J&M4-12

Very early start, 3:00 alarm, cup of tea, shower then lug our stuff down to reception and arrange for the remainder of our stuff to be stored until collected by Lenin, out local rep.

We have a box breakfast provided by the hotel to go along with the breakfast provided by the trek organisers somewhere along the route to the trailhead.

Quite a subdued collection of explorers, all quite in the stinky airless mini bus. I'd take pictures but we can't see though the windows for the condensation.l...

The first trek was a tough one
walked from the trail head quite a tough climb to a plateau or more accurately a flat path alongside an irrigation canal that feeds the town. 6kM later we reach the the humatay trail head.

This was a true killer. The climb just kept coming. I honestly didn't think I could/would make it but the guide was very patient and encouraging. Started to rain half way up and just got heavier
and heavier.

By the time else fotnti the top, it was getting quite late and quite dark and cold.

The prospect of the real Salkantay trail is indeed daunting and J&I reach the same conclusion and the horse ride is deemed the only sensible way forward for us.

The sleeping arrangements were horrible. A sleeping bag with an inner sheet that went everywhere except where needed. Took a long time to get warm and the bag was really too small.

Another night without sleep.