

MORE INFORMATION

WEATHER

Dry and temperate, semi tropical, temperature average **61.88°F (16.6°C)** during the day, and **54.68°F (12.6°C)** during the night. Rainy season from October to April. Best time to visit the Callejon de Huaylas is from May to October, in other words during the dry season. As elsewhere in the Andes, the sun shines until midday but loses its strength in the late afternoon. Average annual temperature is **10°** degrees.

Keep yourself well hydrated; it is cold and the altitude is considerable. As in 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.

HOW TO GET THERE?

BY PRIVATE CAR

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.

BY BUS

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

From Lima: 400 km / 8 hours

From Trujillo: 570 km / 10 hours

BY AIR (Daily flights)

From Lima: 50 minutes Regular flights from ni Airport, 23 km from the city of Huaraz

SUGGESTED FOR

People interest in ancient civilizations, who will be amazed by Chavin de Huantar, Wilcahuain and the temple at Sechin (Casma, on the Coast)

Handicraft Collectors, who should not pass visiting any of the department's charming villages, like 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, Yerupaja, 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.

PLACES TO VISIT

IN HUARAZ

Ancash Archaeological Museum: This museum displays a significant collection of stone sculptures from the Recuay culture and ceramic and textile artifacts from other Pre-Incan cultures such as Chavin, Huaraz White on Red, Mochica, Wari and Chimu.

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 49C (120.2F). These are spread out in the form of pools (private and public). There are also country restaurants and lodgings in the area.

FROM HUARAZ

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 sport facilities are available for snowboarding, skiing and ice climbing. When hiking to this mountain, one will see Patacocha 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 quenual tree forest surrounding it.

Wilcahuaian: A 10th century A.D. archaeological 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 quenual tree and functions as a wildlife refuge for species like the Andean condor and the vicuna. The UNESCO conferred upon it the status of Biosphere Reserve in 1977

and then, in 1985, of a World Heritage site.

Paron Lagoon: One of the most beautiful lagoons in the Cordillera Blanca. 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 Huayhuasch Valley is located at the southernmost edge of the Cordillera Blanca, along the border with the department of Huanuco. Highlights there include Conococha Lagoon, origin of the Santa River, and Mount Yerupaja, the second highest mountain in Peru and the most difficult to conquer. The most important town is Chiquian (10,499 fasl) where trekking routes of 8 to 15 days start.

Chavin de Huantar archaeological 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 Chavin culture. Hidden deep within one of its underground chambers is the Lanzon (Spear), a 14.9 –feet tall monolith on which a fiery god is depicted.

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 religions processions. One can also find sheep's wool blankets from Chavin, **pottery** 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**. 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 religions processions.

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 **chancho al horno** (pork roasted), **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). Beside this, 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 be left out are the coastal contributions in the way of **fish** and **seafood**.