



Hiking the Colca Valley Day by day description

Day 1 AREQUIPA (Saturday)

Arrival in Arequipa. Depending on your arrival you can arrange a city tour or a visit to the outlying districts and countryside. Lunch and dinner on your own, overnight at hotel.

Day 2 AREQUIPA/ CORPORAQUE/ SAN ANTONIO / UYO UYO (Sunday)

Leaving early in the morning we head to the northeast of the city towards Yura, slowly climbing behind Mt. Chachani into the high altitude desert savannah - known as puna - crossing Pampa Cañahuas, a chance to see vicuñas and views of the volcano of Sabancaya and the snow-capped peaks above the Colca Valley passing by the village of Chivay. At Corporaque we take a half day hike starting in the village church, past the site of San Antonio and its terracing to the ruins of Uyo Uyo or Yanque Viejo at an average of 3,400 m for about 4 hours. We arrive at your local hotel for dinner and overnight

Day 3 CANOCOTA / LA CALERA / CHIVAY (Monday)

Leaving by vehicle from our lodging we head to Canocota Canyon with a visit to an archaeological site there. We arrive at the Colca river's edge where we can see birds - torrent ducks, giant humming birds, falcons and other river birds. We walk by a colonial mine to the stone formation of Inca Salta passing clusters of cactus and other succulents, one can see "campesinos" going about their daily chores until reaching the thermal baths at La Calera - a chance to take a dip. Dinner and overnight at your local hotel at (Hike about 5 hours)

Day 4 CRUZ DEL CONDOR / TAPAY (Tuesday)

Leaving early we head down the valley to start a hike from Cruz del Cura to Cruz del Condor - the viewing point of the king of the Andes, the Condor and a spectacular view of one of the deepest canyons of the world - cutting through these arid mountains. The Colca Valley itself is thought to harbor an area of 40,000 acres of terracing and in inca times it is believed to have had a population of 200,000 people which was decimated by diseases in the colonial era. Vestiges of intense land-use are still experienced by the visitor as we walk through the back-country visiting the villages of Maca and Yanque. Return in the afternoon to your local hotel. (4 hours hiking, Average altitude 3,400 m)

Day 5 COLCA VALLEY / SUMBAY / PUNO (OR AREQUIPA) (Wednesday)

Leaving early we take the main road back towards Arequipa, leaving the valley behind us. As we cross Pampa Cañahuas we reach the intersection with the train heading to Puno at Sumbay. The main road heads to Puno, so instead of returning to Arequipa for a surcharge visitors can continue to Puno.

SERVICES INCLUDED: Transportation to the Colca Valley and return, hotels in Arequipa and Colca, bilingual guide, all meals and walks as well as visits to sites in the Colca Valley.

NOT INCLUDED: Meals in Arequipa, taxes, alcoholic beverages, extras tips, laundry service, insurance and airline tickets.