

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SALKANTAY

1. How long does the Salkantay Trek take?

Generally between 4 days, depending on the route chosen.

2. How difficult is it?

It is considered moderate to challenging. The highest point is the Salkantay Pass (4,630 m), which requires prior acclimatization.

3. Do I need previous trekking experience?

It is not mandatory, but it is recommended to be in good physical condition and to have done mountain hiking or training before.

4. When is the best time to do it?

From April to October, during the dry season. The most popular months are May to September. During the rainy season (November to March) there is more mud, risk of landslides, and lower visibility.

5. Do I need a special permit like for the Inca Trail?

No. Unlike the Inca Trail, the Salkantay Trek does not require a limited permit. The only thing you need is a ticket to Machu Picchu, which you must purchase in advance.

6. At what altitude do we sleep?

The first few nights are cold (Soraypampa 3,900 m). Then you descend to more temperate climates.

7. How cold is the weather?

In the highlands, the temperature can drop to -5 °C at night. During the day, it varies between 10–20 °C, depending on the section.

8. Is it necessary to bring a sleeping bag?

Yes, a -10°C sleeping bag is recommended.

9. Can you rent a horse?

Yes. On the journey to Abra Salkantay, it is possible to hire horses from local residents to carry luggage or even to ride.

10. Is there cell phone or internet signal?

During the trek, the signal is intermittent. Wi-Fi is only available in some villages and in Aguas Calientes.

11. Where do you sleep?

There are options for camping, eco-domes, or basic lodges, depending on your choice.

12. Is it better to do it alone or with an agency?

You can do it on your own, but it is best to go with an agency, as they organize food, transportation, guides, and camping.

13. How safe is the Salkantay Trek?

It is safe if you follow the itinerary, are accompanied by a guide, and are acclimated. The main risks are altitude sickness and changing weather.