



PERUVIAN ANDES ADVENTURES

HUASCARAN SUR 6768m (22205 ft)

6 or 7 Days

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.



Huascarán as seen from Huaraz

In the past Huascarán was not been an especially technical mountain to climb and in some older guidebooks has been described as being non-technical and suitable for

beginner level climbers - but in recent years changes to the glacier have made the going more difficult and technical. 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



Huascarán Route

Note 1: *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 & technical climbing on hard ice.*

Climbers need to be experienced on steep ice, and comfortable with using ice screws, snow stakes, anchor systems and descent by rappel + have received some rescue training. *The Huascarán climb is **NOT** suitable for beginner climbers.*

Note 2: Acclimatisation & Fitness: *To climb Huascarán you need to be very well acclimatised, in good physical condition, with good fitness and stamina. On Huascarán you spend 4 days sleeping above 5000m, which is very demanding and tiring on the body. Without sufficient acclimatisation, the chances of becoming ill on the mountain are high. You may also experience a complete loss of energy and be unable to continue with the climb.*

We recommend that our Huascarán clients take at least a 4 day acclimatisation trek, followed by a 4-day climb of Pisco (5750m), for additional acclimatisation and strength. We have used this acclimatisation program with most of our past Huascarán clients and have found that it gives them excellent acclimatisation and fitness preparation for the tough days on Huascarán.

Note 3: *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 is subject to high risk of ice fall and avalanche and can also be heavily crevassed. The area between High Camp 1 and High Camp 2 known as the "caneleta and the traverse after the caneleta" is very risky due to overhanging seracs and risk of ice fall. If at the time of your climbing expedition, information received from previous groups indicates unstable and unsafe conditions, we will recommend an alternative climb for safety reasons. When planning your trip, it is best to have an alternative "Plan B" in place

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



Itinerary

Day 1: 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.



Our crew in Musho



Hike to Base Camp

Day 2: 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 where we put crampons on. Thereafter it's a fairly steady climb on ice for 2 ½ 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.



Porter

Day 3: High Camp 1 to High Camp 2

The route to High Camp 2 is the most dangerous part of the ascent (& descent), with an area of overhanging seracs that we must pass underneath and the associated possibility of serac avalanches and there are crevasse fields to negotiate. We leave early at 04:00am while the ice is still hard and we will need to 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 and there is usually a stretch of around 200m of very hard ice which we need to cross carefully

Groups need to move quickly through the area of overhanging seracs to minimize the time spent exposed to risk of ice fall.

If there is serious risk of ice fall on the day you climb the guide will make the decision for the safety of everyone to turn back & that decision must be respected

5 to 6 hours to High Camp 2 (6000m).



Negotiating the Garganta



High Camp 2

Day 4: High Camp 2 to Summit and Back

We leave at midnight 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.



Hisao Morales of Peruvian Andes Adventures on Huascaran Summit



The Descent

Day 5: High Camp 2 to Base Camp

Depart camp at 04:00am so as to be able to pass through the seracs field early and then descend all the way to Base Camp by the same route as we ascended.
6 to 7 hours descent.

A celebration dinner will be awaiting us at Base Camp.

Day 6: Base Camp to Musho. Vehicle back to Huaraz

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

OPTIONAL Day 07: RESERVE DAY for bad weather or rest

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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