

Impressive trails

Trekking in Áncash

Trekking trails in Santa Cruz © J. Vallejo / PROMPERÚ





Trekking trails in Áncash



Áncash

 **Capital:** Huaraz

 **Temperature**
Max.: **27** °C | Min.: **7** °C

 **Highest elevation**
Max.: **3090** meters

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Three ideal trekking trails:

1. HUAYHUASH MOUNTAIN RANGE RESERVED AREA

Circuit: **The Huayhuash Mountain Range**

2. HUASCARÁN NATIONAL PARK SOUTH AND HUARAZ

Circuit: **Olleros-Chavín**

Circuit: **Day treks from Huaraz**

Circuit: **Quillcayhuanca-Cójup**

3. HUASCARÁN NATIONAL PARK NORTH

Circuit: **Llanganuco-Santa Cruz**

Circuit: **Los Cedros-Alpamayo**



HUAYHUASH MOUNTAIN RANGE RESERVED AREA

Circuit: Huayhuash Mountain Range (2-12 days)

*45 km from Chiquián to Llámac to the start of the trek
(1 hr. 45 min. by car).*

This trail is regarded one of the most spectacular in the world. It is very popular among mountaineering enthusiasts, since six of its many summits exceed 6000 meters in elevation. Mount Yerupajá (6634 meters) is one such example: it is the country's second highest peak.

Several trails which vary in length between 45 and 180 kilometers are available, with hiking times from as few as two days to as many as twelve. The options include:

- **Circle the mountain range:** (Llámac-Pocpa-Queropalca Quishuarcancha-Túpac Amaru-Uramaza-Huayllapa-Pacllón): 180 km (10-12 days).
- **Llámac-Jahuacocha:** 28 km (2-3 days).

Most hikers begin in Llámac or Matacancha.

Diverse landscapes of singular beauty are clearly visible along the treks: dozens of rivers; a great variety of flora and fauna; turquoise colored lagoons, such as Jahuacocha, Mitucocha, Carhuacocha, and Viconga, and; the spectacular snow caps of Rondoy (5870 m), Jirishanca (6094 m), Siulá (6344 m), and Diablo Mudo (5223 m). A human presence, rich in customs and cultures, is another attraction of this famous circuit.



📷 The Huayhuash Mountain Range © Dickens Rondán



Location:

The Huayhuash Mountain Range is located at the juncture of the departments of Ancash (Bolognesi Province), Huánuco (Lauricocha Province) and Lima (Cajatambo Province).



Recommended season:

From May to September.
*The rains normally begin in the month of October and last until March.



Temperature (day):

13 °C (min.) / 23 °C (max.)



Elevation:

3300-5000 meters
(Llámac-Punta Cuyoc)




Degree of difficulty:

Moderate / high



📷 Mount Rondoy, Huayhuash Mountain Range © Fernando López



 Mount Huantsán © Percy Dextre H.

HUASCARÁN NATIONAL PARK SOUTH AND HUARAZ

Circuit: Olleros-Chavín (3 days)

The more adventurous can depart from Olleros for a guided hike of 37 kilometers

This trail follows an ancient route that was used for trade between pre-Inca cultures along the Callejón de Huaylas and those in Conchucos, where the archaeological monument of Chavín (Huari province) can also be visited. It traverses the White Mountain Range through Yanashallash Pass (4700 meters) with views of several mountains, including Shacsha, Rurec, Quilloc, and Uruashraju (5722 meters).

The communities of Olleros and Canrey Chico use their llamas as pack animals; this makes tourism here more eco-friendly.

**Location:**

Olleros district,
Huaraz province,
Áncash department.

**Recommended season:**

April-October

**Temperature (day):**

12 °C (min.) / 23 °C (max.)


**Elevation:**

3450-4700 meters
(Olleros-Punta Yanashallash)

**Degree of difficulty:**

Easy / moderate



 Llaca Lagoon and Mount Vallunaraju © J. Vallejo / PROMPERÚ

Circuit: **Day treks from Huaraz**

- **Churup Lagoon:** Located 18 km along a sealed road east of the city of Huaraz to the town of Pitec (40 min by car) and then a 3 km hike of 3 hours. Wild ducks are visible on lagoon itself, which is surrounded by flora such as queñuales, quisuares, and ichu.
- **Ahuac Lagoon:** Located 7 km from Huaraz in the direction of Paria-Willkahuain and then a 6 km hike of 3 hours. At an elevation of 4450 meters, the lagoon is reached via a wide pathway surrounded by eucalyptus forests, queñuales and fields under cultivation. During the journey the trekker can see the snow caps of Vallunaraju, Churup, Huamashraju and Cashan and enjoy a panoramic view of the city of Huaraz.
- **Llaca Lagoon:** Located 28 km east of Huaraz along a sealed road (2 hours by car), or using public transport to either Marián or Paria-Willkahuain followed by a hike of 4 hours along a trail in the shape of a horseshoe. At an elevation of 4474 meters, its turquoise green waters come from the subsoil and from the melting of the nearby snow. From here the visitor can undertake expeditions to Mount Vallunaraju or go rock climbing.



Location:

Independencia district,
Huaraz province
Áncash department.



Recommended season:

April-October



Temperature (day):

13 °C (min.) / 23 °C (max.)



Elevation:

3090 - 4474 meters
(Huaraz-Llaca Lagoon)



Degree of difficulty:

Moderate

The Huascarán National Park, with an area of 340,000 hectares stretching across almost the entire White Mountain Range, is the site of countless settings that are ideal for a range of activities, including trekking.

The Huayhuash Mountain Range also offers impressive trekking and is considered one of the most spectacular trails in the world. Remember that authorized guides are necessary for all tours.



📷 Mount Ocshapalca and Mount Ranrapalca © Flor Ruiz / PROMPERÚ

Circuit: **Quillcayhuanca-Cójup (3 days)**

A hike of 32 km that begins in Pítec, it crosses the Quillcayhuanca Gorge, passes the Tullpacocha, Cuchillacocha and Palcacocha lagoons, and leads through the Huapi Pass (5050 m) from where snowcapped peaks are visible, including Cáyesh (5721 m), Huantsán (6395 m), Andavite (5518 m), Chinchey (6222 m), Pucaranra (6147 m), Ranrapalca (6162 m), and Palcaraju (6274 m). Cave paintings can also be observed.



Location:

Independencia district,
Huaraz province
Áncash department.



Recommended season:

April-October



Temperature (day):

13 °C (min.) / 23 °C (max.)



Elevation:


3090-5050 meters.
(Huaraz-Huapi Pass)



Degree of difficulty:

Easy / moderate



 Llanganuco Lagoon © Dickens Rondán

HUASCARÁN NATIONAL PARK NORTH

Circuit: Llanganuco-Santa Cruz (4 days)

This trek is the most commercial, with a length of approximately 47 km, from Cashapampa to Vaquería (or vice versa). The Santa Cruz Gorge contains the Hatuncocha and Ichiccocha lagoons. From the Arhuaycocha Gorge the visitor can enjoy a panoramic view of snow-capped mountains, such as Alpamayo.

The highest pass is Punta Unión (4750 m) from where Taullicocha Lagoon is visible, together with snowcapped peaks such as Paria Contrahierbas, Pucaraju, Taulliraju, Pucajirca, Alpamayo, Quitaraju, Caraz, and Artesonraju. The final descent includes the Paria and Huaripampa gorges down to Vaquería.



Location:

Yungay and Santa Cruz districts,
Yungay and Huaylas provinces
Áncash department.



Elevation:

2900-4750 meters
(Cashapampa-Punta Unión)



Recommended season:

May-October



Degree of difficulty:


Moderate



Temperature (day):

14 °C (min.) / 23 °C (max.)



 Santa Cruz trekking trails © J. Vallejo / PROMPERÚ

Circuit: **Los Cedros-Alpamayo (8-12 days)**

A number of routes, some lasting as long as twelve days, are available along the 92 kilometers of the Cedros Gorge.

Most hikers usually begin in the town of Hualcayán (3150 meters). The journey passes by beautiful lagoons, such as Azulcocha, Yanacocha, and Cullicocha. By the third or fourth day the northwest face and pyramidal shape of Mount Alpamayo (5947 meters) come in to view. This mountain is regarded as the world's most beautiful.

To end the hike there are several options:

- Jancapampa Gorge-town of Pomabamba in the Conchucos region.
- Jancapampa Gorge-Tupa Tupa Pass (4350 m)- Punta Unión (4750 m)- the Santa Cruz-Cashapampa Gorge.
- Jancapampa Gorge-Quisuar-Alto Pucaraju Pass (4650 m)- Huaripampa-Vaquería Gorge.



Location:

Santa Cruz district, Huaylas province, Áncash department



Elevation:

3150-4850 meters.
(Hualcayán-Cullicocha Pass)



Recommended season:

May-October



Temperature (day):

13 °C (min.) / 20 °C (max.)



Degree of difficulty:

Moderate / difficult



Trekking trails in Áncash



- Key**
- Departmental capital
 - Provincial capital
 - District capital
 - Place of interest
 - Main road
 - Provincial border
 - Sealed road
 - Unsealed road
 - Protected Natural Area

- Trekking start or finish
- Town
- Main road
- Trekking
- ▲ Mountain or snowcapped peak
- ▲ Police
- ▲ Camping
- ▲ Pass



1 HUAYHUASH MOUNTAIN RANGE RESERVED AREA

Circuit:

— Huayhuash Mountain Range (2-12 days)



PACIFIC OCEAN

to Lima
to Callao



Información y Asistencia al Turista
Tourist Information and Assistance

**Huaraz
Áncash**

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Opening hours and telephone numbers are subject to change by any of the tourist attractions. Confirm opening hours and telephone numbers with IPERÚ.

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