

A World Away Travels

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Cordillera Blanca **June 29-July 13, 2001** **August 4-August 18, 2001**

The Cordillera Blanca is the center of hiking and climbing in Peru. Home to the country's highest summit Huascarán (22,205 feet) the region contains the largest concentration of glaciers in a tropical zone. Our eight-day trek in the Cordillera Blanca begins in the climbing town Huaraz. Situated beneath this mountain massif we spend two days under the backdrop of Peru's highest mountains. Nearby hikes and the ancient ruins of Chavin provide the perfect activities while we acclimatize to the higher elevations. Our trek into these majestic mountains begins in the Santa Cruz Valley sharing our path with the snow covered spires of Taulliraju (19,128 feet), Alpamayo (19,512 feet) and Quitaraju (19,817 feet) we climb to Lake Taullicocha below the glaciated flanks of the Andes. Passing farms and villages we continue through the Cordillera Blanca gaining insight into local Andean life before reaching the impressive Contrahierbas (19,804 feet) with its impressive rumbling the highest peak in the world's tropics.

Day 1 Travel to Lima, Peru

Arriving in Lima you will transfer from the airport to the Posada del Inca Hotel located in Miraflores. After resting in the hotel you will visit the Museo de la Nacion with its enormous collection of Pre Incan, and Inca artifacts, gold treasures and other Peruvian wonders before heading into the bustling streets of Lima for a dinner. This evening you will have a chance to sample the traditional Peruvian dish *Ceviche*, a tasty dish of fresh seafood marinated in tangy lemon juice that is slightly spicy. From the busy streets we will soon find a quiet area to relax and enjoy the very best that this city has to offer. Our hotel is in Miraflores situated next to the Pacific Coast. Filled with excellent restaurants, city parks and interesting architecture, Miraflores is the perfect location to spend your first night in Peru. Accommodations: Posada del Inca
Dinner

Day 2 Lima-Huaraz

We get an early start along the Pan American Highway as it winds along Peru's Pacific coast. After lunch our path heads inland as we follow the Fortaleza River to the top of Conococha Pass (13,120') for our first view of the stunning Cordillera Blanca mountain range. The rest of the drive to Huaraz is dominated by farm land and small villages settled in beautiful alpine meadows. Accommodations: Hotel Andino *B,L,D*

Day 3 Huaraz

After breakfast we will hike from the pass at Punta Cayán on the Cordillera Negra mountain range back into Huaraz. This 4 hour hike provides breathtaking scenery of the Cordillera Blanca while allow to adjust to the altitude of Huaraz (10,200'). We may choose a half-day hike to Willcawain, a fascinating site of pre-Inca ruins on the outskirts of Huaraz, if the weather at Punta Cayán does afford the usual views of the Cordillera Blanca. Accommodations: Hotel Andino *B,L,D*

Day 4-13 Cordillera Blanca Trek

Day 4 Huaraz-Vaqueria

In the morning we enjoy a two-hour drive against the backdrop of the Cordillera Blanca to the beginning of our trek. From the top of Portachuelo de Llanganuco, a pass of about 15,580 feet from which there is a great panorama of the northern Cordillera Blanca, including Huascarán (22,205'), Huandoy (21,204'), Pisco

(17,900'), and Chopicalqui (20,100'). From the top of the pass, we hike downhill among the dazzling glacial lakes to camp at Vaqueria (12,136'). *B, L, D*

Day 5 Paria

The steep face of Chopicalqui (20,800') towers above the trail as we descend toward the thatched roofs of the village of Colcabamba. The trail begins an ascent up the Huaripampa Quebrada (Narrow Valley) winding past farmland and small settlements. Camp tonight will be above Paria with the monumental Taulliraju (19,120') radiating the evening sun set at the top of the valley. *B, L, D*

Day 6 Huecrococha

We continue up the Huaripampa Valley, with views of Contrahierbas (19,798') behind us. As we cross Pucaraju Pass (15,252'), with magnificent views of Piramide, Paron, Chacaraju and Huascarán, the valley opens to reveal a panorama of snow-capped peaks and glacial lakes in the foreground. Huge Andean Condors can often be seen soaring high above the pass. We continue to our camp near Laguna Huecrococha, a clear lake at 13,000'. *B,L,D*

Day 7 Jancapampa

Hike over the mountain pass at Tingopampa (14,380'). As we approach our camp at Jancapampa the massive Pucajirca dominates the scenery. *B,L,D*

Day 8 Huilca.

We continue to climb to the east of Pucajirca, avoiding the massive glaciers that stretch down the face of the mountain. The ascent to the Yanajanca pass (15,088') is marked by forests, grassy meadows and abrupt cliffs. A decline in elevation takes us to our camp above the small town Huilca (13,400'). *B,L,D*

Day 9 Moyobamba

As we pass through Huilca and continue up Quebrada Tayapampa, Alpamayo looms in the distance (at 19,511' it revered by some as the worlds most beautiful mountain). After crossing one pass we descend to camp at Moyobamba (14,000'). *B,L,D*

Day 10 Jancarurish

From the top of Caracara Pass (15,800'), Alpamayo's cirque curves gracefully off the peak joining the rest of the Cordillera Blanca as they stretch southwards. Camp will be set up in the Jancarurish Valley below Alpamayo Base Camp. We will have an opportunity to take a two-hour hike and explore the base camp at 14,760'. *B,L,D*

Day 11 Osoruri

After a difficult ascent to Jatun Viento Pass (15,252'), we drop slightly in elevation on the other side to camp. This difficult day is sublimely rewarding as you are in the midst of one of the worlds most magnificent mountain ranges. *B,L,D*

Day 12 Huischca

Today begins with a short hike to the last and highest pass of the trek, Toro Pishtanan (15,908'). The corresponding descend is inspired by emerald views of Cuillicocha Lake (15,252'), one of the most beautiful lakes in this area of the Andes. Continuing, we camp near Huischca (13,100'). *B,L,D*

Day 13 Hualacayan –Huaraz

We venture downhill past farmers' fields to explore the ruins of Hualacayan as the final point of interest on the trek. Here we will meet our ride back to Huaraz. As we leave behind the mountains we have come to know so intimately, we will come across views that give overwhelming perspective to the progress of our journey. Farewell dinner and overnight at hotel in Huaraz. Accommodations: Hotel Andino *B,L,D*

Day 14 Huaraz-Lima

We drive to Lima, enjoying lunch along the way, before transferring to the airport.

Day: 15 *Arrive Home*

Trip Cost: (6-8 participants) \$2600 (3-5 participants) \$2800 **Single Supplement:** \$400

All of our treks are limited to eight participants and fully supported with teams of guides, cooks, porters and a Trip Leader making them safe, comfortable and unforgettable adventures. We also limit the size of our treks to insure you will have the best experience possible. Unlike other company's that advertise small treks (16 people) ours really are small. It's a small group that will allow us to meet and interact with local people- not possible in larger groups. Guided by superb trip leaders with extensive backgrounds living and working with Peruvian people and traveling through out the country this trip is an incredible opportunity you could not receive with another company.

The cost of the trip will include everything while you are in Peru (unless noted in the itinerary). This includes all trekking equipment, guides, pack animals, tours, lectures, accommodations in first-class hotels and top quality tents (1 night Posada del Inca, 3 nights Hotel Andino, 9 nights camping) food, permits, entrance fees, and ground transportation. The price does not include international air fares, visa fees, airport tax and personal expenses.