



Another world-class trek in the Cordillera Blanca, this 10-day backpacking trip will astound those lucky enough to partake. It is one of the lesser-traveled routes, keeping this hidden gem less populated than the Santa Cruz and Huayhuash treks. Trekkers will be treated with sights of the “most beautiful mountain in the world”, Alpamayo, but with incredible sights every day of the trek it is hard to say what the highlight is. You decide!

Day 1: Huaraz - Vaqueria - Paria

Leaving Huaraz by van, we'll pick you up at your hotel and drive north from Huaraz along the Callejón de Huaylas. We'll pass through Yungay, the town that was completely destroyed by an earthquake in May, 1970. From this point we continue on dirt road through the beautiful Llanganuco Valley and one of the main entry points into the Huascaran National Park. We continue up the valley passing the bright-blue Llanganuco Lakes (Chinancocha and Orconcocha). We continue up the winding road to the Portachuelo Pass (15,617ft /4760m) with its amazing panoramic views of the white-capped peaks of the Cordillera Blanca. From here we continue driving down to Vaqueria (11,811 ft / 3600m) where our arrieros and donkeys wait to load our gear. From Vaqueria we begin our hike with only day



packs, passing farmer's plots dotted with small houses and cattle herds. We continue hiking on a moderate path to our first camp at Paria. (11,975 ft / 3650m). 5 hour drive & about 3 - 4 hours hiking. Dinner and rest at camp.

Day 2: Cachina - Tuctubamba

After a good breakfast we'll begin a gradual 4-hour hike up into the Huaripampa Valley and to our camp at Tuctubamba (12,959 ft/3950m). If you're still feeling energetic, you'll have an option to hike up to Punta Union Pass (15,584 ft. / 4750m) where, on a clear day, you'll have amazing close-up views of the surrounding mountains and down into the Santa Cruz Valley. Alternatively, we can hike straight to Tuctubamba camp below the looming Mt. Taulliraju (19,120 ft. / 5,829m) and enjoy the afternoon relaxing for the next day (3 to 6 hours extra). Dinner and rest at camp.

Day 3: Tuctubamba - Huecrococha Lake

After breakfast we are ready to cross our first high pass of the trek. From camp we start gradually with a slow ascent to the right of the valley. From here the path climbs more steeply on a rocky switch back trail with the last section scrambling on rocks to the top of Alto de Pacaraju Pass 15,256 ft. /4650m. We enjoy breathtaking views of Mt. Contrahierbas (19,798 ft. /6,036m), Huascarán 22,204 ft. / 6768m, Chopicalqui 20,846 ft. /6354m, and Taulliraju 19160ft / 5840m. From here we descend down through lupine covered hillside to our campsite at beautiful Laguna Huecrococha 12,959ft /3950m. (Hiking today about 6 to 7 hours) Dinner and rest at camp.

Day 4: Huecrococha - Jancapampa

After breakfast we'll begin our hike across a grassy slope, we eventually we'll arrive at a bridge (13,366ft /4,100m) from where we have good views of Mt. Pucahirca and its glacier. We'll then cross and skirt a marshy pampa and then our next high pass at Tupatupa, (14,436 ft. /4400m.) From the pass we have a



broad close-up view of Pucahirca Mountain and several other surrounding peaks. From here we then descend to camp at the head of a wide open valley at Jancapampa (11,811 ft /3600m). (hiking time about 6 to 7 hours). Dinner and rest at camp.

Day 5: Jancapampa - Huillca or Safuna

Be sure to fuel up at breakfast today, as this will be a fairly tough day. We start hiking on a long gradual ascent through the forested valley past grassy meadows to finally reach a scree slope and pass Laguna Sactaycocha. From here we climb steeply to reach the top of rocky and narrow Yanajanca Pass (15,092 ft. /4600m). From this point we descend to Quebrada Yantu Quenua then continue to walk to the settlement of Huillca or Safuna in the Tayapmapa valley (13,780 ft. /4200m). (Hiking time about 7 hours).

Day 6: Huillca or Safuna - Cruze Alpamayo

After breakfast, we'll head out for another long day as we cross two high passes. Before reaching the first pass we'll climb gradually to Mesapata Pass (14,643 ft. /4460m), and then we descend walking on nearly a flat area for about an hour before we climb again to cross the second pass, Cara Cara (15,846 ft. /4830m). From here we have the first views of the perfect pyramid shaped Alpamayo and the impressive views of the surrounding peaks of Quitaraju and Santa Cruz. As we descend down from Cara Cara pass we have beautiful views of Laguna Jancarurish and Quebrada Alpamayo as we approach our campsite at Cruze Alpamayo, nestled below the impressive Alpamayo peak (13,615 ft. /4150m). (Hiking time about 7- 8 hours). Dinner and a much needed rest at camp, for two nights in the same camp.

Day 7: REST DAY

Today is an extra day to relax and enjoy the views at Cruze Alpamayo. There is an option to do a short climb up the moraine to the lake Laguna Jancarurish for



close up views of Alpamayo (2 ½ hours total). The other option is to spend the day at camp relaxing and taking in the views.

Day 8: Cruze Alpamayo - Osoruri

After another good breakfast we'll break camp prepared for another challenging day. We start by walking on nearly flat easy gentle terrain for about 2 hours before we ascend on a well marked trail towards Osoruri Pass (15584 ft. /4750m). From the pass we enjoy awesome views of the valley below with its rich farmland and with mountain views of Milluaraju as we descend to our next camp at Osoruri (15091'/4600m). (Hiking time about 7 hours). Dinner and rest at camp.

Day 9: Osoruri - Wishcash

After breakfast we'll ascend out of camp gradually to Cullicocha Pass (15,912 ft. /4850m), from where we have spectacular views of Santa Cruz peak. We then descend towards our next camp with views of the beautiful colored Laguna Cullicocha. We'll enjoy lunch and the views here at Laguna Cullicocha before we continue descending towards our camp at Wishcash. Dinner and rest at camp.

Day 10: Wishcash - Hualcayan - Huaraz

We'll enjoy our final breakfast at camp, pack up one last time and hike down to the village of Hualcayan where our transportation awaits. (About 3 hours walking and 2 ½ to 3 hours' drive back to your hotel in Huaraz). End of our expedition.

