

## WEATHER

From June to October the mornings are warm with brilliant sunshine, though it can get quite cool in the shade. At night temperatures can drop to **10°C / 50°F**.

*From December to April showers and downpours are common, followed by bright, intense sunshine.*

*The ideal months for visiting Machu Picchu are from June to October as the weather is mild during this time of the year*

*We recommend taking a raincoat or umbrella to protect you from the rain*

## HOW TO GET THERE?

### BY TRAIN

There only exists one train route, starting in the city of Cusco and ending at Machu Picchu Station (110km/4 hours).

Then there is a 20 minute bus trip to the archaeological site.

The normal route to Machu Picchu takes you by train to the City of Cusco. There are coach and service alternatives, but one of the most luxurious and comfortable trains in South America, the Hiram Bingham, the journey becomes a trip back through time for tourists.

### BY TREK

#### The Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

This so-called road, one of the routes heading from Cusco to Machu Picchu, is part of a network of trails the Incas built to unite the main administrative and religious centers of their vast empire, known as Tahuantinsuyo.

Today, avid adventurers can travel along part of these famous trails, like the one beginning in Mollepata that skirts the slopes of Mount Salkantay and, after a four-day trek, leads to the citadel. For those who do not wish for such a rigorous trek, there is always the one-day hike that starts at the Winaywayna archaeological site.

*Reservations for trekking the Inca Trail must be made in advance.*

## PLACES TO VISIT

### **Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu:**

Spread out over 38,448 hectares, this area protects 34 archaeological sites, including the citadel of the same name, all of which are connected via the Inca Trail and shelters and incredible variety of plants and animals. Greatest natural wealth is located in the wet, tropical zones between 6,500 feet and 9,800 feet.

**Citadel of Machu Picchu:** It is divided into two quarters. The farming quarter is surrounded by different sized and shaped agricultural terraces, and within its bound are five distinct structures and grain storehouses called colcas. On the other hand, the most important architectural elements of Incan city are located in the urban quarter. The city was built in a shape of the letter "U", with a large northern sub-sector containing structures used for religious purposes and the southern sector, set aside for residential purposes.

**Intipunku:** Its name means "Doorway of the Sun", and if one is trekking along the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.

**Putucusi Lookout:** Towering above the village of Machu Picchu is Mount Putucusi, whose peak overlooks the Vilcanota Canyon and the citadel of Machu Picchu. It takes close to three

hours to ascend along a patch covered in thick vegetation.

**Wayna Picchu:** The eternal guardian of the Sanctuary, Wayna Picchu (meaning "Young Mountain" in Quechua) towers over the Incan city. To conquer its summit is truly a rewarding experience.

**Winaywayna:** means "Forever Young" in Quechua, and is perhaps the most beautiful building along the Inca Trail.

**Temple of the Moon:** Find the path starting from the Machu Picchu main square and hike along it for three hours; you will soon come to this fascinating temple.

