



## PERUVIAN ANDES ADVENTURES

### Climbing Two Peaks from Demanda / Llanganuco valley

#### PISCO & CHOPICALQUI CLIMBS 09 Days

or

#### YANAPACCHA & CHOPICALQUI CLIMBS 07 Days

A challenging program climbing two peaks, both conveniently accessed from the head of the Demanda Valley, location of the famous twin Llanganuco Lakes.

#### **PISCO 5753m (18875 ft)**

Grade: PD / Moderate snow climbs – 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 and it is an ideal preparation peak for the demanding Chopicalqui climb, providing extra acclimatisation and strength.

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. From the summit you are rewarded with magnificent views of the many surrounding peaks, including the beautiful Chacraraju and massive Huascarán (6768m), the highest mountain in Peru.



*Pisco*

### **YANAPACCHA 5460m (17913 ft)**

Grade: AD- / some steep climbing

Yanapaccha is located very close to popular Pisco but is much less known and less frequented by climbers than Pisco. It is a moderately difficult climb with some steep sections and a final slope of up to 65 deg. to the summit. Yanapaccha is a superb preparation peak for more technical & physically demanding climbing on Chopicalqui.



*Yanapaccha Summit*

### **CHOPICALQUI 6354m (20847 ft)**

Grade : TD / Difficult, long serious climbs

Chopicalqui, at 6354m, is sometimes referred to as the "third peak of Huascarán". It is a demanding peak to climb, with sections of steep climbing. **Previous experience of climbing on steep hard ice is highly recommended**, and a high standard of fitness and strength is also necessary. Chopicalqui is **NOT** a suitable peak for beginner climbers.. From the summit climbers are rewarded with tremendous views of the surrounding peaks of Huascarán, Yanapaqcha, Chacaraju, Pisco and Huandoy, as well as Contrahierbas, Ulta, Hualcan and many others.

The route begins following a major glacier uphill, then steepens onto a broad ridge with route-finding skills needed to avoid crevasses and seracs. Higher up the ridge narrows and steepens, and while it is not highly technical it is exposed in some places.

Most of the climb is on snow slopes of 40 to 50 deg. but there is a section of about 200m with slopes of up to 65deg. with belayed climbing on snow and ice necessary some years.



*Chopicalqui from Base Camp*

**Chopicalqui climb is suitable for climbers with good fundamental alpine climbing and glacier travel skills; rope work and cramponing on steep / frozen snow & hard ice, and with good belay techniques. Some years there may be sections of steep ice climbing requiring use of two technical ice picks and previous experience with this is recommended.**

It is necessary to carry all equipment up to the camps on all the mountains. Our porters carry tents, food & equipment, but YOU need to carry your own personal gear and have a backpack large enough for this.

**Note 1: Fitness:** *This is a physically demanding program. The routes from Base Camps to Morena Camps on the mountains are 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 climbing made very demanding by the altitude. You should only consider these climbs 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.*

*Chopicalqui has sections of steep & technical ice climbing & is NOT a suitable peak for climbers with no previous experience with steep ice climbing using two technical ice picks or who have not received mountaineering instruction*

**Note 2: 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 or a series of day hikes of minimum 4 to 6 days for acclimatisation and extra fitness before departing for the Pisco or Yanapaccha climb.*

*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.*

**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 is 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.

If at the time of your climbing expedition, information received from previous groups indicates unstable or difficult conditions, we may recommend an alternative climb.

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



### **Itinerary for Pisco + Chopicalqui 09 Days**

#### **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 for 2½ hours to Pisco Base Camp (4650m). There is a refugio there where you can buy beer, wine and hot food



*Llanganuco Lakes*



*Pisco Base Camp, Pisco is Behind*

#### **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. 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 2009 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.



*Pisco*

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), Piramide (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. 9 to 12 hours for the day.

### **Day 4: Relocate from Pisco Base Camp to Chopicalqui Base Camp**

We load all equipment onto donkeys again & walk down to Cebollapampa 1½ hours and then relocate with 1 ½ to 2 hour more hiking to Chopicalqui Base Camp (4430m).

**Day 5: REST DAY at CHOPICALQUI Base Camp or Bad Weather Day**

**Day 6: Carry Gear from Chopicalqui Base Camp to Moraine Camp**

This is a demanding day as we now have to carry all equipment - tents, food and kit - and climb through moraine boulders. We climb up the rocky ridge for an hour and then traverse the other side of the ridge and climb more steeply over large moraine rocks to Moraine (Moraine) Camp (4820m). 5 to 6 hours.



*Climbing through the Moraine*

**Day 7: Moraine Camp to High Camp**

Today we set off on a steady climb up loose moraine rock for 1½ hours before reaching the glacier. We need to cross the first ½ hour on the ice early and quickly to avoid falling rocks. There follows some 3 to 4 hours of steady climbing on up to 30 deg. of crevassed snow slopes which we'll negotiate carefully to avoid the crevasses (sometimes we will cross the crevasses). Eventually we reach High Camp, on snow, at 5380m.



*Climbing to High Camp*



*Chopicalqui High Camp*

**Day 8: High Camp to Chopicalqui Summit. Down to High or Moraine Camp**

Climb to the summit. The first 2 to 3 hours are steady climbing. There are crevasses and seracs to avoid as we climb 30 to 50 deg. slopes to the summit shoulder. From the summit shoulder the difficulty of climbing is mixed. There are some easy 45 deg. slopes, there may be a large crevasse to cross - then up to 55 deg. climbing on the ridge with some short, steep ice walls to climb. In the half way point to the summit there is a demanding 120m with some steep & technical climbing and a series of pitches from 55m to 60m in length and grades from 65 deg up to about 85 deg at the steepest. And very close to the summit there is a 7m technical climb from 75 to 85 deg. There is a large crevasse near the summit to negotiate and then we are high on the summit at 6354m. From the summit we descend back by climbing and abseiling to High Camp; if you are feeling strong, we can continue back down to Moraine Camp. From 10 to 13 hours for the day.



*Chopicalqui Crevasses*



*Climbing Chopicalqui*



*Chopicalqui Summit*

*Descending to High Camp*

**Day 9: To the Road, then Vehicle back to Huaraz**

Descend to Base Camp - 5 to 6 hours - then return to the road head and on to Huaraz in our private vehicle.

**Itinerary for Yanapaccha + Chopicalqui 07 Days**

**Day 1: Drive Huaraz by LLanganuco Lakes. Ascend via Grass & Moraine to Camp**

Drive from Huaraz to Cebollapampa (3850m - 2½ hours) in the Quebrada LLanganuco Valley, passing the famous twin lakes of LLanganuco. We continue driving another half hour up an impressive zigzag road towards the Portachuelo de LLanganuco pass. Some 200 metres below the pass we stop at a hairpin bend known as the "Curva 45km" (4580m) and unload backpacks & equipment.

From here, we hike towards Yanapaccha Morena Camp, carrying our backpacks as we traverse and climb gradually on a faint trail, sometimes over grass and then over moraine rock for about 3 to 3 ½ hours until we reach the campsite (5000m).





*Hike to Morena Camp*



*Camp by the Lake*

**Day 2: Camp to Summit Yanapaccha. Relocate to Chopicalqui Base Camp.**

We leave very early in the morning, first crossing large moraine rock for about 30 minutes until we gain the glacier. Here we put on crampons and rope up. The initial ascent onto the glacier is usually a steep ice climb for up to 45m before reaching the glacier with slopes varying from 45 deg. to 60 deg. We negotiate a large crevasse field to arrive at the west face of Yanapaccha. From here we make a traverse to a bergschrund where we have to climb steeply for 15m on a gradient of 65 deg. to 70deg. to arrive at the summit ridge which we follow to the summit. The final pitch to the summit is at 35 to 40 deg. Depending on clients' experience and confidence, we may fix a rope on certain sections. About one 20m rappel is required during the descent.

We return back to Morena Camp (about 7 to 8 hours for the climb & return) and then after having some lunch and packing up the camp, we walk back the same path back to the road (2 hours hike) We then follow the road for down about 40 minutes before taking a short cut another 20 minutes direct to Base Camp Chopicalqui 4430m. A full base camp is set up – with cook tent, dining tent with table and chairs, toilet tent and fresh food so that you can have a relaxing well deserved rest day with some great food tomorrow.



*Arriving at the Glacier Face - Yanapaccha* -



*Climbing Glacier Face*



*Snow Bridge - Yanapaccha -*



*Near the Summit*

**Day 3: REST DAY at CHOPICALQUI Base Camp or Bad Weather Day**

**Day 4: Carry Gear from Chopicalqui Base Camp to Moraine Camp**

**Day 5: Moraine Camp to High Camp**

**Day 6: High Camp to Chopicalqui Summit. Down to High or Moraine Camp**

**Day 7: To the Road, then Vehicle back to Huaraz**

***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.

**Copy:**

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