

Trip Name : Qolluriti the snow pilgrimage

Location : Cusco Peru

Trip Length : 4 days

Dates : (1 week of june)

Trip Resume:

Every full moon of June, thousand of pilgrimages, climb up to 4900 meters, to the heights of the Ausangate mountain to proof their faith, worship its beloved Apus (Mountains God) and salute the miraculous image of the Lord of Qolluriti. They pray, dance, celebrate and sing to this image asking for redemption, for health, for a house, a good marriage or for guidance. The festivity last 4 days, it's a massive brotherhood moved by faith, to resist and show that they are worthy; they will dance and sing for many hours day and night. The young ones are initiated as "Pabluchas" , in test of endurance at more than 5000 meters on the glaciers. These characters represent the mix between a bear and a man, beings of supernatural powers. They are the ones that put order and guide the festivity, also the ones that can communicate with the spirits and the ones in charge of the rituals and offerings.

The festivity ends with the procession of Tayankani. This magical hike starts at the evening, and goes on all night, only guided by the moonlight at the foothill of the glaciers, they find their way to the "Plateau of light" were they will align, at dawn to receive the first rays of the sun in a solemn and respectful manner, they thank for being their, before the whole crowd explodes in a celebration of colour and music, they know their prayers were accepted, the gods are satisfied will be a good year

What's Included:

Activities:

- ✓ Private Transportation Cusco – Maguallani – Cusco
- ✓ Camping Equipment, Tent, inflatable mattress, feather sleeping bag, special for below zero temperatures.
- ✓ Complete 3 course meals 5 days
- ✓ Fruits, snacks & Water
- ✓ 2 experienced Tour leaders
- ✓ Personal cook all the way
- ✓ Purification Ritual and Andean offerings
- ✓ First Aid kit
- ✓ Mules to take the luggage
- ✓ Coca leaves
- ✓ Hot drinks

What to bring:

Warm clothing
Good hiking boots
Hat, gloves and scarf
Sun block
Sun glasses
Backpack
Camera
2 sets of clothing

Included Meals:

For the 4 days camping we will provide complete meals, well balanced and yet not too heavy, well thought to endure the conditions up there and keep you going. A personal cook is joining us the entire trip to assure good meals. We will provide daily snack every day between the meals.

Breakfast is included everyday so you can start the day full of energy.

Transportation:

We will have our personal transportation to take us to the start of the pilgrimage, in the town of Magauallani on day 1 and then pick us up in Tayankani, where the pilgrimage ends.

Tents & Camping Gear:

The camping gear, tents, mattresses and sleeping bags we provide are the ideal gear for those conditions. The sleeping bags are of feather, for below zero temperatures, the mattresses are 1 inch inflatable so will insulate well and keep you warm. Finally the tents are for high mountain camping.

Tour Leaders:

Two experienced tour leaders with knowledge about the history of the pilgrimage, experienced in trekking and first aid techniques will accompany the group, coordinate all the activities, be the guide, as well as act as a translator, and help all the individual needs and wishes of the group.

Itinerary:**Important note:**

As you are participating in an ancient pilgrimage, that involves respect, devotion and faith, you have to immerse in the Andean spirituality. This is necessary in an experience like this.

The evening before our departure, we will meet in Cusco, the Andean spiritualist that will join us the whole trip, will do a cleansing ritual in each of the pilgrimages, to then proceed with the first offering to mother earth, as a sign of respect and reciprocity so we are welcomed and have a safe trip, following the ancient tradition.

After this will go back to the hotel, here the tour leader will give you a briefing about the trip hand you the sleeping and mattresses. Here everybody will have the chance to clear any doubts, know exactly what to expect, what to pack, you will have the whole trip outlined.

Day 1 Starting Day

Sleep in: Qolluriti

This day we will meet the hotel in Cusco, were our private van will take us all the way up to Maguallani, this town is 5 to 6 hours away from Cusco depending on the traffic. We will be departing around 8.00 p.m, we recommend you have a early dinner.

The hike will start around 3.00 a.m, guided by the moonlight, we will be part of the thousand of pilgrimages that ascends to the magic altitudes of Shinakara, this plateau is above the 4600 meters at the foothill of the three main glaciers. The ascend will take around 4 to 5 hours; we will be always as a group ascending together. Our spiritual guide will perform some offerings in the different shrines we find on the way, respecting the tradition, this will give you the chance to more and more tune up with this pilgrimage.

We will arrive camp site around 8.00 a.m, we find a place to camp, and set our base for the next 2 days. Here we will serve a hearty breakfast to recover energies.

Once everybody is recovered we will go and take a walk around the festivity and be part of this massive brotherhood. It's likely that many will end up dancing and celebrating. We have the lunch, dinner and snacks included.

Day 2

Sleep in: Qolluriti

We start the day with a hearty breakfast, this day will be to enjoy the festivity no planed activities for the day. We will need to rest as we have a busy night ahead of us. Around 3.00 a.m the dancer or "pabluchas" ascend to the altitudes of the glaciers to perform their rituals and offerings to their beloved glaciers, they will

ask for a good harvest, health and prosperity for their community. This is when the young will be initiated in tests of endurance in the freezing cold conditions
After sunrise we will find a location at the foot hill of the glacier to perform the purification ritual, our spiritual guide will conduct a flourishing bath, with glacier water, this will leave spirit clean for the next part of the pilgrimage
We descend to campsite where a nice lunch is waiting to recover energies.
Free evening to rest or walk around, before dinner is served.

Day 3 & 4

Sleep in: Hiking

For the morning we don't have any planned activities, free morning to take the last pictures and enjoy the end of the festivity. Late in the evening starts the "procession of tayankani", this consist of a brotherhood of around 3000 pilgrimages that continue with the ritual. The cross of Tayankani must be taken to the Church in the town of Tayankani . The town is located more or less 10 hours away hiking. We will follow them and be part of this amazing pilgrimage, that continues at night, guided by moonlight and the light of their candles, this immense cue of pilgrimages will chant their songs and walk all night to make it on time to the plateau of light. They intend to receive the first rays of the sun, thanking for being there another time, this is a very emotionally moment. After sunrise the whole cue will explode in a chaotic celebration, music and dancing all the way to the town of Tayankani, where they will be cheerfully received. A mass will be conducted in order to place the cross in its temple and to thank the pilgrimages for their effort and faith. This will mark the end of our pilgrimage; before our transportation takes us back to Cusco. We assure you will be with a totally different vibe after this experience; it's a spiritual tonic to participate in such a celebration.

What is not included:

Meals not specified in the program
Activities or outings outside the program

Notes:

- 1) This program can be modified by clients to make it 1day shorter, not doing Tayankani procession.
- 2) The level of this program can be adapted to an upgrade to luxury on request
- 3) It's a very strenuous program, high altitudes and long walks, requires a good Physical condition.