



Huaraz & the Cordilleras

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Best Places to Stay

- » Albergue Churup (p370)
- » Lazy Dog Inn (p370)
- » Llanganuco Mountain Lodge (p389)
- » Hotel San Sebastián (p370)
- » Andes Lodge Peru (p400)

Best Places to Eat

- » Mi Chef Kristof (p372)
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- » Buongiorno (p399)

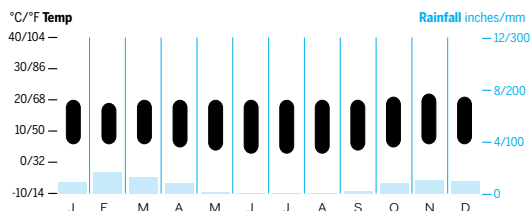
Why Go?

Ground zero for outdoor adventure worship in Peru, the Cordilleras are one of the pre-eminent hiking, trekking and backpacking spots in South America. Every which way you throw your gaze, perennially glaciated white peaks razor their way through expansive mantles of lime-green valleys. In the recesses of these prodigious giants huddle scores of pristine jade lakes, ice caves and torrid springs. The Cordillera Blanca is the highest mountain range in the world outside the Himalayas, and its 18 ostentatious summits of more than 6000m will not let you forget it for a second.

Huaraz is the fast-beating heart linking the trekking trails and roads that serve as the mountains' arteries. Plans of daring ice climbs, mountain-biking exploits and rock-climbing expeditions are hatched over ice-cold beers in fireplace-warmed bars, often only interrupted by a brief sojourn into the eastern valley to the enigmatic 3000-year-old ruins of Chavín de Huántar.

When to Go

Huaraz



May–Sep Cordillera's dry season offers the best trekking conditions.

Oct–Dec A relaxed post-season atmosphere in Huaraz; more quality trekking guides available for hire.

Dec–Apr Wet and rainy, but appropriately geared trekkers enjoy the silence.

HUARAZ

043 / POP 48,500 / ELEV 3091M

Huaraz is the restless capital of this Andean adventure kingdom and its rooftops command exhaustive panoramas of the city's dominion: one of the most impressive mountain ranges in the world. Nearly

wiped out by the earthquake of 1970, Huaraz isn't going to win any Andean-village beauty contests anytime soon, but it does have personality – and personality goes a long way.

This is first and foremost a trekking metropolis. During the high season the streets



HUARAZ & THE CORDILLERAS

Huaraz & The Cordilleras Highlights

1 Traipse for weeks around the magnificent peaks of the **Parque Nacional Huascarán** (p379)

2 Ride the astonishing highway between Huaraz and Chiquián, where postcard-ready panoramas of the **Cordillera Blanca** (p379) and **Cordillera Huayhuash** (p384) lie before you like a painting

3 See what all this trekking fuss is about at **Lagunas Llanganuco** (p390) and **Laguna 69** (p382), two of the best day trips in the Cordilleras

4 Journey through mysterious passageways amid the ruins of **Chavín de Huántar** (p396)

5 Take a white-knuckle ride through the 1000m-high

sheer rock walls of the staggering **Cañón del Pato** (p391)

6 Rest your weary kicks in an idyllic Cordillera mountain lodge like the **Lazy Dog Inn** (p370) or **Llanganuco Mountain Lodge** (p389)

7 Stroll the solemn grave of a disappeared town at **Yunguy** (p389)