



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. It is the principal objective of many of the climbers that visit the Cordillera Blanca.



Huascaran as seen from Huaraz

In the past Huascarán has not been an especially technical mountain to climb, but in recent years changes to the glacier have made the going more difficult. 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

Note 1: *Some years 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 climbing on hard ice in certain conditions. We recommend that clients have good basic climbing skills to climb Huascarán. Huascarán is NOT a suitable peak 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. Also, previous experience climbing on snow and ice is highly recommended. You should be comfortable climbing steep ice assisted by our guides and also should also be competent descending by rappel.*

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 to 6 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 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, in certain conditions and in a given year, is subject to high risk of ice fall and avalanche and can also be heavily crevassed. If at the time of your climbing expedition, information received from previous groups indicates unstable conditions, we will recommend an alternative climb for safety reasons.

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



Huascarán Route

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. Thereafter it's a fairly steady climb on ice for 2 more 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 the possibility of serac avalanches and with crevasse fields to negotiate. We leave early (05:00 a.m.) while the ice is still hard and we 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. 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 1 am 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 05:00am climbing down to Base Camp by the same route as we ascended. 6 to 7 hours. 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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