

STRATEGIES



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T+L's Ultimate Guide to **Trekking, Walking, & Hiking**

There's no better way to explore a new destination than on your own two feet. Here, our region-by-region plan for your next great adventure.

PLUS Quick day trips, emerging regions, and more.
By Bree Sposato

Giant sequoias
in Yosemite
National Park's
Mariposa Grove.

South America

→ **TRAVEL ADVISORY** *At press time, the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru, was recommending increased security awareness when traveling to the region, including Machu Picchu. For updates and more information, go to travel.state.gov.*



PATAGONIA MADE EASY

It can take up to two days to reach South America's wild southern frontier from North America. If you've got limited time, Chile's northern Patagonia is the easiest way into the region. **Gray & Co.** (grayandco.ca; from \$1,200 per person per day; 🏕️) has customized itineraries: take the two-hour flight from Santiago to Puerto Montt, where the six-villa Cliffs Preserve will be your base for expeditions to spot palm-size monito del monte monkeys and to visit the active Osorno Volcano. Have a few more days? A two-hour drive (plus a 30-minute ferry ride) south is tranquil Chiloé Island, filled with UNESCO-designated churches and untouched nature preserves. Stay at the new **Refugia** (refugia.cl; \$\$\$\$), left, where all 12 rooms have views of Chiloé's inland sea.

Machu Picchu The Incas created hundreds of footpaths throughout the Andes. T+L charts three routes to Peru's most iconic site.

CLASSIC INCA TRAIL

Best for Ancient ruins.
Mountain Travel Sobek

(mtsobek.com; four days from \$3,995; 🏕️) tackles the most famous road to Machu Picchu in four days; for a glamping experience, **Austin-Lehman Adventures** (austinlehman.com; 10 days from \$3,898; 🏕️) offers portable showers and even a massage therapist. Book early with your outfitter: the government issues only 500 trail passes daily.

APU HUAYLLANAY TRAIL

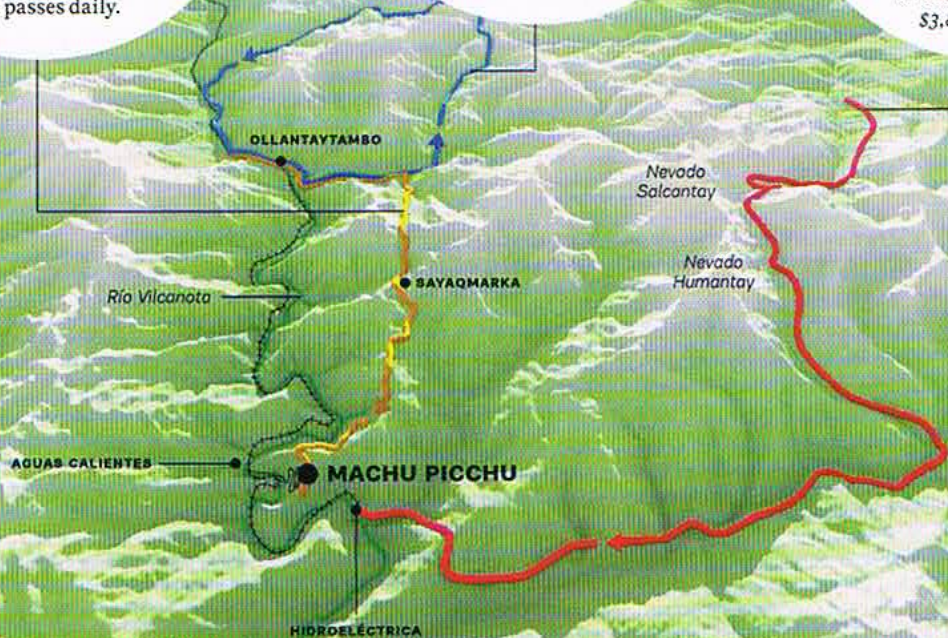
Best for Peace and quiet.

Trekkers here have the Andean landscape practically to themselves. On a private trip from **Aracari** (aracari.com; eight days from \$1,822; 🏕️), you'll camp for three nights with a guide, a cook, and porters, and finish with a hot shower at the company's permanent site near Ollantaytambo before taking the 1½-hour train ride to Machu Picchu.

SALCANTAY TRAIL

Best for Creature comforts.

Known as the back door into Machu Picchu, Salcantay is also the area's highest path (it reaches 15,200 feet). Mountain Lodges of Peru, a string of stone-and-timber inns along the trail, is the only lodge-to-lodge way to reach the lost city of the Incas: take this route on a trip with **Wildland Adventures** (wildland.com; 11 days from \$3,800; 🏕️).



TECH TOOL

Looking for the name of that mountain? The GPS-enabled **Peaks** app (iTunes; \$2.99) has a database of more than a half-million summits around the world and automatically generates a tweet identifying the mountains that are closest to you.