

MINI HUAYHUASH – 4D/3N

Overview

The short Huayhuash route is designed for travelers with limited time who still want to experience the most iconic highlights of the Huayhuash Mountain Range. This carefully selected trek takes you through some of the range's most breathtaking landscapes, including the stunning lakes of Jahuacocha, Solteracocha, and Rasac, surrounded by dramatic high-Andean scenery.

Throughout the journey, you'll be rewarded with exceptional views of some of Peru's most impressive peaks, including Yerupajá, Yerupaja chico, Jirishanca, Rasac, and Rondoy. These towering mountains create a powerful and unforgettable backdrop at every stage of the trek.

The highest point of the route is Sambunya Pass 4,760 m (15,616 ft.), where trekkers are treated to a spectacular close-up view of Yerupajá, the second-highest mountain in Peru, and its incredible west face rising over a thousand meters—an immense, dramatic wall of rock and ice. And that's not all: in every direction, epic views of surrounding peaks unfold, creating a truly unforgettable high-Andean panorama.

This route offers an ideal balance between accessibility and adventure, making it a perfect option for those seeking a shorter yet truly memorable trekking experience in one of Peru's most remarkable mountain ranges.

Highlights

- Explore some of the most scenic sections of the Huayhuash Mountain Range in a shorter timeframe
- Visit the breathtaking lakes of Jahuacocha, Solteracocha, and Rasac, surrounded by towering peaks
- Enjoy unforgettable panoramas of Yerupajá, Jirishanca, Rasac, and Rondoy mountains.
- Reach Sambunya Pass (4,760 m / 15,616 ft.), the highest point of the trek, with dramatic close-up views of Yerupajá and its massive west face
- Take in wide, uninterrupted views of some of the most spectacular mountains in the Peruvian Andes
- Experience a short yet rewarding adventure, ideal for travelers seeking a condensed but powerful trek.

Detailed itinerary:

Day 1: Drive to Pacllon village and hike to Jahuacocha lake

We start our day early, heading south along the paved road for about two hours to Chiquian. Along the way, we pause at a viewpoint to admire the stunning Cordillera Huayhuash, including Yerupajá, Peru's second-highest peak. From there, we follow a rugged dirt road toward the beginning of our trek, Pukatzaka. Along the way, we pass through the village of Pacllón, a small community that maintains a traditional way of life, far from the fast pace of the big cities, focused on agriculture, livestock, and the preservation of its customs. We leave our vehicle behind and ascend on foot to our first camp at Jahuacocha (4,050 m (13,287 ft)), which provides the perfect warm-up for this tremendous trek.

We will spend three nights at this campsite, giving us a true escape into the heart of the Huayhuash Mountain Range. Nestled beneath the towering peaks of Yerupajá, Jirishanca, Rondoy and Rasac, each day will invite us to explore alpine trails, hidden lakes, and glacial streams. The mornings will glow with

soft mountain light, while the sunsets will ignite the sky over the calm waters. This extended stay will allow us to fully absorb the breathtaking landscapes and the serene rhythm of the high Andes.

(L / D)

Driving distance: 152 km (94.4 mi) – Time: 5 hours

Trekking distance: 5.8 km (3.6 mi) – Time: 3 hours

Day 02: Scenic Hike to Rasac lake via Solteracocha lake

After breakfast, we set out on our hike to explore the Solteracocha and Rasac lagoons. We begin walking along the right shore of Lake Jahuacocha until we reach the moraine of Lake Solteracocha. We climb the moraine to capture some photographs of the lake, framed by the snow-capped peaks of Rondoy, Jirishanca, and Yerupajá, and then ascend through the Rasac Gorge to reach the lagoon of the same name (approx. 4,310m / 14,140ft). The trail offers spectacular views of Lake Solteracocha, the hanging glaciers, and the dramatic contrast of the surrounding landscape. After a brief rest, we return along the same path to our campsite.

(B / L / D)

Trekking distance: 10 km (6.2 mi) – Time: 6 hours

Day 03: Exploring High Andean Panoramas at Huacrish lookout

After breakfast, we set out from our campsite toward the Yaucha Pass (4,850 m / 15,912 ft). Our gradual ascent through the Huacrish Valley becomes spectacular, offering breathtaking views of many of the peaks in the Huayhuash Mountain Range. Once we reach the pass, we take a short break before continuing on a gentle, level climb to the Huacrish viewpoint, where one of the most impressive panoramic views of the western face of the Huayhuash Mountain Range unfolds, including six peaks over 6,000 m: Jirishanca, Rasac, Yerupajá, Yerupajá Chico, Sarapo, with Siula Grande in the background. The trail is remarkable, allowing us to spot condors and enjoy glacial landscapes and turquoise lagoons such as Jahuacocha and Solteracocha. Finally, we descend a steep trail back to our campsite.

(B / L / D)

Trekking distance: 10.9 km (6.7 mi) – Time: 6-7 hours

Day 04: Cross the Sambunya Pass and the Return to Huaraz City

We embark on an amazing trek to Sambunya Pass at 4,760 m (15,617 ft), surrounded by the towering, snow-capped peaks of the Huayhuash Mountain Range. The climb, taking approximately 4 to 5 hours, rewards us with breathtaking views of glaciers, jagged summits, and high-Andean landscapes. A moderate descent along a vibrant trail, filled with wildflowers, lush vegetation, and colorful scenery, leads us to Rondoy Valley in about 1.5 hours. From there, we continue our adventure with a private vehicle transfer back to Huaraz, reflecting on the grandeur of the mountains and the unforgettable experiences of the trek.

(B / L)

Trekking distance: 12 km (7.4 mi) – Time: 6-7 hours

Bus ride: 137 km (85.1 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.