



Trek on the roof of the Andes: Cordillera Carabaya Day by day description

Day 1 PUNO / CORANI / PAJRA KUNKA

We drive from Lake Titicaca across the grassland savannah (or Puna) surrounded by small villages and rolling hills some sprinkled with forest of queñuales (*Polylepis*) a rare andean tree found above 13,000 ft. We cross a few passes before reaching Macusani – we follow a narrow road until we reach a rim overlooking a glacial valley, below us the charming thatch roofed town of Corani. Splendid views from the passes—open pampas, flanks of steep carved mountains, the deep gorge of the Rio Corani and the Peruvian icecap called Quelqaya. Camp near Pajra Kunka.

Day 2 COLQA

Travel west through spacious pampas and lava flows that appear as stone forests. We'll be continually at altitudes over 15,000 feet from now until Day 9. We will follow a grass valley and continue slowly uphill passing a few communities. Camp at Colqa.

Day 3 CHIMBOYA

Short hike to the village of Viluyo to visit with the local people. After lunch, head southwest toward the Peruvian icecap. Camp in an isolated shepherds valley splashed with colorful rocks and ringed with ice at Chimboya. Possibility of seeing vicuña herds.

Day 4 PAMPA MATES

Early start to cross a 17,000-foot pass and enter the “Departamento de Cuzco” where the mountain range is now called the Cordillera Vilcanota. Descend past ice-covered 20,000-foot peaks. Great views of the extensive ice cap and pampas. Pass countless llama and alpaca. Camp at Pampa Mates (15,700), a marshy plateau in the midst of rolling hills.

Day 5 QASQARA

Cross high rolling hills with splendid 360-degree views of ice peaks. Possibility of seeing vicuña and Andean flamingo. Lunch at a 16,500-foot pass with some of the most spacious views on the trip. Reach the Qasqara lake with its hundreds of waterbirds and camp on its shores at about 16,000 feet, surrounded by snow-capped peaks.

Day 6 SIBINACocha / COCHAUMA

Cross over the Yanamani Pass at (4,900m / 16,072 ft) and reach Lake Sibinacocha, where buff-necked ibis, Andean geese and gulls can be observed. Incredible views of the lake and towering ice peaks all around. Camp at the upper inlet (15,700m / 51,496 ft).



Day 7 KILLITA

Pass the headwaters of Sibinacocha, where glaciers reach the valley floor, ascend a 16,300-foot pass where deer and vicuña, a camelid known for its fine wool, are often seen, and explore the “Rincon” with its peaks and valleys to the north. Cross a second pass (Vicuna Pass at 16,900), then a third (Condor Pass at 17,400m) and descend to camp at 15,500 feet, near Killita.

Day 8 ACORDO

A very difficult hiking day with stunning views of beautiful lakes and the Cordillera Vilcanota and Carabaya. We'll cross two more passes (at 16,900, and 17,240 feet) and camp at Acordo at 16,100 feet.

Day 9 PACCHANTA

Cross moraines below the icy massifs of Colque Cruz and Comerqocha, then climb to Campa Apacheta Pass at 16,500 feet. Descend, to Pachapata and head down a valley past two lakes, reaching Pacchanta, a community where hot springs can be found.

Day 10 PACCHANTA/TINKI/CUSCO

Vehicle pick-up at the roadhead near Pacchanta. From here a five hour ride the way we came, will bring us back to Cusco. (Overnight at hotel not included).

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.

SERVICES 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.