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## Huascarán – Itinerary

**Although the climbing on Huascarán's Garganta Route is only moderately difficult, climbers should be prepared for extreme cold, high altitude, and the hardships of an extended expedition. Extra care has been taken to ensure ample time for a safe and thorough acclimatization.**

**DAY 1** Arrive 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** A morning tour of the Llanganuco Canyon, with its blue lakes and soaring granite walls, will be our introduction to the Huascarán National Park, a World Biosphere Reserve area rich in wildlife and local culture. We will not be returning to Huaraz, but rather transfer to Musho (3600M), a picturesque village nestled beneath the impressive West faces of Huascarán North and South. Hotel lodging.

**DAY 4** It's a short, but steep, trek to Base Camp (4200M). We'll start early to avoid the heat of mid-day. Pack-burros will carry all our personal and group gear, except for small day-packs with our most essential items. Our Base Camp is huddled among the highest-growing Quenal trees, with most impressive views of the Cordillera Negra to the West. Tent.

**DAY 5** Today will carry the first loads of equipment to Camp 1 (4650M). A series of tricky rock slabs above Base Camp will be our first climbing obstacles. A steep trail then winds through more low-angle slabs and ledges to our camp at the Lower Moraines area. This camp is below the foot of Huascarán's West Glacier and is well-protected. Under normal conditions this camp is snow-free and offers clean running water. After depositing our loads we will return to Base Camp. Tent.

**DAY 6** Today will be a well-deserved rest day in Base Camp. An additional day and night at this elevation will support our acclimatization process. Today we will also organize remaining remaining food, fuel, and equipment for the final carry to Camp 1. Tent.

**DAY 7** This morning we will leave Base Camp on our push for the summit. Extra equipment and comfort items can be left in Base Camp under custody of our Camp Guardian. Porters will arrive today from Musho to assist us carrying to the higher camps, keeping our loads to a reasonable burden. Tent.

**DAY 8** Today we will carry the first loads to Camp 2 (5200M). After winding our way through the rocky slabs of the upper moraines, we will finally set foot on the West Glacier. Our Camp 2 is safely sheltered from any hazard posed by the menacing seracs above. After depositing our loads we will return to Camp 1. Tent.

**DAY 9** We will move today, with Porters and all remaining equipment, to Camp 2.

**DAY 10** Today will be a rest and acclimatization day in Camp 2. It is crucial that we give our bodies time to adjust to the high altitude, and arrive at Camp 3 (5950M) strong, well-rested, and ready for our summit attack. Tent.

**DAY 11** Rather than expose ourselves twice to the objective hazard of the seracs above, we will make the trek to Camp 3 only once with the aid of Porters. The route through the seracs changes each year, but is always challenging. We can count on encountering steep snow and ice climbing, 45-70 degrees. Our Camp 3 is located at Garganta Col, just below the saddle separating the North and South peaks of Huascarán, and



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sheltered from the most extreme weather. We can still expect very cold temperatures here, possibly down to -30C. Tent.

**DAY 12** A very early alpine start will give us the needed advantage on our summit attack. The route from the Garganta Col up the North Shoulder to the South Summit is only moderately technical, but climbers should be prepared for extreme cold and possibly high winds. We plan to summit early in the morning, descending before the morning sun weakens delicate snow-bridges over the numerous crevasses along the route. If time and conditions allow, we can continue our descent from Camp 3 to a lower camp. Tent.

**DAY 13** Reserve day. Tent.

**DAY 14** Reserve day. Tent.

**DAY 15** We will continue our descent to Base Camp, and on to Musho where we will meet our transportation. After arriving in Huaraz, we will enjoy a special celebration dinner and night out on the town. Hotel lodging.

**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.