



## **Mountains and Cultures of Northern Peru Day by day description**

### **Day 1 LIMA**

Arrival and transfer to your hotel. Overnight.

### **Day 2 LIMA / HUARAZ**

Early morning departure by first-class coach to the city of Huaraz, located about 400 Kms. north of Lima. Following the Panamerican Highway north across Lima we will pass several lush green valleys that cut through the coastal desert until we reach the town of Pativilca. Turning inland the main road winds its way up along the Fortaleza River for a good two hours. Finally we reach the Pass of Conococha (4,000 m.a.s.l. / 13,120 ft.) where we will get our first glimpse of the Cordillera Blanca, the highest tropical mountain range in the world. From here the road descends slowly along the Santa River as we pass a vast area of highland pastures. As we approach Huaraz, the vegetation changes into that of an interandean valley, surrounded by clusters of red-tiled houses. Arrival at a hotel and overnight at 3,000 m.a.s.l. / 9,840 ft. Dinner on your own.

### **Day 3 HUARAZ / CHAVIN / HUARAZ**

Leaving Huaraz by bus, after breakfast, towards Ccatac we take the road over the pass towards Chavin and the town of Wari. A scenic trip, this high road traverses impressive, landscapes of snow-capped peaks descending slowly into the Callejón de Conchucos and the headwaters of the Marañon River. At the head of this big valley we arrive at the site of Chavín de Huantar. Belonging to the oldest archaeological monuments found in Peru, this fortress guarded the access into the valley system and influenced some of the other pre-inca civilizations found in northern Peru. After a visit to this site we will return to Huaraz, same way. Lunch on route, overnight at hotel.

### **Day 4 HUARAZ / LLANGANUCO VALLEY / HUARAZ**

Driving north in the Callejon de Huaylas, we pass small colorful villages reaching Yungay – a village recently rebuilt after the 1970 earthquake, which caused a huge landslide that covered the old village of the same name causing the death of thousands. From here the road ascends into the Quebrada de Llanganuco, a glacial valley offering astonishing close-up views of Mts Huandoy, Huascarán and Chopicalqui. We stop at Llanganuco lakes to walk around them, picnic lunch. Afternoon return to the city, dinner on your own, overnight at the hotel

### **Day 5 HUARAZ / JONCOPAMPA /TRUJILLO**

After breakfast we depart towards the village of Tarica, a town of hand-crafters. From here the road winds about 10 kms towards Joncopampa, with views of the mountains of the Cordillera Blanca. A walk around the site can bring us to the “Quebrada del Akilpo”. A forest of endemic trees unique to this environment. Vistas of the snow-capped peaks of Copa and Hualcan, return to Huaraz. Lunch on your own. Afternoon free to roam around this town and shop. There are alternative tours that can be arranged, such as an excursion to the ruins of Wilcawain. In the evening transfer to the bus station to board the night bus to Trujillo.



### **Day 6 TRUJILLO / CHAN CHAN / HUANCHACO / TRUJILLO**

Early morning, transfer to your hotel. Visit the Huaca del Sol and the Huaca de la Luna – two pyramids of the Moche Culture located in this valley. From here we will visit the Archaeological Museum, a colonial house and Huaca del Dragon, a Chimu Temple embedded in the city. In the afternoon we will view Chan Chan, the biggest adobe city in the world of the later Chimu Culture. We spend the afternoon strolling along Huanchaco observing the reed boats known as “Caballitos de Totorá” used by local fishermen precursor of the surf board. Return to your hotel, lunch & dinner on your own.

### **Day 7 TRUJILLO / CHICLAYO**

A morning ride, takes us through more desert landscapes interspersed with fertile agricultural valleys of rivers draining to the Pacific Ocean: we reach Chiclayo 3 hours later. Before lunch we will visit the recently found frescoes of Batán Grande. In the afternoon we will visit the museums of the Lord of Sicán and Sipán which give you a realistic presentation of how the people lived. Lunch and dinner on your own. Overnight at hotel.

### **Day 8 CHICLAYO / LIMA**

After breakfast we visit Tucumé Pyramids, where the treasures that were found there are exhibited, return to your hotel. Transfer from your hotel for your flight to Lima and/or ongoing connections.

**SERVICES INCLUDED:** Hotels with breakfast, tours where mentioned, entrance fees to museums and archaeological sites, transportation, transfers on arrival and departure, and lunches during full-day tours as well as official guides in the main sites.

**SERVICES NOT INCLUDED:** Meals in the main cities, alcoholic beverages, extras, tips, laundry services, and additional tours, insurance and airline tickets.