacchanta where we can rest and enjoy a soak in the soothing thermal water. Relaxed and refreshed, we continue hiking back to the small village of Tinquí, where we will have our lunch for the day and that is also where we will catch our private transport back to Cusco, enjoying the beautiful views of the rolling Andes on our way back. **B, L**

Includes:

- Private transportation to head of trail
- Professional, English-speaking guide and camp staff
- Plentiful, nutritious meals (Vegetarian option available)
- Double-occupancy tents and camping equipment (includes dining tent, kitchen tent, and latrine tent)
- Pack animals to carry personal gear and equipment
- Private transport back to Cusco

Not Included:

- Sleeping Bag
- Breakfast Day 1, Dinner Day 5
- Tips

POOLED SERVICE 2015 (6 OR MORE): \$513.00

Private Service

Prices per person:

1 person: \$1496.00

2 persons: \$892.00

3 persons: \$668.00

4 persons: \$594.00

5 persons: \$546.00

AVAILABLE DISCOUNTS:

SAE members: \$10

What you should bring:

Backpack or duffel bag

Sleeping bag

Warm clothing/thermals

Insect repellent

Trekking shoes/wool socks

Water bottle

Rain gear

Day pack

Sunscreen and hat

Personal medical kit

Flashlight

Bathing suit and towel