



Around Alpamayo: Panorama Trek through the Cordillera Blanca Day by day description

Day 1 HUARAZ / LLANGANUCO / VAQUERIA

Leaving the city on the main road along the Callejon de Huaylas we get beautiful views of the snow-capped peaks passing many villages along the way until reaching Yungay. From here a dirt road begins to wind uphill reaching the overhanging valley of Llanganuco and one of the main entry points into the Huascarán National Park, where we register at the Park check-point. Continue up this side-valley passing the two lakes and the winding road up to the Llanganuco Pass at 4,750 mts (15,908 ft). Beautiful views of Mt. Huascarán, Huandoy, Pisco and Chacaraju. From here the road winds downhill into the Vaqueria valley where we camp.

Day 2 VAQUERIA / TUCTU

Next morning we hike down Quebrada Vaqueria over the ridge and into the Huaripampa Valley, leaving the road behind. We pass farmer's plots with small houses, mostly cattle herders. We approach the head of the valley near Paria and camp below the looming figure of Mt. Taurillaju (5,829 m/19,120 ft) at Tuctu (Time:5-6hrs/Distance:11 kms)

Day 3 TUCTU / HUECROCOCHA

From camp a slow ascent to the right of the valley brings us to the Pucahirca Pass. As we look behind we will view Mt. Contrahierbas (6,036 m/19,798 ft) and Taurillaju with the Punta Union Pass - another trail that descends into the Santa Cruz Valley. From here the Pass on a clear day we'll see Mt. Piramide and Pucahirca. Paron, Chacaraju and Huascarán. We descend slowly to a small lagoon called Huecrococha with a chance to see waterfowl. (Time 6hrs/Distance 7 kms).

Day 4 HUECROCOCHA/ JANCAPAMPA

As we cross a grassy slope we arrive at a bridge (4,100 mts/13,366 ft) from where one can see Mt. Pucahirca and its glacier. Cross and skirt a marshy pampa and arrive at Jancapampa below the massif where we camp at (3,850 m / 12,628 ft) . (Distance 6hrs/Time: 9 Kms).

Day 5 JANCAPAMPA / HUILLCA

From our campsite we ascend steeply through a sparse forest, past grassy meadows to finally reach a scree slope below the Yanajanca pass (4,400 m/14,600ft) with glacially polished cliffs on either side. From the pass we descend to the settlement of Huillca at m/13,400 ft, where we camp (7 hrs/6 kms).

Day 6 HUILLCA / MOYOPAMPA

Opposite the settlement there is a ridge which we cross into the Tayapampa Valley with beautiful views of the northeast face of Mt. Alpamayo. We continue to the head of the valley and camp at Moyopampa at 4,200 mts (13,776 ft) (7 hrs/7 kms).

Day 7 MOYOPAMPA/ JANCARURISH

A steep ascent brings us to the Caracara Pass (4,830 m/15,842ft). From here the view South is amazing, the Blanca stretches out and to the south east we will see the cirque of Mt. Alpamayo named the most beautiful mountain in the world due to its perfect pyramidal structure and its beautiful top cone. We camp at Jancarurish (4,450m, 14,596ft) in the early afternoon with a chance to wander up the valley and even reach base-camp near a lake (Time 4hrs/Distance 4kms).



Day 8 JANCARURISH/ OSORURI

We descend slowly down the valley until it becomes the Cedro Quebrada and then hike up to the Juan Viento pass (4,400 m/14,432 ft). From here we descend to camp at Osoruri (4,300m/14,104ft), our highest camp of the trip at (4,512 m. /14,800ft), (Time: 7 hrs, Distance: 8.5kms)

Day 9 OSORURI / HUISCASH

Leaving early we hike over our highest Pass, Toro Pishtañan at 4,850 m (15,908 ft), and descend into the magnificent cirque of Mt. Santa Cruz, Piramide and Paron overlooking the deep blue turquoise Cuillicocha Lake, a jewel of the National Park of Huascarán. From here the trail descends slowly at first to Huishca and then more steeply to Hualacayan. (Time: 8 Hrs, Distance: 9 kms)

Day 10 HUISCASH/HUALACAYAN/HUARAZ

From here we walk across a slope to Hualacayan to reach the roadhead. Where a vehicle will meet us to transport us back to Huaraz with a drive through the Santa Valley and our hotel (overnight and dinner not included).

SERVICES INCLUDED: Transportation by vehicle to and from the trek, two-man tents including sleeping pads, pack animals, kitchen crew and commissary gear with all meals included as well as a bilingual guide on the trek, who will handle the first aid kit.

NOT INCLUDED: Alcoholic beverages, extras, tips, taxes, laundry service, additional tours, insurance, sleeping bags, hiking boots and other personal gear.