



PERU

HIKING THE INCREDIBLE HUAYHUASH

Peru's most spectacular mountain range

- DURATION** : 16 days / 15 nights (11 nights camping)
BEST SEASON : May-October
DEPARTURES : Guaranteed with a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 12 participants
TRIP RATING : Strenuous Trekking, Grade IV. This is a rugged, physically demanding 12-day trek averaging 8 miles per day as we cover approx. 75 miles circling the range at elevations ranging from 10,660' to our highest pass at 16,400'. Due to the remote location and physically challenging terrain encountered in the Huayhuash, this trip is designed for very fit, experienced hikers only.
- 2007 DATES** : On request any week during the season for a minimum of 4 travelers

INTRODUCTION :

Join us on what is indisputably the most spectacular trek in the Andes—the exciting circuit around northern Peru's Huayhuash (pronounced *why wash*) range. Less than 20 miles in length, the Huayhuash contains eight peaks over 19,000' in elevation, making it the second highest range in the country after the Cordillera Blanca. The icy, knife-edged crest of these mountains is so steep and compact that we enjoy continuous views of towering, ice-clad peaks such as Yerupajá (21,765'), Peru's second highest summit, Jirishanca (19,995') and Rondoy (19,290'). Huayhuash was declared a Reserve zone by the Peruvian government in December of 2002 in order to protect its ecosystems. One of the least traveled Andean ranges, this is also one of the most physically demanding treks in Peru with lots of elevation gain and loss as the route crosses 7 passes in 12 days (all are over 15,000' in elevation—the highest reaching 16,400'). The trek averages approximately 8 miles per day, following rocky and sometimes steep trails. A rest day is also included to allow us to adjust our pace if necessary for acclimating or due to weather conditions. June and August are ideal months for this adventure as the weather is typically clear and dry, and the snow from the season's rainstorms has melted off the highest passes. Of course, the rewards are worth the effort - spectacular mountain views, a dozen azure, emerald or turquoise-colored lakes, Andean wildlife such as the vizcacha and condor, typical villages, wildflowers, and some of the few remaining *queñual* forests!

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DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

DAY 01: USA/LIMA

Guests arriving this evening to Peru's capital city, **Lima**, are met at the airport and transferred to the comfortable El Pardo Hotel in the coastal suburb of Miraflores.

DAY 02: LIMA/HUARAZ

Those on an overnight flight arrive to Jorge Chávez International Airport in **Lima** early this morning and are met by our local guide outside of customs. Guests who arrived in Lima last night are picked up at the hotel early this morning and accompanied to the airport to meet the rest of the group. From here we board our private vehicle for the 8-hour drive to **Huaraz** (10,140'), gateway to the spectacular Cordillera Blanca. Our route takes us north along the Pan American Highway through the Peruvian coastal desert to the town of Pativilca. Time permitting, we visit the Inca ruins of Paramonga en route and take a very winding, paved road leading inland along the Río Pativilca gorge. We pass sugarcane fields as we gain elevation and continue up into the dry, eroded hills of the western Andes approaching Conococha Pass (13,385'). At the top, we enjoy our first panoramic vistas of the area's three mountain ranges: the snow-capped Cordillera Blanca to the northeast; the barren black peaks of the Negra range to the northwest; and the jagged summits of the Huayhuash to the southeast. We descend into the warmer *Callejón de Huaylas* valley, between the first two ranges and arrive to its main city, Huaraz in the late afternoon where we check into the Andino Hotel. This evening we have a trip briefing and dinner with our guide. **Driving distance:** 248 miles or 8 hours (B,L,D)

DAY 03: HUARAZ

Rising early we join our guide for an acclimating hike in the area of Pukaventana. Climbing along a rocky trail for about an hour, we arrive to the top of this lookout point and enjoy a panoramic view of the Cordillera Blanca range, Huascarán—Peru's highest mountain at 22,205', and the town of Huaraz. Continuing across pastures on a high plateau we may pass a few local farmers and then descend, following a different trail to return to our hotel. Here we meet our vehicle and drive to the community of Monterrey for a dip in the local hot springs followed by a typical Andean lunch that might include *humitas*, *tamales* and other Peruvian delicacies. We continue driving north along the *Callejón de Huaylas* stopping en route to visit some of the typical villages that dot the valley. At the town of Yungay we visit the memorial dedicated to those inhabitants who were buried by a massive avalanche released from Huascarán in 1970. We return to the Andino Hotel in the afternoon and dinner is on your own. (B,L)

DAY 04: HUARAZ/MATACANCHA

Following breakfast, we board our private vehicle for a 5-hour drive to our trailhead. Our route takes us south, through the Santa Cruz valley to Pachacoto, a small community where we deviate into the mountains onto a winding dirt road. As we gain elevation, approaching Huarapasca Pass (15,680'), we look for the famous Puya Raimondi plants. The largest flowering bromeliad in the world, each plant blooms only once after about one hundred years of life. We might also spot a small herd of vicuña, the delicate, wild relative of the llama which produces the world's finest wool. Near Pastoruri (Peru's local ski area where folks hike up the glacier to slide back down) we'll disembark to stretch our legs and walk toward the glacier. We descend from the pass to the other side of the Blanca range, continuing on a smaller dirt road from the town of Huallanca, into the Huayhuash across open meadows where sheep, cattle and horses are pastured along the river. Veering off the road, we walk along a cattle path to our first campsite, set near some shepherd's huts. Above us towers our first high pass as we enjoy a late lunch. In the afternoon, a hike into the Rondoy gorge allows us closer views of the snow-capped peaks, Rondoy (19,260') and Ninashanca (18,400'). We return to Matacancha for dinner and an evening of star gazing. **Camp elevation:** 13,450' (B,L,D)

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DAY 05: MATACANCHA/MITUCOCHA

Today we head straight up out of camp, ascending a rounded hill and then crossing below towering granite walls, as we make our way toward the rocky crest which is the northernmost outcrop of the 18½-mile-long Huayhuash range. The steep trail zigzags over the continental divide as we cross Cacanapunta Pass (15,420'). Views from the top are impressive and there is a good chance we may see a condor or two soaring high above us! Our descent starts off steeply, with a great panorama of lake Pucacocha and its meandering lagoon. Then, with Rondoy in the background, we continue on a gradual descent along the wide, grassy Caliente valley. Reaching the Machaycancha River, we head back uphill to reach our campsite set by Mitucocha Lake under the watchful gaze of Jirishanca (19,990'). **Hiking distance:** 8 miles or 6 hours; **Camp elevation:** 13,940' (B,L,D)

DAY 06: MITUCOCHA/CARHUACOCHA

Today is a short but exciting hike! We descend from camp for about 45 minutes, observing a variety of waterfowl in the marshes along the river, then begin climbing gradually up the broad Pastores Gorge toward our next pass, Punta Carhuac (15,250'). As we gain elevation we savor our first glimpses of Yerupajá, Peru's second highest mountain at 21,765' and the highest peak in the Huayhuash. From the top of our pass, we have great views of Jirishanca Chico (17,906') and the hanging glaciers and ice walls of El Toro (20,080') and Siulá (20,810') peaks. Our descent follows a well-marked trail that meanders along a small rivulet, passing a couple tarns created by the snow melt, until we reach the top of a huge, ancient lateral moraine and are awe-struck by the close-up views of Yerupajá with the lovely, turquoise gem, Carhuacocha Lake, lying at its feet. A great place for lunch, we absorb the majesty of this setting before continuing another 45-minutes or so to our campsite, located on the plains below the terminal moraine that dammed the river to create Carhuacocha Lake. Assuming good weather, the short hike back to the lake is highly recommended for an amazing sunset shot of the peak reflected in the lake. **Hiking distance:** 7 1/2 miles or 6 hours; **Camp elevation:** 13,450' (B,L,D)

DAY 07: CARHUACOCHA/HUAYHUASH

Today's route follows an Inca road through the Carnicero gorge to Atocshaico or Carnicero Pass (15,090'). Atocshaico refers to fox in Quechua, the language of the local residents, and this is an excellent area for observing wildlife such as the graceful vicuña or lively vizcacha—an Andean rodent that looks like a cross between a chinchilla and rabbit. We enjoy views of snowy peaks such as Jurau (18,610') and Trapecio (18,510') and ponder some prehistoric cave paintings as we descend from the pass to the Huayhuash estancia where we set up camp. For strong hiking groups, an optional (more demanding) route maybe taken over Siulá Pass (15,750'). This alternative features several miles of cross-country hiking without a clear trail and a very steep ascent through ichu grass-covered slopes and a final push up a talus slope to the top. The rewards are incredible views of Siulá Peak, the mountain Joe Simpson described in his book *Touching the Void*, and the rest of the central Huayhuash mountains. **Hiking distance:** 9 miles or 6 1/2 hours; **Camp elevation:** 14,270' (B,L,D)

DAY 08: HUAYHUASH/VICONGA

We start the day, climbing again, as we ascend the wide Huayhuash valley, past two small lakes. Nearing the top of Portachuelo Pass (15,580'), we cross through a wide boulder field and then a couple of switchbacks bring us to the summit, which also marks the continental watershed. Toward the southeast we have views of the first peaks in the Raura range - Quesillojanca; El Matador; and Leon Huaccanan or Leon Dormido (17,800'), the sleeping lion, whose massive, gentle-looking glaciers appear as a huge ski slope. As we descend toward Viconga Lake we may encounter Andean campesinos, or farmers, traveling with their llamas and alpacas. Continuing past the lake, one of the largest in this area, we round the end of the ridge and head uphill a short distance to establish our camp in a lovely meadow with a small stream and dotted with huge boulders at the southern end of the range. About 30 minutes downhill from our camp

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are small hot springs that are great for a dip and chance to clean up before dinner. **Hiking distance:** 7 miles or 5 1/2 hours; **Camp elevation:** 14,430' (B,L,D)

DAY 09: VICONGA/HUANACPATAY

We cross the highest pass of our route today, Punta Cuyoc (16,400') which lies just in front of the glacier bearing the same name. Our ascent is gradual, leading us through golden ichu fields to the desert-like summit of what is an ancient glacier moraine. Resting at this vantage point, we have a different panoramic view of nearly all the main peaks in the Huayhuash range, and can enjoy the immense solitude and serenity of these high mountains as well as our accomplishment of reaching such a high elevation! Our descent follows the deep Huanacpatay gorge, offering views of the Pariaucro massif at 18,340' as we approach our camp by the river. **Hiking distance:** 7 miles or 6 hours; **Camp elevation:** 14,100'

(B,L,D)

DAY 10: HUANACPATAY/PIQUICORRAL

Accustomed to gaining elevation, we have a change of pace this morning as we face a 2,300-foot-descent through the Huanacpatay gorge to the village of Huayllapa, perched on a mountain ledge at the juncture of two rivers. After some time to relax and, perhaps, buy a soda or beer, we gain the same 2,300 feet as we ascend the narrow, almost hidden, Huancho gorge, whose sheer rock walls shade the trail, to arrive to the Piquicorral area where we set up camp near a small stream. **Hiking distance:** 9 miles or 7 hours; **Camp elevation:** 14,100'

(B,L,D)

DAY 11: PIQUICORRAL/TURPA

This morning our route leads uphill toward the foothills of Diablo Mudo, or Mute Devil, a mysterious mountain, only 17,130 feet high. Gaining elevation, our switchbacked trail brings us to the rocky, desolate landscape of Tapush Pass at 15,740'. Locals claim that mountain spirits appear in this wind-swept area, thus adding to the sense of enigma. On the other side of the pass, we hike down past Susucocha Lake and establish our camp in a place called Turpa. Several shepherds' huts and corrals can be spotted nearby and we have views of some of the Huayhuash's lesser peaks including Suerococha and Auxilio. **Hiking distance:** 7 1/2 miles or 6 hours; **Camp elevation:** 14,100'

(B,L,D)

DAY 12: TURPA/JAHUACOCHA

We have another short, but incredibly spectacular day thanks to the awe-inspiring scenery. We continue descending, crossing several small streams, until we reach the main road linking the little town of Pacllón with the lovely turquoise lake, Jahuacocha. Stretching before the first slender peaks of the Huayhuash range, the lake is a most impressive place to locate our camp. Our view includes: the 3,280-foot western wall of Yerupajá (21,765'); El Toro at 20,080', so named because it resembles a bull; Jirishanca (19,990') whose name means snow hummingbird in Quechua; and the vertical walls of Rondoy at 19,260'. Again for very strong hiking groups (and assuming excellent weather) an optional ascent over the steep, rocky Yaucha Pass (15,740') is an alternative to avoid the descent to the Pacllón gorge. With its impressive walls facing west, sunset on Yerupajá from camp should be magnificent! **Hiking distance:** 7 miles or 5 hours; **Camp elevation:** 13,280'

(B,L,D)

DAY 13: JAHUACOCHA

After eleven days on the trail, we enjoy another well-deserved day at leisure in this lovely setting, a favorite spot among hikers! There is superb trout fishing in the lake, fine birding along the water's edge including Andean goose, Andean gull, puna ibis, southern lapwing and others, and those that want more exercise can explore some of the trails in the area including the hikes to Salteracocha and Rasaqcocha lakes. This morning our staff will prepare a special Pachamanca lunch (served late) where potatoes, oca and other tubers along with chicken and/or lamb is cooked under hot rocks in a pit covered with soil and ichu grass—similar to a Hawaiian luau. Laced with robust spices this is truly the Andean equivalent to the famed Roman feasts! A nap (or easy walk) is perfectly appropriate following this delicious repast. (B,L,D)

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DAY 14: JAHUACOCHA/LLAMAC

Leaving our beautiful campsite, we ascend the wide, gradual Pacllón valley to the last pass of the route, Pampa Llamac at 14,100'. Along the way, we pass a few small sections of *queñual* forests with their twisted, orange trunks. These are the only tree species to grow at very high altitudes and at one time the Andes were covered by *queñual* forests. We also observe typical flowers such as the *anqush* or *huamanpinta*, which are said to have medicinal properties. Glancing back at the incredible Huayhuash mountains, we then descend to the familiar community of Llamac, home to many of our mule drivers. Here we establish our last camp. On the way, we might visit the pre-Inca cemetery of Amay. **Hiking distance:** 9 miles or 6 hours; **Camp elevation:** 10,660' (B,L,D)

DAY 15: LLAMAC/CHIQUIAN/LIMA

Today, we have a short hike that takes us back downhill along the Llamac valley to the Ainin River, in this area we find a dirt road and we say goodbye to our local staff, then board our private bus and drive through pastoral hills and villages where we may have more opportunity to see local farmers tending their fields. From here it is uphill again as we head to the agricultural town of Chiquián (11,150'), where we stop for some refreshments before we continue to Conococha lake, last area where we can still see Huayhuash at the distance. From this point, the return to Lima follows the same paved road we took to Huaraz two weeks earlier and enjoying lunch, en route. Arriving late this afternoon, we check in to the familiar El Pardo Hotel. Dinner is on your own this evening. **Hiking distance:** 4-5 miles or 2 hours; **Driving distance:** 225 miles or about 7 1/2 hours (B,L)

DAY 16: LIMA/USA

Group members are picked up at the hotel early this morning for the drive to the airport where they are assisted with checking in for their return flight. (B)

NOTES ON THE ITINERARY: This program is subject to change at any time for several reasons including group pace/acclimatization/ interest, weather, and road/ river/ trail conditions. The rest day is scheduled to allow flexibility in the itinerary so that we can accommodate group **acclimatization & pace**, weather and/or trail conditions along the way, and as an opportunity for the local staff as well as the pack animals to have a break. Thus they may be moved according to circumstances encountered in the field. On **Days 07** and **12** we may follow alternative trails (closer to the glaciers) offering different, sometimes more spectacular views of the peaks and a more challenging route. These options will be determined in the field according to the group's ability and/or interests and based on weather or current trail conditions.

2007LAND COST: \$3,905 p.p.d. (4-5 participants)
\$3,605 p.p.d. (6-9 participants)
\$3,405 p.p.d. (10-12 participants)
\$ 475 Single Supplement

p.p.d.= per person double or triple occupancy

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SERVICES INCLUDED:

- Comprehensive **pre-departure planning packet** and expert travel advice.
 - All **in-country transfers** as scheduled (transfers on different days are additional). Ground transportation in spacious and comfortable private vehicles with professional drivers. Occasionally, other Southwind travelers may share the same vehicle, particularly for transfers or tours in Lima.
 - Local and return flight reconfirmation, **in-country airport check-in and luggage assistance**.
 - All **accommodations in standard (3-4 star) hotels** as listed (or at similar hotels) on a shared basis with private bath. Note: As reservations for early arrivals or late departures are not placed at the same time as those for our group space, we may have to use a different hotel for those nights. Advanced bookings are recommended if you plan to arrive early or stay longer than scheduled.
 - Single Supplement includes single room and single tent on trek. Due to the small size of the hotels in Huaraz, the number of singles available per group are limited to 2. If you require single accommodations, we recommend making reservations well in advance. Double beds for couples (primarily queen-sized) can be requested in advance, but cannot be guaranteed, as most hotels offer few rooms with double beds.
 - All **meals** indicated on the itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner). **Vegetarian diets accommodated** on request (advance notification is required).
 - All **guided tours** listed, conducted by knowledgeable English-speaking, local guides and including any applicable entrance fees.
 - **First-class trekking service** includes:
 - Experienced, licensed, English-speaking, Andean guide & assistant guide (provided for groups with 8 or more participants).
 - Expert camp chef & kitchen assistant, camp assistant & local *arrieros* or handlers with their pack animals (*arrieros* are treated & compensated well, mules or donkeys carry a maximum of 45 lbs of an individual trekker's personal gear).
 - All group camping equipment: spacious 3-person all season Eureka K-2 or North Face VE-25 tents (shared by just 2 members), Thermarest™ sleeping pads, kitchen & dining tents, folding tables & camp stools and an environmentally friendly toilet tent.
 - All meals: we serve a variety of healthy food with fresh & native ingredients. A cup of hot wake-up tea is brought to your tent door followed by a hot breakfast, box or picnic lunch, and a 3 course served dinner.
- Tips to the *arrieros*.
First-aid kit.

NOT INCLUDED:

- US domestic, international flights, nor local flights within Peru (the latter are required only if extending to Cusco or other cities in Peru).
- Peruvian airport departure taxes (approx. \$30 per traveler).
- Two (2) meals at approximately \$15-20 each.
- Tips to the local staff.
- Tours or other services not listed on the itinerary.
- Alcoholic beverages nor items of a personal nature; such as clothing, equipment, laundry & phone calls.
- Sleeping bag & other personal gear. Southwind has a **limited** number of REI Kilimanjaro or similar synthetic sleeping bags rated to 0°F available for rent at \$10 per night of use for this program. Advance reservations and prepayment are required.
- Expenses incurred in preparing for this program such as, but not limited to, non-refundable airline tickets or traveler's insurance, nor additional expenses resulting from flight delays, schedule changes, cancellations, or missed connections.

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We strongly recommend all travelers take out some form of **Travel Insurance** —plan information and an application are sent upon receipt of your deposit (sooner if requested). Policies with **Travel Insured International** can be purchased online through our website at www.southwindadventures.com/insurance.html. **If you or a family member has a pre-existing medical condition**, you need to purchase this policy within 14 days of booking your trip to qualify for reimbursement of non-refundable trip costs in the event that a recurrence of the pre-existing condition forces you to cancel your trip (some restrictions apply). For more information or to purchase Southwind's recommended travel insurance plan, please visit our website.

ANDEAN GUIDES: Cesar Sifuentes - Born in Huaraz, Cesar is one of the top trekking guides in the Blanca area, and is our operations manager for this region. He has been leading American and Canadian trekking groups for 15 years and also has experience in the hotel industry. He lived in Europe and teaches English locally. In addition to an intimate knowledge of the *Blanca & Huayhuash* ranges, Cesar is well-organized and has a positive, energetic attitude.

Renzo Moreno & David Gonzales, each with a minimum of 5 years experience leading groups in the northern Andes of Peru, these native bilingual guides are also among the top professionals working with our groups.

WEATHER: Generally the Huayhuash trekking season, **May-October** is clear, dry, and cool but during the transitional months of April/May and October/November, one can experience variable weather patterns with a general build up of afternoon clouds and increased possibility of rain showers which may last through the day or night. **Rain all day is not common during the trekking season, but it is possible** as are hail, sleet or snow storms at the highest elevations. Andean nights are cold, ranging from 23-40°F depending on the elevation, while the days are pleasantly warm and spring-like, with temperatures between 60-80°F according to elevation. At the highest camps on the trek you should expect nighttime lows of 23-28°F and daytime highs ranging from 60-68°F (depending on cloud cover). It is likely to be cold & windy on the passes.

ESTIMATED AIRFARE: The Land Cost for this trip DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY FLIGHTS. Round-trip **international** air from US gateways (New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Dallas, Houston, Atlanta) is approximately \$700-900 per person. Upon receipt of your deposit, Southwind will send you more information about booking your flights to match your land itinerary.

✈ Southwind will need your flight schedule within 45 days of your departure to arrange your transfers. We recommended that you **DO NOT** purchase any airline tickets until your trip is guaranteed to operate. Southwind sends out a trip confirmation letter once a trip is guaranteed or you may call to check the status of your departure.

HOW TO SIGN UP: Submit Southwind's Trip Reservation form along with a \$500 per person per trip deposit (payable by check or credit card) to make a reservation. Both the form and deposit may be completed securely online at www.southwindadventures.com by clicking on "Book a Trip" at the top of our homepage. Or you may print the Trip Reservation Form and mail/fax it to our office with your deposit. If you prefer, you may call us at 1-800-377-9463 to make payment arrangements (**your deposit will be charged and your reservation confirmed once we receive your Trip Reservation Form**).

Due to the popularity of the Peruvian Andes, we recommend making reservations at least 4 months in advance. Once your trip is guaranteed to operate, you will receive a comprehensive pre-departure packet.

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Land Balance: Final payment is due at 60 days by Visa, Mastercard, Discover or check. American Express balance payments are due 90 days in advance. An invoice is sent with your pre-departure packet. Rush Service: A rush fee of \$150 per person will be applied to your invoice for reservations placed 45 to 21 days before departure.

Cancellation Fees and other policies are outlined under Terms & Conditions on Southwind's website (click Book a Trip>Terms & Conditions).

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