



Cordillera Vilcanota Grand Traverse Day by day description

Day 1 CUSCO/SICUANI

Leaving Cusco we head southwards on the main road to Puno. On the way we will visit the Wari site of Pikillacta, the small village of Andahuaylillas with its church known as the "Sixtine Chapel of Peru" and the ruins of Raqchi passing colorful villages along the Vilcanota river. In the late afternoon we arrive in Sicuani, overnight at hotel, dinner included

Day 2 SICUANI/ PHINAYA/ QASQARA

Early departure past the village of Tinta taking a side road towards the village of Santa Barbara. On this dirt road we slowly climb to reach Phinaya, at the southern trip of Lake Sibilacocha. This lake located at 4100 m., is 22 km. long and in places 2 km wide, filled with the snow melt from the now visible peaks of the Cordillera Vilcanota. From here a half day hike through rolling landscape will bring us to our first camp-site at Qasqara Lake with a beautiful snow-capped cirque of Mt. Callangate, Ansara and the rocky Mt. Yayamari. Lunch on route, camp and our first night in tents. (Time: 7hrs/ Distance: 4kms).

Day 3 QASQARA/COCHAUMA

Leaving our beautiful camp behind we cross the Yayamari Pass at 5,448 m. (17,870 ft.) where we get an amazing view of Lake Sibilacocha sprawling to the South, the rolling landscape and Mt. Qelcaya (known as the Peruvian Ice Cap) to the south east. As we descend our emergency saddle horses will come in useful today to cross two streams at the headwaters of Lake Sibilacocha camping on a meadow at Cochauma at 4,400 m. (Time: 7 hours/ Distance: 8 kms)

Day 4 COCHAUMA/KILLITA

From Camp to a first pass and then onto Condor Pass at 5,189 m. (17,000 ft.). We leave behind the view of Lake Sibilacocha passing a side valley with a chance to see herds of Vicuña, a camelid with extremely fine wool that's on the endangered species list. The pass brings us close to Mt. Comercocha, covered by a sloping glacier from where we descend into the Killita Valley - a chance to come across small herds of alpaca, spotted on the hillsides. From the pass we get our first view of Mt. Ausangate, the highest peak of the Cordillera Vilcanota. As we reach the valley floor we set up camp at 4,725 m. (15,500 ft.) (Time: 8 hours/ Distance: 6.5 kms).

Day 5 KILLITA / ACERO

We turn west up a hillside over two Passes at 5,000 m., camping at Acero near Lake Jawacocha at 4,908 m. (16,100 ft.), our highest campsite. From here we have awesome views of scree slopes, moraines and glaciers of Mt. Colquecruz, Jampa and Acero. This is our hardest trekking day but well worth the experience. (Time: 8 hours/ Distance: 7 kms).



Day 6 ACERO / NINAPARAYOC

We cross moraines below the rocky massifs rounding a meadow at Wanuwanu below Mt. Acero. From here we start our ascent over the last Pass at Apacheta at 4,400m / 15,000 ft. to finally reach our campsite at Lake Ninaparayoc with amazing views of Mt. Mariposa, Caracol and the northern side of Mt. Ausangate, great views. (Time: 8 hours / Distance: 8 kms).

Day 7 NINAPARAYOC / QOÑAMURO

We walk past two sacred water holes or mountain springs to reach the village of Pacchanta. A chance to dip in the thermal springs, buy some weavings from the locals at lunch break and continue to Tinki. At the roadhead we traverse a sloping plain as we leave the icy peaks behind us, arriving at our campsite in time for a typical farewell meal known as Pachamanca. (Time: 8 hours /Distance: 10 kms).

Day 8 QOÑAMURO / CUSCO

Leaving our community camp-site with a chance to buy local textiles, we head down to Tinki crossing fields that are occupied by local peasants, until we reach Tinki. Continuing to Cusco. We pass various villages en route - a land settled by herders and weavers. Arrival in Cusco (end of services)

SERVICES INCLUDED: Transportation by vehicle to start and from the end of trek to the city, 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.

SERVICES NOT INCLUDED: Meals in the cities alcoholic beverages, extras, tips, laundry service, additional tours, insurance and airline tickets (where applicable) sleeping bags, hiking boots and other personal gear.