

PERUVIAN ANDES ADVENTURES

OLLEROS : CARHUASCANCHA : CHAVIN TREK

6 days (7 day option and also 5 day option)

Grade: Medium

Highest Point: 4850m

Note: The Chavin Ruins are not open on Mondays, if you are planning a trek with a visit to Chavin, plan the trek dates so you do not finish in Chavin on a Monday



Our Olleros Carhuascansha trek is a magical journey into a remote and beautiful unspoilt area of the Cordillera Blanca not known to many other trekking groups. We follow an ancient pre Inca route and are treated to fantastic mountain views, waterfalls many small crystal blue mountain lakes and traditional Andean mountain villages where there are no roads and very little contact with foreign tourists and trekkers.

On the return to Huaraz from the finish of the trek we stop first to visit the new and modern museum where we will have an insight into the technologically and culturally advanced Chavin Culture the oldest major culture in Peru existing from around 1000 to 300 BC. Then we go on to the archaeological site of Chavín de Huántar which was the administration and religious centre of the Chavín culture,. The site of Chavín de Huántar is an incredible feat of engineering, with most of the construction being built underground in an extensive labyrinth of interconnecting chambers, tunnels, ventilation ducts and water canals.



Chavin

Peter from the USA: Having done treks in the Cuzco and Abancay region, I have to say that this little Cordilleras Blancas trip was my favourite And the Morales brothers were by far the most professional operators I worked with. Chavin de Huantar is absolutely worth visiting--it essentially provides the cultural template for understanding much of where Incan cosmology/architecture originated from.

This trek offers an exciting mix of trekking through beautiful remote countryside with local culture and ancient history. If you would like to escape away from the busier more well know tourist trails into a remote area with hidden delights, then you will enjoy this trek.



Tumarina Lake (Day 5 of Trek)

Although we grade the trek as moderate, the high altitude makes the hiking harder than a similar trek at lower altitude. You do need to be well acclimatised to the altitude and have a reasonable fitness level, and be comfortable hiking on large hills to enjoy this trek. There are some longer days but these are mixed with shorter easier days for recovery – making this a great trek option for those who do not feel confident to tackle the tougher Cordillera Blanca trek routes.

Adam / UK said: "We really enjoyed our trek. This was our first ever "trekking" holiday & we feel after our experience that we would like to do more"

Day A: Arrive Huaraz 3090m

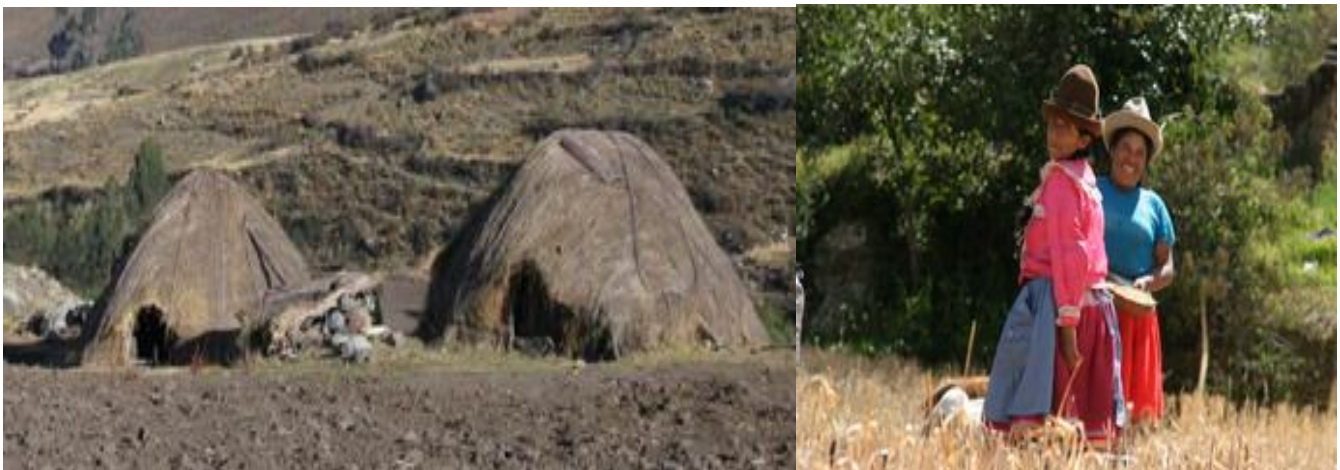
Day B & C: Huaraz. Day Hikes for acclimatisation

Day 1: Huaraz to Olleros Village & Sacracancho

We drive 45 minutes from Huaraz past the village of Olleros, where the majority of houses are constructed of adobe with thatched roofs to the start of the trail at Quisuar 3686m where our gear is loaded onto donkeys and horses and we start trekking. The walking today is fairly easy, following an ancient pre Inca pathway up the vast wide valley. At the beginning we pass through stands of Eucalyptus trees hiking up the valley Quebrada Uquian gently gaining altitude all the time and then open pampas with mountain grass (icho). Almost immediately we start to see the small dome shaped straw shepherds huts & after an hour of relaxed hiking we have our first views of the snow capped peaks of Shaqsha 5632m and Cashan 5716m. Our first camp is at the head of the valley at Sacracancho 4120m.

Approx 9kms

5 ½ hours



Local Huts & Traditional Life



Beautiful Day One Hiking- Vast Sacracancho

Day 2: Sacracansha over Pass Punta Yanashallash to Shongo Valley

We make a long but not steep ascent to our first pass Punta Yanashallash 4700m. During the climb up to the pass we may meet some local families with their small flocks of sheep & a few cows and we see for the first time the ancient Quenual trees that only grow in high altitude. We are treated to close views of the glacier coming from Uruashraju 5722m and many small lakes in the valley below. We pass a lake Laguna Huamanpinta just before reaching the top of the pass, and then we descend on a good path for around 2 to 2½ hours to our camp Jato in the valley at Shongo 3850m. In the Shongo valley we may meet local people and children caring for their animals, and often we see young women wearing hats beautifully decorated with flowers.

Approx. 14kms

7 to 8 hours hiking slowly.



Pass Punta Yanashallash



Local Shepherdess at Top of the Pass

Day 3: Shongo Valley to Castillo

We continue our trek heading down for about an hour and a half through the Shongo Valley. On the way we will be greeted by many local kids and families. We then cross into the valley Quebrada Alhuina with its cascading waterfalls and beautiful small lakes and enjoy relaxed undulating hiking. . We pass by small plots of farmland and typical Andean mountain homes and then the massive snow covered peak of Huantsan 6395m comes into view dominating the skyline before making a steep hike for one hour up to our next campsite. We camp at Castillo 4350m. (Note: If you want to bring some pens,

pencils, note books, maybe some small children's fleeces to give to the families we meet, they would be gratefully appreciated)
Approx. 12kms
5 to 6 hours



Huntsan Dominates the Skyline



Quebrada Alhuina

Day 4: Castillo over Portachuelo Pass to Rimarima

A shorter easier day today. We start with a slow climb on a good path for 2½ hours to the pass of Portachuelo 4850m from where we are treated of splendid views of the mountains of Huantsan and Pamparaju and several small lakes. We descend easily through a lovely valley surrounded by granite rock mountains and arrive at our next camp at Rimarima 4300m. During the hike today we have the opportunity to see many of the intriguing beautiful Rima Rima plants and often many of them are in flower.

Approx. 6kms

About 4 to 5 hours.

If you arrive at camp early, there may be time to hike to visit a lake Llanganuco (about 3 or 4 hours return) or enjoy a restful afternoon in the sun at the camp.



OPTIONAL EXTRA DAY



We can stay at beautiful Rimarima Campsite an extra night and take a relaxing hike for the day up to the spectacular lake Laguna Llanganuco where we can enjoy a picnic lunch. Often we can find some of the rare Rima Rima flowers in this area..



Day 5 (or 6): Rimarima to Caruascancha via Mesapata Pass

From our camp we climb up an Ichu grass covered hillside on an undefined path for about 1½ hours to the pass Mesapata 4600m. This is a spectacular day with awe inspiring views of many snow covered mountains such as Huatzan Grande and Chico, Rimarima, Maparaju and Cayesh, beautiful plants and a variety of animals and from the top of the pass we take in the view of many glacier mountain lakes like Tumarina and Tumagarañon Lakes. From the pass we have a long descent into the Carhuascancha

Valley to camp at 3930m where again we find local sheep farming families living. If you have plenty of energy, there is time on the way to take a diversion to visit a high mountain lake Maparaju.
Approx. 12kms
6 to 7 hours



Mesapata Pass



High Mountain Lakes & Glaciers

Day 6 (or 7) : To Chavin De Huantar & Return to Huaraz

We descend down the long valley Carhuascancha on a wide path to the mountain village of Yuracyacu 2964m where our private vehicle will be waiting.

Approx. 7kms hiking

We drive on a dusty route for an hour down to San Marcos & then to Chavin de Huantar where we will spend about two hours visiting the recently built Museum and then the archeological site and ruins of Chavin before we take the 3 ½ hour 109kms drive back to Huaraz, arriving around 7.00pm.



Remote Mountain Trails & Local Villages



Chavin de Huantar

Underground Passageways

5 Day Trek Option: If you are very fit, fast and well acclimatised, it is possible to do this trek in 5 days

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