



Trek to Choquequirao: Canyonlands and Incas Day by day description

Day 1 CUSCO/CACHORA/APURIMAC

Leaving Cusco due north on the main highway towards Lima, we leave the city behind, cross into Antapampa with views of Mt. Salkantay and Humantay at first and as we leave this high meadow area, the Pituisiray, Chicon and Veronica come into view. Once we begin to descend into Limatambo we'll visit the Inca site of Tarawasi located in the outskirts. The road continues until we reach the Apurimac river, an impressive gorge, which is crossed. Past the village of Corawasi and onto the Say huite- stone – a carved map of the Inca empire it is said. A small side road over a ridge brings us down to the village of Cachora, where we start today's hike. Taking our day packs we start walking along the edge of the mountain At Capuliyoc we get our first view of the Apurimac canyon and the trail that lies ahead. We begin our descent and camp by the river at 2,450m at a small campsite next to the river (Distance: 8 kms, Time: 7-8 hrs hiking)

Day 2 APURIMAC RIVER / CHOQUEQUIRAO

The crossing of the river on a footbridge marks the start of the day. From here an uphill walk of half the day brings us to Marampampa – a small meadow where we have lunch. As we ascend on the steep trail we begin to appreciate the canyonland vegetation and environment on both sides of the Apurimac canyon. The afternoon hike is not as steep trial as we approach the hanging valley where the site of Choquequirao is found. We camp at an available flat part – as we begin to explore the isolated Inca sites and the surrounding thin cloudforest.
(Distance: 7 kms , Time: 6 hrs.)

Day 3 CHOQUEQUIRAO / MARAMPAMPA

We spend all morning visiting the central complex, situated on a ridge overlooking the Canyon and some of the outlying buildings working our way through the terracing. We have our lunch and in the afternoon we descend to Marampampa where we camp. (Distance: 2.5kms, Time: 2hrs.)

Day 4 MARAMPAMPA / COCAMASANA

We begin our descent all the way to the river and have lunch at the bottom. From here we start our ascent towards Cachora, camping in a small pampa called Cocamasana. (Distance: 6 kms, time 6hrs)

Day 5 COCAMASANA / CACHORA / CUSCO

A last ascent to Capuliyoc and from here its relatively even until reaching the village of Cachora. Here our vehicle will be waiting to take us back to Cusco, where we arrive in the evening on the same road we took at the beginning.

Note: This itinerary is the only existing short access to Choquequirao. There is a possibility by mid 2003 or 2004 to have a new trek that does not backtrack along the same trail. This would add an additional day to this trip. There are also other options to Choquequirao that are longer.

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.

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.