



PERUVIAN ANDES ADVENTURES

OLLEROS TO CHAVIN TREK

3 days

Grade: Easy to Medium

Highest Point: 4700m



Laguna Huamanpinta

Note: *The Chavin Ruins do 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.*

For 3 days, we follow an ancient, pre-Inca pathway through a remote area of the Cordillera Blanca, a long way from the range's busier trekking circuits. As we go, we will encounter traditional communities where locals still live as their ancestors did.

The trek ends at the enigmatic archaeological site of Chavín de Huántar, the religious and administrative centre of the Chavín culture. This feline-worshipping culture thrived from around 1000 to 300 BC, making it the oldest major culture Peru ever had. Chavín de Huántar is an incredible feat of engineering, with most of the construction being underground in the form of an extensive labyrinth of interconnecting chambers, tunnels, ventilation ducts and water canals.

Our trek offers an exciting mix of hiking through beautiful and remote countryside, encounters with the local culture through meeting local people in remote communities, and ancient Andean history.

If you are looking for a short, relaxing trek away from the busier circuits, then you are sure to enjoy this cultural trekking itinerary.

Testimonials: *Olleros to Chavin Trek:*

Allan Willocks from Australia: "Overall this was an excellent trip. It was great to do a trek where the only people that we saw were the locals going about their daily lives. I am surprised that this isn't a more well known trek!"

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 something for everyone and is suitable for those looking for a less demanding itinerary. It is ideal for families and children, but also suits the more energetic type looking to stay away from busier trails.

Note: *We offer a pony trek option & a llama trek option for this trek!*



Kids Doing Pony Trek Olleros to Chavin



Llama Trek

Day A: Arrive Huaraz (3090m).

Day B & C: Huaraz. Day Hikes for acclimatisation. We recommend that two days are best for acclimatisation if you have the time, but one day minimum is essential.

Day 1: Drive from Huaraz to Quisuar. Hike from Quisuar to Sacracancha

We drive 45 minutes south from Huaraz, past the village of Olleros to the start of the trail at Quisuar (3686m). Here our gear is loaded onto donkeys and horses and we start trekking along a pre-Inca pathway. The walking today is fairly easy and sees us gently gaining altitude as we follow the wide Quebrada Uquián valley. Almost immediately we start to see traditional local homes made from thatched grass and, after an hour or so, we get views of the beautiful Shaqsha (5632m) and Cashan (5716m) snow peaks. Our first camp is at the head of the valley at Sacracancha (4080m).

Approx 9 kms

5 hours.



Traditional Homes Quebrada Uquian



Local Ladies



Quebrada Uquian



SacracanCHA

Day 2: Hike from SacracanCHA to Shongo

Today we undertake a long, but never steep, ascent to the Punta Yanashallash pass (4700m). During the climb we are treated to views of the glaciers of the nearby Nevado Uruashraju peak (5722m), as well as many small lakes in the valley below. We pass Laguna Huamanpinta lake just before reaching our high point, and the continental divide, at Punta Yanashallash pass (4700m). We then descend on a good path for around one to 1½ hours to our camp at Shongo (4088m). Nearby we may meet local adults and children grazing their livestock. It is also normal to see young women wearing hats beautifully decorated with flowers.

Approx 14km

7 to 8 hours walking slowly



Path to the Pass



On Top of the Pass

Day 3: Hike from Shongo to Chavín de Huántar. Drive back to Huaraz

Our descent is via a wide path as we pass through several traditional Andean villages with homes whose walls are made from adobe and with *Ichu* grass roofs. As we go, the massive ice-clad peak of Huantsan (6395m – second highest in the Cordillera Blanca) comes into view and dominates the skyline to the north. We then climb at low to medium gradients for around 1½ hours to a ridge from which suddenly we can look down on Chavín de Huántar below us at 3150 metres.

Approx 8 kms

5 to 6 hours.



Local Village Day 3



Huantsan



Huantsan



Inca Road

We spend the afternoon exploring the fascinating Chavín de Huántar archaeological site - at its height, the centre of a pan-Andean religious cult - then go to visit a newly-constructed nearby museum where we gain further insight into the technologically and culturally advanced Chavín culture. After our museum tour, we meet our private vehicle for the 3-hour journey over the Punta Cahuish pass (4450m) via an impressive tunnel excavated through the rock at the top of the pass and back to Huaraz.



Chavin



Underground Chamber Chavin

Walking times are hiking average time. Some clients will be faster and others slower. Kms are approximate

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