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## Alpamayo - Itinerary

**When children draw imaginary, far-away mountains with their paints and crayons, usually they look something like Alpamayo. It's pyramidal symmetry and clean esthetics set this mountain apart from it's neighbors, and put it in the same league with Matterhorn, Ama Dablam, and Grand Teton. With the summit slightly below 6000M, Alpamayo is well-suited for technical climbing; most climbers perform strongly at this elevation. Our route of ascent is the Ferrari Route on the stunning SouthWest Face, involving several hundred meters of steep ice climbing. Climbers wishing to attempt this route should have extensive experience on 45-55 degree ice, safe glacier travel and crevasse rescue techniques, as well as extended expedition experience.**

**DAY 1** Arrive in Lima , Peru . Flights arranged w/early AM arrival. Transfer via private mini-bus to Huaraz (3100M), the busy center for local government, education, and tourism. The 8 hour drive will take us from the modern capital city of Lima , along the spectacular desert coastline, up winding river canyons, and finally over the high plains to the foothills of the mighty Andes mountains. A restful night awaits us after dining on local specialties. Hotel lodging.

**DAY 2** We will relax this morning and let our bodies recover from the long hours of travel. We can leisurely tour the sights of Huaraz, as well as check equipment and prepare loads for burros. We will begin our acclimatization program with an afternoon hike or mountain bike ride. Hotel lodging.

**DAY 3** An early start this morning from Huaraz will help us to beat the worst of the afternoon heat. Private mini-bus transport will take us to the trail-head village of Cashapampa , where we will meet our pack burros and Arrieros (burro handlers). The first 2 days of our trek follow the route of the classic "Santa Cruz Trek", and we will share the trail with trekkers from around the world. Today we will trek through a river canyon, abundant with green pastures, wildflowers, and songbirds. Our first camp is at Llamacorral, site of a small summer grazing settlement, 4 hours walk from Cashapampa.

**DAY 4** After hiking along turquoise-blue lakes (where our Arrieros might catch us some trout!), we will make our secon trekking camp in a shady grove of trees. After establishing camp, we will have ample time for a day hike further up the Santa Cruz Valley to admire the views of Tokllaraju and the other icy giants towering over us. The slopes here near the Union Pass make a great place to see soaring Andean Condors.

**DAY 5** This morning our trekking route diverges from the normal Santa Cruz trek, turning out of the main valley up a smaller side-canyon to the left. Views of the neighboring Artesonraju grow more stunning as we climb higher. We will make our Base Camp at 4250M nestled in the highest Quenal trees along a rushing clear-water stream.

**DAY 6** Today we will rest in Base Camp, letting our bodies recover from the many days of travel and give ourselves precious time to adjust to the increasing altitude. The nearby glacial lakes and wildflower meadows will give us opportunities to explore and photograph nearby.

**DAY 7** This morning we will carry our first loads of food, fuel, and climbing equipment to Moraine Camp at 4800M. Our trail climbs steeply up a moraine ridge directly above Base Camp and after winding briefly through some slabs and rocky ledges takes us to a compact group of tent sites. After depositing our loads, we will return to the comforts of Base Camp.



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**DAY 8** With the assistance of high-altitude Porters, we will carry the remaining camping and climbing equipment to Moraine Camp. Our acclimatization process continues as we push our sleeping elevation higher. After installing camp, the Guiding team, possibly assisted by the Portering staff, will push higher through the snow and ice slopes above and establish a safe route for the team, fixing ropes if necessary, before returning to Moraine Camp

**DAY 9** We will spend today as an acclimatization day at Moraine Camp, as well as reviewing and practicing safe glacier travel and crevasse rescue techniques on the nearby glacier slopes.

**DAY 10** With the assistance of our Portering staff we will move up through the pre-established route to our High Camp. We will find challenging, and sometimes technical and difficult, snow and ice travel along the way. The team will cross through the col separating Alpamayo from neighboring Quitaraju (6040M). Sheltered from the strongest winds, our High Camp lies at 5350M, just beyond and below the col. Spectacular only begins to describe the position of this camp, with some of the mightiest mountain faces of the range in full view.

**DAY 11** Today will be our first of three possible summit days. Due to the very technical nature of the climbing on the Ferrari Route, we will split the team into summit groups of no more than 3 climbers. Today the most acclimatized and well-rested climbers will make their summit attack. We have several hundred meters of moderate snow climbing and glacier travel, crossing several bergschrunds and crevasses, to gain the actual start of the Ferrari Route. At 5600M the character of the climbing changes dramatically, and from here to the summit we will climb 45-55 degree ice, steepening at the top to near-vertical. The final few meters involve a very intimidating knife-edge ridge traverse. For descent, we reverse the climbing route, passing the steepest climbing by a series of rapels. Warm drinks, dinner, and the other team members await us at High Camp.

**DAY 12** Today the second team will make their summit attack.

**DAY 13** A reserve day has been included in the itinerary to ensure that members of all summit teams have options in the event of poor weather or route conditions, differing acclimatization, or to allow for extra rest. Alternately, we can use this reserve day to attempt another climbing objective, such as nearby Quitaraju.

**DAY 14** We will pack High Camp this morning and descend to the wildflowers and greenery of Base Camp, retrieving all cached equipment, fixed ropes, etc... along the way.

**DAY 15** The Arrieros will arrive with our pack-burros this morning and we will see our gear loaded on the animals for the last time. We will trek back to Cashapampa with only our light day-packs, a welcome change from the toils of expedition life. Our transportation awaits us at the trailhead for the transfer back to our hotel in Huaraz. Hot showers, cold beer, and a well-prepared celebration dinner!

**DAY 16** We will enjoy our final parting views of Huascarán this morning from the roof-top terrace of the hotel before our transfer to Lima. Flights will be arranged with late afternoon departures. (We are happy to arrange lodging in Lima / Miraflores if you wish to extend your visit.)

**NOTE:** Reserve days are included in this itinerary in case of poor weather or climbing conditions, acclimatization differences, or need for additional rest.