



PERUVIAN ANDES ADVENTURES

CLIMB VALLUNARAJU 5686m (18655 ft)

Timing: 2 days

Grade: AD- / Moderate snow slopes – some steep climbing - Beginner suitable



Eli & Rolando Morales & the Peruvian Andes Dog (Cholo) resting on Vallunaraju

Vallunaraju is one of the few peaks in the Cordillera Blanca that can be climbed from Huaraz in two days. The climb is a moderately hard mountaineering adventure with great views in all directions during the ascent. Vallunaraju is suitable for both novice climbers and is also a challenging climb for experienced climbers. It is an ideal preparation climb for 6000m or technical peaks. The normal climbing route is not technical, apart from the last 60m to the summit, which is steep and presents some exposure. The exposure feels quite marked to some people, but your guide will help you on this section and you are always safe.

Note 1: *It is necessary to carry all equipment from the vehicle up to the camp. The way up to the camp is on a dirt and rocky trail which is a steep and demanding climb for about the first two hours. Our crew carry the tents, food & equipment, but YOU need to carry your own personal gear (and must have a backpack large enough for this). Our crew will carry as much of your climbing gear as they can manage.*

Note 2: We classify this program as being Hard because, although the peak is suitable for beginner climbers, the altitude of 5686 metres and the steep, tough nature of the hike up to camp while carrying your gear, do make it demanding. You need to be strong enough to carry a moderate-weight backpack up the steep trail.

For the fit, strong and well-acclimatized this is a great, challenging adventure; you should **NOT** consider this climb unless you have above good fitness & endurance and are generally strong with a sense of adventure.

You can request to hire a private porter to carry your equipment up to the mountain camp & return

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 acclimatized to the altitude before attempting to climb any peak in the Cordillera Blanca, thus avoiding any potential problems with lack of energy or any altitude-related illnesses when climbing. Climbing above 5000m is physically demanding, even when the climbing itself is not steep or technical. On this ascent you go from Huaraz (3090m) direct to the Morena Camp (5130m), constituting an altitude gain of 2040 metres in a single day. It is therefore extremely important that you already be well acclimatized. We always recommend a trek of minimum 4 to 6 days for acclimatization and extra fitness.

We can organize a trek for you if you have not already organized your own independent trek.

Note 5: 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 some sections of steep climbing or crevasses to negotiate around on Vallunaraju. 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.

Day 1: Drive Huaraz to Quebrada Llaca valley. Climb to Morena Camp

We drive eastwards and upwards from Huaraz on a dirt road for 1½ hours to the Llaca Valley (4470m). Here we put on our packs and climb steeply up a ridge for about 3 to 4 hours to Morena Camp (5000m). Donkeys are unable to negotiate this route, so we need to carry all equipment. The first 2 hours is on tough, steep ground, but then the route gets easier and traverses gradually to the campsite. All the way up to Morena Camp we have amazing views of the nearby ridgeback Nevado Ocschapalca snow peak (5888m), the town of Huaraz and, away to the west, the Cordillera Negra. At night time from Morena Camp, the lights of Huaraz way below are magical.



Steep Climb up to Morena Camp



Vallunaraju Morena Camp

Day 2: Climb to Summit. Descend Back to the Road. Vehicle to Huaraz

We leave camp early. First we climb up over moraine rock slabs, which are steep in places, for about 45 minutes to an hour before reaching the glacier. We then negotiate generally steady slopes on good snow towards the 5686-metre summit. The final 60-metre approach to the summit is steep and feels exposed to some people; the guide will help you with this should you feel at all unsure. We will fix a rope here if clients are inexperienced or feel nervous. Throughout the climb we can see north to Huascarán (6768m), the highest mountain in Peru. We then return to Morena Camp to pack up the tents, before descending steeply to the Llaca Valley where our vehicle will be waiting to take us back to Huaraz. Around 10 hours to climb and return to the Llaca Valley. One to 1½ hours by road to Huaraz.



To the Summit



Summit Vallunaraju

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.

Trek Roads: Access roads to and from treks are generally dirt mountain roads (not paved) and in some places can be bumpy. Road travel times are slower than you may expect for the kms travelled.

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