



PERUVIAN ANDES ADVENTURES

PISCO CLIMB 5753m

4 Days

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

Pisco is an achievable climb for anyone who is well acclimatised and fit. It is a suitable climb for beginner climbers and is also a rewarding climb for experienced climbers.

Most years, there is no technical climbing on Pisco. Some years or months there are short, steep sections, some hard ice to negotiate or a crevasse to navigate around, but we would help you with this. Previous experience on snow and ice is not necessary. We can provide some basic instruction at Base Camp and support during the climb, but you do need to be strong to undertake this climb. From the summit you are rewarded with magnificent views of the many surrounding peaks, including the beautiful Chacaraju and massive Huascarán (6768m), the highest mountain in Peru.



Note 1: We consider the climb to be Medium to HARD because, although it is a suitable peak for beginner climbers, the altitude of 5753m does make it physically demanding. Although many guidebooks grade the climb as a "trekkers (or "trekking") peak", you are actually climbing while roped up with crampons and with an ice axe, sometimes on steep snow slopes and, of course, at high altitude. It is more difficult than similar climbs at lower altitudes. We do NOT regard any

of the peaks in the Cordillera Blanca as “trekking peaks” and all climbs involve true physically demanding mountaineering.

The route from Base Camp to Morena Camp is on steep, loose moraine rock and it is necessary to carry your gear. The climbing on the glacier is sustained with continuous uphill and sometimes steep snow climbing made very demanding by the altitude. You should only consider this climb if you are strong, with high fitness levels and able to carry a medium weight backpack on steep terrain over rocky, loose and uneven ground.

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. In some years depending on snow conditions there can be short sections of steep ice climbing or crevasses to negotiate around on Pisco. 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.

Note 3: The guide in charge of your climb will be one of our local experienced & professional UIAGM International Mountain Guides.



Note 4: Acclimatisation It is important that you are well acclimatised to the altitude before attempting to climb any peaks in the Cordillera Blanca, thus avoiding 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. We always recommend a trek of minimum 4 to 6 days for acclimatisation and extra fitness.

If you will not already be well acclimatized when you arrive in Huaraz or are not making an independent acclimatization trek, then we will be happy to recommend and organise a suitable trek for you.

Day 1: 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 carrying only a light day pack for 2½ hours to Pisco Base Camp (4650m).



Llanganuco Lakes



Pisco Base Camp, Pisco is Behind

There is a refugio there where you can buy beer, wine and hot food. **Note: If you are a novice climber, we can organize some basic instruction in the afternoon.**

Day 2: Carry Gear 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 + mattress. Porters carry tents, food, cooking equipment & ropes but you do need to carry your own equipment. 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 scrambling over moraine rocks and loose ground. 3 hours.



To Morena Camp

Day 3: 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 2013 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 where a celebration dinner will be prepared. 9 to 12 hours for the day.



Day 4: Return to Huaraz

OPTIONS for either:

Descend from Base Camp to Cebollapampa and drive back to Huaraz

It's a 1½ to 2 hour walk down to Cebollapampa, where we meet our vehicle for a 2½-hour drive back to Huaraz.

OR

Hike to Laguna 69 and then to Cebollapampa, and drive back to Huaraz

From Pisco Base Camp it is possible to make a traverse through the rock moraine around Pisco to reach the beautiful jewel blue mountain lake of Laguna 69, nestled at the base of Pisco. The hike is initially quite hard, passing through and over a lot of rock but later it becomes a nicer grassy trail, with a final tough little ascent 600m up to Laguna 69. The effort is well worth it when you are treated to magnificent views of the massive peaks Huandoy, Huascarán & Chopicalqui. Finish with a fast descent on a zig zag good track down to Cebollapampa. Depart from Pisco base camp 07:30am to 08:00am, arrive Cebollapampa about 02:00pm to 03:00pm.



Laguna 69



Chopicalqui (left) and two peaks of Huascarán

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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