



THE SACRED VALLEY RIDE

TRIP OVERVIEW

Our signature and most celebrated journey begins at our base in the heart of the Sacred Valley, at an altitude of approximately 2,800 m / 8,500 ft. From here, the route leads across the Urubamba River and steadily upward through open pastures, where Quechua families tend flocks of sheep and cattle. As you climb, the landscape shifts to highland terraces and traditional mountain villages, where the sound of horses' hooves echoes over ancient cobblestone lanes, oxen still pull wooden ploughs, and Quechua—the language of the Incas—remains part of daily life.

This ride offers an unforgettable way to experience the Andes: not from a bus or viewpoint, but from the saddle of a Peruvian Paso horse—sure-footed, smooth-gaited, proud, and perfectly suited to this landscape. With the support of experienced guides, you'll explore remote areas of the Sacred Valley that remain untouched by mainstream tourism.

Riding at altitude is a unique experience. Oxygen levels are lower, and the terrain is sometimes technical, so the pace is generally moderate. The first days of the itinerary are carefully planned to support acclimatisation, allowing both riders and horses time to adjust. As the ride progresses and the terrain allows, you'll enjoy stretches in the exceptionally smooth Paso Llano, as well as occasional short canters. These are not fast rides by design—they are immersive, scenic, and deeply connected to the rhythm of the Andes.

The Sacred Valley was once the heartland of the Inca Empire—a civilisation that extended from Ecuador far into present-day Chile. The monumental legacy of this culture remains visible throughout the landscape, with ancient terraces, archaeological sites, and centuries-old pathways forming part of the journey.

Accommodation throughout the ride is in comfortable and charming hotels in the Sacred Valley. Meals combine the fresh ingredients and culinary traditions of the Andes with subtle Spanish influences, offering a rich and varied taste of regional cuisine.

An optional extension allows guests to visit the iconic citadel of Machu Picchu, including an additional overnight stay in the Sacred Valley at the Hotel Sonesta Posadas del Inca.

Set departure dates run from April to mid-October, aligning with the Andes' dry season—ideal for riding.

ACCOMMODATION & FOOD

Accommodation may vary depending on availability, and final hotel details will be confirmed closer to departure. Properties commonly used on this itinerary include:

Hotel Sonesta Posadas del Inca, Yucay

Located just five miles from the stables, this charming hotel occupies a beautifully restored 18th-century colonial monastery. Surrounded by landscaped gardens, courtyards, and a small chapel, it has the atmosphere

of a small village rather than a single building. Rooms are heated and comfortably furnished, featuring tiled floors, wooden ceilings, carved details, and views across the gardens or terraced hillsides.

Hotel Costa del Sol, Cusco

Formerly the residence of the Marquis of Picoaga, this elegant historic mansion has been converted into a comfortable hotel with modern amenities. Its preserved colonial architecture — including stone archways, carved columns, and a traditional courtyard patio — creates an authentic and atmospheric stay in the heart of Cusco.

Breakfasts are taken at the hotels. Lunches are typically relaxed picnic meals served along the trail and prepared in advance by the support team. Dinners are enjoyed at carefully selected restaurants as outlined in the itinerary.

Meals reflect the flavours of regional Andean cuisine and often include fresh vegetables, trout, quinoa, potatoes, dairy products, and locally raised meats.

Vegetarian and other dietary preferences can be accommodated.

GETTING THERE

The meeting point for the Sacred Valley Ride is Cusco, Peru.

There are no direct international flights into Cusco, so most travellers fly via Lima and connect onward.

Airport transfers are included on Day 1 and Day 10 of the itinerary.

If you arrive in Cusco before the official start date, you will need to make your own way from the airport to your hotel. On Day 1, the earliest possible pickup from Cusco Airport is 09:00 AM. Guests arriving earlier than this should take a taxi to the hotel at their own expense.

Hotel check-in on Day 1 is typically from 12:00 PM (varies slightly by property), so we recommend booking a flight that arrives mid-morning. If you arrive earlier, you may leave your luggage with the hotel and make use of its main facilities until your room is ready.

On departure day, check-out is after breakfast, followed by a transfer to Cusco Airport (approx. 1.5-hour drive).

For smooth onward connections:

- Departing Cusco: Ideally between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM
- Connecting via Lima: Do not book a Cusco–Lima flight departing later than 2:00 PM
- International flights from Lima: Schedule departure for 5:00 PM or later

These timings help ensure comfortable and reliable connections, allowing for Peru's variable airport traffic and transit times.



ITINERARY (10 DAYS/9 NIGHTS)

Day 1 — Arrival in Cusco

Upon arrival on Day 1 at the Cusco airport, our representative will welcome you and assist with your private transfer to your hotel. They will be holding a sign with your name to ensure a smooth, stress-free arrival experience.

If you plan to arrive in Cusco before Day 1, please note that airport transfers are only included from the official start of the ride, and you will be responsible for arranging your own transportation to the hotel reserved for you on Day 1.

For tonight, accommodations are planned at either Hotel Costa del Sol or Hotel Sonesta Posadas del Inca, both centrally located four-star properties offering comfort, character, and easy access to the historic heart of Cusco.

These hotels are booked based on availability, and in the event neither is available, a similar four-star hotel in Cusco will be confirmed.

We recommend using today to rest, hydrate, and acclimatise to the altitude in preparation for your upcoming journey through the Andes. Lunch and dinner are at your leisure and at your own expense.

Rest well—tomorrow you'll be introduced to the remarkable Peruvian Paso horses and the elegant, time-honoured Peruvian riding tradition.

Day 2 — Transfer to Yucay, Horse Introduction & First Ride

After breakfast, you will be picked up at 9:00 AM from your hotel in Cusco for a scenic transfer into the Sacred Valley. The route descends gradually through mountain landscapes, agricultural terraces, and small Andean villages before reaching Yucay between 10:30–11:00 AM, where you will stop at the Hotel Sonesta Posadas del Inca to leave your luggage.

(Official check-in time is 2:00 PM.) We recommend already wearing your riding attire when departing Cusco.

A short drive brings us to the historic Hacienda Huayoccari, owned by the Lámbarri Orihuela family for over a century. The hacienda houses a remarkable private collection of pre-Hispanic ceramics, colonial religious art, and traditional Andean folk art—a heritage 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 extraordinary smoothness. Your trail guide will explain the traditional Peruvian riding style and tack before assessing your riding ability and preferences. This personalised evaluation ensures the best possible match between rider and horse, as each mount has its own temperament and character.

A relaxed lunch will be served at the hacienda with panoramic views over the Sacred Valley. Afterwards, we mount up for a gentle two-hour introductory ride through the surrounding countryside—an ideal opportunity to get comfortable with your horse and riding style before the expedition begins.

We return to the hotel around 5:00 PM, giving you time to rest and prepare for tomorrow's first full day on the trail.

Dinner is at your leisure this evening. The hotel offers both Peruvian and Italian cuisine, and its onsite café, La Placita del Café, is perfect for enjoying coffee and desserts.



Riding time: approx. 2 hours

Altitude: 2,800 m / 9,190 ft

Day 3 — Salineras, Maras & Cheqoq

After breakfast, we will pick you up at 9:15 AM and transfer to the horses, waiting near the small village of Pichingoto, at the entrance of the trail leading to the famous Salt Mines of Salineras. As we begin riding, the landscape gradually opens to spectacular views of terraced salt pools that have been harvested since pre-Inca times.

The site consists of over 3,000 individual shallow pools built into the mountainside. Salty water from a natural mountain spring is directed through an intricate network of channels into these terraced pans. As the water evaporates under the sun, it leaves behind crystallised salt, which is then harvested by hand using traditional methods passed down through generations. The white salt pools against the dramatic red earth and green valley make this one of the most visually striking sites in the Sacred Valley.

From Salineras, the trail climbs higher toward the village of Maras, surrounded by expansive farmland and wide-open Andean scenery. Near Maras, we'll pause for a relaxed and delicious picnic lunch with sandwiches, fruit, refreshments, wine, or another preferred drink, enjoyed outdoors with beautiful views while the horses rest.

After lunch, we ride to the nearby ruins of Cheqoq, an impressive site where the Incas engineered cold-storage systems to preserve agricultural products using wind tunnels and glacier-fed water—an early example of remarkable Andean innovation.

We continue riding until approximately 4:30 PM, finishing near Maras, where the horses will remain with our grooms for the night.

You will then be transferred back to your hotel in Yucay to rest and refresh.

Around 7:30 PM, we will collect you for dinner at a local restaurant, offering a relaxed and authentic evening experience.

Overnight at Hotel Sonesta Posadas del Inca, Sacred Valley.

(B, L, D)

Riding time: approx. 4 to 4.5 hours

Altitude: 2,800 – 3,550 m (9,190 – 11,650 ft)

Day 4 — Riding Across the Andean Altiplano

After a restful night, you will be picked up at 9:15 AM and transferred back to the point where we left the horses.

Today's route follows historic pathways across the Andean altiplano, offering sweeping landscapes and a memorable immersion into the region's natural beauty and cultural heritage.

As we ride, the scenery opens into wide highland valleys with snow-capped mountains, grazing livestock, and high-altitude 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 will welcome you with a picnic lunch overlooking Lake Huaypo. On clear days, the panorama is extraordinary: the altiplano stretches beneath the peaks of the Cordillera Vilcabamba.

After lunch, we continue riding toward Lake Piuray, a calm, mirror-like lake known for its natural beauty and remarkable birdlife. The surrounding micro-watershed is an important conservation area with over 140 recorded bird species, including the Andean ibis, Andean geese, lake ducks, lapwings, and the distinctive Mountain Caracara.

In the late afternoon (around 5:00–5:30 PM), we arrive in a small village at the far end of Lake Piuray, where a local farming family will host our horses for the next three nights. The horses will remain here under the care of our grooms.

After a full day of riding, dinner tonight is at your leisure and at your own expense. Light meals and quick options are available at your hotel.

Riding time: approx. 5 hours

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

Day 5 — Exploring Ollantaytambo & Moray

Today, the horses rest. After breakfast, you will be picked up at 9:30 AM and transferred to Ollantaytambo, one of the most remarkable archaeological and living cultural sites in Peru.

Often referred to as a “living Inca town,” Ollantaytambo still preserves its original urban layout, narrow stone alleys, irrigation channels, and house foundations dating back to the 15th century. Walking through the village offers a rare opportunity to experience an intact example of Inca engineering and town planning still in daily use.

Above the village rise the impressive ruins of the Ollantaytambo fortress and ceremonial complex, an extraordinary example of Inca stonework, agricultural terraces, and defensive architecture. The site is also linked to the legend of Ollantay, a general who defied the Inca ruler for love — a story woven from history and Andean oral tradition. The strategic location of the citadel allowed it to serve as a stronghold during Manco Inca's resistance to the Spanish conquest.

Around 1:00 PM, we will invite you for lunch at a traditional restaurant in Urubamba, where you may taste iconic Andean cuisine such as arroz con pato, quinoa-based dishes, fresh trout, lomo saltado, or pollo a la brasa — simple yet deeply rooted culinary expressions of the region.

After lunch, we continue by private transport to Moray, one of the most fascinating and mysterious archaeological sites of the Inca civilisation. Moray consists of a series of circular terraced depressions that created varying microclimates — a natural laboratory where the Incas are believed to have studied altitude, temperature, and humidity effects on crops such as maize, quinoa, and potatoes. The precision and scale of this site offer insight into the remarkable agricultural knowledge and scientific curiosity of the Inca Empire.

We return to the hotel around 5:00 PM. After a generous midday meal, many guests prefer to skip dinner or enjoy something light such as pizza or a snack at the hotel.

Dinner this evening is at your own expense.

Overnight at Hotel Sonesta Posadas del Inca, Sacred Valley.

(B, L)

Day 6 — The High Andes & Lake Quellacocha

After breakfast, your riding expedition continues. You will be picked up at 9:15 AM and transferred back to the small family farm near Lake Piuray, where the horses remained overnight under the care of their grooms.

Today's ride leads into some of the most remote and awe-inspiring landscapes of the journey—and to the highest elevation of the expedition. Please dress appropriately and be prepared for changing weather; at this altitude, conditions can shift quickly from sun to wind, cold, or light rain.

We follow an ancient highland trail toward a mountain pass at 4,150 m (13,600 ft). From the top, expansive views unfold across the puna grasslands, Lake Q'oricocha, and several smaller high-altitude lagoons. The landscape is quiet, open, and wild—home to grazing alpacas, llamas, and the occasional Andean bird of prey sweeping across the sky.

This region marks the heartland of traditional potato cultivation. Here, the land continues to be farmed using ancestral techniques passed down since Inca times—most notably the chakitaklla, a wooden foot-plough powered by teamwork, rhythm, and human strength. Peru is the birthplace of the potato, with over 4,000 native varieties, many of which are still grown in these remote Andean highlands with extraordinary biodiversity and cultural continuity.

We ride onward to the tranquil shores of Lake Quellacocha, where our support team will welcome you with a well-earned lunch.

In the afternoon, the trail descends gradually from the high plateau toward the valley of Umasbamba, offering beautiful views and a steady change in vegetation and climate. Near the village, the horses will once again stay with the same local family, cared for overnight by the grooms.

You will then be transferred back to your hotel in the Sacred Valley. Dinner this evening is planned at a local restaurant or in a private setting.

Riding time: approx. 5–6 hours
Altitude: 3,800 – 4,290 m (12,470 – 14,000 ft)

Day 7 — Riding the Qhapaq Ñan

Today's route offers another day of memorable scenery, with time for pauses, photos, and quiet appreciation of the landscape. We begin in Umasbamba, riding toward the rural communities of Cuper Alto and Cuper Bajo, passing terraced farmlands, grazing animals, and sweeping Andean vistas.

Early in the day, a short section of the route follows original stretches of the Qhapaq Ñan—the extraordinary Inca road system that once connected Cusco to distant regions of the empire. Riding along these remaining pathways offers a meaningful sense of the area's history and the scale of Andean civilisation.

By early afternoon, we reach a beautiful abandoned church near Chinchero, where lunch will be served in a peaceful rural setting.

After lunch, we continue riding through open agricultural landscapes and past small highland lakes. Parts of this afternoon route may feel familiar, as it overlaps with a section ridden earlier in the journey; however, the direction, scenery, and shifting vantage points offer a new perspective and experience of the countryside. The final stretch brings us to the village of Huatata, located in the highlands just outside Chinchero.

Here, at a family farm, the horses will stay overnight under the care of our grooms, as on previous nights.

You will then be transferred back to your hotel in the Sacred Valley. Dinner tonight will be enjoyed at a local restaurant.

Overnight at Hotel Sonesta Posadas del Inca, Sacred Valley.

(B, L, D)

Riding time: approx. 5 hours
Altitude: 3,800 – 3,600 m (12,470 – 11,850 ft)

Day 8 — Final Ride into the Sacred Valley

After breakfast, we prepare for the last day on horseback. We return to Huatata, where the horses stayed overnight with the grooms, and begin our ride along a beautiful trail high above the Sacred Valley. The morning route leads through farmland and rural communities, offering a final glimpse into daily Andean life.

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

After lunch, we continue toward the historic village of Urquillos, riding past corn fields and along the banks of the Vilcanota River. A traditional hanging bridge brings us across to the opposite side of the valley, and from here it is a short final stretch to our stables in Huayllabamba, arriving around 4:00 PM.

This evening, we gather for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant — a final celebration of a remarkable journey shared with extraordinary horses.

Riding time: approx. 4.5 hours

Altitude: 3,600 – 2,850 m (11,850 – 9,350 ft)

Day 9 — Visit to Machu Picchu

After an early breakfast, you are transferred to the train station in Ollantaytambo for the scenic rail journey to Aguas Calientes, the gateway to Machu Picchu.

Upon arrival, a professional guide leads you through the citadel, exploring its temples, terraces, and extraordinary stonework — a masterpiece of Inca engineering and one of the world's most iconic archaeological sites.

In the afternoon, you return by train to the Sacred Valley and overnight at Sonesta Posadas del Inca, a historic Andean property built around an 18th-century colonial monastery.

Day 10 — Return to Cusco

After breakfast, you are transferred back to Cusco. The journey follows the course of the Sacred Valley, offering final views of the terraced landscapes and Andean peaks that have accompanied you throughout the ride. Driving time is approximately 1.5 hours.

Upon arrival in Cusco, the trip concludes at either your hotel or the airport, depending on your onward travel arrangements.

End of the Sacred Valley Ride (10 Days / 9 Nights).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION — MACHU PICCHU

Due to strict conservation regulations and limited daily visitor quotas, Machu Picchu entrance tickets often sell out months in advance. For this reason, the visit can only be confirmed once your booking and deposit are received, and remains strictly subject to availability at that time.

To secure entrance tickets, a clear copy of each guest's passport is required at the time of booking. Tickets are issued in the passenger's full name and passport number and are verified upon entry. Passport details must therefore correspond exactly to the document used for travel.

If confirmed, the Machu Picchu experience includes:

- Vistadome-class train travel from Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes
- Shuttle bus service to the entrance of Machu Picchu
- Timed entry to the citadel, accompanied by a licensed local guide
- Return train service and private transfer back to your hotel

Entrance times are assigned within regulated visiting windows established by the Peruvian authorities. Ticket schedules may differ between guests depending on availability at the time of reservation.

Please note that the portion of the trip cost related to Machu Picchu entrance tickets, train travel, and shuttle bus services is non-refundable and non-changeable once booked, in accordance with national regulations and transport provider policies.

Itinerary Addendum

This itinerary is flexible and may be modified at the guide's discretion due to unforeseen circumstances.

PRICING

10-Day Sacred Valley Ride — 2026 Rate

- **US\$ 6,200** per person (shared twin/double)
- Single supplement: **US\$ 790**

Included

- Accommodation for eight (9) nights in comfortable hotels

- All meals as specified in the itinerary
- Professional English-speaking trail guide
- Support team, including grooms and logistics personnel
- Private land transfers throughout the itinerary
- support vehicle
- All drinks during riding days, including wine or a drink during picnic lunches
- Full Tourist Ticket (Boleto Turístico Integral) for included archaeological and cultural sites

Not Included

- Alcoholic beverages during restaurant meals
- Gratuities
- Optional activities
- Personal expenses
- Travel and medical insurance
- Single supplement (see policy below)

Single Occupancy Policy:

Prices are based on shared accommodation. Solo travellers willing to share will be paired with another guest of the same gender, if available. If no match is possible, the single supplement applies. Riders who request a single room will always be charged the supplement.

Minimum group size: 2 riders

Maximum group size: 7 riders

Required Riding Level:

Intermediate riders or above. Riders must be confident, balanced, and in control in open countryside and over varied terrain. While the pace is generally moderate due to elevation and trail conditions, some technical sections require secure balance. When the terrain allows, riders will enjoy the smooth and elegant 4-beat lateral Paso Llano gait of the Peruvian Paso horse.

TRIP DETAILS

Meeting Point

Cusco, Peru.

Rider Requirements

To participate in this journey, riders must be intermediate level or above. You should be confident, balanced, and in control on a well-trained horse at various paces, and comfortable riding in open countryside and over varied terrain. A reasonable level of fitness is required, as riding days can be long and take place at altitude.

Riding Level Definitions

Beginner

A rider with limited experience who is unable to apply basic aids and does not yet have a balanced or independent seat.

Novice

A rider who can mount and dismount unassisted, apply basic aids, and ride comfortably and safely at the walk.

Intermediate

A rider with a balanced, independent seat who can mount unaided and is confident and in control at all paces, although may not ride regularly.

Strong Intermediate

An intermediate rider who is currently riding regularly and is comfortable in the saddle for extended periods (up to 6 hours per day).

Advanced

A rider with an independent seat and soft hands who is confident handling forward-going or spirited horses in open country.

Minimum age: 16 years

Maximum rider weight: 85 kg / 190 lbs / 13.5 stone

(fully dressed for riding)
A scale is available at the stables; riders exceeding the limit will not be permitted to ride, and no refund will apply.

Horses & Tack

The horses used on this trail are Peruvian Pasos, a historic breed known for intelligence, stamina, and a naturally smooth four-beat lateral gait — the Paso Llano. This gait offers exceptional comfort over long distances and rugged terrain.

Horses are well-trained, well-cared for, and accustomed to the high-altitude Andean environment.

Traditional Peruvian tack is used, including a deep box saddle and hardwood hexagonal stirrups — all reflecting refined Peruvian craftsmanship.

Pace of the Ride

This is not a fast-paced ride. Riding takes place between 2,800 m and 4,290 m, where reduced oxygen affects both rider and horse. The first days are ridden at a slower pace to allow acclimatisation.

Where the terrain permits, you will enjoy the beautiful and smooth Paso Llano gait, as well as occasional gentle canters. The emphasis is on scenery, culture, horsemanship, and connection with the landscape, rather than speed.

Meals

Meals throughout the itinerary highlight regional Andean cuisine, featuring fresh produce, locally raised trout, dairy products, and seasonal ingredients.

Dietary requirements (vegetarian, gluten-free, allergies) can be accommodated with advance notice.

Participant Responsibilities

Participation in this trip is at your own risk. All guests must:

- Hold valid travel and medical insurance that covers horseback riding at altitude
- Be physically and mentally prepared for multi-day riding
- Read and understand the itinerary, inclusions, and exclusions
- Notify us of dietary restrictions, medical conditions, or relevant information ahead of time

Guests must sign a waiver of liability at the start of the tour.

For the safety of all riders and horses, the guide reserves the right to prevent participation if a rider demonstrates insufficient ability or unsafe behaviour. No refund will apply in such circumstances.

Guests are responsible for having valid passports, visas (if required), and ensuring they meet any current entry or health regulations.

If you do not wish to appear in promotional photos or video, please notify us in writing before the start of the ride.

Suggested Packing List

Weather in the Andes can change quickly. Layering is essential.

Recommended:

- 2 pairs of comfortable riding trousers
- T-shirts and long-sleeved shirts
- Thick socks
- Warm fleece or insulated jacket
- Waterproof jacket and trousers (Gore-Tex recommended)
- Riding boots with a rubber sole suitable for walking
- Half-chaps or leg protection
- Riding helmet (required) and sun hat
- Riding gloves
- Light shoes for evenings
- Sunglasses with strap
- Sunscreen (SPF 30+) and lip balm
- Insect repellent
- Small personal medical kit (including any required medication)
- Bandana or scarf
- Copies of important documents
- Toiletries (biodegradable preferred)
- Wet wipes / travel tissues
- Zip-lock bags for organising small items

Leather saddlebags are provided. Jackets can be secured behind the saddle. We recommend placing items inside a waterproof bag before storing them in the saddlebags.

Tip: Neutral, earthy clothing blends beautifully with the landscape and photographs extremely well.

This journey is offered in collaboration with our friend and fellow horseman and breeder Claudio Cavallero and his dedicated team, whose logistical support contributes to the smooth execution of the ride. Together, we share a commitment to the Peruvian Paso horse and to delivering an authentic and memorable riding experience in the Andes.

We look forward to riding with you.