

## **THE INCA TRAIL TO MACHU PICCHU – POLICIES, GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION**

In an effort to preserve and protect the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, the Peruvian governing bodies have taken drastic measures in the past 2 years to limit the amount of people hiking the Trail. As of March 2004, no more than 500 people (including support staff) per day are allowed on the Inca Trail and this number is strictly adhered to. As Sustainable Tourism is constantly at the forefront of our business philosophy, Peaks & Places is happy to work within the framework of these regulations in order to properly protect the Inca Trail and Machu Picchu. Our company policies regarding the Inca Trail are put in place in order to guarantee an excellent passenger experience and also as a way to directly address these issues and make sure that this information is clear and understood.

The rules and regulations controlling the Inca Trail and Machu Picchu are continually changing and it is important to be aware of the issues detailed in this document before embarking on your adventure to Peru.

### **Current Inca Trail Regulations**

As stated above, no more than 500 people per day are allowed to start the Inca Trail trek at km. 82. This number includes all support staff (ie. porters, cooks and guides) and is very tightly controlled. Once this limit of 500 people is reached, the Trail is effectively closed off for the day and no further bookings can be made. Reservations are not held on the Trail and all permits to trek must be bought as far as possible in advance with complete and correct passport information, to which no modifications can be made. Any attempts at modifications result in a loss of the permit and any money paid.

### **Inca Trail Trek Booking policies**

#### **Effective immediately, the Peaks & Places policy for all Inca Trail bookings is:**

- Bookings made 65 days or more before the Inca Trail portion\* of any Peaks & Places adventure should proceed without any problem if we receive the following pieces of information:
  1. Full name (exactly as it appears on the passport)
  2. Date of birth
  3. Passport number
  4. Nationality
  5. Date of passport expiry
- Bookings between 64 and 31 days before the Inca Trail portion\* of any tour will be taken on a request basis.

Please Note: The passport number and name that is submitted to Peaks & Places, at time of confirmation, will be used to purchase the Inca Trail permit. This passport number and name will be used to identify yourself as you enter the checkpoint at the start of the trail and throughout the hike. If this information does not match the information you have submitted at time of confirmation, then you will be subject to delay, fine, and/or cancellation of admission to the Inca Trail.

No requests for the Inca Trail will be made for bookings 30 days or less before the Inca Trail portion\* of any Peaks & Places adventure. Passengers wishing to book within 30

days before departure will be offered alternatives 1 or 2 as listed below.

Inca Trail closures will be reflected on our site under individual trips.

- In the unlikely event that we are unable to secure permits, the following options will be offered:
  1. Spend two nights in Cuzco, travel by train for a night in Aguas Calientes, and join the hikers for the tour of Machu Picchu.
  2. Cancel or change the trip without penalty

If changes to the current government policy affect our ability to provide access to the advertised itinerary including the Inca Trail, we will endeavor to provide clients with the best options and customer service available. Please also see our terms and conditions concerning our responsibilities.

\*When booking any trip involving the Inca Trail, please book as far in advance as possible in order to increase the possibility of securing space on the Trail during the peak periods of the year.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your understanding.