



ADVANCED LEVEL

Altitude: 6036m.a.s.l.

Quitaraaju or Kitaraju lies in the Santa Cruz Valley between Santa Cruz in the west and Alpamayo in the northeast. This peak is much less-frequently climbed than its neighbor Alpamayo, although it is just as accessible and is less exposed. This peak is rapidly changing due to glacier melt. This is a great climb for experienced climbers looking for a more technical route, with incredible views of Alpamayo.

Day 1: Huaraz - Cashapampa - Llamacorral Camp (3760masl/12335')

We'll drive out to our trailhead in the village of Cashapampa (9,000 feet). This 3 hour drive takes us through beautiful farming communities as we head between the spines of the Cordillera Negra and the Cordillera Blanca. After organizing our burros, we'll hike with day packs to Llamacorral (3760masl), where we'll camp for the night.



Day 2: Llamacorral - Base Camp Alpamayo (4200masl/13779')

A fairly short day, about 2 at 3 hours with day packs. Basecamp is made at (4200mt) in a valley at the base of Alpamayo on the opposite side of the route. Basecamp is scenic, with greenery, running water and outhouses.

Day 3: Base Camp - Camp 1 Alpamayo (5300masl/17388')

From base camp, the route takes a moraine ridge and crosses rock slabs across the edge of the glacier to reach an area of tent platforms (3 hours). This camping area is very limited and for this reason we'll plan to climb all the way to Col camp in one day. The route above moraine camp continues over ice and moraine before a 300-metre snow couloir leads to the Col between Alpamayo and nearby Quitaraju (6,040m). This section can sometimes be the most technical and difficult part of the route. After gaining the col, there is a short descent to reach high camp.

Day 4: Camp 1 - Summit Quitaraju (6040masl/19816')

After a short trek across the glacier, we step onto the North Face. While the face is not quite as steep as Alpamayo, it is significantly longer. The route to the summit is often 12+ pitches of two-tool snow, with the upper pitches frequently consisting of soft sugar snow fins. Since we are in the Southern Hemisphere, this face gets early morning sun, and we will need to be descending before noon, back to Camp 1.

Day 5: Camp 1 - Base Camp Alpamayo at (4200mt)

We may have descended the day before, if the ascents are made at the earliest opportunities. Otherwise, we will descend today, to base camp (6 hours), ready for the walk and return drive to Huaraz tomorrow.



Day 6: Base Camp - Cashapampa Return to Huaraz

After breakfast we'll load up our gear and trek out to Cashapampa and then return to Huaraz.

INCLUDED:

- UIAGM guide.
- Private transport to/from trailhead.
- All meals while on the mountain (excellent, high energy meals prepared fresh on the trail)
- High altitude mountaineering tents.
- Complete kitchen equipment (tables, chairs, dining tent etc.).
- Porters/arrieros and/or pack animals to haul the heavy gear.
- Technical climbing equipment such as ropes.
- Ice screws.
- Snow anchors.
- Basic First Aid kit.
- Radio communication.

EXCLUDED:

- Flights to/from your country of origin to Peru/Huaraz.
- Bus ticket Lima-Huaraz-Lima and associated hotels if needed.
- Transfers between bus station/airport.
- Personal items such as expedition clothing.
- Harness, helmet, ice axe & boots (rentable if needed).
- Extra meals outside the trip itinerary (in Lima or Huaraz).
- Sleeping bag & mattress.
- Travel insurance (recommended).
- Huascarán National Park entrance (payable at park gate).
- Tips to guide and staff

