

PISCO AND CHOPICALQUI

Peru Expedition

PISCO (5752M)

CHOPICALQUI (6345M)

ALPAMAYO (5947 M) Optional

6345M
Max. Elevation

20 DAYS
Exped. Duration

Expedition

OVERVIEW

The Peruvian Andes are considered by many to be the most beautiful and impressive mountains in the world, with Chopicalqui being one of the most popular 6,000m summits. It is quickly accessible from Huaraz, meaning with careful acclimatisation it is possible within a relatively short trip. This expedition will acclimatise on nearby Nevado Pisco (5,752m), prior to attempting Chopicalqui. Pisco is an attractive snow peak in its own right, with interesting climbing and excellent views.

Chopicalqui's south west ridge is climbed on snow, with some significant crevasses and short ice cliffs to overcome. The team will use two camps, the highest being on a col at 5,350m. Team members need to carry their own personal gear on the mountain. There is an option of extending your time in Peru by a week and climbing Alpamayo.

This expedition is excellent preparation for climbers who might consider joining a longer and more committing expedition to the Himalaya in the future. If you are comfortable on Scottish III routes or Alpine AD, you could consider this trip as an introduction to high altitude mountaineering in the Greater Ranges. Or, if you have climbed at altitude before and are looking for a more technically challenging peak, in a relatively action-packed 3week trip, this is a good choice for fit mountaineers.

Detailed ITINERARY

Day 01

Fly to Lima and overnight stay at hotel.

Day 02

Fly to Huaraz (3,050m) - A bustling town with an economy largely based on agriculture and trekking. To welcome you to the outdoor capital of the Cordillera Blanca, you will be treated to dinner and we can discuss our trekking plans. Overnight hotel.

Day 03

Rest day at Huaraz (3,050m) - Having come from sea level to 3,050m, it is important for you to have a rest day today. The emphasis is on balanced acclimatisation and relax.

Day 04

Walk from Huaraz to Laguna Chirup (4,400m) - A further day to acclimatise before setting out for Pisco and Chopicalqui. About 6 hours walking.

Day 05

Drive to the Llanaganuco Valley, trek to Cebolla Pampa (3,900m) - About 3 hours drive to the north and start trek to Pisco Base Camp, Cebolla Pampa (3,900m).

Day 06

Acclimatisation walk to Lake 69, return to Cebolla Pampa (3,900m). A 5-hour return trip to walk to Lake 69, at an altitude of 4,600m. There are stunning views of the south face of Chacraraju (6,108m). Return to Cebolla Pampa camp.

Day 07

Trek to Pisco Base Camp (4,650m) - The walk to Pisco base camp can be steep and difficult in the warm mid-day sun so an early start is advisable.

Day 08

Acclimatise and review rope skills at Pisco Base Camp (4,650m). You can enjoy a restful start today. In the afternoon, you'll refresh proficiency in roping-up for glacier travel and abseiling.

Day 09

Climb to Moraine Camp (4,850m). The path will now take you straight up the steep moraine.

Day 10

Summit day, Pisco Oeste (5,752m). The team may encounter the steepest snow slope, a short pitch of 40°, before pulling on to the summit.

Day 11

Return to Cebolla Pampa (3,900m). In the morning you will retrace your steps to our campsite at Cebolla Pampa. The afternoon can then be spent relaxing.

Day 12

Trek to Chopicalqui Moraine Camp (4,900m)-you trek through base camp, but as the team are now acclimatised, you'll continue along the valley towards Moraine camp.

Day 13

Rest day in Moraine Camp (4,900m)

Day 14

Move to High Camp (5,350m). The climbing is on easy-angled snow slopes, weaving around crevasses and short ice cliffs against a backdrop of impressive rock scenery. High camp is located in a flat area below the south west ridge proper.

Day 15

Summit day, Chopicalqui (6,345m). The first crux of the route is often a steep, 70° snow slope approximately 100m from the summit. The final section just below the summit typically has a large ice wall, which can be as steep as 85°.

Day 16-17

Spare day. Descend to base camp and return to Huaraz.

Day 18

Fly Huaraz to Lima

Day 19

Depart Lima & fly/drive towards your home country.

Every effort will be made to keep to the above itinerary, but as this is Adventure Travel in a remote mountain region, we cannot guarantee it. Weather conditions, road conditions, vehicle breakdowns and the health of climbers can all contribute to changes. The expedition Leader and our local agent will try to ensure that the trip runs according to plan, but an easy going nature will be an asset!

ALPAMAYO

Expedition

Price: USD 2250

Optional Extension Plan

For an ascent of Alpamayo via the French Direct route, you can spend an entire month in Peru. The French Direct route on the south west face of Alpamayo involves 10 pitches of steep ice climbing (mainly 50°). Please note you will need two ice tools if you choose to do this extension.

Day 18

Drive to Cashampampa from Huaraz, trek to Llamacorral (3,760m).

Day 19

Trek to Alpamayo base camp (4,330m)

Day 20

Climb to Moraine camp (4,900m)

Day 21

Climb to Col camp (5,350m) lies between Alpamayo and nearby Quitaraju (6,040m)

Day 22

Alpamayo summit (5,947m) - It should take approximately 7 hours.

Day 23

Descend to base camp

Day 24

Trek out to Cashapampa and drive to Huaraz

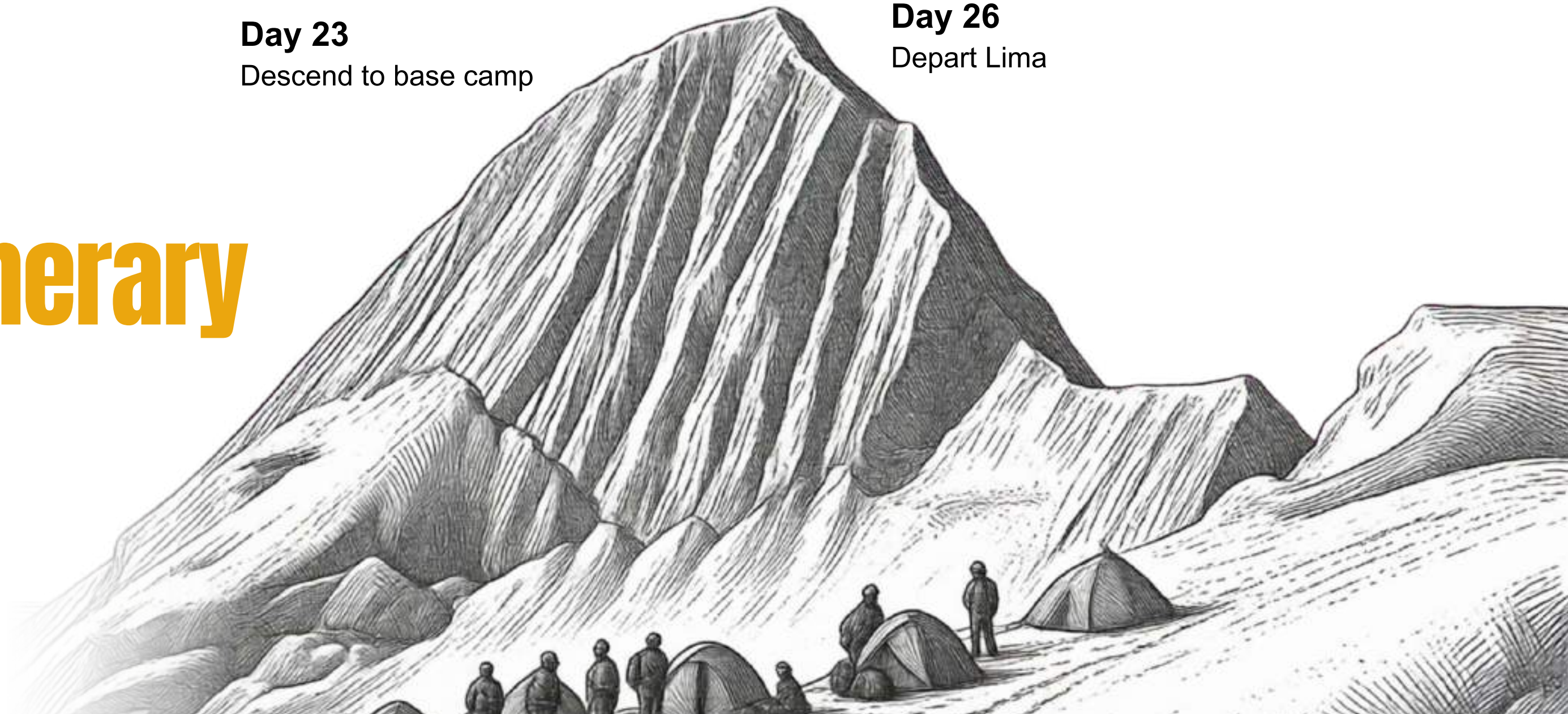
Day 25

Fly Huaraz to Lima

Day 26

Depart Lima

Additional **itinerary**



A climber in full gear, including a helmet, goggles, and a large backpack, is seen from behind as they ascend a steep, snow-covered mountain ridge. The climber is using two red ice axes and a yellow rope. The background shows a vast, snow-covered mountain range under a clear blue sky.

Exoed Teams

the group size will be maximum 10 members. Every 2 members climb with an Peruvian IFMGA guide. Arnold Coster will be there as a team leader for groups above 5 Members

Pisco involves roped-up glacier walking with crevasse crossings, moderate rock scrambling along ridges and short sections of ice or snow up to an angle of 55° following snow crests. The difficulty of Chopicalqui's south west ridge partly depends on the snow conditions, but it's not as technical as, for example, Alpamayo, and you only need one axe. However, if there is a lot of snow, and/or if it is particularly sugary or unconsolidated, progress will be physically very tough. Typically there are some short, steep ice walls that need to be overcome and these can sometimes be as steep as 85° if the route is in a 'difficult' condition. Climbing the steep ice wall at over 6,000m just below the summit will be exhausting.

A climber wearing a helmet, harness, and a large white pack is rappelling down a rope on a snowy mountain peak. The climber is positioned on the left side of the frame, with the rope extending vertically. The background is a vast, snow-covered mountain range under a clear sky.

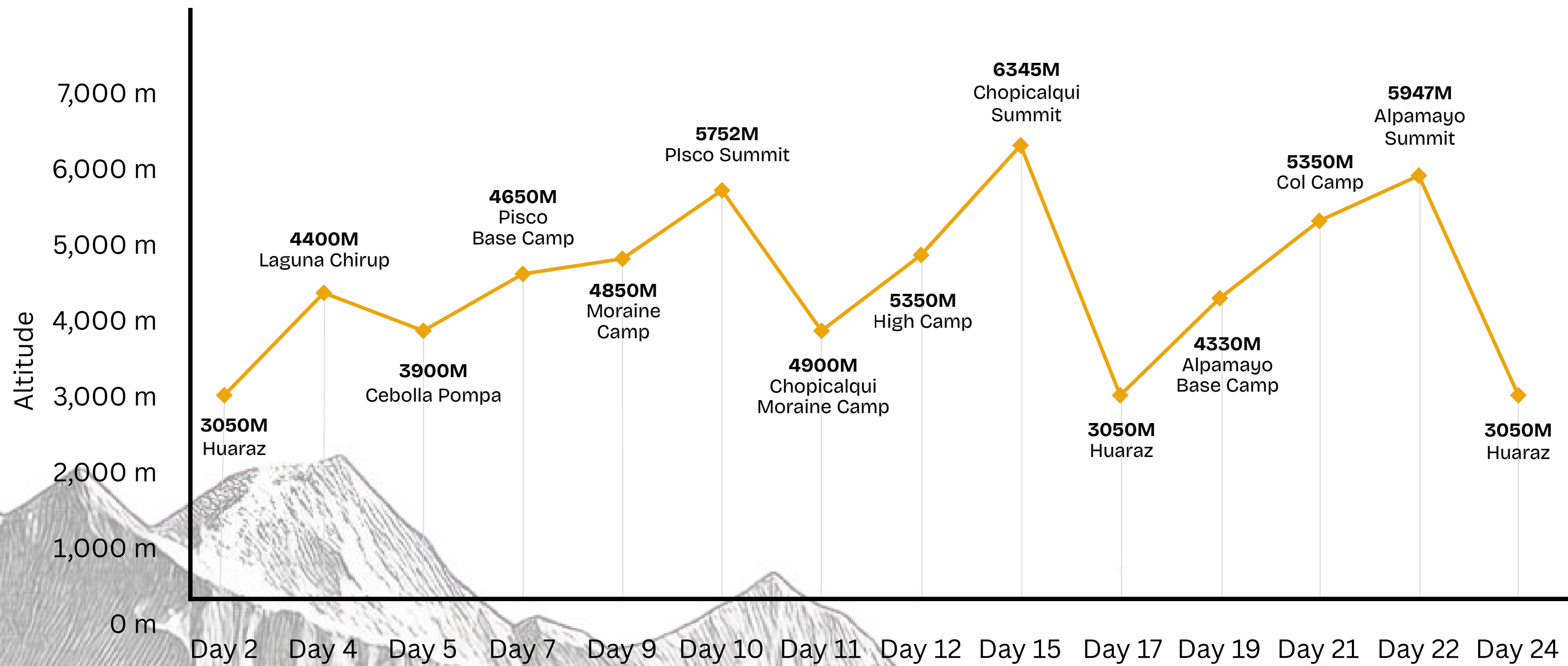
Required Experience

To join the expedition and have a good chance of success, you must have:

- Climbed Scottish Grade III climbs or European WI3.
- Climbed Alpine AD or equivalent, along with experience of scrambling on exposed rocky terrain.
- A high level of fitness, having prepared for the expedition with regular mountain walking throughout the months preceding the trip, including Grade I scrambles.
- Experience of climbing above 5,000m is preferable, but not necessarily a requirement for those with a solid background in the European Alps on routes of AD.

Climbing 5,000m and 6,000m peaks in Peru requires that you to have a high level of endurance. Training for endurance means developing the aerobic energy system in your body. Essentially your objective is to train the energy production systems to meet the demands of the activity for as long as required. For Peru this means consecutive tough days whilst acclimatising before even tougher summit days.

As porters carry the tents and food, there is no heavy load carrying on the expedition, but team members need to carry only their personal equipment. You can therefore expect your pack to weigh 12 to 14 Kg



What is Included

- Airport and hotel transfers connecting with flights.
- 2 nights' hotel accommodation in Lima, on a bed and breakfast basis.
- 4 nights' hotel accommodation in Huaraz, on a bed and breakfast basis.
- 12 nights' accommodation in tents on a full-board basis.
- All road transport by private vehicles as described in the itinerary.
- All portering costs to base camps.
- All costs for Peruvian IFMGA-qualified Mountain Guides and local helpers.
- Arnold Coster as the expedition leader (min 5 members)

What is Not Included

- Visa fees.
- international airfare.
- Overseas airports taxes not paid in advance through the international airline ticket.
- Extraneous hotel bills (e.g. bar and laundry).
- Lunch and evening meals in Lima and Huaraz.
- Additional hotel nights in Huaraz if the programme is changed.
- Optional sightseeing trips.
- Tips.
- Alpamayo extension 2250\$

BOOKING

At Arnold Coster, we would like to talk to the climber personally before we finalize any applications for the expeditions. We want to make sure that we understand each other completely before we ask for any commitments.

If you would like to book a place on this expedition, you can do so securely by requesting our application form, over the phone or by sending an email on

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