

Lake Hualcacochoa

About this tour

Hiking start: Ulta Valley

Hiking time: 4:30 hrs.

Ascent: 594m. / 1,948ft.

Hiking end: Ulta Valley

Driving time: 3:30 hrs.

Descent: 594m. / 1,948ft.

Overview

A place very wild and uncrowded, with a magnificent forest of Quenuals trees, endemic to the high altitudes of the Andes. The turquoise-colored lake is absolutely beautiful and well worth the effort to get there.

Our Itinerary

From Huaraz, we'll travel by private vehicle along the Carhuaz–Chacas Road, passing through the picturesque villages of Shilla and Catay until reaching the Ulta Valley. After checking in at the Huascarán National Park control, we'll begin our hike by crossing the river and wetlands of the Ulta Valley, following a zigzagging trail that ascends alongside a creek flowing down from the Hualcacochoa Lagoon. The route continues through dense quenual forests filled with wildflowers and native mushrooms typical of the region.

After approximately three hours, we'll arrive at the stunning turquoise Hualcacochoa Lagoon, lying at the foot of the Hualcan North Peak (5,300m. / 17,388ft.) and Mount Ulta (5,440m. / 17,847ft.). We'll enjoy Box lunch by the lake and take some time to rest and admire the scenery before descending along the same path. The return hike takes about two hours. Our vehicle will be waiting in the Ulta Valley for the return to Huaraz.

Included:

- Transportation
- Professional bilingual guide
- Box Lunch
- Entrance tickets
- First Aid Kit

Not included:

- Personal travel insurance
- Additional services
- Tips
- Extras

What to take:

- Short-sleeved shirts or t-shirts of breathable fabrics, like nylon and polyester
- Light insulation long sleeve jacket
- Waterproof jacket (if it's the rainy season, we recommend you also bring rain pants)
- Hiking pants or shorts, preferably made of QuickDry material
- Light cap
- Breathable sports or hiking socks
- Multifunctional headwear (for example, Buff)
- Waterproof and breathable light hiking boots
- Trekking Poles (rent available)
- Day Pack (preferably with rain cover)
- Sunglasses, sunblock, lip balm, and repellent
- Reusable water bottle
- Personal First Aid Kit (recommended)