



Alpamayo Expedition

Trip Notes

July 7 to 25, 2012

Plus **Huascarán add on**: July 26 to Aug 2, 2012

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In July 2012 Adventure Consultants is operating an expedition to climb Alpamayo's Southwest Face. Situated in the mountains of Peru, this 19,411ft or 5,917m mountain is often referred to as the most beautiful mountain in the world. An ascent of Huascarán 22,205ft or 6,768m is also possible as an add-on climb to the expedition.

History

Nevado Alpamayo, as it's more correctly known, is situated in Peru's Cordillera Blanca. With its twenty-nine summits at over 6000m, the Cordillera Blanca forms but a small part of the Andes chain, which lies down the whole of the western side of South America. Alpamayo doesn't quite reach that rounded figure of 6000m, but makes up for its relative lack of height in aesthetic beauty.

The first attempt on Alpamayo's summit was in 1948 by a Swiss expedition. Climbing by way of the heavily corniced North ridge, the three climbers came within sight of the virgin summit when a large cornice broke under them, and they were carried down the precipitous North-West face. By some amazing piece of good fortune, the three were neither buried nor injured by the 650ft fall and they were able to make an 'orderly retreat' from the mountain.

In 1957 a German expedition led by Günter Hauser, comprising some of Germany's strongest climbers succeeded in climbing Alpamayo via its South Ridge. Although no less steep, nor less dangerous than the North ridge, this ridge had the tremendous advantage of leading directly to the higher South summit.



Summit day consists of 500m of perfect two-tooled ice and neve (Styrofoam-like snow) climbing on a flawless fluted face. A climber knows they are close to reaching the top when they begin to see light through the face from the other side.

How the expedition will run

After a meeting in Lima we drive north to Huaraz and repack the expedition gear. This town and its higher elevation allow us to further acclimate and prepare for the challenges ahead. We then drive north to the Santa Cruz Valley where we begin our trek into base camp. With the bulk of our gear on pack animals, we gradually acclimatise as we ascend the valley beneath some of the famous peaks of the Cordillera Blanca - the enormous Santa Cruz, Artesonraju, and the very imposing pyramid of Quitaraju.

We establish a base camp in a small valley right beneath Quitaraju (6036m) and Alpamayo (5917m), and then spend several days establishing an advanced base camp on the col between the two peaks.

Depending on conditions on the mountain, we can choose from a variety of routes, such as the Ferrari Route or the Italian route. On our climb of the Ferrari Route we traverse a gentle glacier to the base of the route, soon reaching 45 degree slopes before crossing a bergschrund, and then ascending the sharply fluted snow and ice face directly to the summit. We enjoy 400m of challenging ground, much of it at a sustained 60 degrees of mixed ice and snow. The final pitches are even steeper and provide an exciting finish to one of the world's finest ice face routes.



Alpamayo Expedition Itinerary

July 7 to 25, 2012

Day 1: Arrive Lima, transfers to Hotel

Day 2: Tourist bus 1st class seat Lima to Huaraz, 7-8 hours. We opt for the seats on the Tourist bus over a private minivan transfer as the drivers are safer and the vehicle is more comfortable. Stay Guesthouse in Huaraz.

Day 3: Huaraz. Day hike to Macashca Hills. Stay Guesthouse.

A lovely climb up into the hills directly behind Huaraz. The trip starts with a short car journey (around ½ hour into the Macashca Valley close to Huaraz). We initially walk up quite steeply for around 1 hour on a grassy hillside, then reach a wide open grassy ridge which you follow easily to a saddle at 4200m. From the ridge there are fantastic views over Huaraz, across to the snowcapped peaks of the Cordillera Blanca and Huascarán (the highest mountain in Peru) and also the Cordillera Negra. The walk descends a long way with open views all the way to finish in Huaraz. Around 5 hours.

Day 4: Huaraz. Day hike to Laguna Churup. Stay Guesthouse.

A good acclimatisation walk. Take the car from Huaraz to Pitec, driving through the attractive farming settlements of Unchus and Llupa (1½ hours drive). From Pitec (3850m) there is a steady climb on a good path with views to Laguna Churup (4440m), a beautiful turquoise mountain lake below Nevada Churup (5493m). The final 100m to the lake is up a steep rock gully. We allow 4 to 5 hours walk from Pitec to the lake and return.



Laguna Churup

Day 5: Day trip. Hike Laguna Ahuacocha (4580m) Stay Guesthouse.

Day 6: Vallunaraju. To Morena Camp (5130m)

Day 7: Vallunaraju. Climbing instruction day. Approx. 5300m. Camp at Morena Camp 5130m.

Day 8: Vallunaraju Summit climb (5686m). Around 10 hours to climb and return to Llaca Valley & then return to Huaraz by car. Stay Guesthouse.

Day 9: Rest day Huaraz, a time to sleep in, wash clothes and of course eat!

Day 10: Drive 2½ hours from Huaraz to the village of Cashapampa (2090m) where we meet our donkey drivers. Approaching Cashapampa we have our first view of Santa Cruz, the huge pyramid shaped mountain that gives the trekking circuit its name. We climb up through the Santa Cruz Valley, following the river. The first 2 hours we are in a steep sided river gorge and can be quite hard as we are climbing continuously up, and if the sun is out it is hot in the gorge. But later the valley opens out to grassland and it is more flat and cooler as we approach our first camp. We camp near the river at Llamacorral (3750m) 4 to 5 hours. Quite a short day.

Day 11: This is also a short day and you'll probably be at Alpamayo Base Camp for lunch and rest in the afternoon. During the walk up the valley the twin peaks Quitaraju and the famous Alpamayo come into view. We walk past two lakes, first the small Ichiccocha then the larger Jatuncocha. We then climb 40 minutes on a steep zig zag path to enter the Quebrada Arhuaycocha and continue with a relaxed hike up the valley to Alpamayo Base Camp (4250m). 4 to 5 hours.

Day 12: REST DAY in Alpamayo Basecamp

The porters will carry equipment up to the high camp on Alpamayo & return to Base Camp this day. You can take a short walk up to the beautiful glacial lake Arhuaycocha, nestled at the base of Ririrca. Often there is ice floating on the lake.

Day 13: To Moraine Camp or High Camp. The first 1½ to 2 hours is a testing climb on moraine and some slippery rock until we reach the ice. We then climb up average 45 deg up an ice gully to reach the bottom of an ice cliff. In some years there is about 100m to 150m of 70° ice to climb to arrive at the top of an ice cliff and we may fix ropes on this section. The High Camp is situated at the top of the ice cliff between Alpamayo & Quitaraju. There is also the option to go only as far as Moraine Camp (5000m) on this day, which is half way to High Camp. (5450m) 5 to 6 hours.

Day 14: Summit Day Alpamayo

We leave camp early and climb on sometimes steep snow slopes for about an hour to a bergschhrund at the bottom of the southwest face; sometimes there are crevasses to negotiate here. The climb on the southwest face to the summit is steep and technical, with mixed good snow and hard ice. The climb to the summit takes about 5 hours. The descent is by the same route, and takes 9 rappels. Return to sleep at high camp. The whole day is 8 to 9 hours. With an early start and early arrival back at High Camp there is the option to descend to Basecamp on the same day also.

Day 15: EXTRA DAY. Bad weather day, rest day or climb Quitaraju.

Day 16: Return to Base Camp. It is necessary to do a rappel of 100m to 150m close to the high camp to descend the ice cliff. The last 1½ hours to the camp is on steep and slippery rock. 5 to 6 hours.

Day 17: A long but easy walk down the Quebrada Santa Cruz to Cashapampa. 6 to 7 hours. Our vehicle will be waiting in Cashapampa to return us to Huaraz. Stay Guesthouse.

Day 18: Transfer back to Lima. Flights home in evening or stay Hotel. Or join Huascarán add on itinerary – see below.

Day 19: Transfer to airport / flights home for those that didn't depart on prior evening.

Huascarán Add On

An ascent of Huascarán 6,768m (22,205 ft), the highest peak in Peru, can turn our 19 day Alpamayo programme into a fantastic 27 day expedition to include one of the world's most imposing summits. Huascarán is the highest point in all the Earth's Tropics and the sixth highest mountain in the Western Hemisphere. The climbing is moderately difficult on slopes up to 30-45 degrees, but not as technical or steep as Alpamayo.

The cost depends on how many people join the Huascarán extension and is guided at a 1:2 ratio. Your guide/s from the Alpamayo programme will accompany you and the cost is inclusive of the Adventure Consultants western guide from the trip guiding you on Huascarán.

Huascarán Expedition itinerary

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|-----------------------|---|
| Day 18: Jul 24 | Rest day Huaraz |
| Day 19: Jul 25 | Huascaran Basecamp |
| Day 20: Jul 26 | Rest day or bad weather day |
| Day 21: Jul 27 | High Camp 1 |
| Day 22: Jul 28 | High Camp 2 |
| Day 23: Jul 29 | Climb Huascaran & return to High Camp 2 |
| Day 24: Jul 30 | Return to Base Camp |
| Day 25: Jul 31 | Return to Huaraz |
| Day 26: Aug 1 | Transfer to Lima |
| Day 27: Aug 2 | Departure and flights home |

Flight Information

Flight arrangements should be scheduled so that you arrive in Lima on the first scheduled day of the trip or earlier if you want some time to explore the city. The morning of the trip's second day, you will take a private bus from Lima to Huaraz.

At the end of the trip, we are able to drive to Lima and generally depart from Lima on international flights on the same day as most flights leave in the evening from Lima.

The Level of Experience Required

To climb Alpamayo and Huascarán you need to be physically fit, have strong mental stamina and be capable of strenuous exercise for several days duration. Expedition members can expect to be exerting themselves for about six hours per day and be capable of carrying a 20 kg pack.

Climbing at altitude affects people differently; most climbers notice a lower performance rate than normal. Our climbing days are mostly short to accommodate this and vital rest days are usually welcomed! Our graduated acclimatisation program allows you to progressively consolidate your fitness.

This expedition is advanced in nature. From the altitude to the technical nature of the climbing, prospective members should have experience with multi-pitch climbing (rock or ice), and be comfortable following Grade 4 ice climbs, and have climbed at altitude.

The Expedition Fee

The cost of the expedition ex Lima, Peru is US\$5,700. This is an inclusive cost and covers the following;

- Qualified and experienced Adventure Consultants and local guide/s
- All expedition organisational requirements
- Airport transfers
- All land transport within Peru
- Hotel (Bed & Breakfast) in Huaraz on a twin-share basis
- All trek and expedition food ex Huaraz
- Group Equipment: ropes, tents, stoves etc and all supplies necessary to make a safe and strong bid for the summit
- Climbing permits
- Regular written and photo internet dispatches for families and friends to watch your progress

The expedition fee does not include the following:

- Personal clothing and equipment
 - Personal Travel Insurance / Trip Cancellation Insurance / Medical Evacuation Insurance
 - Meals and hotels in Lima
 - Lunch and dinners whilst in Huaraz (Lunch included on the day trips)
 - Bottled beverages
 - Personal expenses such as alcohol, gifts, laundry etc
 - Return flights and visas to Lima, Peru
 - Excess equipment over the 20kg per person allowance
 - Any rescue costs
 - Government and airport taxes
 - Medical vaccinations
 - Any costs associated with early departure from the expedition
 - Gratuities
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Huascarán add on price

- 1 Person add on US\$5,500
 - 2 People add on US\$3,000 each
 - 3 People add on US\$2,250 each
 - 4 People add on US\$1,950 each
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Deposit

A non-refundable deposit of **US\$500** is payable to secure a place on the Alpamayo expedition. A further **US\$500** deposit is payable for the Huascarán extension.

Balance

The balance of funds of **US\$5,200** for Alpamayo and applicable fee for Huascarán is payable by **7 April 2012**.

Payments

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following bank and account:

Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch
1 Willis Street, Wellington
New Zealand

For the account of: **Adventure Consultants Limited**

Account # **1000-594771-0000**
Account Type: **US Dollars**
Swift Address: **BKNZ22**

Note: All bank transfer charges are for the remitters account.

Or, we can accept a US Dollar bank check made out to Adventure Consultants Limited.

We can accept your US\$500 deposit via credit card, Visa, Mastercard, Amex. We can also accept your balance of payment via credit card plus a 3% transaction fee.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

An expedition member may cancel his/her participation on the following basis:

- A Prior to 7 May 2012, a refund of 50% of 7 April 2012 balance payment.
- B After 7 May 2012 there will be no refunds.

Team members should take out private insurance if they wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons. This is called Trip Cancellation Insurance and can be obtained from your normal travel agent.

Visas

Generally entry Visas are not required for travellers staying less than three months in Peru but please check with your travel agent.

Team Membership

The team will have a **maximum size of 8 members and 4 guides**. The operation of the expedition is subject to minimum team numbers being met.

There is a guide to client ratio of 1:2 for this expedition.

Food

During the expedition you will enjoy high quality 'western' food as well as popular local dishes. One of the highlights of this expedition is the high quality meals that are prepared by our local staff. Please indicate any specific dietary requirements you may have on your application form. For special diets such as vegan and gluten/dairy free we will call you to discuss your needs and how this will work in the group cooking situation. If your dietary requirements are especially strict you are advised to bring a sufficient supply of your required food types with you to ensure you are provided for.

Equipment List

Expedition members will be sent a list detailing all necessary individual clothing and personal equipment required.

Medical Examination

Expedition members will be provided with a medical questionnaire and asked to visit their family physician and receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted only by our medical adviser and treated with full confidentiality. Advice on immunisations will be provided at this time.

Documentation and Photographs

Expedition members will need to provide 3 passport photographs for various climbing and trekking permits and a scan of their passport bio-data page which should be e-mailed to our office.

The advantages of climbing with us

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to high altitude expedition climbing. Our reputation is attributed to meticulous planning and experienced logistics coordination. We have a philosophy of investing in every expedition to offer our climbers the best possible chance of success.

We employ strong and specialised Expedition leaders and support staff, who are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry. We pride ourselves on operating with small teams, the best back-up and support available. This includes nutritious and ample quantities of food, comfortable base camp facilities, reliable communications systems and the necessary medical back up.

Many of our expedition members come to us because they have seen us in action on a previous trip and decide to opt for our level of service and proven experience. Others return because they know we do our very best to make expeditions safe and successful.

How to join this expedition

If you would like to join the expedition please request an **Expedition Application Form** and forward along with your **climbing résumé** and the deposit for the trip. If you require more information please contact us at;

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Adventure Consultants is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.

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