

MT Sobek: Trekking in the Cordillera Huayhuash

Day 1 Arrive in Lima

Arrive at Lima airport in the evening and make your way to your hotel for the night. The hotel links directly to Jorge Chávez International Airport, and is easy to navigate to. Tonight is yours to relax and recover from your flight, or perhaps order room service.

Accommodation: Wyndham Costa del Sol

Day 2 Drive to Huaraz

7-hour private van transfer

Meet your MT Sobek representative in the hotel lobby for a 6:30am transfer to Huaraz, where we'll have lunch at the Hotel Andino before an afternoon of leisure to help acclimatize to this higher elevation. Later, meet with the group for a welcome dinner.

Accommodation: Hotel Andino

(B, L, D)

Day 3 Hike to Huilcacocha Lake

2-hour private van transfer

5 hours/3.5 miles hiking with 2,051' elevation gain & loss

Transfer to Huilcacocha Lake (12,303') and set out on your first acclimatization hike surrounded by astounding views of the white-capped peaks of the Cordillera Blanca. Along the way, meet and interact with the local Quechua people who still wear colorful, traditional Andean clothes. Pass close to their traditional adobe houses and see how they have lived for countless centuries. Climb to a spectacular viewpoint and stop for lunch before descending back down to the lake via a different route with beautiful views of the valley below.

Accommodation: Hotel Andino

(B, L, D)

Day 4 Explore Huascarán National Park

6-hour private van transfer

After breakfast, travel into Huascarán National Park and discover the unusual beauty of the Puya Raimondi trees, relative of the pineapple and the largest member of the bromeliad family. Continue to Yanashayash pass, then onward to Cuartelwain (13,779'), your camp for the night.

Accommodation: MT Sobek Camp – Cordillera Huayhuash

(B, L, D)

Day 5 Cross Cacanampunta Pass & Trek to Janca

5–6 hours/5.5 miles hiking with 1739' elevation gain & loss

Start the day crossing the Cacanampunta Pass (15,387') at the northern end of the range, keeping an eye out for Andean condors soaring overhead. From here, descend through a multicolored landscape to the beautiful, flat, and grassy campsite at Janca (13,943'). This is a short walking day to aid our acclimatization, but if you're still feeling energetic, you can take the short walk to Lake Mitucocha in the afternoon.

Accommodation: MT Sobek Camp – Cordillera Huayhuash

(B, L, D)

Day 6 Hike Scenic Mountain Trails to Lake Carhuacocha

5–6 hours/8.5 miles hiking with 1,140' elevation gain & 1,542' elevation loss

Today's pass, the Carhuac (15,091') is longer but not too steep, with splendid views of Yerupaja

(21,765'), the highest mountain in the Huayhuash. Descending to the rim of the hanging valley, look down on a lake of deep turquoise. Our campsite below Lake Carhuacocha (13,549) offers an incredible vista of peaks and hanging glaciers, proving you don't need 26,000-foot peaks to have the most inspiring mountain scenery.

(B, L, D)

Day 7 Full-Day Hike to Siula Pass

8–9 hours/9.5 miles hiking with 2199' elevation gain & 1477' elevation loss

Wake up before dawn if you'd like to watch the sun rise over the lake. The sun's first rays catching the peak of Mount Yerupaja (21,765') certainly make the effort more than worthwhile. After breakfast, set off on a long but gradual climb up a beautiful valley surrounded by the snowcapped peaks and serene glacial lakes. Then, climb steeply to the top of the rocky Siula Pass (15,748') before descending to your camp for the night (14,271').

(B, L, D)

Day 8 Hike to the Viconga Thermal Bath

5–6 hours/8 miles hiking with 1318' elevation gain & 1154' elevation loss

Start your day with a gradual, three-hour climb towards the Portachuelo de Huayhuash pass (15,589'). From this beautiful vantage point, descend along the valley, passing grazing llama and sheep. After a walk beside the large Viconga Lake, take a short climb up to reach Viconga Thermal Baths (14,435'), a natural hot springs, and your camp for the night.

(B, L, D)

Day 9 Climb to Cuyoc Pass

6–7 hours/6 miles hiking with 1,969' elevation gain & 1,359' elevation loss

Tackle a long, challenging day ascending the highest pass on the trek, Cuyoc Pass (16,404'). Stop to take in the marvelous views of the surrounding high mountains before descending down over a rocky section. Finally, hike along the valley to camp at Cuyoc (14,763).

(B, L, D)

Day 10 Hike to Calinca Valley

5–6 hours/5 miles hiking with 1,250' elevation loss

Descend and then turn up the Sarapococha Valley to reach lakes Jurau and Sarapococha (14,704'). Set up camp in Calinca Valley (13,450'), not far from the base camp of author Joe Simpson before his climb of Siula Grande that resulted in the 1988 book, *Touching the Void*.

(B, L, D)

Day 11 Climb to Huantiac

7–8 hours/10.5 miles hiking with 2460' elevation gain & 1639' elevation loss

Retrace your steps down the Sarapococha Valley and drop to warmer climes, continuing to the remote village of Huayllapa (11,811), with beautiful views of the waterfalls. In the afternoon, climb steeply again to spend the night at Huantiac (14,271'), a high grazing meadow under the shadow of Diablo Mudo (the 'Mute Devil'). This is probably the hardest day, but tomorrow will be shorter and easier.

(B, L, D)

Day 12 Cross Punta Tapush Pass

4 hours/5 miles hiking with 1312' elevation gain & 820' elevation loss

Enjoy an easy day crossing the Punta Tapush pass (15,583'), then descend to camp near Lake Susucocha (14,763'). Watch the sun set in the Mount Diablo Mudo.

(B, L, D)

Day 13 Hike to Beautiful Laguna Jahuacocha

4–5 hours/5 miles hiking with 985' elevation gain & 2,297' elevation loss

Walk down to Angoshcancha Valley, with its forest of quenua trees, then ascend to the steep and scree-covered Yaucha pass (15,748'). On a clear day, you'll get magnificent views of the highest peaks of the Huayhuash range and long-distance panoramas to the peaks of the Cordillera Blanca. After a long descent, reach Laguna Jahuacocha (13,451'), which lies beneath the glacier-covered west faces of Jerupaja, Jirishanca, Rasac, Rondoy, and El Toro and is widely held to be the scenic gem of the whole range.

(B, L, D)

Day 14 Enjoy a Rest Day at Camp

Take a break from hiking in the indescribably beautiful setting of Laguna Jahuacocha. Enjoy the abundant bird life, spotting puna ibis, Andean geese, and more. There are some fine walks nearby, and you can choose to explore the area more if you wish.

(B, L, D)

Day 15 Return to Huaraz

4-hour private van transfer

5–6 hours/7 miles hiking with 1312' elevation gain & 3281' elevation loss

After breakfast, depart early to return to Huaraz. Ascend a steady but gradual climb up to Shullca Pass (14,763') and take a brief rest, taking in the surrounding Andean ranges. Then, descend down a steep, gravelly trail to Pocpa (11,482') to meet your private transportation to transfer back to Huaraz. Accommodation: Hotel Andino

(B, L, D)

Day 16 Return to Lima & Depart

7-hour private van transfer

Early morning you will be transferred by land to Lima. Most U.S.-bound flights depart in the evening, so a day room is reserved at Wyndham Costa del Sol to rest before meeting your international flights.

Accommodation: Hotel Andino

(B, L)