

THE LLANGANUCO VALLEY

About this tour

Hiking start: Portachuelo de Llanganuco
Hiking time: 2:00 hrs.
Ascent: 90m. / 295ft.

Hiking end: Huishcash
Driving time: 8:00 hrs.
Descent: 390m. / 1,279ft.

Overview

This unique itinerary allows you to discover, in just one day one of the most fascinating Peruvian Andean areas. It will be an unforgettable experience in this impressive mountain range. A simple walk that submerges you in the heart of the Cordillera Blanca rewarding you with fascinating mountain landscapes. This trip is suitable for people of all ages, and does not demand a high level of fitness. The trek leads you through splendid vegetation areas, taking you close to the base of the most spectacular and famous Cordillera Blanca mountains. You are rewarded by the beautiful natural environment and amidst beautiful turquoise lakes that reflect the mountains and springs.

Our Itinerary

Morning departure by private bus to one of the best lookouts in the Cordillera Blanca. Along the way, we will pass by the charming town of Carhuaz, where every Wednesday and Sunday there is a traditional market. Continuing our drive, we will make a fast stop to see Campo Santo, a giant cemetery and memorial to the former town of Yungay (Yungay Viejo) that was destroyed by a landslide triggered by the infamous 1970 earthquake, Campo Santo is an attractive yet poignant spot that lies beneath the giant hulk of Mt Huascarán. Vast rose gardens bloom where busy thoroughfares once stood while gravestones and monuments mark the names of people and streets lost in the catastrophe. Campo Santo is today a peaceful cemetery, with spectacular views of Huascarán, flower-filled gardens, and monuments built in honor of the dead. After, we drive a dirt road ascending 1,350m. / 4429ft. from Yungay, winding over 28km to the Llanganuco Valley and its two robin-egg blue lakes, which are also known as Laguna Chinancocha and Laguna Orconcocha. Nestled in a glacial valley just 1000m. / 3,280ft. below the snow line, these pristine lagoons practically glow under the sun in their bright turquoise and emerald hues. Continuing on the road past the lake we'll see a mirador with killer views of the mountain giants of Huascarán (6,768m. / 22,204ft.), Chopicalqui (6,345m. / 20,816ft.), Chacraraju (6108m. / 20,039ft.), Huandoy (6395m. / 20,980ft.) and others. The road continues over the pass of Portachuelo (4,760m. / 15,616ft.) to Yanama on the other side of the Cordillera Blanca. This pass is our head trail to do a little hike; we walk down following an Inca trail for about two hours. Way down, we will appreciate beautiful landscapes, different types of flowers, and local trees. After this hike, we will have our lunch in a beautiful place surrounded by mountains. After these activities, we will drive back 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)