



PERUVIAN ANDES ADVENTURES

MATEO CLIMB 5150m (16896 ft)

Timing: One Day ex Huaraz & return to Huaraz

Grade: PD / Moderate snow climbs – Beginner suitable / Good fitness required



On Matteo – admiring the views

Would like to try some climbing in the Cordillera Blanca but do not have time for a multi-day climb?

Nevado Mateo is an exhilarating & physically challenging climb that can be made in just one day from Huaraz and return to Huaraz.

The climb is suitable for beginner level climbers with some nice snow slopes, although in some years or later in the climbing season there can be some short sections of steep hard ice which the guide(s) would help you with.

Mateo is located in the spectacular Ulta Valley surrounded by many of the biggest peaks in the Huascarán National park – including Huascarán, Chopicalqui, Chacraraju and the impressive pyramid shaped Ulta



Ulta Mountain

Note 1: We consider the climb to be physically HARD because, although it is a suitable peak for beginner climbers, the altitude of 5150m does make it physically demanding. Although many guidebooks grade the climb as a "trekkers (or "trekking") peak", you are actually climbing while roped up with crampons and with an ice axe, sometimes on steeper snow slopes and, of course, at high altitude. It is more difficult than similar climbs at lower altitudes. We do NOT regard any of the peaks in the Cordillera Blanca as "trekking peaks" and all climbs involve true physically demanding mountaineering.

Note 2: The routes used and the conditions on all the peaks are changing year by year, and even from month to month. The descriptions we have given are general only, and the routes used, conditions on the mountain and description of routes may change considerably by the time we are climbing. In some years depending on snow conditions there can be short sections of steep ice climbing or crevasses to negotiate around on Matteo. Conditions on all the mountains are changing rapidly due to global warming and rapid recession of glacial ice, and descriptions of routes that you may find in some guide books can be out dated within 12 months.

Note 3: The guide in charge of your climb will be one of our local experienced & professional UIAGM International Mountain Guides.



Note 4: Acclimatisation *It is important that you are well acclimatised to the altitude before attempting to climb any peaks in the Cordillera Blanca, thus avoiding possible problems with lack of energy or altitude-related illnesses when climbing. Climbing above 5000m is physically demanding, even if the climbing is not steep or technical.*

We always recommend a trek of minimum 3 days or a series of day hikes to higher altitudes for acclimatisation and extra fitness.

If you will not already be well acclimatized when you arrive in Huaraz or are not making an independent acclimatization trek, then we will be happy to recommend and organise some suitable day hikes

DESCRIPTION

The day starts with early departure from Huaraz at 02:00am with a 2.5 hour drive taking us through the town of Carhuaz and then the Andean village of Shilla. Then into the Ulta Valley where the road climbs on a series of steep zig zag corners to reach the impressive Punta Olimpica Tunnel at 4740m carved through the top of the mountain

The climb starts from the left of the tunnel climbing up an unmarked rocky trail and over moraine rock, sometimes steeply, for around two hours until we reach the Mateo glacier where we put on climbing gear (harness, helmet, crampons, ice axe) and rope up.



On the moraine approach to the glacier – Matteo

To get onto the glacier we have to initially climb up a 40m steep ice wall and the guide will fix a rope if necessary and help you with this. The rest of the route is a steady climb on mostly nice snow slopes up 40 to 50 degrees, mixed with some steep short sections of hard ice which the guide will help you with. It is around 2 hours climb from the start of the glacier to the summit



Approaching Mateo Summit

On the broad summit you are rewarded with spectacular close views of all the surrounding mountains and good photo opportunities.



Celebrating – made it!

Descend back the same way and drive to Huaraz arriving tired but happy around mid afternoon



Views from Summit – Huascarán & Chopicalqui

Climbing Hours:

Climbing times are estimated times and based on our average climbing groups from past experience. Some people may be much faster and others slower.