



PERUVIAN ANDES ADVENTURES

CLIMBING COURSE & SUMMITS

Duration: 12 or 13 Days

Grade: Hard, good fitness required

Options: For beginner to experienced level climbers

For the mountaineering experience of a lifetime!

We combine an intensive mountaineering instruction course with climbing two follow up summits in the Peruvian Andes.

There is the option to attempt the summit of a 6000m peak which is the ultimate goal of many climbers coming to the Peruvian Andes.



You will be instructed & extended to achieve your goals and surpass them by our local experienced & professional UIAGM International Mountain Guide / Instructor(s).



ACCLIMATISATION & FITNESS

It is important that you are well acclimatised to the altitude before attempting to climb any peaks in the Cordillera Blanca to avoid 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. It is very important to be already well acclimatized before starting this program. We always recommend a trek of minimum 4 to 6 days or a series of day hikes out of Huaraz for acclimatisation and extra fitness.

We can organise a trek or day hikes for you if you have not already organised your own independent trek.

It is necessary to carry all equipment up to the camps on the mountains. Our crew carry the tents, food & equipment, but you need to carry your own personal belongings, climbing gear, sleeping bag and have a backpack large enough for this. Our crew will carry as much of your climbing gear as they can manage also.

This will be a physically demanding hard climbing program and you need to be well acclimatized and generally fit & strong with good endurance.

THE PEAKS & OPTIONS:

We base our instruction course and then the follow up summits in two different areas, with the intention of allowing you to enjoy a variety of locations, scenery and having a grand overview of Cordillera Blanca mountaineering opportunities.

The mountains that we base our course and follow up summits are:

Instruction Course: Vallunaraju 5686m (18655 ft) at summit

Vallunaraju is easily accessed from Huaraz and with a wide variety of rock, ice forms, slopes, ice walls and crevasses is an ideal site for a climbing course and it is also where the Peruvian Mountain Guides come for training courses and to practice.

Basing your instruction close to Huaraz allows the opportunity to return to Huaraz for a couple of nights rest & recreation (and hot showers) before departing for the two summits trip.



Climbing on Vallunaraju

CLIMBING INSTRUCTION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS on Vallunaraju:

The course descriptions outlined below are general only. We will 'tailor' make a course for you depending on your level of experience and which skills you may particularly wish to practice, and also the mix between rock and ice climbing that you would like and the number of days that you have available.

We will discuss with you during our email correspondence to assess the type and level of instruction you will benefit from. We will also have a meeting with you and your guide when you arrive in Huaraz to discuss your previous experience and things you will like to achieve from your course so that we and your guide can design a course especially tailored to your needs and aspirations.

BEGINNERS INSTRUCTION COURSE 5 DAYS



This course is an ideal introduction to mountaineering.

At the end of your course you should have the skills & confidence to travel glaciated terrain, be able to attempt non technical "trekking peaks" and have confidence to be guided on more technical climbs.

Instruction will cover these topics and exact course content will vary depending on your previous experience & skills, fitness level, weather conditions & your "wish list" of particular topics you will like to cover in the course.

- *equipment & preparation for a climbing trip
- *knots
- *roping up
- *using crampons and ice axe
- *step and stance cutting
- *self arrest practise
- *safe glacier travel
- *rappel & abseil
- *belay
- *placing snow & ice anchors, ice screw
- *awareness of terrain
- *weather theory
- *navigation, route finding & safety, travel in bad weather
- *map reading
- *avalanche awareness
- *basic crevasse rescue techniques
- *introduction to ice climbing
- *emergency shelters

INTERMEDIATE INSTRUCTION COURSE 5 DAYS



This is a comprehensive & intensive mountaineering course that extends the skills taught in the beginners course with intensive practise of the skills you already have & includes more advanced rescue techniques, ice climbing and introduction to lead climbing.

The objective is for you to finish the course with the skills & confidence to travel on almost all alpine terrain safely. For this course you need to already have basic climbing techniques including roping up for glacier travel, confidence using crampons & ice axe, operate a belay and build simple anchors.

Instruction will cover these topics and exact course content will vary depending on your previous experience & skills, fitness level, weather conditions & your "wish list" of particular topics you will like to cover in the course.

- *equipment
- *trip planning & preparation
- *revision of knots
- *glacier travel
- *snow & ice wall climbing, including steep ice climbing techniques
- *belay systems & techniques
- *alternatives for snow, ice & rock anchors
- *advanced rope techniques
- *crevasse rescue, including several different systems for crevasse extraction
- *self rescue, abseiling with an injured partner, hauling systems
- *route finding
- *leading climbs
- *mountain navigation, including white out navigation
- *weather
- *avalanche hazard evaluation
- *emergency shelters & mountain bivvy

ADVANCED COURSES:



This is a climbing course for experienced climbers.

Emphasis is placed on instruction taking place up on the mountain and in the participants making the decisions and controlling the climbing & rescues – under the close supervision of our UIAGM instructor. You will be working on routes and put into situations that will challenge you but also allow you to learn new skills & refine your techniques.

This course is suitable for:

- * Climbers with solid alpine experience, but little or no formal instruction
- * Previous climbing course participants needing to refresh & extend their technical knowledge.

After the course you should be competent in climbing on serious terrain, have sound knowledge on latest rope skills & climbing techniques and be confident to lead climb as well as competently carry out a crevasse rescue

Course content includes:

- * steep ice climbing techniques
- * alternatives for anchors
- * advanced crevasse rescue
- * practise with self rescue, abseiling with an injured partner, rescue & evacuation from the mountain, hauling systems etc
- * advanced rope techniques, including ridge travel & running belays
- * avalanche hazard evaluation
- * whiteout navigation
- * emergency shelters
- * leading pitches

Access to Vallunaraju Mountain (Morena) Camp:

It is necessary to carry all equipment from the vehicle up to the camp on Vallunaraju. 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. You can request to hire a private porter to carry your equipment up to the camp & return

FOLLOW UP SUMMITS

We have several options:

TWIN PEAKS ADVENTURE: 12 Days

***Pisco 5530m (18875ft)**

***Yanapaccha 5460m (17913 ft)**

Pisco & Yanapaccha are both accessed from the Llanganuco Valley where we also find the famous twin lakes of Llanganuco.

Pisco is a great follow up peak to the climbing instruction course, and then we finish with the more technically challenging Yanapaccha. After completion of this instruction course and two follow up peaks you should be equipped with good basic climbing skills & be ready to progress to more technical climbing

Pisco 5750m (18875 ft)

Grade: PD / Moderate snow climbs – Beginner suitable – Physically hard

Pisco is a rewarding climb for both beginner & experienced climbers.

In most years, there is no technical climbing on Pisco. There sometimes can be short steep sections or some hard ice or a crevasse to navigate around in some years depending on conditions & these will be ideal places to practice your newly acquired climbing skills. From the summit you are rewarded with magnificent views of the many surrounding peaks, including the massive Huascarán at 6768m - the highest mountain in Peru.



Pisco

Yanapaccha 5460m (17913 ft)

Grade: AD- / Some steep climbing

Yanapaccha is situated adjacent to popular Pisco, but is much less well known than Pisco and is less frequented by climbers.

It is a moderately difficult climb with some steep sections, with a slope of up to 65 deg. to reach the summit.

Yanapaccha is not suitable for first time climbers, but an ideal follow up practise peak for novice climbers who have received instruction.



Yanapaccha

Itinerary 12 Days:

Day 1: Instruction Course Starts / Vallunaraju

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 Ocshapalca snowpeak (5888m), the town of Huaraz and, away to the west, the Cordillera Negra. From Morena Camp at night, the lights of Huaraz way below are magical. In the afternoon we have an explanation of climbing equipment and practise knots.

Days 2, 3, 4: Instruction

Instruction days on Vallunaraju Glacier, based from Vallunaraju Morena Camp. Instruction will be tailored to your individual level of experience and goals

Day 5: Vallunaraju Summit Climb & Return to Huaraz

Either climb to the summit of Vallunaraju or have an extra day instruction. Return to Huaraz late in the afternoon.



Day 6: REST DAY in Huaraz & prepare your equipment for the summit climbs.

Pisco & Yanapaccha Summits:

Day 7: Drive Huaraz to Cebollapampa and Ascend on Foot to Pisco Base Camp

We drive from Huaraz down the broad Callejón de Huaylas to Yungay, enjoying the changing vegetation as we go. Here we turn east and ascend to the Huascarán National Park and Cebollapampa 3850m (2½

hours), passing the famous twin lakes of Llanganuco en route. At Cebollapampa, our gear is loaded onto the donkeys and we climb on a good path for 2½ hours to Pisco Base Camp (4650m). There is a refugio there where you can buy beer, wine and hot food.

Day 8: Carry Kit from Pisco Base Camp to Morena Camp

Today is a short but challenging day. We climb to Morena Camp (4900m), crossing loose ground and negotiating large moraine rocks at times. The donkeys cannot come this way, so you need to carry your personal gear: climbing gear, clothes and sleeping bag. Some assistance in the transportation of tents and food would also be appreciated. The ground today is uneven and rocky, and the hike commences with a steep but short hike up to the top of the moraine wall and then a short but tricky & steep descent down the other side. The rest of the way is a mixture of good path with some demanding clambering over moraine rocks and loose ground. 3 hours.

Day 9: Morena Camp to Pisco Summit and Back to Base Camp

Summit Day. We leave early and climb for about 40 minutes to an hour on moraine until we reach the glacier, where we put on crampons and rope up. For most of the route, it is not overly steep or technically difficult, although the altitude does make it a challenge. There are occasional short steep sections and hard ice, or possibly a crevasse, may need to be negotiated. Also note that since 2009 there has been a steep (60 deg.) slope of some 30m to the summit. We will of course assist you with any difficulties. We try to arrive at the summit to see the sun rise. About 5 hours to the broad summit where there is plenty of room to walk around, appreciate the amazing surrounding mountains and take photos.

From the summit you can enjoy fantastic views of the close-by peaks; many among the tallest in the Cordillera Blanca, including Huascarán (6768m), Chopicalqui (6354m), Huandoy (6160m), Chacaraju (6012m), Pirámide (5885m) and Artesonraju (6025m).

We descend to Morena Camp, where we will prepare hot soup and have an hour's rest, collect our gear and return to Base Camp. 9 to 12 hours for the day.

Day 10: Descend to Cebollapampa & Afternoon Rest

An easy descent down to the large flat campsite next to the river at Cebollapampa 1½ hours where we camp & rest for the afternoon.

Day 11: Drive to Yanapaccha Trailhead / Ascend via Grass & Moraine to Camp

From camp at Cebollapampa we drive half hour up an impressive zigzag road towards the Portachuelo de Llanganuco Pass. Some 200 metres below the pass we stop at a hairpin bend known as the "Curva" (4580m) and unload backpacks & equipment.

From here, we hike towards Yanapaccha Morena Camp, carrying our backpacks as we traverse and climb gradually on a faint trail, sometimes over grass and then over moraine rock for about 3 to 3 ½ hours until we reach the campsite (5000m).

Day 12: Climb to Summit. Descend via Morena Camp to Road Head. Drive to Huaraz

We leave very early in the morning, first crossing large moraine rock for about 20 minutes until we gain the glacier. Here we put on crampons and rope up. The initial ascent onto the glacier is usually a steep 45 deg. ice climb for up to 35 to 45m before reaching more gentle gradients on the glacier with slopes of 30 deg. to 40 deg. We negotiate a large crevasse field to arrive at the west face of Yanapaccha, which we climb to the summit. The final 200m to the summit is at a steep 65 deg. Depending on clients' confidence; we may fix a rope on certain sections. About 3 to 4 rappels are required during the descent. We return to Morena Camp (about 7 to 8 hours for the climb & return) and then, having eaten some lunch and broken camp, we walk back by the same path back to the road (2 more hours' hiking) where our private vehicle will be waiting to take us back to Huaraz.



Having Fun on Yanapaccha

[6000m CHALLENGE: 12 Days](#)

* **Ishinca 5530m**

* **Tocllaraju 6034m**

The ambition of many climbers is to be able to reach the summit of a 6000m peak. We give you the opportunity to realise this dream by taking you into the Ishinca Valley, with first a warm up climb of 5530m Ishinca and then to the ultimate challenge of 6034m Tocllaraju.

Your 5 day intensive instruction will give you skills & confidence to tackle a BIG mountain with some technical steep climbing

Ishinca: 5530m (18143 ft)

Grade: PD- / Moderate , Beginner Suitable

Ishinca is a rewarding climb for both experienced and beginner climbers, with long, enjoyable slopes of good snow. Most of the route is neither very steep nor technical. Some years, there can be short, steep sections of hard ice which can be more difficult to navigate for beginner climbers. This would depend on current conditions. Climbing Ishinca gives you extra confidence and strength before the ultimate challenge of the 6000m Tocllaraju

Tocllaraju: 6034m (19797 ft)

Grade: D / Hard / Some steep & technical climbing

Tocllaraju has some sections of steep and technical climbing and previous experience or instruction climbing on snow and ice with crampons and ice axe, and experience with belay techniques is required. Tocllaraju is not a suitable climb for clients who do not have good basic climbing skills but is an ideal peak for clients who have completed an intensive instruction course.

There are about 5 large crevasses during the route, which during the *2013 season* were safely negotiated via secure snow bridges or by jumping over them. However, the conditions of these snow bridges may alter and the guide may make a decision to try to find an alternative route to negotiate around crevasses.

The final shoulder summit of Tocllaraju involves more technical climbing with some open crevasses to be climbed through with 2 or 3 short pitches of 30° to 45° degrees ice climbing required. After the crevasses the final obstacle is a steep and exposed bergschrund lasting around 65m with grades 60° to 70°. The guide may set up a fixed rope to climb the bergschrund. Once at the top of the bergschrund there is a gentle walk on nice snow to the summit.



Tocllaraju

Itinerary 12 Days:

Day 1: Instruction Course Starts / Vallunaraju

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 Ocshapalca snowpeak (5888m), the town of Huaraz and, away to the west, the Cordillera Negra. From Morena Camp at night, the lights of Huaraz way below are magical. In the afternoon we have an explanation of climbing equipment and practise knots.

Days 2, 3, 4: Instruction

Instruction days on Vallunaraju Glacier, based from Vallunaraju Morena Camp. Instruction will be tailored to your individual level of experience and goals

Day 5: Vallunaraju Summit Climb & Return to Huaraz

Either climb to the summit of Vallunaraju or have an extra day instruction. Return to Huaraz late in the afternoon.



Climbing Class on Vallunaraju

Day 6: Rest Day in Huaraz & prepare for climbing Ishinca & Tocllaraju

Ishinca & Tocllaraju Climbs

Day 7: Drive from Huaraz to Pashpa or Collón. Hike to Ishinca Base Camp

We drive 1½ hours from Huaraz to the village of either Pashpa or Collón (3400m). We then walk up the Quebrada Ishinca valley on a gently rising path to our camp at the head of the valley. This is a lovely walk, starting on a plateau with views of Huascarán, then passing through beautiful Quenual (polylepis sp.) forest. As we walk up the valley, it opens out, and we see Tocllaraju ahead. Ishinca Base Camp is at 4390m. 5 to 6 hours.

Day 8: Climb Ishinca

Today we climb Ishinca. We leave camp at 3am and undertake a steady climb, initially on a good path to Lake Ishinca (2½ to 3 hours). Then we continue hiking over more demanding, steep moraine rock until we reach the glacier. We put on crampons and rope up then climb the north face of Ishinca, a steady slope, not too steep overall, although with a few short steeper sections. The final 40 metres to the summit, however, is on a gradient of some 50 deg. Some years, depending on the condition of the glacier, there can be some hard ice, especially at the glacial face to climb up onto the start of the glacier. It's about 3 to 3½ hours on the ice to the summit. Depending on conditions on the mountain, we may instead climb the East face of Ishinca, approaching from the Ranrapalca glacier. This side is also a medium climb and suitable for novice climbers. Return the same way to Base Camp. 9 to 12 hours, depending on fitness.

Day 9: Rest Day or bad weather day

Day 10: Base Camp to Tocllaraju Morena Camp

We leave Base Camp mid-morning, carrying all our equipment, and climb to Tocllaraju High Camp. It is a steep climb on a moraine ridge and across large moraine rocks for 3 to 4 hours to where we set up our camp on the moraine immediately below the glacier at Morena Camp (5300m).

Day 11: Tocllaraju Morena Camp to Tocllaraju summit and descend to Base camp

We leave camp early (around 1 or 2am) to climb to the summit. From the Morena Camp there is steady and pleasant climbing which is not very steep for the first 3 ½ hours. We come to the first large crevasse *which in 2013 season was able to be crossed*. We then negotiate a steep section of 60m of about 70 to 45 degrees slope.



We then climb steadily and not too steeply along a ridge until we reach a second large crevasse at the start of the north ridge of Tocllaraju. We cross the crevasse by another snow bridge, then continue to a steep bergschrund of up to 70 degrees and about 65m in length; this marks the start of the summit climb, and feels quite exposed. The guide will fix a rope for climbing this section.



Climbing the Bergschrund

After reaching the top of the bergschrund it is a relaxing snow hike to the summit. From the summit we descend with several rappels, collect our things from Moraine Camp and descend to Base Camp. From 12 to 14 hours for the day.

Day 12: Return to Huaraz

Walk down the Ishinca Valley to Pashpa (4 hours) and return to Huaraz in our private van

[CHOPICALQUI EXPEDITION: 13 Days](#)

**CHOPICALQUI 6354m (20847 ft)
with Yanapaccha Climb**

For those looking for the extra challenge of a multi day expedition climbing one of the biggest peaks in the Cordillera Blanca

Grade: Hard, some technical climbing required

13 Days required including rest day in Huaraz (12 days climbing)

Chopicalqui, at 6354m, is sometimes referred to as the "third peak of Huascarán". It is a demanding peak to climb, with sections of steep ice climbing. A high standard of fitness and strength is necessary. Chopicalqui is not a suitable peak for beginner climbers but a great peak for strong clients who have finished a climbing course and are looking for a physically demanding challenge. From the summit climbers are rewarded with tremendous views of the surrounding peaks of Huascarán, Yanapaccha, Chacaraju, Pisco and Huandoy, as well as Contrahierbas, Ulta, Hualcan and many others.

The route begins following a major glacier uphill, then steepens onto a broad ridge with route-finding skills needed to avoid crevasses and seracs. Higher up the ridge narrows and steepens, and while it is not highly technical it is exposed in some places.

Most of the climb is on snow slopes of 40 to 50 deg. but there is a section of about 200m with slopes of up to 65deg. with belayed climbing on snow and ice necessary some years.



Chopicalqui from Base Camp

Chopicalqui climb is suitable for climbers with good fundamental alpine climbing and glacier travel skills; rope work and cramponing on steep / frozen snow & hard ice, and with good belay techniques. Some years there may be sections of steep ice climbing requiring use of two technical ice picks and previous experience with this is recommended.

Fitness: This is a physically tough program, with intensive climbing instruction followed by climbing two challenging peaks. The Chopicalqui climb especially is physically hard and with sections of technical climbing: - you require a good level of fitness, strength and endurance to consider this program

Day 1: Vallunaraju Base Camp for climbing instruction & afternoon instruction

Day 2: Climbing Instruction

Day 3: Climbing Instruction

Day 4: Climbing instruction

Day 5: Climb to Summit of Vallunaraju OR an extra day instruction & return to Huaraz (hotel)

Day 6: Huaraz. REST DAY (hotel)

Day 7: Hike to Yanapaccha Morena Camp from the "Curva".

Day 8: Climb Yanapaccha & Relocate to Chopicalqui Base Camp

We leave very early in the morning, first crossing large moraine rock for about 30 minutes until we gain the glacier. Here we put on crampons and rope up. The initial ascent onto the glacier is usually a steep ice climb for up to 45m before reaching the glacier with slopes varying from 45 deg. to 60 deg. We negotiate a large crevasse field to arrive at the west face of Yanapaccha. From here we make a traverse to a bergschrund where we have to climb steeply for 15m on a gradient of 65 deg. to 70deg. to arrive at the summit ridge which we follow to the summit. The final pitch to the summit is at 35 to 40 deg. Depending on clients' experience and confidence, we may fix a rope on certain sections. About one 20m rappel is required during the descent.

We return back to Morena Camp (about 7 to 8 hours for the climb & return) and then after having some lunch and packing up the camp, we walk back the same path back to the road (2 hours hike) We then follow the road for down about 40 minutes before taking a short cut another 20 minutes direct to Base Camp Chopicalqui 4430m. A full base camp is set up – with cook tent, dining tent with table and chairs, toilet tent and fresh food so that you can have a relaxing well deserved rest day with some great food tomorrow.

Day 9: REST DAY at Chopicalqui Base Camp

Day 10: Carry Gear from Chopicalqui Base Camp to Moraine Camp

This is a demanding day as we now have to carry all equipment - tents, food and kit - and climb through moraine boulders. We climb up the rocky ridge for an hour and then traverse the other side of the ridge and climb more steeply over large moraine rocks to Morena (Moraine) Camp (4820m). 5 to 6 hours.

Day 11: Moraine Camp to High Camp

Today we set off on a steady climb up loose moraine rock for 1½ hours before reaching the glacier. We need to cross the first ½ hour on the ice early and quickly to avoid falling rocks. There follows some 3 to 4 hours of steady climbing on up to 30 deg. of crevassed snow slopes which we'll negotiate carefully to avoid the crevasses (sometimes we will cross the crevasses). Eventually we reach High Camp, on snow, at 5380m.



Climbing to High Camp

Day 12: High Camp to Chopicalqui Summit. Down to High or Moraine Camp

Climb to the summit. The first 2 to 3 hours are steady climbing. There are crevasses and seracs to avoid as we climb 30 to 50 deg. slopes to the summit shoulder. From the summit shoulder the difficulty of climbing is mixed. There are some easy 45 deg. slopes, there may be a large crevasse to cross - then up to 55 deg. climbing on the ridge with some short, steep ice walls to climb. In the half way point to the summit there is a demanding 120m with some steep & technical climbing and a series of pitches from 55m to 60m in length and grades from 65 deg up to about 85 deg at the steepest. And very close to the summit there is a 7m technical climb from 75 to 85 deg. There is a large crevasse near the summit to negotiate and then we are high on the summit at 6354m. From the summit we descend back by climbing and abseiling to High Camp; if you are feeling strong, we can continue back down to Moraine Camp. From 10 to 13 hours for the day.



Climbing Chopicalqui

Day 13: To the Road, then Vehicle back to Huaraz

Descend to Base Camp - 5 to 6 hours - then return to the road head and on to Huaraz in our private vehicle.

Important Note / Safety:

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 is 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.

If at the time of your climbing expedition, information received from previous groups indicates unstable or difficult conditions, we may recommend an alternative climb.

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.

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