JandM 4-13

So. Salkantay.13kM 6 up, 6 down and a flat bit either end.

After yesterday excursion to Humantay lake and the exhaustion that stemmed from that, we elected to use horsepower to get to the top of Salkantay Pass.

This was an excellent decision, no way we would have made it on foot though all the others did.

Surprisingly, I thoroughly enjoyed being aboard that hulking beast. One of the horsemen called mine ‘Lamborguini’ may have been to impress or scare… He didn't need to bother I'm not a fan of **equine** types. This fellow seemed nice enough. Don’t think I ever appreciated what a magnificent view you get from the back of a horse.
Some of the manoeuvres of these apparently plodding animals is quite alarming and steering, starting and stopping seemed a rather unreliable arrangement largely governed by luck, sometimes good, sometimes not.

Some of the most distressing gravitational disturbances occur when heading downhill…. There are no seatbelts or safety straps or bars, the creature simply puts his head down and goes, leaving the passenger sliding to the front of the vehicle with nothing to grab a hold of. Very alarming when 500 feet up a sheer cliff.

From this vantage point we could see the gallant fellows who opted to go on foot…. Thousand meters away if the were one. Other side of the valley and several hundred metres below and we'd only been going for half an hour and they an hour before.

The climb seemed never ending, everytime we turned a corner, another strep climb was presented.

We didn't see a single person turning back, well at least they may have been but the reverse crossing is a thing so difficult to tell.

Once at the top, we demounted our rides, hilarious for those around, none of us could stand properly having been ‘John Wayne’ shaped for a couple of hours.

The others started to turn up a couple of hours later and after the obvious congratulatory speeches and photo opportunities we started the next 6kM downward journey….

Down is offer harder than up, tougher on the knees certainly.

Inevitably, it started raining before we made it to the camp ground so we were truly soaked when we arrived.

Had a bad night, unable to breathe and imaging really weird stuff about cryptic “Wordle”