



Connection To Perú

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CHOQUEQUIRAO TO VILCABAMBA 14 DAYS / 13 NIGHTS

Much of this region is largely unexplored and virtually unvisited by outsiders. This is a genuine Peru adventure, trekking through virgin territory in the footsteps of the Incas. Supporting you on this long, challenging but immensely gratifying experience is a team of expert guides, cooks and porters who are on hand to guarantee life long memories of Andean exploration.

The Choquequirao to Vilcabamba trail is a challenging and demanding Peru trekking route which requires a good level of fitness and prior acclimatization to the altitude, preferably in Cusco.

ITINERARY

Day 1: CUSCO - CACHORA - CHIKISQA

We depart Cusco at 7am in a private car for a 4 hour drive to the charming village of Cachora, situated on the edge of the Apurimac canyon and surrounded by impressive snowcapped peaks. After lunch, it is a 2 hour hike to Capuliyoc (2915 metres/ 9561 feet) from where we have our first beautiful views of the Apurimac valley stretching below as well as the snow-capped peaks of Padrayoc and Wayna Cachora. Our total hiking time today is about five hours. Accommodation: Camping at Chikisqa 1950 m

Day 2: CHIKISQA - MARAMPATA - CHOQUEQUIRAO

Departing early, we descend to the magnificent Apurimac River (1550 metres/ 5084 feet) before beginning our climb to Santa Rosa and then onto Marampata where we will have lunch. The climb from the river takes about 4 hours and is tough. From our lunch spot we can see the ruins of Choquequirao, from here we have two hours more hike to the ruins. (3110 metres/ 10120 feet) We will spend the late evening in the ruins, where we will watch the sunset and have the chance to see condors. Accommodation: Camping at Choquequirao campsite 3033m

Day 3: CHOQUEQUIRAO PINCHIUNUYOC

We have a chance to more fully explore the ruins and have a little rest in the morning. In the afternoon we will climbing over a ridge hike to the ruins Pinchiunuyoc, where we will camp the night. This is definately the easiest day of the trip! Accommodation: Camping at Pinchiunuyoc about 3000m

Day 4: PINCHIUNUYOC - RIO BLANCO - MAIZAL

After 2 hours of walking, we will arrive at the canyon of the Rio Blanco (1990 metres/6527 feet) where will have a rest before starting a difficult climb to our campsite of Maizal. The climb is 3- 4 hours. Accommodation: Camping at Maizal 3000m

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Day 5 : MAIZAL - MINA VICTORIA - YANAMA

We depart at 7am, and walk uphill for about 3 hours through semi-jungle, to the Victoria Mines. We visit the ancient mines and some Inca Ruins before climbing an hour more to the pass of Abra Victoria. (4130 metres/ 13 546 feet). The newly discovered Coryhuayrachina ruins are between Yanama and Maizal and we do follow well constructed inca steps at an area that we call "Mina Victoria" (we started calling it this because that's what the muleeteers called it) the newly discovered ruins of Coryhuarachina are nearby.

There are spectacular views from the pass as we descend to the charming village of Yanama. (about 2 hours walk). Accommodation: Camping at Yanama 4100m

Day 6: YANAMA - QUELLCAMACHAY

We depart at 7am and will walk on the pretty paths along the edge of mountainsides to our lunch spot, which is surrounded by craggy mountains. After lunch we will walk 2 hours more to our campsite of Quellcamachay. Surrounded by snowcapped peaks, this is a spectacular, yet cold, place to spend the night! Accommodation: Camping at Quellcamachay

Day 7: QUELLCAMACHAY - CHOQUETACARPO - HUANCACALLE

We depart Quellcamachay at 6am, and after about 4 hours climb will arrive at the Choquetacarlo Pass (4600m), the highest and most spectacular of the passes during the trip. We will have lunch at the Lagunas during the descent and will arrive in the town of Huancacalle (2900m) about 5.30pm. The total walking time for this day is between 8 to 9 hours.

Day 8: HUANCACALLE - HUAYHUACALLE

Rest day. During the day (according to the group's wishes) we will visit the interesting ruins of Vitcos-Rosapata and Ñustahispana. We will spend the rest of the day in Huayhuacalle where we can do our camping.

Day 9: HUAYHUACALLE - VISTA ALEGRE

Departure from campsite and hike cross country through wild and uninhabited landscapes until you reach the stones of the Inca trail. Continue to Vista Alegre, which will take us 8 hours of walking. We will cross bridges and we will even see some inca trails, here we will stay for the night (1,550 meters above sea level.).

Day 10: VISTA ALEGRE - CONCEVIDAYOC

We will hike from Vista Alegre to Concevidayoc (8 hours of hiking). We will cross Inca trails and will have the opportunity to see the Tunki bird, which is family of "gallito de las rocas". In Concevidayoc we will overnight (1,420 meters above sea level.)

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Day 11: CONCEVIDAYOC - ESPIRITU PAMPA

From Concevidayoc we will hike in 3 hours to Espiritu Pampa. Here we can admire the remains of the archeological site Espiritu Pampa the last Inca Capital. We will camp at Espirtu Pampa and spend most of the day there. (1,200 meters above sea level). This place is still covered by vegetation, just a small part has been cleaned by INC.

Day 12: ESPIRITU PAMPA – CHIWANQUIRI:

After breakfast we will hike from Espiritu Pampa to Chuanquiri, today is our last hike day, which will take us around 5 hours. We will enjoy a lot of different landscapes and a huge diversity of flora and fauna in this tropical area, which is located at 800 meters above sea level.

Day 13: CHIWANKIRI – KITENI - - QUILLABAMBA:

This day we get part of the day traveling by local bus to Kiteni, from where we have to take another bus to Quillabamba a high jungle town to sleep .

Day 14: QUILLABAMBA – CUSCO:

After breakfast we will take the bus back to Cusco, 6 hour journey.

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- Pre-trek briefing with your guide
- Collection from your hotel in the morning of the trek departure
- Private transport from Cusco to Cachora (starting point of the trek)
- Entry fee ticket
- English speaking, experienced professional guide
- Comfortable tents (sleeping 2 people in a 4 person tent)
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (optional vegetarian food with prior request)
- 1 emergency horse which can be ridden if you're feeling exhausted or are ill
- All camping equipment such as: dining tent, table, chairs, kitchen tent and toilet tent
- Bus ticket from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu and return
- First Aid kit including emergency oxygen bottle
- Hotel in Aguas Calientes with private room and bathroom
- Mules or horses (for equipment and personal items) including horsemen - 7 kilos of your personal items such as extra clothes, sleeping bag will be carried by our mules.
- Basic sleeping mattress

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WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

- Walking sticks (rentable)
- Sleeping bag adequate for temperature of minus 10°C (rentable for \$35 for duration of the trek)
- Dinner on last day
- Extra activities such as zip line and barbecues.
- Additional horses for extra personal luggage above that of the personal item allowance Optional up-grades (train and hotel)
- Tips for the cook, horsemen and guide PTTS: staff receive a fair and decent payment immediately after they end their trip. However tips are optional and a great gesture of appreciation for them)

WHAT YOU SHOULD BRING?

- A lightweight, waterproof day pack with change of clothes for the whole period of the trek (must not exceed 7 kilos)
- Sleeping bag adequate for temperature of minus 10°C (rentable for \$35 for duration of the trek)
- Hiking boots
- Warm clothes and trekking pants (trousers)
- Layers of clothes, include thermals, for variable temperatures especially at night
- Head torch with spare batteries
- Camera with extra film and batteries
- Sun protection: sunscreen, sun hat, sunglasses
- Woolen socks, gloves, scarf, woolen hat for cold nights
- Insect repellent
- Extra plastic bags, especially in the wet season
- Waterproof clothing or a rain poncho
- Water bottles and water purifying tablets - Optional
- Personal medical kit with a simple whistle
- Extra money for souvenirs, drinks, tips
- Walking sticks (rentable)
- Favorite snacks
- Inflatable mattress
- Toilet paper
- Sandals or flip-flop
- Swimming costume
- Original passport and ISIC card if is applicable.

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