



Huaraz & the Cordilleras

Includes →

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Huaraz..... | 365 |
| The Cordilleras | 376 |
| Monterrey | 388 |
| Carhuaz..... | 388 |
| Yungay..... | 389 |
| Caraz..... | 391 |
| Chiquián..... | 395 |
| Llamac | 396 |
| Chavín de Huántar..... | 397 |

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Café Andino (p373)
- ➔ Chili Heaven (p374)
- ➔ Mi Comedia (p374)
- ➔ Buongiorno (p399)
- ➔ Taita (p373)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Albergue Churup (p372)
- ➔ Lazy Dog Inn (p373)
- ➔ Llanganuco Mountain Lodge (p391)
- ➔ Cuesta Serena (p373)
- ➔ Andes Lodge Peru (p402)

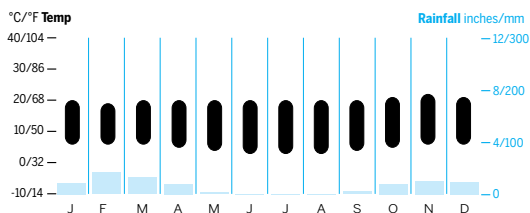
Why Go?

Ground zero for outdoor-adventure worship in Peru, the Cordilleras are one of the preeminent 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 one of the highest mountain ranges in the world outside the Himalaya, 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 hostels and 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 The Cordilleras' dry season offers the best trekking conditions.

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

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

HUARAZ

📍 043 / POP 64,100 / 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 high season the streets buzz with hundreds of backpackers and adventurers freshly returned from arduous



Huaraz & the Cordilleras Highlights

- 1 Traipsing for weeks around the magnificent peaks of **Parque Nacional Huascarán** (p379).
- 2 Riding the astonishing new highway between Huaraz and Chacas, where panoramas of the **Cordillera Blanca** (p378) lie before you like a painting.
- 3 Marveling at the blue waters of **Laguna 69** (p383).
- 4 Heading into the wilderness on the epic **Cordillera Huayhuash** (p384) circuit.
- 5 Journeying through mysterious passageways amid the ruins of **Chavin de Huántar** (p397).
- 6 Taking a white-knuckle ride through the sheer walls of the **Cañón del Pato** (p392).
- 7 Resting in an idyllic Cordillera mountain lodge like the **Lazy Dog Inn** (p373) or **Llanganuco Mountain Lodge** (p391).
- 8 Scrambling up boulders or climbing sheer rock faces at **Hatun Machay** (p395).