



ALPAMAYO & QUITARAJU

5,917M / 19,412FT - 6,036M / 19,803FT



2026 EXPEDITION TRIP NOTES





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2026 EXPEDITION DETAILS

Dates: June 30 to July 16, 2026
Duration: 17 days
Departure: ex Huaraz, Peru
Price: US\$7,750 per person

▲ Spectacular views on the summit of Vallunaraju. Photo: Dean Staples

Climb the classic fluted slopes of Alpamayo's (5,917m/19,412ft) Southwest Face, the prize of Peru's Cordillera Blanca peaks. Often referred to as the most beautiful mountain in the world, Alpamayo provides spectacular, technical climbing for any committed alpinist. Complete the expedition with an ascent of the nearby Quitaraju (6,036m/19,803ft) and optional add-on Artesonraju (6,025m/19,767ft).

HISTORY

Nevado Alpamayo, as it's more correctly known, is situated in Peru's Cordillera Blanca. With twenty-nine summits over 6,000m/19,500ft, the Cordillera Blanca forms but a small part of the Andes chain, located down the entire western side of South America. Alpamayo doesn't quite reach that rounded figure of 6,000m but makes up for its relative shortfall in height with its 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 Northwest Face. By some amazing piece of good fortune, the three were neither buried nor injured by the 200m/650ft fall and they were able to make an 'orderly retreat' from the mountain.

In 1957, a German expedition led by Günter Hauser, comprising of 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/1,650ft of perfect two-tooled ice and nevé (styrofoam-like snow) on a flawlessly 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.

EXPEDITION OVERVIEW

We meet in Huaraz (3,052m/10,013ft), nestled on the edge of the Cordillera Blanca. Its high elevation allows us to acclimatise and prepare for the challenges ahead, and we spend a day here packing gear and refreshing our ropes skills.



▲ Climbers move through spectacular terrain towards High Camp. Photo: Dean Staples

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—Artesonraju, the enormous Santa Cruz and the very imposing pyramid of Quitaraju.

We establish a Base Camp in a small valley right beneath Quitaraju (6,036m/19,803ft) and Alpamayo (5,917m/19,412ft) itself 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 /1,300ft 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.

The following day we climb the North Face of Quitaraju, which sits to the Southwest of High Camp. We cross the glacier to the start of the route, which is notably longer than Alpamayo, but not as steep, providing an enjoyable, sustained ice and snow climb through to the summit.

PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE

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

You will also need to be physically fit, have strong mental stamina and be capable of strenuous exercise for several days' duration. Expedition members can expect to exert themselves for about six hours per day and be capable of carrying a 20kg/45lb pack.

Climbing at altitude affects people differently but 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.

TEAM SIZE

This expedition operates at a guide-to-client ratio of 1:2 and will have a maximum size of 8 members and 4 guides.



▲ Climbers move towards Alpamayo High Camp. Photo: Dean Staples

ITINERARY

EXPEDITION DATES

Alpamayo and Quitaraju Expedition:
June 30 to July 16, 2026

Artesonraju Add On: July 17–22, 2026

ITINERARY

Following is an ideal itinerary for the expedition:

Day 1	Arrive Huaraz, Peru
Day 2	Acclimatisation day in Huaraz, rock climbing at Los Olivos crags
Day 3	Day hike to Macashca Hills
Day 4	Day hike Pitec to Laguna Churup
Day 5	Huaraz to Vallunaraju, hike to Morena Camp
Day 6	Climbing instruction, overnight at Morena Camp
Day 7	Vallunaraju climb, return to Huaraz
Day 8	Rest day
Day 9	Drive Huaraz to Cashapampa, trek to Llama Corral, camp
Day 10	Trek to Alpamayo Base Camp
Day 11	Climb to Moraine Camp

Day 12	Climb to High Camp
Day 13	Summit day, return to High Camp
Day 14	Climb Quitaraju or contingency/bad weather or rest day
Day 15	Return to Base Camp
Day 16	Return to Cashapampa and Huaraz (or move to Artesonraju Base Camp if continuing on the Artesonraju Extension)
Day 17	Trip ends, depart Huaraz

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1

Arrive in Huaraz and transfer to your hotel. Gear checks and welcome dinner with the climbing team.

Day 2

We spend a day in Huaraz to acclimatise to our new altitude of 3,100m/10,170ft. We will also use this day to refresh our rock climbing skills at the local Los Olivos crags.

Day 3

We undertake a day hike to the Macashca Hills near Huaraz before returning to overnight at our Huaraz hotel. Our hike takes us on an enjoyable climb up into the hills directly behind Huaraz. The trip starts with

a short car journey—around half an hour into the Macashca Valley.

We initially walk up quite steeply for around 1 hour on a grassy hillside before reaching a wide open grassy ridge which we follow easily to a saddle at 4,200m/13,780ft. From the ridge, there are fantastic views over Huaraz across to the snow-capped peaks of the Cordillera Blanca, Peru's highest mountain, Huascarán, and the Cordillera Negra. The walk then descends a long way with open views all the way to finish in Huaraz around 5 hours later.

Day 4

We take a car from Huaraz to Pitec, driving through the attractive farming settlements of Unchus and Llupa (1½ hours' drive). From Pitec (3,850m/12,630ft), there is a steady climb on a good path with views to Laguna Churup (4,440m/14,565ft), a beautiful turquoise mountain lake below Nevada Churup (5,493m/18,020ft). The final 100m/330ft to the lake is up a steep rock gully. We allow 4–5 hours for this acclimatisation walk, overnighting back at the Huaraz hotel.



▲ Acclimatise and trek through the spectacular Peruvian Andes. Photo: Víctor Saunders



▲ Follow up your summit with a climb of Artesonraju. Photo: Andrew Wexler

Day 5

Next in our sights is Vallunaraju and we begin by driving 90 minutes from Huaraz to the Llaca Valley. From here we climb steeply up a ridge for 2 to 3 hours to Morena Camp (5,130m/16,830ft).

Day 6

Today is a climbing instruction day, conducted at approximately 5,300m/17,400ft before descending back to Morena Camp.

Day 7

We set out early for our Vallunaraju summit climb (5,686m/18,655ft), which takes around 10 hours up and back to Llaca Valley. We then return to Huaraz by car and overnight at our Huaraz hotel.

Day 8

A rest day Huaraz! A time to sleep in, wash clothes and of course, eat!



▲ Resting amidst towering ice seracs. Photo: Víctor Saunders

Day 9

We drive 2½ hours from Huaraz to the village of Cashapampa (2,090m/6,857ft) 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 can be quite hard. We are in a steep-sided river gorge and are climbing continuously so if the sun is out it is hot in the gorge. But later, the valley opens out onto grassland and it is flatter and cooler as we approach our first camp. We camp near the river at Llama Corral (3,750m/12,303ft) after around 4–5 hours.



▲ Climbing through a couloir on Alpamayo summit day. Photo: Dean Staples

Day 10

This is also a short day and you'll probably be at Alpamayo Base Camp for lunch, to then enjoy a rest in the afternoon. During the walk up the valley, the twin peaks of Quitaraju and the famous Alpamayo come into view. We walk past two lakes; first the small Ichiccocha and 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 (4,250m/13,943ft) after around 4–5 hours.



▲ Stunning panoramas across arid mountains from Vallunaraju. Photo: Dean Staples

Day 11

Today we move 2–3 hours up to Moraine Camp (5,000m/16,400ft). This is a testing climb on moraine and some slippery rock, up until we reach Moraine Camp at the end of the glacier.



▲ Trekking into Alpamayo Base Camp. Photo: Dean Staples

Day 12

Next we progress to High Camp (5,450m/17,880ft). We climb up an average 45-degree ice gully to reach the bottom of an ice cliff. In some years, we must ascend up to 150m/500ft of 70-degree ice to reach the top of an ice cliff. We may fix ropes on this section. High Camp is situated at the top of the ice cliff between Alpamayo and should take around 4–5 hours to reach.

Day 13

We leave camp early and climb on sometimes steep snow slopes for about an hour to a bergschrund at the bottom of the Southwest Face. At times there are crevasses to negotiate. 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. We return to sleep at High Camp, with the whole day taking approximately 8–9 hours. With an early start and early arrival back at High Camp, there is the option to descend to Base Camp on the same day also.



▲ Looking down steep summit day slopes. Photo: Dean Staples



Stunning views from Alpamayo's Moraine Camp. Photo: Dean Staples

Day 14

Climb Quitaraju (6,036m/19,803ft), an adjacent peak offering similar technical climbing to Alpamayo. Otherwise contingency/bad weather or rest day.

Day 15

Today we return to Base Camp. It is necessary to do a rappel of around 150m/500ft close to High Camp to descend the ice cliff. The last 1½ hours to the camp is on steep and slippery rock and the day should take around 5–6 hours in total.

Day 16

We enjoy a long but easy walk down the Quebrada Santa Cruz to Cashapampa, taking 6–7 hours. Our vehicle will be waiting in Cashapampa to return us to Huaraz and our comfortable hotel.

Alternatively, join our Artesonraju add-on itinerary—see Artesonraju Extension section for more details.

Day 17

Trip ends, depart from Huaraz.

ARTESONRAJU EXTENSION

An ascent of Artesonraju (6,025m/19,767ft) can turn our 17-day Alpamayo programme into a fantastic 23-day expedition to include one of the world's most recognisable summits.

Artesonraju, made famous in the Paramount Pictures logo, is a beautiful pyramidal peak situated between the Santa Cruz and Paron Valleys. The climbing is more technical than Alpamayo with some pitches up to 60–80 degrees. Climbers must be totally confident using two technical ice tools and should have climbed, and be confident climbing, long (200m/650ft+) steep technical ice walls.

The cost of the add-on depends on how many people join the Artesonraju extension. It is guided at a 1:2 ratio and your guide(s) from the Alpamayo programme will accompany you. The cost is inclusive of the Adventure Consultants Western guide continuing with you on Artesonraju.

In previous years, we have offered an extension itinerary to climb Huascarán, the highest peak in Peru. However, conditions have been deteriorating, making the climb more dangerous and with a lesser chance of success. Hence, we are now offering Artesonraju as an add-on to Alpamayo.

Following is an ideal itinerary for our Artesonraju Add On, starting on July 17-22:

Day 16	Move to Artesonraju Base Camp
Day 17	Rest day in Base Camp
Day 18	Climb to Moraine Camp
Day 19	Climb to High Camp
Day 20	Climb Artesonraju, return to Base Camp
Day 21	Contingency/bad weather day
Day 22	Return to Huaraz
Day 23	Trip ends, depart Huaraz

THE ADVANTAGES OF CLIMBING WITH ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS

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.

VISAS

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

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Flight arrangements should be scheduled so that you arrive in Huaraz on the first scheduled day of the trip, or earlier if you want some time to explore the city.

You will need to clear customs in Lima and fly onwards to Anta Airport, located 15 minutes drive from Huaraz. Airport transfers can be arranged on your behalf.

COMMUNICATIONS

The expedition will be equipped with portable Thuraya satellite phone systems for the duration of the expedition in order to provide reliable email and voice communication for business, media or personal use. Limited satellite phone time can be purchased at the rate of US\$3 per minute. Please contact our office for details.



▲ Climbers descend off Vallunaraju. Photo: Dean Staples



▲ Climbing upwards to High Camp. Photo: Dean Staples



▲ A climber makes progress on Alpamayo. Photo: Andrew Wexler



▲ Ice tool refresher training near Base Camp. Photo: Dean Staples

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 in your dietary questionnaire.

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.

TRAVEL APP

Expedition members will be provided with access to our travel app where they will find extensive information on their upcoming expedition including everything from equipment lists to travel and training advice.

Comprehensive pre-trip support will be provided by your personal Expedition Liaison and our team of support staff.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION & INSURANCE

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

We also require members to obtain rescue insurance and we will consult with individual team members regarding your insurance needs and solutions for coverage.

PASSPORT PHOTOGRAPHS

Expedition members will need to provide a digital passport photograph for climbing and trekking permits, plus a copy of their passport biodata page.



▲ Sunset at Artesonraju Base Camp. Photo: Andrew Wexler

THE EXPEDITION FEE

ALPAMAYO AND QUITARAJU EXPEDITION FEE

The cost of the expedition, ex Huaraz, Peru is US\$7,750.

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Qualified and experienced Adventure Consultants and local guide/s
- All expedition organisational requirements
- 7 nights 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 summit bid
- Porter support to carry 5kg of personal equipment on Alpamayo
- Climbing permits
- Internet dispatch page that is updated daily by guides

The expedition fee **does not** include the following:

- Personal clothing and equipment
- Personal travel insurance/trip cancellation insurance/medical evacuation insurance
- Airport transfers
- Lunch and dinners whilst in Huaraz (lunch is included on the day trips)

- Bottled beverages
- Personal expenses such as alcohol, gifts, laundry etc.
- Return flights and visas to Huaraz, 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

ARTESONRAJU ADD ON FEE

- 1 Person add on US\$8,500
- 2 People add on US\$4,950 per person
- 3 People add on US\$3,900 per person
- 4 People add on US\$3,200 per person

PAYMENT DETAILS

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

Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch
42 Willis Street
Spark Central



▲ High Camp nestled amidst imposing terrain. Photo: Andrew Wexler

Wellington
New Zealand

For the account of Adventure Consultants Limited.

Account Number: 1000-594771-0000

Account Type: US Dollars

Swift Address: BKNZNZ22

NOTE: All bank transfer charges are for the remitter's account.

We can also accept payments by credit card (Visa, Mastercard and Amex) plus a 3% card charge.

DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit of US\$1,000 is payable to secure a place on the Alpamayo Expedition. A further US\$500 deposit is payable for the Artesonraju extension.

BALANCE

The balance of funds Alpamayo and Quitaraju and/or Artesonraju Add-on is payable 90 days prior to the expedition start date.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

Once you have paid your deposit your trip is confirmed, subject to payment of the balance of fees owing 90 days prior to your trip commencement date. An expedition member may cancel their participation on the following basis:

- Cancellations outside of 90 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.
- For cancellations made within 90 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the balance payment fee.
- For cancellations within 60 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.

We strongly recommend you take out trip cancellation insurance via your travel agent if you wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons.



▲ Quitaraju. Photo: Victor Saunders

HOW TO JOIN THIS EXPEDITION

If you would like to join the Alpamayo and Quitaraju Expedition, please complete our online booking form and forward your deposit payment at <https://adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/south-america/alpamayo-uitaraju#DepartureBookingBlock>.

CONTACT US

If you require more information, please contact us at:

Adventure Consultants Ltd
5/12 Frederick Street
PO Box 739
Wanaka, 9343
New Zealand

Phone: +64 3 443 8711

Email: info@adventure.co.nz

Website: www.adventureconsultants.com



▲ Alpamayo from High Camp. Photo: Dean Staples



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 is a supporter of the dZi Foundation in Nepal for their 'Revitalise a Village' programmes.

Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA/UIAGM standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.

