

# Stunning hikes

Trekking routes in Cusco



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## The Ausangate trek

This demanding hike around the perpetual Ausangate snowy peak can take several days. The route stands out for the unique charm of its landscapes, amid lagoons, canyons, hot spring pools, snow-capped mountains, and valleys of pasture where llamas and wild vicuñas graze.

Ausangate is **a sacred mountain**, regarded as the source of water. Its inhabitants offer ritual ceremonies as tribute to the land. Depending on access, it is possible to also visit the mountain of “seven colors”, “rainbow mountain” or Vinicunca in the Vilcanota range. Its strange pigmentation is related to the presence of minerals and sedimentary rocks.



### Location:

Districts of Ocongate and Pitumarca in the provinces of Canchis and Quispicanchis



### Season:

April to October



### Temperature:

-5 °C (min) / 22 °C (max)



### Elevation:

Up to 6372 meters



### Difficulty:

High



## Lares

This is one of the lesser-known treks. It nevertheless delivers an unforgettable experience. The route—known also as **the Weavers Way**—begins in the district of Lares, to the north of the city of Cusco.

There is also access from the Sacred Valley of Urubamba. From the start of the hike, the Andean scenery of the Verónica, Sahuasiray, Pitúsiray and Chicón peaks alternate with archeological remains and Quechua speaking villages. The route also brings visitors into contact with traditional customs, such as llama and alpaca grazing, tuber cultivation and, of course, textile production.



**Location:**

Lares district, in the department of Calca



**Season:**

April to October



**Temperature:**

5 °C (min) / 21 °C (max)



**Elevation:**

Up to 4550 meters



**Difficulty:**

Medium



## The Salkantay trek

Its name means “**savage mountain**” in Quechua. The slopes of this snowcapped mountain are known for their technical difficulty and each year attract mountaineers from all over the world. However, a network of trekking paths can also be found nearby.

The best-known hike takes four days and can start in Limatambo, Mollepata or Soraypampa. Two imposing peaks dominate the landscape—Humantay and Salkantay. This destination also offers the possibility of discovering native wildlife, from vicuñas and alpacas, to condors. **It is an alternative route for reaching the Machupicchu Historic Sanctuary, following the Inca trail.**



### Location:

The districts of Santa Teresa and Limatambo in the provinces of La Convención y Anta.



### Season:

June to September



### Temperature:

-5 °C (min) / 27 °C (max)



### Elevation:

Up to 6271 meters



### Difficulty:

High



## Choquequirao

The trekking—of four or five days, depending on one's physical state—normally begins at the town of **San Pedro de Cachora** (Apurímac department). It is here that a walk of 30 kilometers begins, crossing the Apurímac River and continuing upwards, passing through the villages of Santa Rosa and Marampata, until reaching Choquequirao. The scenery is powerful.

Unlike other more crowded trails, it is also possible to observe native animals, such as deers, spectacled bears, condors and flora such as medicinal plants, ferns, orchids and bromeliads.



**Location:**

District of Santa Teresa, Province of La Convención, Department of Cusco.



**Season:**

April to August



**Temperature:**

Annual average is 16 °C



**Elevation:**

3104 meters



**Difficulty:**

Medium-high



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