

Places to visit and celebration dates

WHERE?

In Huaraz:

• **Áncash Archeological Museum.** This museum displays an significant collection of stone sculptures from the Recuay culture and ceramic and textile artifacts from other Pre-Incan cultures such as Chavín, Huaraz White on Red, Mochica, Wari and Chimú.

• **Sanctuary of the Lord of Solitude.** It was built after the 1970 earthquake and houses the statue of the Lord of Solitude, the patron saint of the city of Huaraz. The image was fashioned during the time of the city's founding, in the 16th century.

• **Monterrey.** One of the most popular sites for visitors and locals alike due mainly to its hot springs, some with waters as hot as 49° C (120.2° F). These are spread out in the form of pools (private and public). There are also country restaurants and lodgings in the area.

Excursiones:

• **Huaylas Valley: Carhuaz, Yungay and Caraz.** Three traditional towns are wonderful spots for losing oneself in the beauty of the

landscape and for launching treks and outings.

• **Mount Pastoruri.** At an altitude of 17,191 fasl, it forms part of the main, high mountain tourist circuits in the Huaylas Valley. Extreme sports facilities are available for snowboarding, skiing and ice climbing. When hiking to this mountain, one will see Patococha Lagoon, puyas, rock paintings and Pumapashimi, a small pond with a reflective surface.

• **Llanganuco Lagoon.** Lovely glacier lagoon located in a narrow valley wedged between mounts Huandoy (20,981 fasl) and Huascarán. It impresses visitors for two reasons: its intense turquoise color and the queñual tree forest surrounding it.

• **Wilcahuain.** A 10th century A.D. archeological site that features a three story building made out of stone and mud. Huge flagstones were used to construct the roof in the manner of the Wari-Tiahuanaco style.

• **Huascarán National Park.** It encompasses the Cordillera Blanca and covers an area of 340,000 hectares. Inside its confines are 296 lagoons, 663 glaciers and some of the tallest mountains in Peru, like Mount Huascarán, Mount Huandoy, and Mount Alpamayo. It also protects rare Andean plant species like the puya and the queñual tree and functions as a wildlife refuge for species likes the Andean condor and the vicuña. The UNESCO conferred upon it the status of a Biosphere Reserve in 1977 and then, in 1985, of a World Heritage site.

• **Parón Lagoon.** One of the most beautiful lagoons in the Blanca Cordillera. Its intense

turquoise waters are crowned by a spectacular ring of snow covered mountains, among them being Mount Huandoy, Mount Caraz (19,767 fasl), Mount Chacaraju (20,052 fasl) and Mount Artesonraju (19,767 fasl).

• **Huayhuash Valley.** The Huayhuash Valley is located at the southernmost edge of the Cordillera Blanca, along the border with the department of Huánuco. Highlights there include Conococha Lagoon, origin of the Santa River, and Mount Yerupajá, the second highest mountain in Peru and the most difficult to conquer. The most important town is Chiquián (10,499 fasl) where trekking routes of 8 to 15 days start.

• **Chavín de Huántar archeological complex.** UNESCO placed it on its World Heritage Sites List in 1985. It is a site full of temples, underground galleries, plazas and stone buildings, and was the most important ceremonial center for the Chavín culture. Hidden deep within one of its underground chambers is the Lanzón (Spear), a 14.9-foot tall monolith on which a fiery god is depicted.

WHEN?

Carnaval huarasino /

Febrero. Empieza con la vispera del Domingo de Ramos, y a lo largo de los días siguientes, se celebran animadas tradiciones.

Adventure sports Fest /

June. Taking place in the Huaylas Valley, it is site of international adventure sports tournaments.

Feast of Saint Peter (Corongo) /

June 29th A religious feast day with the

highlight being a performance called the danza de las pallas (the dance of the ladies).

Feast of Saint James the Apostle (Aija) / Anniversary of the founding of Huaraz and Huaylas /

July 25th. It is a celebration in honor of the patron saint of the community of Aija and it is unique because the entire town engages in the traditional rite of yucacanga (the giving of cassavas). Likewise, this is the day the towns of Huaraz and Huaylas celebrate their founding with civic, cultural and artistic activities.

Feast of Saint Rose of Lima /

August 30th. This religious festival takes place in the city of Yungay.



HUARAZ

“Climb to the top of the Peruvian Andes in Áncash. Visit the city of Huaraz and encounter the greatness of its people: those from yesteryear and those of today.”

No other department capital city can boast such a spectacular view as Huaraz can. To the north, rising above the entire scene, is an immense snow peak: Mount Huascarán and its towering 22,204 fasl. And accompanying this majestic summit within the Cordillera Blanca (White Mountains Range), 30 more rise above 19,600 fasl. At their feet sits the Callejón de Huaylas (Huaylas Valley), picturesque and inter-Andean, whose charming little villages were seemingly built at distances perfect for human travel; you can trek the roads that connect them all, and therein lies part of its fascination. But, what really grabs the traveler's attention are the snow covered mountains, most notably, Mount Alpamayo, that many experts consider the world's most beautiful. And the picture is made complete with the silver snake of the Santa River flowing off towards the Pacific and with the road running off into the distance, lined along with the pungent scent of eucalyptus and the intensely yellow flowers of broom trees. Mount Yerupajá (21,765 fasl) is the most distinctive mountain in the spectacular Cordillera Huayhuash (Huayhuash Mountain Range). As one crosses the majestic Andean countryside, it will feel almost as if the trails lead the traveler backwards in time, specially when reaching Chavín de Huántar, an inspiring group of pre-Hispanic temples that is one of the UNESCO World Heritage sites. Its buildings, plazas and underground galleries bear witness to it having been a sacred site.

HUARAZ 3,100 masl / 10,170 fasl

¿How to get there?



A trip of 400 Km in a private car; take the Pan American Highway North until reaching Km 206 and then take the turnoff to Pativilca.

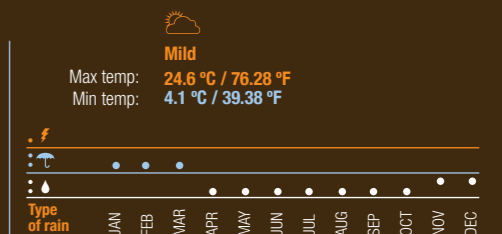


Buses run daily from Lima to Huaraz and from Trujillo as well.

From Lima: 400 km / **8h**
From Trujillo: 570 km / **10h**



From Lima: **50 min**
Regular flights from Lima to the Anta Airport in Carhuaz.



Huaraz is the adventure sports capital of Peru. You can find any number of agencies renting or selling all types of equipment as well as others offering trekking or mountain biking routes and white water rafting or hang gliding adventures.



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Accommodation and tourist services

The following locations offer hotels and hostels up to 3 stars: Huaraz, Carhuaz, Caraz, Chavin de Huántar, Chimbote, Casma and Huarvey. Lodging can also be gotten in Yungay, Recuay, Chiquián, Chacas and Pallasca.

All types of transport are available: tourist, personal as well as auxiliary and specialized for trekking and mountain climbing routes. Agencies offer all gear necessary for mountain assaults and other excursions. Among the different services offered are mountain and tourist guides, mule riders, mules and cooks for the main trekking routes.

Routes & length of stay

5 days
(Recommended length of stay)

- 1 day Churches: In the towns of Taucá and Pallasca
- 1 day Lagoons and villages: Llanganuco Lagoon and the Huaylas Valley
- 1 day Archeology: Excursion to Chavin de Huántar
- 1 day Mountains: Mount Pastoruri
- 1 day Archeology: Excursion to Sechín
- 1 day Áncash beaches.
- 2 days Churches: in the towns of Chacas and Pumallucay.

a. Rafting and adventure in the Santa River.
b. Flying over the Huaylas Canyon.
c. Alpacas in Pumapampa.
d. Tenoned head in Chavin de Huántar.
e. Mount Pastoruri.
f. Climbing the rocks of the Llaca gorge.
g. Huascaran National Park.



- 1 Mount Huascarán
- 2 Mount Alpamayo
- 3 Mount Yerupajá
- 4 Chavin de Huántar
- 5 Sechín

LEYENDA

- Department borderline
- Department capital
- Asphalted road
- Non-asphalted road
- Railroad
- Airport
- Port
- Protected area
- Patrimonio cultural y natural de la humanidad UNESCO
- Iperú offices
- Tourist information and assistance

People interested in ancient civilizations, who will be amazed by Chavin de Huántar, Wilcahuain and the temple at Sechín (Casma, on the coast).

Handicraft collectors, who should not pass on visiting any of the department's charming villages, the likes of Tarica, Chavin and Chacas.

Plant and animal watchers, who, once inside the Huascarán National Park, will have a universe of possibilities at their fingertips, where they can see enormous puya plants (standing an average 39 feet tall), tarucas (type of Andean deer) with their striking fur and antlers and the majestic condor as it flies overhead.

Mountain lovers, who have in this area some of the most beautiful and tallest mountains in Peru (mounts Huascarán, Huandoy, Yerupajá, Alpamayo, etc).

Trekkers, who, with three well developed circuits, will have a tough time deciding which to take first: the famous Llanganuco – Santa Cruz

circuit and its mesmerizing mountain vistas, or the Huayhuash circuit that takes 12 days, crosses forests and passes by multicolored lagoons, or the historic Olleros – Chavin trek, with its singular offer of llamas as beasts of burden.

What to buy

This is the area to find elaborate traditional outfits and intricately embroidered skirts (polleras) as well as the art of handmade candles, which people use in their religious processions. One can also find sheep's wool blankets from Chavin, pottery from Tarica, wrought iron pieces, embossed leather articles, baskets and llama wool shawls and ponchos. The town of Chacas (in Conchucos) is famous for its wood carvings.

What to eat

The city of Huaraz has every type of restaurant for every type of taste. Finding international food is no problem, and there are good spots for Italian food and even those offering crepes. And for vegetarians, one can find restaurants offering made-to-order dishes. The regional cuisine boasts dishes like chanco al horno (pork roast), pachamanca (pit roasted meats, like beef, pork, chicken, etc., and vegetables, like potatoes, corn, faba beans, etc., as well as humitas – a type of corn roll). Besides these, the most popular one is picante de cuy, a stew of sorts, cooked over an open flame, seasoned with chili peppers and spices, and featuring Guinea pig. Fresh trout caught in mountain rivers, lagoons or cultivated in farms abounds, and either fried or barbecued is a real treat. Speaking of fish, not to be left out are the coastal contributions in the way of fish and seafood.

Keep yourself well hydrated; it is cold and the altitude is considerable. As is the customary with any trip to the mountains, the first day's meals should be light (no heavy fried foods). We recommend wearing sunglasses with UV protection when going on any excursion to the mountains. Activities within the Cordillera Blanca are governed by the Huascarán National Park's regulations.



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