

THE BEST OF HUAYHUASH – 6D/5N

Overview

Hidden deep in the Andes, the Huayhuash Mountain Range is one of the most isolated and awe-inspiring mountain ranges on Earth. Towering walls of ice, rock, and snow rise sharply into the sky, creating landscapes that are both intimidating and breathtaking.

This epic trek takes you into the very heart of the range, a place where few have ventured, and is celebrated as one of the most stunning trekking experiences in the world. Here, every step brings you closer to the raw power of nature, culminating in views of Yerupajá (6,634 m / 21,765 ft), Peru's second-highest peak, a colossal giant that dominates the skyline and humbles even the most experienced adventurers.

Highlights

- Remote High-Andes Adventure – Explore one of the most isolated and breathtaking mountain ranges in the world, far from the crowds.
- Epic Peaks – Witness towering giants like Yerupajá (6,634 m), Siula Grande, Rasac, Rondoy, and Jirishanca.
- Glacial Lakes – Marvel at pristine high-altitude lakes such as Jahuacocha, Carhuacocha, and Solteracocha, perfect for photography and reflection.
- Andean Wildlife – Spot Andean condors, Puna ibis, Andean geese, and other highland wildlife along the trail.
- Diverse Landscapes – Trek through alpine meadows, verdant valleys, forests of Quenual (Paper Bark) trees, and stark glacial moraines.
- Cultural Encounters – Pass through remote villages like Huayllapa and Llamac, gaining a glimpse of traditional Andean life.

Detailed itinerary:

Day 01: Scenic Drive and Walk to the Huayhuash's Hidden Gem Campsite

Very early in the morning will pick you up from your hotel in Huaraz and travel southeast entirely by vehicle, following a scenic high-Andean road through traditional landscapes and small towns such as Recuay, Ticapampa, Catac, and Conococha, where wide puna plains and mountain views begin to open up; along the way, we will pass mining areas like Pachapaqui, Huanzala, and Huallanca, before continuing into more remote and rugged terrain near the Cordillera Huayhuash, until reaching Queropalca at 3,830 meters above sea level. From here, the drive near the Carhuacocha lake follows a high-mountain road through rugged valleys and grazing livestock, offering breathtaking views of towering peaks such as Yerupajá. From the trailhead, hike easy path to camp at Carhuacocha (4,152 m / 13,622 ft)— a short and easy warm-up for the next five days.

(L / D)

Bus ride: 279 km (173.3 mi) – Time: 8 hours

Trekking distance: 2 km (1.2 mi) – Time: 1 ½ hours

Day 02: An Andean Sunrise with the Lake Reflecting the Sunlit Peaks

Photographers are advised to wake up before dawn this morning to watch the sunrise over the Lake and Peaks from our campsite. The sun's first rays catching the peak of Mt Yerupaja (6,634m./ 21,765ft.) certainly make the effort more than worthwhile.

On this day, we stay at our campsite, embarking on an out-and-back hike to the breathtaking highlands. We ascend the challenging trail to the three-lake viewpoint at 4,540 m / 14,895 ft. where every step rewards us with sweeping panoramic views of the Huayhuash range. Along the way, we pause at a spectacular lookout, marveling at the turquoise lagoons below and the towering peaks above, including Carnicero, Siula Grande,

Yerupajá, Yerupajá Chico, and Jirishanca. After soaking in the majestic scenery, we retrace our steps back to the Carhuacocha campsite, carrying memories of one of the Andes' most dramatic landscapes.

(B / L / D)

Trekking distance: 6.7 km (4.1 mi) – Time: 6 – 7 hours

Day 03: Hike to Janca (Mitucocha) Campsite Across Carhuac Pass

After a stunning mountain sunrise, we hike along a well-marked trail to Carhuac Pass at 4,633 m (15,200 ft), where, weather permitting, we enjoy breathtaking views of the iconic peaks of Yerupajá and Siula Grande. From here, we descend to the scenic Janca Plateau campsite at 4,244 m (13,923 ft.), a flat, grassy area near Lake Mitucocha, framed by the dramatic cliffs of Ninashanca, Rondoy, and Jirishanca.

After lunch, there's the option to hike down to the serene lake below Jirishanca, a perfect spot for photos and reflection. From our camp, the sheer faces of Jirishanca and Jirishanca Chico create an unforgettable panorama, making this one of the most spectacular stops in the Huayhuash.

(B / L / D)

Trekking distance: 9.5 km (5.9 mi) – Time: 5 – 6 hours

Day 04: High Andes Adventure Crossing the Watershed at Cacanapunta pass

In the morning, we begin a gradual three-hour ascent, gaining 486 m to reach Cacanapunta Pass at 4,684 m (15,367 ft.). This is the continental divide, the point where waters part: on one side, streams flow toward the Amazon Basin; on the other, they descend to the Pacific. At the pass, we take a well-earned rest and enjoy some snacks while soaking in the spectacular valley views. With luck, we may spot majestic condors soaring above, witnessing the raw beauty of the high Andes.

After capturing the scenery in photos, we descend about 30 minutes to a small plateau for lunch, surrounded by towering peaks. Following our break, we continue for roughly 1½ hours across rocky terrain to Cuartelhuain at 4,198 m (13,772 ft.), where we conclude our trek near Matacancha—the point where our journey began.

(B / L / D)

Trekking distance: 8 km (4.9 mi) – Time: 6 hours

Day 05: Scenic Journey Over Sambunya Pass to the Shores of Lake Jahuacocha

We begin the day ascending through the colorful landscapes of the Rondoy Valley toward Sambunya Pass at 4,760 m (15,616 ft.). From the pass, we are rewarded with breathtaking views of the snow-capped peaks of Ninashanca, Rondoy, Jirishanca, Yerupajá, Rasac, and the shimmering Solteracocha Lake. After soaking in the scenery, we descend to the stunning Jahuacocha Lake, a perfect spot to enjoy a memorable sunset. We set up camp near the lake at 4,073 m (13,362 ft.), surrounded by the majestic Huayhuash peaks.

(B / L / D)

Trekking distance: 12.8 km (7.9 mi) – Time: 8 hours

DAY 06: Climb the Mancanpunta Pass and descend to Pocpa Village and drive to Huaraz

After successfully completing our special shortened Huayhuash trekking circuit, we depart camp early in the morning for our return to Huaraz. We begin with a steady but gradual climb to Mancanpunta Pass at 4,572 m (15,000 ft.), a beautiful lookout offering one last panoramic view of the Huayhuash mountain range. After a brief rest, we descend a steep trail to the village of Pocpa at 3,483 m (11,427 ft.), where our private transportation awaits to transfer us back to Huaraz.

B / L)

Trekking distance: 11.5 km (7.2 mi) – Time: 5-6 hours

Bus ride: 140 km (87 mi) – Time: 4 hours.

End of services

B- Breakfast / BL- Box Lunch / L- Lunch / D- Dinner

Included:

- Transportation
- Professional bilingual guide
- Double occupancy tents with Thermarest sleeping pads
- All meals during trek
- Non-alcoholic drinks
- Kitchen and dining tents
- Cook and field staff
- Horses and drivers
- Entrance tickets
- Solar energy lamps
- Eco toilets
- Adequate garbage disposal
- First aid kit and oxygen tank

Not included:

- Personal travel insurance
- Laundry service
- Airline tickets
- Sleeping bags (rent available)
- Personal gear
- Alcoholic beverages
- Additional services
- Tips
- Extras

What to take:

- Regular and long wicking first layer for cold weather, like polyester, nylon, or merino wool
- Short-sleeved shirts or t-shirts, breathable fabrics, like nylon and polyester
- Light-colored long-sleeved shirts or t-shirts
- QuickDry Pants, trekking pants, and shorts
- Insulated long-sleeve jacket (fleece, synthetic, down, merino wool)
- Liner gloves
- Light cap and beany
- Rain jacket (in the rainy season, bring rain pants)
- Breathable sports socks or hiking socks
- Warm socks for nights
- Multifunctional headwear (e.g. Buff)
- Waterproof and breathable hiking boots
- Comfortable and lightweight shoes for campsite
- Sleeping Bag (0°/32° to -15°/ 5°) (rent available)

- Day Pack (preferably with rain cover)
- Trekking Poles (available to rent)
- Waterproof duffle bag
- Sunglasses
- Headlamp
- Microfiber towel
- Sunblock, lip balm, and insect repellent
- Reusable water bottle or vacuum bottle
- Portable Power Bank (to charge lamps, etc)
- Personal First Aid Kit (recommended)

On each trip we carry a medical kit, but we suggest you bring a small personal First-Aid Kit for bruises and blisters. Knee and ankle braces are sometimes useful especially if you suffer from weak knees or ankles. Include any special medication your doctor might suggest for you.