

MORAY MARAS AND SALINERAS

After a brief orientation at the ranch, we depart towards Taramamba community; riding on a narrow path that winds between small farms of the community of Rumichaca. This is an ideal route to travel by horseback, peaceful, traffic-free, which gives us plenty of time to get to know our horses.

From Tarabamba till the Paucarbamba Bridge the views along this route are stunning, crossing the town of Yanahuara until we reach the Paucarbamba suspension bridge we continue ascending to the gorge of the same name.



Our eyes adjusting to spot the glaciers on the eastern cordillera of the Andes, after a few minutes, we find ourselves in an area used only by the few farmers. We continue towards the summit, encountering some steep mountain flanks which require some expertise and skill, but the challenge is well-worth it. At the summit, we once again find paths of the farmers who cultivated different grains on this plateau. We're now at the highest point of our route only a few minutes from Moray. It's about 1 pm when we arrive.

Time to have lunch, rest and visit Moray, a fascinating archaeological site, crisscrossed with natural depressions that successive cultures adapted into levels of agricultural terraces that served for more than 1000 years of as an experimental agricultural station for the development of different strain of crops. From Moray we continue riding for about an hour along an ancient mule track to Maras, a colonial town, known for its centuries-old customs, and its houses, once occupied by Spanish colonials whose coat of arms can still be seen, carved in grand stone doorways. A visit to the church, San Francisco de Maras, will attest to this town's importance in the Colonial era; its features excellent Cusco school paintings and beautiful architecture.

We descend towards Salineras. The ground descends almost 800 meters to the valley. We make our way down by an old path, used for

many generations by those who work in the salt pans. This trail is steep, rocky and narrow, lined with maguey plants. After we reach the gorge of Kachiracay, we proceed along the sides of small gullies, stepping carefully, while enjoying breathtaking views of mountains, valleys and farms.

Forty minutes after beginning the descent, we see the famous salt flats of Maras. This is a great moment to capture with a camera it's also time for a brief rest.

The salt flats are a good place to dismount and walk, to learn about the origin of this place and the process of extracting the salt and simply to enjoy the colors and geometry of the scenery.

The final part of the descent to the valley proceeds along the same narrow gullies. Once we reach the valley, we have to cross a suspension bridge, then we continue along the same path on which we began, through the communities of Tarabamba and Rumichaca till we reach our stables. This journey covers approximately 30 kilometers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Departure time	08:30 Hrs.
Arrival time	17:00 Hrs.
Duration and distance	08:00 Hours estimated time including rest and breaks
Equipment	Peruvian Hat or equestrian Helmet, Saddle bags
backup equipment	
Suggestions	Wear long trousers and sun protection Children under 7 years old, maximum weight 220
Restrictions	lb./rider
Difficulty level	High, is necessary an experienced and good shape rider
NOTES:	Times are estimated and subject to the conditions of the operation.
	The safeties will always our main concern, the route could be changed to avoid any risk while the ride.





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