



## PERUVIAN ANDES ADVENTURES

### EXPEDITION Climbing Alpamayo & Huascarán

#### **PEAKS:**

**Maparaju 5350m**

**Alpamayo 5947m**

**Huascarán Sur 6768m**

23 days Huaraz to Huaraz

Grade: Technical, physically demanding

This is a comprehensive expedition program including an acclimatisation trek and an acclimatisation peak with the ultimate goals being the successful summiting of the technical Alpamayo followed by Huascarán, the highest mountain in Peru.

The program commences with acclimatization hikes around Huaraz to progressively higher altitudes followed by a trek into the impressive Quillqueyhuanca Valley and climbing Maparaju for additional high altitude acclimatisation & strength as preparation for the challenges of climbing Alpamayo & Huascarán

This program includes rest days back in Huaraz between each climb. These days are important to allow your body some time to recover from the demands of high altitude climbing & reduce the risk of fatigue.

#### **MAPARAJU 5326m (17474 ft)**

Grade: F – non technical

The non technical Maparaju is a great peak to use for acclimatising for technical & 6000m climbs. During the climb, mountaineers are treated to spectacular close views of nearby Cayesh & Huantsan.

#### **ALPAMAYO 5947m (19511 ft)**

Grade: D – steep & technical climbing

With its almost perfect pyramid shape and ice flutings, Alpamayo was nominated the “most beautiful mountain in the world” in a 1966 German photographic exposition.

The climbing is steep and technical with several hours of continual front pointing and using two technical ice axes on steep slopes averaging 55 to 65 deg and up to 80 deg. on short sections Climbers need to be experienced on steep ice, and comfortable with using ice screws, snow stakes, anchor systems and descent by rappel. The Alpamayo climb is NOT suitable for beginner climbers.

The route climbed (French or Ferrari route) will depend on the conditions on the mountain at the time and whether there is any danger from overhanging cornices or high avalanche risk on one of the routes.



*High Camp Alpamayo*

**HUASCARAN SUR 6768m (22205 ft)**

Grade: AD / some technical climbing / very physically demanding

Huascarán is the highest mountain in Peru, and the highest of any mountain situated in the tropics. It is the principal objective of many of the climbers that visit the Cordillera Blanca.

In the past Huascarán has not been an especially technical mountain to climb, but in recent years changes to the glacier have made the going more difficult. This, combined with the high altitude makes Huascarán a very physically demanding mountain to climb.

Huascarán can be climbed in 6 days in good conditions, but you can choose to allow 7 days to have a day extra for bad weather or as a rest day if clients are feeling the altitude. If wanted, this extra reserve day should be booked and paid for in advance

Some years there are large crevasses on Huascarán which can be difficult to pass, or which require an alternative route to be found. Also, there can be some sections of steep climbing on hard ice in certain conditions. We recommend that clients have good basic climbing skills to climb Huascarán. Huascarán is NOT a suitable peak for beginner climbers.



*Huascaran Summit*

**Note 1: Fitness & Climbing Experience:** *It is necessary to carry all equipment up to camps on the mountains at Alpamayo & Huascaran. 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). For the fit & strong clients this is a great, challenging adventure; you should not consider this program unless you have very good fitness and are generally strong.*

*Both Alpamayo & Huascaran have sections of steep and technical climbing. These peaks are not suitable for beginner climbers.*

**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 and we may encounter more difficult climbing than are indicated here. 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.*

*Huascarán, in certain conditions and in a given year, is subject to high risk of ice fall and avalanche and can also be heavily crevassed. If at the time of your climbing expedition, information received from previous groups indicates unstable conditions, we will recommend an alternative climb for safety reasons.*

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



## Itinerary

**Day 1:** Arrive Huaraz (3090m)

**Day 2:** Acclimatisation hike to Wilkawain Ruins (highest point 3450m)



**Day 3:** Acclimatisation hike to Laguna Urus (4400m)



**Day 4:** Acclimatisation Hike to Laguna Ahuacocha (4560m)





## Quillqueyhuanca Trek & Maparaju Climb

### **Day 5: Drive to Pitec & Hike up Quillqueyhuanca Valley to Camp**

Drive for an hour from Huaraz to Pitec (3750m). An easy walk up the valley Quebrada Quilcayhuanca to camp at the top of the valley at Olivos at the base of Andavite mountain (4250m). 4 hours. In the afternoon hike up to the glacial lake of Laguna Tullpacocha (4350m) and then return back to camp.



*Olivos Campsite*



*Tullpacocha Lake*

### **Day 6: Hike to Laguna Cullichacocha Lake & Relocate to Cayesh Valley**

We continue with acclimatisation by hiking up to Cullichacocha Lake at 4500 m in the morning. In the afternoon we move our camp into the Cayesh Valley (4400m) situated at the base of Maparaju Mountain.

### **Day 7: Climb Maparaju 5350m**



*Cayesh Valley , Maparaju is on the right*

First we climb steeply up the valley side for about 3 hours on rock and scree to reach the glacier. The climb to the summit is mixed with some moderate slopes and steep sections of between 45° to 50°. From the summit are spectacular views of Cayesh & Huansan. Descend back to our camp in the Cayesh Valley. 10 to 11 hours for the day

**Day 8:** Return hiking back down Quillqueyhuanca Valley to Pitec where our private van will be waiting & return to Huaraz

**Day 9: REST DAY** in Huaraz. Prepare for Alpamayo Climb

### **Alpamayo Climb**

#### **Day 10: Drive Huaraz to Cashapampa. Hike the Santa Cruz Valley to Llamacorral Camp**

We drive 2½ hours from Huaraz to the village of Cashapampa (2900m) where we meet our donkey drivers. Approaching Cashapampa we have our first view of Santa Cruz, the huge pyramid shaped mountain that gives the trekking circuit its name. We climb up through the Santa Cruz Valley, following the river. The first 2 hours we are in a steep sided river gorge and can be quite hard as we are climbing continuously up, and when the sun is out it is hot here. But later the valley opens out to *puna* grassland and is flatter and cooler as we approach our first camp. We camp near the river at Llamacorral (3750m). 4 to 5 hours.



*Jatuncocha Lake*

#### **Day 11: To Alpamayo Base Camp**

We begin with an easier walk up the open, U-shaped Quebrada Santa Cruz valley, following the Santa Cruz trail towards the impressive snow covered peak of Taulliraju. During the hike up the valley we glimpse the towering pyramid of Santa Cruz mountain and then the twin peaks of Quitaraju and the famous Alpamayo come into view. We walk past two lakes; first the small Ichiccocha then the larger Jatuncocha. We then leave the main Santa Cruz trail and climb for 40 minutes on a steep zig-zag path to enter the hanging Quebrada Arhuaycocha valley and continue with a relaxed hike up the valley to Alpamayo Base Camp (4300m). 4 to 5 hours.



*Alpamayo*

**Day 12: Rest Day or Bad Weather Day**

Today is a **rest day**. While porters carry equipment up to the high camp on Alpamayo. You can take a short walk up to the beautiful glacial Laguna Arhuaycocha lake, nestled at the base of Rinrijra. Often there is ice floating on the lake.

Or use this day as a **bad weather day**.

**Or** there is an option to continue up to an Intermediate camp **Morena Camp** today instead of going direct from Base Camp to High Camp in a single day

### **Day 13: Climb to Alpamayo High Camp**

To High Camp. The first 3 hours is a testing climb on steep and slippery moraine rock until we reach the ice. We then climb up average 45 deg up an ice gully to reach the bottom of an ice cliff. Some years there is about 150m to 200m of 70deg. ice to climb to arrive at the top of an ice cliff, and we may fix ropes on this section. Some years there are crevasses that have opened up on the glacier which we must either negotiate our way around or jump across. The High Camp (5450m) is situated at the top of the ice cliff between Alpamayo & Quitaraju. 6 to 7 hours.



*High Camp, Quitaraju is behind*

### **Day 14: High Camp to Alpamayo summit & back**

We leave camp early and climb on sometimes steep soft snow slopes for about an hour to a bergschrund at the bottom of the southwest face; sometimes there are crevasses to negotiate here.

The climb on the southwest face to the summit is steep and technical, with mixed good snow and hard ice. 7 or 8 pitches are needed to reach the summit. The first two pitches are on good snow (55° - 65°) and then it gets steeper with good ice of 65° - 85°.

Depending on the level of experience of clients, and the number of clients, a fixed rope may or may not be used. The climb to the summit takes about 5 hours. The descent is by the same route, and takes up to 7 to 8 rappels. Return to sleep at High Camp. The whole day is 8 to 9 hours.





**Day 15: High Camp to Base Camp**

Return to Base Camp. It is necessary to make a rappel of 150m to 200m close to the camp to descend the ice cliff. The last 1½ hours to the camp is on steep and slippery rock. 5 to 6 hours for the day. A celebration dinner will be waiting for us at Base Camp.

**Day 16: Base Camp direct to Cashapampa & drive to Huaraz**

A long but easy walk down the Quebrada Santa Cruz to return to Cashapampa. 6 to 7 hours. Our private van will be waiting in Cashapampa to return us to Huaraz.

**Day 17: REST DAY** in Huaraz & prepare for Huascarán Climb

**Huascarán climb**

**Day 18: Huaraz to Musho by Road. Hike to Huascarán Base Camp**

Drive 1½ hours from Huaraz down the Callejón de Huaylas Valley, then up to Musho (3150m), where we load our gear onto donkeys and start hiking to Huascarán Base Camp. Today we only carry a light day pack as all the other gear and climbing equipment will be on donkeys. We start hiking gradually up through farmland and stands of Eucalyptus trees for 1½ hours and then we hike up more steeply on a zig zag track through native Ichu grass to Base Camp (4350m). 4 hours total hike.



*Hike to Base Camp*

**Day 19: Base Camp to High Camp 1**

From here onwards we have to carry all equipment in backpacks. We start by climbing through rock slabs and large moraine boulders, at times steeply, for 3 hours until we reach the ice. Thereafter it's a



fairly steady climb on ice for 2 more hours to High Camp 1 (5260m). Porters carry tents, food and ropes but you need to carry your personal gear, climbing gear, clothes and sleeping bag.

**Day 20: High Camp 1 to High Camp 2**

The route to High Camp 2 is the most dangerous part of the ascent (& descent), with the possibility of serac avalanches and with crevasse fields to negotiate. We leave early (05:00 a.m.) while the ice is still hard and we move quickly in some areas. Near to the *Garganta* (Throat) between Huascarán Sur and Norte there are usually 2 large crevasses to negotiate. There is approximately 45 minutes of steep and technical climbing & you may have to ice climb 55 deg. to 65 deg. up the walls on the far side of the crevasses. 5 to 6 hours to High Camp 2 (6000m).



*Negotiating the Garganta*



*Approaching High Camp 2*

*High Camp 2*

**Day 21: High Camp 2 to Summit and Back**

We leave at 1 am to climb to the summit. We first have to negotiate our way around or jump across some large crevasses, and then we have some nice climbing on the large glacier with good snow and not-too-steep gradients for a while before coming to some steeper sections of 50 deg. to 65 deg which have some traverses with exposed climbing before another long steady hike to the summit. Care is required, though, because there are crevasses all the way to the top. Time to the summit is usually 7 to 8 hours. We return to High Camp 2 with some rappels. An 11 to 12 hour day.



*The Descent*

**Day 22: High Camp 2 to Base Camp**

Depart camp at 05:00am climbing down to Base Camp by the same route as we ascended. 6 to 7 hours. A celebration dinner will be awaiting us at Base Camp.

**Day 23: Base Camp to Musho. Vehicle back to Huaraz**

Walk to Musho (3 hours). Meet our vehicle for drive back to Huaraz.

**OPTIONAL:** Add an extra day to Huascarán program for either a rest day or bad weather day (Needs to be booked in advance so the guide and crew can be confirmed for the extra day)

***The ultimate decision about whether a route is safe to climb, or whether an alternative route must be found, or at worst that it is not safe to continue, will be made by the Peruvian Andes Adventures guide.***

**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.

**Copy:**

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