

PRINCIPAL ATTRACTIONS

PRIVATE SERVICES– IN SPANISH, ENGLISH OR OTHER LANGUAGES; SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

INTRODUCTION

Spread out along the Callejon de Huaylas, a dazzling valley stuck between two mountain ranges, the Blanca and Negra Cordilleras, you will find picturesque and pleasant cities like Recuay, Carhuas, Yungay, and Caras, while the urban and commercial center of the area is the capital of Ancash, the energetic city of Huarás. It was between the years 1200 b.C. and 200 b.C. that the Chavín lived in the region, the same that left as their legacy the impressive archeological complex of Chavin de Huantar, which, in 1985, UNESCO placed on the World Cultural Heritage List.

Throughout the entire department, you can see the most spectacular snow covered mountains, among them Mount Huascarán (6,768 ma.s.l.), the tallest peak in Peru. In addition, there are hot springs and spectacular lakes as those of Llanganuco; in all, it is an area perfect for adventure sports like white water rafting, mountain climbing, mountain biking, and trekking.

HUAYHUASH CORDILLERA

The cordillera is approximately 30 km / 19 miles long and constitutes the border of the Departments of Huanuco, Ancash, and Lima. It is also considered one of the most spectacular mountain ranges of the Andes.

Six of its many peaks reach heights of more than six thousand meters (19.680 feet). Mountain climbing is a popular activity in its many snowcapped mountains.

ANCASH ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Avenida Luzuriaga 762.

Visiting hours: Mon. – Sat. 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. Sun. 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

The museum features an important stone sculpture collection of the Recuay culture as well as exhibitions of pottery and textiles from pre-Inca cultures such as Chavin, Huaras White on Red, Mochica, Wari, and Chimú.

Informes y reservas

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HUASCARAN NATIONAL PARK

There are different entrances to the park to be chosen according to the interest of the visitor. The most important entrances are the one by the Llanganuco sector, where Lake Chinancocha is (beautifully turquoise in color), that of Orconconcha, and the entrance by the Carpa sector, which allows access to snow capped Mount Pastoruri.

The park was created in 1975 with the purpose of preserving the wild animal and plant life, geological formations, archeological sites, and beautiful scenery. UNESCO placed it on the Natural World Heritage List in 1985. Inside the 340.000 hectares, which include almost the entire White Cordillera, you can observe the great variety of high Andean plant life like the Puyas Raimondi in the areas of Quesque and Pumapampa (this flower is considered the biggest in the plant realm, and once it has blossomed, the plant dies), and the queñual trees in the Llanganuco Lakes.

Among the 296 lakes of the park, the most outstanding are Paron, Culliconcha, Llanganuco, Auquiscocha, Rajucolta, Querococha, and Cuchillococha. Of its 663 glaciers, the most impressive are Huascarán (6768 masl / 22.199 fasl), Huandoy (6395 masl / 20.976 fasl), Chopicalqui (6354 masl / 20.841 fasl), Hualcan (6122 masl / 20.080 fasl), and Alpamayo (5947 masl / 19.506 fasl).

It also houses a great diversity of birds and animals such as pumas, deer, Andean cats, and three endangered species, the spectacled bear, the Andean deer, the Andean condor

CHAVIN DE HUANTAR ARCHEOLOGICAL COMPLEX

109 km / 68 miles south of Huaraz (3 hours and 30 minutes by car)

It was built around 1200 B.C. and discovered by Julio C. Tello in 1919. UNESCO placed it on the World Cultural Heritage List in 1985.

The complex includes ceremonial rooms and pyramidal structures built of massive stone blocks. The Old Temple has a group of subterranean galleries that open an access way to the Room of the Lanzon, an impressive stone knife-like sculpture. This sculpture is 4.5-meter high (15 feet) and has been carefully carved with feline, bird and snake patterns, characteristic of the Chavin iconography.

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MOUNT PASTORURI

70 km / 43 miles south of Huaraz (3 hours by car)

Along the route to the snowcapped peak, you can see Patococha Lake, some specimens of the Puyas Raimondi, and the Pumapashimi Spring. This snowy mountain reaches 5240 masl (17.187 fasl), but its glacier base is easy to get to and the lower ice patch is found at 5025 masl (16.482 fasl). The peak is part of the main high mountain tourist circuits of the Callejon de Huaylas. You can practice snowboard, ski and ice climbing there.

LLANGANUCO LAKES (3800 MASL / 12.464 FASL)

25 km / 16 miles northeast of Yungay (45 minutes by car)

The lakes, Chinancocha and Orconcocha, are situated within the Huascarán National Park and are fed by the melting snows of mountains Huascarán, Huandoy, Pisco, Yanapaccha, and Chopicalqui. The Chinancocha Lake or "female lake" is practically at the foot of Mount Huascarán, and it is characterized by the intense green turquoise color of its waters and the thick queñua forests that grow on its shores. The other smaller lake, called Orconcocha or "male lake", is located at the end of the glacier valley, and its waters are light blue.

MOUNT HUASCARAN (6768 MASL / 22.199 FASL)

21 km / 13 miles southeast of Yungay (1 hour by car), you arrive at Musho and from there you start a 4-hour hike to the base camp. Then, it is a 2-hour climb to the Raimondi glacier.

It is the highest mountain in Peru. For those who want to ascend Huascarán, the expedition lasts six to seven days. The Raimondi glacier works as an acclimation zone and a base camp to scale the north and south peaks..

PUERTO CHICAMA O PUERTO MALABRIGO

74 km northeast of Trujillo (1 hour and 30 minutes by car)

Located on a wide and very windy beach. It is known by those who practice surfboard because Chicama has the longest left wave in the world.

Fuente: Promperu. La información contenida en este documento es una enumeración de atractivos y servicios a disposición del viajero en toda la región. Para su actualización, PromPerú se ha servido de fuentes oficiales de información como: Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales (INRENA), Instituto Nacional de Cultura (INC), Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN), Servicio Nacional de Meteorología e Hidrología del Perú (SENAMHI) y la Dirección Regional de Comercio Exterior y Turismo.

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