



Cordillera Blanca Trek (from Huaraz to Huaraz) Day by day description

Day 1 - HUARAZ/VAQUERIA (Sunday)

Leaving early in the morning we drive down along the Santa Valley passing several villages until we reach present-day Yungay. The road winds slowly up into the gully between the Huascaran massif and the Huandoy three-pronged peak. As we reach the overhanging valley we arrive at the boundary of the National Park of Huascaran. Llanganuco, as the area is known, has two lakes Chinancocha and Orconcocha which have turquoise waters. We continue on this narrow road as it twists and turns to the pass at Portachuelo of Llanganuco at 4,750 m.a.s.l. (15,580 ft.) From this point, if the evening is clear, we will get a spectacular view of Mt. Huascaran, Huandoy, Pisco and Chacaraju, We continue down until about 40 minutes before our first campsite at vaqueria 3700 (12,136 ft) where will undertake a short hike (2.5 Km walk)

Day 2 - VAQUERIA/PARIA (Monday)

The day starts with a leisurely walk down towards a trail which makes its way to the left over a small ridge into the huaripampa Valley. As we slowly head up this valley we pass small settlement of farmers, going by their agricultural activity and Andean vegetation. The snow-capped peak of Chacaraju, Taulliraju will come into view passing meadows and fields along the way. Camp in the vicinity of Paria or tuctu. Time 5-6 hours. Distance 11 Km)

Day 3 - PARIA/TAULLIPAMPA (Tuesday)

The trail starts ascending towards Punta Union, a pass at 4,750 m.a.s.l. (15,580 ft.) This old trail was heavily used in pre-columbian and Colonial times as a route for transporting goods from the eastern side of the Andes to the main valley. As we approach the pass, Mt. Taulliraju will loom above us and on the other side its glacial lake and glacier will add color and contrast to the amazing view down the Santa Cruz Valley. The peaks of Quitaraju, Artesonaju and Rinrijirca will come into view as well as the two lakes of Ichicocha and Jatunconcha. The trail descends into Taullipampa where we will camp at 4,100 m.a.s.l. (13,448 ft.). (Time:7 hours. Distance: 13 Kms.)

Day 4 - TAULLIPAMPA/LLAMACORRAL (Wednesday)

Past the side-valley of Arhuaycocha with a possibility to view Mt. Alpamayo, we continue down the Santa Cruz Valley. The landscape changes, and scree slopes appear on each side of the now marshy meadow as well as rock boulders fallen from the eroded walls above us. Finally towards the end of the day we walk out of the ever-narrowing canyon into Llamacorrall, where we will camp at 3,500 msnm (Time: 6 hours. Distance: 16.5 Kms.)

Day 5 - LLAMACORRAL/CASHAPAMPA/HUARAZ (Thursday)

A steep descent brings us to Cashapampa in the early morning. We meet a vehicle that will take us back to Huaraz saying good-bye to our camp crew as the road winds slowly down to the main valley, arriving in the afternoon. Dinner on your own, overnight at hotel. (Time: 2:30 hours. Distance: 7 Kms.)

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, camp 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: Hotels in Huaraz, 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.