



The Monasterio Ride

3D/2N, Private ride.

The Monasterio Ride is a compact yet complete horseback journey through the Sacred Valley, unfolding over three consecutive days of riding in the Andes with forward-going, well-trained Peruvian Paso horses.

The programme begins with a carefully structured first day dedicated to introducing riders to the Peruvian Paso horse, traditional tack, and riding style. Time is taken to assess each rider's experience and preferences, ensuring an appropriate match between horse and rider. A short

afternoon ride allows both to settle in before the longer and more demanding routes that follow.

On the second and third days, the ride opens into the wider Andean landscape: high-altitude altiplano terrain near Maras and Chinchero, open agricultural plateaus, and a gradual descent into the Sacred Valley, finishing near Urquillos along the Vilcanota River. Along the way, riders encounter rural communities, cultivated fields, and ancient pathways that continue to shape daily life in the Andes.

Based at a former 18th-century monastery in the Sacred Valley, the Monasterio Ride combines serious riding with comfort and continuity.

Itinerary

Day 1 – Introduction to the Peruvian Paso

You will be picked up between 8:30 and 9:15 am from your hotel in Cusco or the Sacred Valley (depending on your location) and transferred to Hotel Sonesta Posadas del Inca Yucay, a historic Andean property built around an 18th-century colonial monastery. Upon arrival, you may leave your luggage at the hotel (official check-in is from 2:00 pm). For this reason, we recommend wearing your riding attire at pick-up.

A short drive then brings us to the historic **Hacienda Huayocari**, owned by the Lámbarri Orihuela family for over a century. The hacienda houses an exceptional private collection of pre-Hispanic ceramics, colonial religious art, and traditional Andean folk art—carefully preserved and expanded across generations.

Here begins your introduction to the Peruvian Paso horse, admired for its natural four-beat lateral gait (Paso Llano) and remarkable smoothness. Your trail guide will explain the traditional Peruvian riding style and tack before assessing your riding experience and preferences, ensuring an optimal match between rider and horse.

Lunch is served at the hacienda, with panoramic views over the Sacred Valley.

In the afternoon, we transfer to the wooden hanging bridge at Pinchigoto, where we meet the horses again. From here, we begin a scenic ride of approximately 2.5 hours, climbing steadily toward the highlands of Maras. The route passes the remarkable salt terraces of **Salinas de Maras**, a striking landscape of ancient salt pans cascading down the mountainside.

We arrive around 5:00–5:30 pm at our friends' stables near the village of Maras, where the horses remain overnight under the care of our grooms. You are then transferred back to your hotel in the Sacred Valley. Dinner this evening is at your leisure.

Riding time: approx. 3.5 - 4 hours including introduction time.

Altitude: 2,800 m ascending to approx. 3,400 m / 9,190–11,150 ft

Day 2 – The Andean Altiplano

After breakfast, you will be transferred back to the stables near Maras, where the horses await after the night.

Today's route follows historic pathways across the Andean altiplano, offering expansive landscapes and a deep immersion into the region's natural beauty and cultural heritage. Wide highland plains unfold beneath distant peaks, dotted with grazing livestock and small lagoons. Along the way, you may encounter Quechua families tending sheep or cattle, or farmers working the land with traditional ox-drawn ploughs—timeless scenes of rural Andean life. Before reaching Chinchero, our support team welcomes you with a picnic lunch overlooking **Lake Huaypo**. On clear days, the panorama stretches across the altiplano toward the peaks of the Cordillera Vilcabamba.

In the afternoon, we continue riding through open agricultural landscapes and past small highland lakes. The final stretch brings us to the village of Huatata, located in the highlands just outside Chinchero.

Here, at a family farm, the horses stay overnight under the care of our grooms. You are then transferred back to your hotel in the Sacred Valley. Dinner this evening is enjoyed at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Hotel Sonesta Posadas del Inca, Sacred Valley

Riding time: approx. 4.5–5 hours

Altitude: 3,550–3,800 m / 11,650–12,470 ft

Day 3 – Descent into the Sacred Valley

After breakfast, we prepare for our final day on horseback. Returning to Huatata, where the horses spent the night, we begin a scenic ride along trails high above the Sacred Valley. The morning route passes through farmland and rural communities, offering a final glimpse into daily Andean life.

As we descend toward the valley floor, sweeping views open below. Midway down the trail, our support team awaits with a picnic lunch in an open landscape.

In the afternoon, we continue toward the historic village of Urquillos, riding past cornfields and along the banks of the Vilcanota River. Crossing a traditional hanging bridge, we reach the opposite side of the valley and complete the final stretch to our stables in **Huayllabamba**, arriving around 4:00-4:30 PM.

A private transfer is then arranged to your hotel in Cusco or in the Sacred Valley.

Riding time: approx. 4.5 hours

Altitude: 3,600 m down to 2,850 m / 11,850–9,350 ft

The itinerary maybe adjusted due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances.

Pricing

Price 3d/2n

US\$ 1.690,00 (Price per person, 2 or more participants)

US\$ 220,00 (Single supplement, if applicable)

Price includes:

- Two nights at the Hotel Sonesta Posada del Inca in Yucay (based on double occupancy) with breakfast.
- Lunch, on day 1, 2 and 3. Dinner on day 2 (alcoholic beverages at restaurants are not included)
- All land transfers, including to/from your hotel in the Sacred Valley or Cusco before and after the ride.

- Experienced trail guide plus support team (grooms, driver)
- 4WD back-up vehicle.
- Saddlebags, snacks and water bottle
- Entrance fee to the salt mines

Price does not include:

- Single supplement (if applicable): US\$ 220.

The trip price is based on shared occupancy of the hotel room, the so called 'Double Room' (two persons). The single supplement fee covers the extra cost for a 'Single Room' (one person)

Dates and availability:

The 3-day Monasterio Ride is a 'private tour' and has no set departure dates. Please contact us for availability. Minimum group size: 2 riders.

Lodging

The Monasterio ride includes two nights hotel accommodation at the Hotel Sonesta Posada del Inca in Yucay.

The Hotel is only 5 miles from our stables, has comfortable rooms with private bathrooms and plenty of 'local colour'. The Hotel is a former 18th century colonial-style monastery and is surrounded by beautiful gardens.

Trip Details

Meeting Point

Clients will be met at their hotel in the Sacred Valley or Cusco You will be taken to the Perol Chico ranch by private vehicle. At the end of the ride (day 3) our car will bring you back to your hotel in the Sacred Valley or Cusco

Riders Requirements

Be comfortable in the saddle for four to five hours Be comfortable at the walk, trot and short canters. Be able to ride up and down steep hills. Be physically able to hike at high altitudes (9,000 - 12,000 ft)

Weight Limit

There is a strict rider weight limit of 85 kg / 13,4st. / 187 pounds. There are scales at the stables and riders will be weighed prior to the ride setting off. Riders exceeding our weight limit may be excluded from the ride and no refund will be made.

Age Limit

16 or older.

Horses and Tack

The horses are locally bred Peruvian Pasos. This breed dates back to the colonial era of Peru and originates from the Spanish Andalusians. Peruvian Paso horses are bred for their grace, spirit, and intelligence and are a symbol of their historic and noble past. These horses like to amble, moving fore and hind limbs on the same side at the same time, unlike other equine races that typically move diagonal limbs at the same time. During the ride you will experience traveling on horseback at the smooth Paso Llano gait (4-beat lateral gait, between 8 to 10 Km. per hour). The horses are well cared for, strong, and even-tempered.

The tack utilised is very traditional and demonstrates refined Peruvian craftsmanship. The hardwood hex stirrup and the guarnición, or tailpiece, are unique elements of the Peruvian tack. The saddle is a box saddle and has a deep seat.

Responsibilities

All care will be taken, but we assume no responsibility for injury, loss or damage in any way. Guests are responsible for having an adequate, valid insurance policy including coverage for all the sporting activities that they are likely to participate in. Appropriate medical insurance is obligatory.

Guests will be required to sign a waiver of liability at the start of the tour.

Single supplement

The price for each ride is based on shared occupancy. If you are traveling solo and wish to share accommodation, we will make every effort to find a roommate (always of the same

gender). If you are willing to share and no roommate materialises, then the customary single supplement will apply. A single supplement is always applicable for participants who specifically request single accommodation.

Suggested Packing List

You will be riding at elevations between 2800 and 3750 metres (9,200 and 12,300 feet) therefore lightweight, warm clothing worn in layers is highly recommended. Dinner is casual; there is no need to bring special attire.

- Comfortable riding trousers
- T- shirts
- Long sleeved cotton shirts.
- Wind-bloc Fleece or jacket (for cold evenings especially at these high altitudes).
- Hat. We recommend a hard hat for riding and something with a wide brim is advisable as protection against the sun (baseball caps work well). Your hard hat must be secure on your head.
- Good sunglasses with a neck cord. Your eyes will become bloodshot if you do not wear sunglasses.
- Sunscreen and Lip Balm, essential because of the altitude and dry air. Suggest at least Factor 30, if not total block. - Scarf/bandana, useful for protection against the sun.
- Leather saddlebags are provided for you. Each person has a set of saddlebags and carries what they need for the day. Jackets and ponchos can be tied behind the saddle so it is easy to put them on and take them off.