

HUCHUY QOSQO HIDDEN PATH


HIKE_Full day




A 4 hour trek starting at 4300m, descending through lakes, pampas and canyons and the ancient ruins of Huchuy Qosqo, with magnificent views of Cusco's sacred mountains.

This demanding 4 hour trail runs from elevated plateaus to a fertile valley floor. It's a 1 hour 20 minute car journey from the hotel to the start of the trail, which begins at an altitude of 4,300 meters above sea level at the Altiplano, central South America's high tableland. The trip is punctuated with lakes, golden pampas grass and soaring mountains and runs past a creek lined with eucalyptus and queñua trees to the hamlet of Pucamarca. The trail plunges into a canyon, before a balcony trail on the steep valley flank leads to the ruins of Huchuy Qosqo – "Little Cusco" in Quechua, the perfect place for a bite of lunch. A winding path leads to the valley floor and your transport back to the hotel.

This is an exhilarating expedition through history and native ecosystems. The Salkantay and the Ausangate are two of the most sacred mountains in the Cusco region and evident soon after the start of the trek down an ancient, but well preserved Inca road. The small hamlet of Pucamarca is home to numerous alpaca farmers who inhabit charming adobe houses. The fascinating archaeological site of Huchuy Qosqo dates back to 1420, when they were erected by the 8th Inca sovereign, Huiracocha.


 **Depart: 8:00 am Return: 4:00 pm**


 **Whole journey duration: 8h**
Driving time: 1h 40 minutes round trip

 **Distance: 12.5 km**

 **Elevation gain/loss: +20 m / -1350 m**

 **Maximum elevation: 4333 m / 14215 ft**

 **Difficulty level: Challenging - hikers must be over 7 years old. Not recommended for sufferers of vertigo or altitude sickness**

 *Wear hiking clothes and shoes and a high SPF sun cream.*



VIRTUOSO



SERANDIPIANS

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