



**Trekking through the eastern ranges and cultures:
from Huanuco to Huaraz
Day by day description**

Day 1 - LIMA / HUANUCO

Leaving the capital city we head up into the Andes on the Central Highway. A very steep ascent along the Rimac valley becomes a gorge that will bring us past numerous villages and mines operating in the area. We reach Ticlio, at 4,820m (15,809ft) the pass of the highest railway in the world and begin our slow descent past various mining complexes until reaching Oroya. From here we turn off to Cerro de Pasco and Huanuco. We will have a chance to see vicuña as we travel through the National Reserve of Junin and the Natural Sanctuary of Huayllay. The first harbors a huge lake, Chinchaycocha as the central ecosystem surrounded by highland savannah (puna) and the second has thousands of curious vertical slabs of rock probably from a past intrusion. We continue across the plateau and start our descent this time definite to Huanuco a town of 50,000 located at 1,800m (5,904ft) after having spent a good part of the day at 4,500m (14,760ft). Arrive at our hotel and relax.

Day 2 - HUANUCO/ CAURI

Leaving early we travel west towards the valley of the Marañón River. A short distance from Huanuco, we will briefly visit the pre-Inca site of Kotosh before we continue on the road towards Choras, our first stop off. Located 75km from the Huanuco, the road winds its way up the valley passing small villages of Pampas, Huancapulla and Jacas Chico. A fork in the road will take us to Choras, located overlooking the Marañón Valley. From here we will start a three-hour walking tour of Garu, the main site of the Yaro or Yaravilca, ethnic group that dominated the Marañón Valley before the Incas assimilated them. The site is spectacularly located at the junction of the Ticrash Valley and the Marañón with rustic flat rock stone buildings, windows and some two and three storey constructions still standing. A magnificent introduction into pre-Inca culture. Lunch at the site.

In the afternoon continue up the Marañón valley past the small villages of Huancabamba, Rayapata and Huarin, origin of the Marañón River. Here the Lauricocha river joins the Nupe to form the Marañón. We cross a bridge and begin our ascent to Jesus about an hour away, nestled in a valley below the Lauricocha Lake. On the road we will stop at a viewpoint of the Cordillera Huayhuash where we can see the profile. Continue past the village along a road that brings us to Cauri where we will camp beyond the village at 3,700m (12,136ft).

Day 3 - CAURI/ ANTACALLANCA

From camp we will head towards lake Lauricocha visiting the Inca Bridge or causeway at the bottom of the outflow, taking a trail along the Lake for half the day arriving at the headwaters below Taullicochoa for lunch. Here our vehicle will meet us to take us to Antacallanca, the roadhead from where our three day hike will start. We camp near a lake, with views of Mt. Leon Huacanan and the Cordillera Raura

Day 4 – ANTACALLANCA/ HUAYHUASH/ CARNICERO

Following a valley upstream we arrive at the main valley and head towards the community of Huayhuash. As we approach the headwaters we will see the snow-capped peaks of the Cordillera Huayhuash from close-up - Carnicero, Trapecio, Puscanturpa and Jurau. Camp and overnight near a lake below Mt. Carnicero.



Day 5 – CARNICERO/ CARHUACOCHA

Leaving our lakeside campsite we depart from the main trail skirting a marshy area to begin a steep ascent to the Carnicero pass. We come close to Mt. Siula and then reach the pass at 4,850m (15,908ft), our first high pass to find two small lakes and the spectacular view of Mt. Siula and the Jirishanka Massif. We will have lunch viewing onto Quesillococha and Siulacocha. If we are lucky we will witness an ice-fall. Continue down the valley until we come into view Carhuacocha, beautiful views of Mt. Jirishanka and Yerupaja. Camp at the outlet of the lake. On a clear day, if the lake is without wind, the reflection of the peaks on the surface is unique.

Day 6 – CARHUACOCHA/ MITUCOCHA

Leaving our campsite behind we hike over another pass at 4,650m (15,252ft) with great views of the surrounding area. Once over the Punta Carhuac Pass we come into view of Lake Mitucocha and again in the background Mt. Yerupaja, Ninashanca and Rondoy form the backdrop of our day's hike. Lunch on route. We arrive in the early afternoon with a chance to walk around the lake and get closer views of the mountains. Overnight and camp at Mitucocha.

Day 7 – MITUCOCHA/CACANAMPUNTA/CUARTELWAIN/ HUARAZ

Leaving the lake we hike up the Cacanampunta Pass at 4,750m (15,580ft), the "aquarium divortium" of the Andes at this point. A last view of the Cordillera Huayhuash and we descend into the Llamac valley and end our hike into the early afternoon at Cuartelwain. Here a vehicle will pick us up and take us back to Huaraz via Conococha on the newly built road. If the weather is clear and its sunset, we will get an awesome view of the Cordillera Blanca and its snowcapped peaks. Overnight at the hotel, dinner on your own.

Note: Optional one day extension to visit the citadel of Chavin, a unique pre-inca site driving to Via Huallanca to San Marcos and Chavin via Antamina, a huge mining complex. Also visit the village of Ayash.

SERVICES INCLUDED: Transportation by vehicle to start and from the end of trek to your city of departure, 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, taxes, laundry service, additional tours, insurance and airline tickets (where applicable), sleeping bags, hiking boots and other personal gear.