



## PERUVIAN ANDES ADVENTURES

### QUILQUEYHUANCA COJUP TREK with CLIMBING ISHINCA & TOCLLARAJU

9 days trekking & climbing (plus one rest day in Huaraz)

**Grade:** Hard. Good fitness is required

#### **The Trek:**

The Quillqueyhuanca to Cojup Trek is an exciting high alpine short trek for strong hikers who want to stay away from the popular & busier Santa Cruz trails and is also an excellent acclimatisation hike for climbing expeditions to climb 6000m peaks. The trek finishes with crossing over a 5100m pass between two deep glacial valleys with amazing 360 degree mountain views



*Chocu Pass*

#### **PEAKS**

**Ishinca:** 5530m (18143 ft)

Grade: PD- / Moderate , Non technical – good acclimatisation climb

**Tocllaraju:** 6034m (19797 ft)

Grade: D / Hard / Some steep & technical climbing – not suitable for beginners

Tocllaraju has some sections of steep and technical climbing, and we recommend that clients have previous experience climbing on snow and ice with crampons and ice axe, and experience with belay techniques. Tocllaraju is not a suitable climb for clients who do not have good basic climbing skills. 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.



*Tocllaraju*

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°. Depending on clients experience & skills 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.

Ishinca is a rewarding climb with long enjoyable slopes of good snow and provides great extra acclimatisation for the 6000m Tocllaraju climb.. Most of the way is not very steep and not technical. Some years there can be short, steep sections, or some hard ice which is difficult to negotiate.

Ishinca can be climbed from two different routes. The North Face route is the left ridge as you approach the mountain and has the easiest access to reach the glacier but the actual climb is steeper with much of the climbing on 35° to 50° degrees snow and there can be some sections of hard ice. There are also many crevasses to negotiate around and a final 50m steep section to reach the summit.

The alternative option is to approach the mountain via Ranrapalca & this may be preferred by less experienced snow climbers. The hike up to the glacier is tougher with some large moraine rock to climb around, but once on the glacier it is a relatively gently and pleasant snow climb on an open ridge of 25° to 30° degrees slope. There are some small crevasses but they are easily negotiated around. Only the last 2m to 3m to the summit is steep.

***Note 1: Fitness & Acclimatisation:***

***Trek*** - This is a physically demanding trek with crossing a high alpine pass. The route ascending to and descending from the pass is steep and on unformed trails. Clients need to be physically fit and comfortable hiking in alpine conditions.

*It is important to be well acclimatised to the altitude before departing for this trek. You go up very high quickly with a camp on only the second night high at 4850m. Good acclimatisation is necessary to avoid possible altitude related illness or lethargy. It is important that you have two days in Huaraz doing day hikes to higher altitudes before departing for the trek*

**Climbing** - Tocllaraju is a physically demanding climb and a high standard of fitness & strength is necessary. We recommend that you climb Ishinca first to gain extra acclimatisation and fitness, then you should be ready to challenge the more technical Tocllaraju - maybe your first 6000m peak.

**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. 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.

**Tocllaraju** is subject to very rapid changes in the condition of the glacier and large crevasses can open up or close within a period of just a few days.

**Note 3:** Donkeys carry all equipment to Ishinca Base Camp. You carry just a light day pack during the hike in. It is necessary to carry all equipment up to Tocllaraju Morena Camp. Porters carry tents, rope, food and cooking equipment, but you need to carry your own personal gear & climbing equipment and have a backpack big enough for this.

**Note 4:** The guide in charge of your climb will be one of our local experienced & professional UIAGM International Mountain Guides.



## Itinerary

**Day A: Arrive Huaraz**

**Day B & C: Huaraz. Two Day Hikes for Acclimatisation**

**Day 1: Drive to Pitec & Hike up Quillqueyhuanca Valley**

Drive 1½ hours from Huaraz to Pitec. At Pitec we meet our donkey drivers and all equipment is loaded onto donkeys. We carry just a light day pack. An easy walk up the valley Quebrada Quillqueyhuanca to camp at the top of the valley at Olivos at the base of Andavite mountain (4250m)

In the afternoon we can hike into the valley Quebrada Cayesh, where we are very close to the glacier covered mountains San Juan, Cayesh and Chopiraju.

Approx. 12kms hiking

3 hours hike to Olivos



Quillqueyhuanca Valley



*Hiking Through Lupins Cayesh Valley*



*Olivos Campsite*

**Day 2: Olivos to Huapi Camp**

We start with a 2 hour easy hike up to visit Laguna Tullpacocha (4300m). We then follow an ascending zig zag trail climbing steadily for around 3 hours to our high campsite on a plateau at 4850m by a small lake, close to the mountain Huapi. From the campsite we are treated to close views of many snowy peaks including Huapi, and the massive 6000m+ peaks of Chinchey, Pucarranra & Huanzan.

Approx. 7kms

5 hours



*Tullpacocha Lake*



*Hiking to Camp Huapi*

**Day 3: Chocu Pass to Cojup Valley & return to Huaraz**

We leave early & ascend to the Pass Chocu 5100m. The donkeys cannot come this way but carry all the equipment back down the Quillqueyuanca Valley to Pitec from where it is sent back to our base in Huaraz. We carry just day packs. The route up to the pass offers some of the most panoramic mountain views in the Cordillera Blanca and we are surrounded by several 6000m+ peaks. There can be snow at the top of the pass, but it is not deep and is soft. The descent down from the pass is not on a well marked trail and we follow our noses & cattle trails. In places the route is steep and can be slippery, but we will go slowly and take our time. After about 2 hours descending we gratefully come to the Cojup Valley floor from where we have a pleasant flat walk down the valley following the river.

Approx. 15kms hiking

6 to 8 hours

Our vehicle is waiting at the road end & we return to Huaraz with a short 27kms one hour road journey



*Chocu Pass*



*Cojup Valley*

**Day 4: Huaraz.** Rest Day & prepare for the climbing trip

**Day 5: 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. Base Camp is at 4390m. 5 to 6 hours.



*Approaching Base Camp*



*Ishinca Base Camp*

**Day 6: 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 for the climb. Which route we climb will be decided by the guide having regard to weather, experience and fitness of the clients.

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. 9 to 12 hours for the day, depending on fitness.



*On Ishinca – Looking Across to Tocllaraju*

**Day 7: REST DAY in Ishinca Base Camp.** It is highly recommended that you have this rest day which can also be used as a reserve bad weather day, but you can choose to omit this day

**Day 8: Base Camp to Tocllaraju Morena Camp**

We leave Base Camp mid-morning, carrying all our equipment, and climb to Tocllaraju Morena 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).



*Tocllaraju Morena Camp*

**Day 9: 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 at the present time is 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 may fix a rope for climbing this section.



*Arriving At the Bergschrund*



*Climbing the Bergschrund*

*Tocllaraju Rappel*

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 10: Walk from Base Camp to Pashpa, then drive to Huaraz**

We walk down the Ishinca Valley to Pashpa (4 hours) and return to Huaraz in our private vehicle.

***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.***



*Happy Group Celebrating on Tocllaraju Summit*

**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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