9-Day Inca Trail Plan from the USA 2027

Classic Inca Trail 4 days · flights, acclimatization and 2027 US holidays

TERRA QUECHUA PERU
Real Adventure Awaits...
TREKKING - BIKING & JUNGLE SPECIALIST

No visa
for US tourists; passport valid 6 months after arrival

Lima → Cusco
no nonstop flights from the US to Cusco

9 days
door to door, with two days to acclimatize

UTC−5
all year: no clock changes in Peru

The 9-day plan

Day	Plan	Where you sleep
1	Fly from the US to Lima; connect to Cusco if you land early, or stay near the airport	Lima or Cusco
2	Fly to Cusco; take it easy, drink water and eat light	Cusco or the Sacred Valley
3	Sacred Valley or an easy walk around Cusco to acclimatize	Cusco
4	Free morning; pre-trek briefing at our Cusco office at 6 p.m.	Cusco
5–8	Classic Inca Trail, 4 days: Machu Picchu on day 8, train back and arrival in Cusco after dark	Camps, then Cusco
9	Fly Cusco–Lima and on to the US	Overnight flight or home

The Sacred Valley (about 2,800–2,900 m) is lower than Cusco: sleeping there on the first night or two makes acclimatization easier. Short on days? The 2-day Inca Trail fits into a week.

2027 holiday windows

Thanksgiving
Sat 20 – Sun 28 Nov
3 or 4 vacation days; Thanksgiving on the trail

Memorial Day
Sat 22 – Mon 31 May
5 vacation days; dry season

Labor Day
Sat 28 Aug – Mon 6 Sep
5 vacation days; dry and clear

Presidents' Day (15 Feb) won't work: the trail closes every February. Holy Week (21–28 March) is one of the first weeks to sell out.

Time difference with Peru

If you live in	Nov–Mar	Mar–Nov
New York, Miami, Atlanta	Same time	Peru 1 h behind
Chicago, Houston, Dallas	Peru 1 h ahead	Same time
Denver	Peru 2 h ahead	Peru 1 h ahead
Los Angeles, Seattle	Peru 3 h ahead	Peru 2 h ahead

The CDC does not recommend the yellow fever vaccine for trips limited to Cusco, the Inca Trail and Machu Picchu. Cusco's new Chinchero airport won't be ready for 2027.

Before you go

- [ ] Book the Inca Trail first, then your flights: permits are the scarce part
- [ ] Use the same passport for the booking and the trip (the permit carries its number)
- [ ] Lima–Cusco flight with a generous connection, or the next day
- [ ] Don't fly home on the last day of the trek
- [ ] Travel insurance covering trekking at altitude and medical evacuation
- [ ] Ask your doctor about altitude medication
- [ ] Phone plan or eSIM; download maps and documents
- [ ] Plug adapter (220 V, type A and C sockets)
- [ ] Clean, untorn US dollar bills; soles for small expenses

→ Planning the Inca Trail from the USA
terraquechuaperu.com/blog/inca-trail-from-the-usa/

→ Classic Inca Trail 4 days
terraquechuaperu.com/classic-inca-trail-to-machu-picchu-4-days-3-nights/

→ Live permits 2026–2027
terraquechuaperu.com/inca-trail-permits-availability/

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