



PERU RAINBOW MOUNTAINS TOUR

VINICUNCA, PALLAY PUNCHU AND PALCOYO

4-9 JULY 2028

Ignacio Palacios

PERU RAINBOW
MOUNTAINS TOUR



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Pallay Punchu

Pallay Punchu is one of Peru's newest and most striking high-altitude landscapes, a dramatic ridge of razor-sharp peaks rising above 4,700 metres in the remote Andes south of Cusco.

Often described as a "rainbow mountain on steroids," its jagged formations resemble a woven Andean textile – hence the name Pallay Punchu, which translates roughly to "woven poncho" in Quechua. The mountain's vivid bands of red, ochre, and gold are the result of mineral-rich sediments shaped by wind and erosion into a surreal, almost sculptural terrain.

Reaching Pallay Punchu is part of the adventure. The journey takes you through traditional Andean communities, grazing alpacas, and vast open plains, culminating in a short but steep hike to the ridge. At this altitude, the air is thin and the environment feels raw and untouched, adding to the sense of discovery. Unlike more established locations, Pallay Punchu remains relatively uncrowded, offering a more intimate and immersive experience of the Andes.

For photographers, this is an exceptional location. The interplay of light and shadow across the sharp ridgelines creates constantly changing patterns, especially during sunrise and late afternoon

when the colors become more saturated and dramatic. Combined with sweeping views over surrounding valleys and lakes, Pallay Punchu offers a unique opportunity to capture one of Peru's most extraordinary and still little-known landscapes.

Vinicunca

Vinicunca Rainbow Mountain is one of Peru's most extraordinary natural wonders, a high-altitude landscape where mineral-rich layers of sandstone have been exposed over time to reveal striking bands of red, ochre, yellow, and green.

Set against a backdrop of snow-capped peaks in the Andes, this surreal formation feels almost painted, with its vivid colours shaped by iron oxides and other minerals embedded within the rock over millions of years.

The hike to Vinicunca is both rewarding and demanding. Covering approximately 10 km (6.2 miles) round trip, the trail ascends from around 4,300 metres to over 5,000 metres, making it a moderate to strenuous trek due to the altitude and steep final climb. We depart very early in the morning to reach the summit ahead of the crowds and experience the landscape in the best possible light. Conditions can be unpredictable at this altitude, with rapidly changing weather and strong winds, so flexibility is essential.

Time and conditions permitting, we also continue to the Red Valley Pass, a less-visited extension that reveals a vast expanse of deep crimson mountains – an equally breathtaking and often quieter alternative to the main viewpoint. While Vinicunca has become increasingly popular and can be crowded, careful timing and planning allow us to experience its beauty in a more peaceful and photographic way.

Palcoyo

Palcoyo Rainbow Mountains offer a quieter and more accessible alternative to the classic rainbow mountain experience, revealing a series of colourful, layered ridges set against the dramatic backdrop of the Ausangate Mountain.

Unlike Vinicunca, Palcoyo features multiple rainbow-striped formations spread across a wide valley, creating a more expansive and less crowded landscape. The experience is complemented by a visit to the charming colonial bridge of Checacupe Bridge, adding a cultural touch to the day.

The walk itself is relatively gentle, covering approximately 5 km (3.1 miles) with gradual elevation gain from around 4,300 metres to just under 5,000 metres. This makes it suitable for a wide range of fitness levels, while still delivering a high-altitude Andean experience. The shorter hiking distance allows more time

to explore, photograph, and appreciate the sweeping views of colourful mountains, glacial peaks, and open highland terrain.

Like other rainbow formations in the region, Palcoyo's striking colours come from mineral-rich sedimentary layers, with iron and other elements creating the vibrant reds, yellows, and ochres. Although the hike is less demanding, proper acclimatisation is still essential, and spending at least two to three days at altitude beforehand is strongly recommended. With smaller groups and a more relaxed pace, Palcoyo offers a rewarding and visually stunning experience without the intensity or crowds of more famous routes.



ITINERARY

DAY 1 | 4 July: arrival in Cusco

Arrival in Cusco, transfer to hotel and rest, overnight in Cusco

DAY 2 | 5 July: acclimatisation in Cusco

Free day for acclimatisation and light exploration, overnight in Cusco

DAY 3 | 6 July: Cusco to Pallay Punchu

Drive: ~4.5 to 5.5 hrs

Afternoon hike and sunset photography

Overnight basic refugio/hostal

DAY 4 | 7 July: Pallay Punchu to Vinicunca Rainbow Mountain

Sunrise at Pallay Punchu

Drive: ~3 to 4 hrs

Arrival and hike toward Rainbow Mountain

Sunset photography

Overnight basic refugio/hostal

Final access to camp requires ~1 to 2 hr walk

DAY 5 | 8 July: Rainbow Mountain to Palcoyo Rainbow Mountains

Sunrise at Rainbow Mountain

Drive: ~2.5 to 3.5 hrs

Afternoon exploration and sunset at Palcoyo

Overnight basic refugio/hostal

DAY 6 | 9 July: Palcoyo to Cusco

Drive: ~3.5 to 4.5 hrs

Return to Cusco

Notes for July:

Dry season with the best light and visibility

Very cold mornings at altitude (-5°C to -10°C possible)

Porters and horses can be arranged if required



PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

“All skill levels are welcome. Whether you’re a beginner or expert, the tour is designed to cover all aspects of image capture and processing.”

Ignacio Palacios

Central to this unforgettable tour is YOU. Through Ignacio’s guidance, you’ll not only learn the secrets of the masters, but you’ll take your photography skills to the next level and leave your South American adventure with a collection of powerful, moving photographs that you’ll share with pride.

Some of the photography skills you’ll learn throughout the tour include:

- The art of composition
- Post-processing techniques tips and tricks
- How to work with light
- Optimising your equipment and filters
- Pre-visualisation and the creative process
- The unique techniques of landscape photography, wildlife photography, portrait photography, while also touching on aerial, black and white, and night photography
- Ignacio will also be there to offer one-on-one guidance on other specific skills you’d personally like to master.

Camera skills

The best way to learn the art of photography is by taking photos. So Ignacio will be by your side in the field sharing insight and guidance as you shoot. Helping you create great photos as you shoot. No matter your skill level or equipment, you’ll learn the craft with an award-winning master.

The creative process

Although during this tour it might be challenging to find a comfortable place for postprocessing, you’ll also have the opportunity to process and enhance your images using Lightroom, Photoshop and other editing software. Learning first-hand how to create photographs that tell a story, evoke emotion and ultimately help you find your unique style and personality as an artist.

Critique session

Should you dream of entering competitions, or simply wish to push yourself as a photographer, critique sessions are an invaluable part of the learning process. Ignacio will offer one-on-one critique sessions during the tour. Providing constructive evaluation and feedback supported by recommendations and tips through the eyes of a professional. While having your work critiqued can feel overwhelming at first, this is one of the most powerful ways to improve your skills as a photographer.

Level of photography

All skills levels are welcome. Whether you’re a beginner or expert, the tour is designed to cover all aspects of image capture and post processing as it applies to where you are on your photography journey. As for equipment, we can help you optimise the equipment you chose to use from mobile phone to tablets, compact camera to digital SLR cameras. Please contact Ignacio in advance if you would like to discuss what equipment to bring to the trip.

Physical considerations

While you’ll be experiencing South America in style there will be times when the group needs to embark on a walk/hike to visit and photograph the best locations. As part of the pre-tour planning, we ask you share any existing health conditions with us so we may plan for your comfort and safety.





IGNACIO PALACIOS

When it comes to photography and travel, few can rival Ignacio Palacios' experience, skill, and passion. A third-generation photographer, Ignacio has been honoured with over

100 prestigious photography prizes and awards from around the world and has travelled to over 100 countries in his 25 years career. It's little wonder he's developed a reputation as a leading photographer in the fields of travel, landscape, and nature photography.

Born in Spain, Ignacio now calls Sydney, Australia home – though his unmistakable Spanish spirit continues to influence his work and define his signature style.

Combining his love of travel and photography has proved a powerful combination, and today Ignacio leads some of the world's best photography tours to incredible destinations around the world. As an AIPP double Master of Photography, Ignacio shares his insight, experience, and technique with his clients to help them find their own success and joy on their photographic journey.

"I hope that through my images and my tours, I can open people's eyes to the incredible world we live in. I want to give my guests both travel and photographic experience. We are privileged to have such a beautiful planet and it's our responsibility to respect, cherish and protect it."

Ignacio's distinct, award-winning style can be defined by his mastery of composition, colour, and light. With his minimalistic style and unique ability to connect with his audience through storytelling through his images, Ignacio invites his audience to experience the subject not as how he captured it, but how he experienced it, evoking an emotional connection between the viewer, subject and artist.

Photography and travel will always be Ignacio's passion, and he is dedicated to helping others ignite their passion too.

www.iptravelphotography.com.au



"I believe that photography can be way of change and I feel an obligation and responsibility to share what I have captured and created with my camera in the hope that I can not only inspire people to take better images but to care for the environment."

Ignacio Palacios

CHECKLIST

Camera equipment

- DSLR. To bring a couple of bodies is always recommended (check your baggage allowance with your airline/travel agent)
- Tripod with quick release plate
- Standard zoom, wide angle and telephoto lens
- Plenty of batteries and a couple of chargers
- Shutter cable release
- Polarising filter and ND filters
- Laptop computer with Photoshop and Lightroom and/or Capture One. Please make sure that these programs are working properly on your laptop before you arrive.
- External backup drives (SSD recommended) and memory cards for storage
- Lenses that cover the range of 24mm to 400mm plus, perhaps, a x1.4 teleconverter.

What to bring, clothing and other

- Water bottle (1lt) to avoid the use of plastic bottles for mineral water. Our guide will make sure to refill your bottle whenever necessary.
- Sun block and sun glasses (protection against UV)
- Hat
- We recommend comfortable clothing made of fabric that breaths (such as cotton) and pack a combination of short sleeve and long sleeve top and pant options
- Comfortable hiking boots.

Luggage preparations

- We recommend you shrinkwrap your baggage at your departure airport
- Ensure your telephoto lenses are packed in protective casings designed for this specific lens
- We also suggest you carry your camera equipment as carry-on luggage where possible. In the event your luggage is delayed or lost, you can still shoot the moment you arrive.

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to cancel this workshop. In the event of this happening, all payments received will be refunded but participants shall have no further claim against IP Travel Photography arising from such cancellation. Any such refund will not include payments for any bookings for other services made in addition to the itinerary outlined above. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancellation insurance prior to paying the first deposit. It is recommended that the cancellation insurance covers for the whole cost of the trip.

To reserve your place for 2028 or to make an enquiry, please email ignacio@iptravelphotography.com.au



“My strongest motivation is to create. I want to create beautiful images of natural subjects that can inspire others and the joy comes from sharing those incredible moments.”

Ignacio Palacios

Note: A much more detailed list of equipment and what to bring to the trip will be provided to all participants closer to the time of departure.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS



WORKSHOP DATES AND PRICES

Tour dates: **4–9 July 2028**

The tour commences and ends in **Cuzco, Peru**

Standard cost: **US\$5,990** per person

Optional single supplement: **US\$490**

Maximum **8** participants

A non-refundable deposit of **US\$2,000** is required when you book the workshop

Terms of payment

- A deposit of **US\$2,000** must be paid to secure your place. The deposit is non-refundable unless you can sell your place to someone else
- The Registration Form must be filled in and signed by each participant at the time of paying the first deposit. Participation will be declined otherwise
- The remaining balance must be paid on or before **1 February 2028**.
- Bookings will be accepted strictly in the order they are received
- **Important:** the workshop requires a minimum of 5 participants to run so please don't book your flights until the trip has been confirmed.

What's included

- 6 days (5 nights) with all land content including the first two nights in Cuzco
- Transfers from/to airport
- Private transportation (4WD) and accommodation in Peru during the official period of the workshop
- Curated meal plan including all meals (breakfasts, lunches and dinners)
- All photographic tuition and workshop materials for the duration of the tour
- All entrance fees
- Photography sessions at exclusive locations with photography advice in the field and back at the hotel, where we will do critique sessions and post-processing lessons when possible.

What's not included

- International/Domestic Airfares
- Travel and medical insurance (travel insurance with emergency evacuation is mandatory as a condition of booking)
- Optional personal activities
- Camera/Equipment Insurance
- Other meals, snacks and alcoholic drinks
- Tips to the local guides along the way
- Any other personal expenses.

Cancellation Policy

A written notice of any cancellation must be received by you at which time the following cancellation fees will apply:

- If cancelled between 1 February and 1 April 2028, 40% of the workshop cost will be refunded
- If cancelled between 1 April 2028 and before date of commencement, the cost of the workshop will not be refunded
- Failure to pay by the due dates will be considered a cancellation of the booking and fees paid will be non-refundable
- Bookings made after 1 February 2028 must be paid in full
- No refunds will be made for unused portions of the workshop. The photography workshop is sold as a package.
- Cancellation fees are not transferable.

Camera gear

There is really no limit to what camera gear you take. Check with your airline about weight restrictions. Whatever level of camera equipment you have,

we will help to ensure you get the most out of it. For this tour I recommend bringing a drone and I will be happy to provide advice about this.

In terms of camera kit, you'll need a tripod, and a number of lenses such as a 14–24 mm, a 24–70mm for landscapes and an intermediate zoom (70–200 or 100–400) so that you don't miss any opportunities.

Closer to departure I will provide a detailed document regarding what to bring to the trip in terms of equipment and travel gear.

Fitness and health considerations – altitude sickness

Sometimes participants will be required to walk on uneven terrain or tracks and hiking. A basic level of walking fitness will help, but this tour is not a hiking tour or a trekking tour so nothing extreme will be required. If you have concerns about your own capabilities or health, please check with your doctor before booking a place.

In this tour we will go to a maximum altitude of around 5000m, and we will be sleeping/camping at altitude. Please check with your doctor regarding precautions to be taken such as taking Diamox (altitude sickness medication). I will provide further information regarding altitude sickness closer to departure, but it is important that you check with your doctor.

By signing the Registration Form, you guarantee that to the best of your knowledge, you do not have any physical, mental or other disability that

could create a risk for you or other tour participants. Once a booking has been accepted by IP Travel Photography, medical circumstances will not be accepted as an exemption to the Cancellation Policy above.

Within the Registration Form, please indicate any health issues, allergies or dietary requirements. IP Travel Photography does not assume any responsibility or liability for medical care or special dietary requirements. If a participant becomes ill during the workshop, IP Travel Photography reserves the right to continue the tour for the benefit of the rest of the participants or not, depending on the situation and after discussions with my suppliers. IP Travel Photography will make every effort to assist you whilst trying to minimize disruption of the workshop for other participants.

To participate in an IP Travel Photography workshop, you must be in good health. It is acknowledged that you have accurately outlined all medical concerns, issues or problems and related dietary restrictions, intolerances and/or allergies. This workshop is designed for people in good physical and mental condition. Depending on the nature of the tour, IP Travel Photography might request a doctor certificate to confirm that the participant is in good physical and mental condition. During the workshop you will be required to walk over irregular terrain, and in some cases, you will be required to walk or hike across long distances and for long periods of time. Please check

with Ignacio Palacios these details before booking the tour. Once a workshop has started and it is necessary for you to leave the trip because it is beyond your physical level, there will be no refunds for any unused portion of the workshop.

Visas

Please check with your consulate/embassy regarding VISAS. Please make sure that your passport/visa does not expire during the tour period.

Rights

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to:

- Substitute hotels/accommodation, boats, ships, trains, vehicles, locations and restaurants. The participant understands that due to the nature of travel, in some cases, meals might be skipped.
- Make changes in the itinerary or transport when deemed necessary or advisable if required or due to changes in airline schedules, or when necessary.
- Accept or refuse any person as a participant in the workshop.
- Cancel the workshop prior to departure, in which case a full refund of all payments received will be given. If such event occurred, IP Travel Photography will not be responsible for any other expenses such as non-refundable air fares, cancellation fees, visa fees and other related expenses. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to

purchase a travel protection insurance prior to paying the first deposit for the trip.

- Substitute the tour leader and/or guest photographer as originally specified, in which case this substitution will not entitle the participant to a refund or extensive post-tour compensation such as private lessons or a credit.
- Insensitive, rude and/or culturally offensive comments will not be tolerated. Rudeness and aggressiveness towards other participants of the tour, instructors, restaurant staff, airport attendants and pilots will not be tolerated and your participation in the tour might be cancelled immediately and permanently. This will not entitle the participant to a refund of any kind. As such, IP Travel Photography reserves the right to stop the participant to continue traveling with the group at any time.
- Decline to accept or retain any person or member of the tour should such person's actions or general deportment impede the operation of the workshop or the rights or welfare or enjoyment of other members of the workshop. In such an event, the participant will be asked to leave the tour, and no refunds will be given in such circumstances.
- Change the price of the workshop due to adverse currency exchange fluctuations, airline schedule changes, fuel and tax price charges etc.
- Change the date of the tour due to events beyond my control

TERMS AND CONDITIONS CONTINUED

- To take photographic or video records of any workshop and may use any such records for promotional and/or commercial and marketing purposes such as Instagram, Facebook and social media.

Since we will be operating in remote high-altitude areas, the itinerary may be subject to change due to various conditions such as: snow fall, heavy rain, strong winds, landslides, road maintenance, workers' strikes, etc.), especially in places of elevation higher than 4,000 meters. As such, we reserve the right to alter and/or cancel any part of the itinerary which may be affected by conditions beyond our control.

The Itinerary is subject to weather conditions in the region to be visited, to flight schedule changes, roadblocks or any other unforeseen circumstances. In any of these cases last minute changes may take place to ensure a safe trip. Any expenses derived from these situations of force majeure must be paid by the passenger.

Liability

The operation of the workshop is at the sole discretion of Ignacio Palacios, having in mind the wellbeing and interests of all participants and the safe

and sensible operation of the program as specified within this itinerary.

IP Travel Photography do not accept any liability for the acts, omissions or default, whether negligent or otherwise of third-party providers.

IP Travel Photography manages accommodations, transportation, and related travel services as outlined in this brochure only upon the express condition that IP Travel Photography workshop shall not be liable for any injury, damage, delay, mishap, inconvenience, or irregularity occasioned through the negligence or wilful failure to act of any person or company which is to or does not provide services in conjunction with this workshop. Clients acknowledges that IP Travel Photography is not responsible for the acts of inactions of third parties to this workshop and can bear no responsibility for any action or inaction of any such third parties.

IP Travel Photography and all of its officers, directors, agents, servants, administrators, representatives, and employees shall have no liability for any damages, losses, or expenses of whatever cause or nature, including those resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, detention, annoyance, weather, quarantines, strikes, civil disturbance, theft or criminal activity of any kind, government regulations, etc., over which IP Travel Photography has no control.

Without limiting the above paragraph, IP Travel Photography shall have no responsibility for additional expenses due to unforeseen delays caused by weather, theft or criminal activity of any kind, political disputes, acts of terrorism, strikes, sickness, failure of flights or other transportation to arrive or depart on time, and other causes beyond our control. IP Travel Photography is not responsible for additional hotel nights not specified in the individual trip itineraries which may be required en route, prior to or following a trip, caused by airline scheduling or schedule changes, or by individual clients' travel arrangements or by other factors. IP Travel Photography cannot assume any responsibility for loss or damage to baggage or personal property.

In no event shall IP Travel Photography have any liability or consequential damages, however defined or characterised.

It is mandatory and a condition of your booking that you purchase a comprehensive travel insurance with emergency medical evacuation insurance and emergency medical expense coverage, and trip cancellation insurance, which would reimburse you for non-refundable airfare and trip cancellation fees should you have to cancel the trip due to personal or family illness or any other issues. Life insurance, baggage loss and baggage delay reimbursement plus other coverage is available based on the insurer of choice.

IP Travel Photography recommends that you purchase a cover for coronavirus related events including cover for quarantine expenses, trip cancellation if you are diagnosed with Covid-19 for example and can't travel.

IP Travel Photography and disclaim liability or any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or trouble caused by force majeure or any other event which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on IP Travel Photography's part.

By booking this tour you are waiving (to the fullest extent permitted by law) all claims that I might have against IP Travel Photography in respect of any loss or injury as a direct/indirect consequence of participating in this photography workshop. This consent shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of New South Wales, without giving effect to principles of conflict of laws.

IP Travel Photography

IP Travel Photography is an ASIC business name with Australian Business Number 16578586693 and registered in Australia under the Business Names Registration Act 2011. IP Travel Photography (Ignacio Palacios) will guide and provide photography tuition to all participants during the tour. IP Travel Photography is not a travel agent or travel service provider.



**TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE FOR 2028
OR TO MAKE AN ENQUIRY, PLEASE EMAIL
IGNACIO@IPTRAVELPHOTOGRAPHY.COM.AU**



IGNACIO PALACIOS
TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

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