



Choquequirao

4 Days/3 Nights

The Choquequirao Complex is very interesting and one of the most popular treks in the Cusco area. Choquequirao is situated in the spur of the mountain range of Salkantay, over 3030m, surrounded by the Apus of Yamana, Ampay, Choketacarpu, Pumasillo and Panta, on the left bank of the Apurimac river. In the time of the Incas, it was united and in communication with Machu Picchu by a complex network of trails.

The reasons are many: the fantastic nature with valleys, snow-capped mountains and a great variety of plants, birds and animals that Choquequirao is considered as 'The Last Refuge of the Inca Empire'. Visitors can view a complex hydraulic system, most likely for domestic, ceremonial and agricultural use. The geographic location of Choquequirao in reference to other complexes of the same period would tend to indicate that it's function was that of an Inca enclave towards the valleys of the Apurimac River. There are many similarities between Choquequirao and Machu Picchu. The latter was a sanctuary dedicated to the worship of the many Inca Pachacútec; Choquequirao was also a sacred site, but one dedicated to other functions that could have had to do with war or with the surrounding Apus. Each is located beside Mt Salkantay and both are situated above, far above, a great river: in the case of Machu Picchu, the Urubamba and in that of Choquequirao, the Apurimac.

The ecotourism, fulfilling all the norms of conservation and control, will lead a sustainable development of the zone. The Inca trail to Choquequirao encounters with the nature area that is without disturbance or contaminating, with a specific object of admire and enjoy the landscapes along with Sylvester plants, wild animals and cultural manifestations.



Easy

Moderate

Difficult



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Itinerary

Day one

At 5am we pick you up from your hotel and leave from Cusco on bus. It will take us to the town of San Pedro de Cachora (2800m) where you will have plenty of time for breakfast for an additional cost. Here we will meet the rest of our team (cook, horses and horse handlers). We will begin the long trek. Along the way we will also be able to observe a diverse landscape which belongs to different climates such as the snow capped Padreyoc, a diversity of flora and fauna which we can see throughout the walk. Today we will trek 7-8 hours to the mountainous region. Finally we will arrive at the Capulichayoc viewpoint, from where we will be able to observe the deepest canyon in the world which is known as the Apurimac and by where the majestic Apurimac flows. It is here where we will have our first lunch and from where it is possible to see the first sights of Choquequirao. We will continue descending until Chikiska (1800m) where we will set up the tents and spend the night surrounded by the majestic landscape.

Day two

After a good breakfast we start our strenuous hike up hill for about 5 hours to our lunch stop at Maranpata and then complete the guided tour of Choquequirao 'Golden Cradle' is considered the Sister City of Machu Picchu as there are several similarities. It hangs 1500 metres above the Apurimac Canyon. Machu Picchu hangs above the Urubamba canyon. It is at the same latitude and is a large citadel with more than 8 hectares, only one third has been uncovered and every day the archaeologists find something else of interest. We will observe the three levels of the excavated ruin, where we can appreciate houses, terraces and other parts of this late Inca-town, like the ruin in progress of excavation. We will camp next to Maranpota.

Day three

At dawn we can see the sunrise over the ruins and after a good breakfast we will start to go back down the same way we came in, until we reach our camp at Chiquisca.

Day four

Today we will wake up at 6am to have an early breakfast accompanied by first sun rising over the Apurimac canyon. The trek time to Cachora will take 5-7 hours depending on your physical condition. In Cachora we will meet our transportation to take us back to Cusco.

Included in the price

- Official English speaking guide (two guides for groups over 8 people)
- Transfer by transport from Cusco to Cachora
- Entrance to Choquequirao complex (once)
- Horses to carry food and camping gear and backpacks



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- Experienced cook
- Cooking equipment
 - Teatime everyday (coffee, tea, popcorn, biscuits) 4 person tent (4 season tent) – 2 people per tent with plenty of space for backpacks.
 - All meals on the trail (breakfast – lunch – dinner)
 - Water supply (boiled) after every breakfast or dinner
 - Return bus from Cachora to Cusco
 - Kitchen and dining tent with camp tables and chairs
 - Tents and food for our camp staff
 - First aid kit and oxygen bottle for any participant and camp staff.

Not included in the price

- First day breakfast
- Last day dinner
- Tips
- Sleeping bag

We recommend

- Sleeping bag
- Solar protector
- Sun glasses
- Back pack for the way
- Shelter clothes
- Flash lights
- Wool socks
- Repellent
- Purifying pills
- Toilet paper
- Rain coat or ponchos
- Bottle of water (water to drink the first day)

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