



Santa Cruz Trek

June 10 – 17, 2027 (7 days)

The mountains of Peru's Cordillera Blanca are among the most incredibly beautiful on earth, with their ice-fluted peaks, sprawling glaciers, turquoise lakes, and lovely alpine flora. Lying in the heart of Huascarán National Park, a World Heritage Site, the range features more than 25 peaks over 19,000 feet high and remote valleys linked by age-old trails. Join trekking guide Cathy Ann Taylor for a sensational traverse of this high Andean realm, an absolute “must” for avid mountain hikers. It's a challenging but ultimately rewarding journey: You'll cross one pass at 15,584 feet, and camp beside impossibly blue lakes with views of snowcapped peaks and glaciers. Isn't it time you added this to your personal list of one of the “Classic treks of the World?” Join us for a truly unforgettable experience!

TRIP DETAILS

Moderate to Strenuous ▶ 5 days moderate to strenuous hiking; 3 nights hotels, 3 nights camping, 1 day room at hotel on departure in Lima.



ITINERARY

Day 1, June 10 ▶ Arrive Lima – Huaraz (10,170')

Fly to Lima, Peru from the USA or (Cusco for those arriving from the Salcantay trek). Assistance at Lima airport to take a late morning flight to Anta. Transfer to the Hotel Andino in Huaraz, a comfortable hotel with a Swiss ambiance that's just a few minutes from the central plaza. Lively Huaraz is the "adventure capital" for climbs and hikes in the famed Cordillera Blanca, and views of Huascarán and the surrounding mountains are breathtaking right from our hotel and the town. The rest of the day is free to rest and acclimatize before and after lunch and dinner.

L,D...Hotel Andino



Day 2, June 11 ▶ Acclimatization Hike – Huaraz (10,170')

Today's acclimatization hike helps us prepare for the days ahead. A one-hour drive brings us to Huillcacocha (12,221'), a lake that offers spectacular views of the snowy peaks of the Cordillera Blanca, including Huandoy and Huascarán (22,204'), the highest peak in Peru. Our trail from here leads to another lake, Ararcocha, then up to a viewpoint at 12,566', with a sweeping panorama of the mountains, the river basin, and the town of Huaraz. We descend toward the villages of Purucuta and Quetscapu, and then meet up with our vehicle for the ride back to Huaraz. In the evening, we gather for a trip orientation and welcome dinner.

(Trekking distance: ~6.5 miles – Time: ~4 hours hiking.)

B,L,D...Hotel Andino

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Day 3, June 12 ▶ Begin Trek - Vaqueria – Paria (12,713')

A morning drive of 4 -5 hours brings us to the beautiful turquoise lake of Llanganuco. After a hot lunch on the way up to the pass—the Portachuelo de Llanganuco (15,580'), with its vistas of the northern Cordillera Blanca, including Huascaran, Huandoy, Chopicalqui, and Pisco, a popular trekking peak (17,900'), we will finally descend to Vaqueria, (12,139'). This is where we begin our trek. We walk down towards a trail that makes its way to the left, over a small ridge into the remote Huaripampa Valley nestled among mountains. As we slowly head up this valley, we'll pass a small settlement of farmers, going about their agricultural activities. Walking through areas of verdant Andean flora, we'll soon catch sight of snow-capped Chacaraju. Taulliraju will come into view as well as we stride alongside pastoral meadows and fields. We'll make camp in the Paria Valley at 12,713'.



(Driving distance: 74 miles – Time: ~4-5 hours, Trekking distance: ~7 miles – Time: ~5 hours)

B,L,D...Camp

Day 4, June 13 ▶ Paria - Punta Union Pass – Taullipampa (13,713')

We start our ascent towards Punta Union Pass at 15,583'. This ancient trail saw heavy traffic in pre-Columbian and colonial times as a route for transporting goods from the eastern side of the Andes to the main valley. As we approach the pass, Mt. Taulliraju will loom above us, and on the other side, a pristine glacial lake and bright white glacier will add color and contrast to the amazing views down the Santa Cruz Valley. The peaks of Quitaraju, Artesonaju, and Rinrijirca will come into view as well as the two lakes of Ichiccocha and Jatuncocha. The trail descends into Taullipampa, where we camp for the night at 13,713'.

(Trekking distance: ~6.8 miles – Time: ~7 hours)

B,L,D...Camp

Day 5, June 14 ▶ Taullipampa - Alpamayo Lookout – Llamacorrall (12,411')

Today we continue our hike down the Santa Cruz Valley, past the side-valley of Arhuaycocha, with great views of snow-capped mountain peaks, including Mt. Alpamayo. We'll ascend to an amazing viewpoint to observe the majestic Alpamayo Mountain in all its glory. The landscape changes and scree slopes appear on each side of the marshy meadow as well as a smattering of boulders fallen from the eroded walls above us. Finally, towards the end of the day, we hike out of the ever-narrowing canyon into Llamacorrall, where we camp at 12,411'.

(Trekking distance: ~8.7 miles – Time: ~6-7 hours)

B,L,D...Camp



Day 6, June 15 ► Llamacorrall - Cashapampa – Huaraz (10,170')

A steep descent brings us to Cashapampa at 9658' in the late morning. We'll meet our private vehicle that will take us back to Huaraz. We say goodbye to our amazing team of trekking staff and relax in our vehicle as the road winds slowly down to the main valley. Arrive at Hotel Andino in the afternoon. Tonight, we'll celebrate the successful completion of our trek with a festive farewell dinner.

(Trekking distance: ~4.3 miles – Time: ~4 hours, Driving distance: 60 miles – Time: ~3 hours)
B,L,D...Hotel Andino

Day 7, June 16 ► Huaraz - Lima

Transfer to Anta airport to take your flight to Lima. Relax in a lovely day room at the Wyndham Grand Airport Hotel. Enjoy the spa or a nice meal. Evening departure on homeward-bound flights, arriving home the following day (Please schedule your departing flights after 8:00 p.m.).
B...

(You will arrive home on Day 8, June 17)



LAND COST

\$5,895 per person (10-12 members)

\$6,195 per person (8-9 members)

\$6,395 per person (5-7 members)

\$6,695 per person (3-4 members)

\$595 Single Supplement

\$375 Airfare Lima/Huaraz/Lima

*Should you choose to pay with credit card there will be a service charge of 3.5%, the fee we incur from the bank.

Rates quoted are per person, based on sharing double accommodations.

Note—Prices listed are subject to change. We are occasionally faced with unavoidable cost increases (flights, fuel, etc.) or currency fluctuations that we cannot absorb. We will, however, do everything we can to keep prices the same as published.

Single Supplement—\$595 for requested singles or forced singles. If you prefer single accommodations, you must pay the Single Supplement Fee. If you wish to share accommodations, we'll try to match you up with a roommate. If that's not possible, we will still have to charge the full single supplement.



LAND COST INCLUDES...

- Expert leadership of Cathy Ann Taylor and local guide throughout
- 1 day room accommodation at the 5* airport hotel in Lima
- 3 nights accommodation at hotel in Huaraz
- All trek arrangements, including tents, sleeping pads, community camping and commissary equipment, services of camp and cook staff, horses, drivers, Eco toilets, first aid kit, and oxygen.
- Meals as noted (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Wine or beer with dinner in Huaraz
- Airport transfers
- Sightseeing as noted in the itinerary
- Ground transportation
- Entrance fees and permits

LAND COST DOES NOT INCLUDE...

International airfare to Lima and return; internal air (Lima/Huaraz/Lima, see separate costs above); insurance (we strongly recommend you purchase the optional trip insurance offered by Cattara, which includes trip cancellation insurance); optional tipping to leader and local guides; meals not noted on itinerary; excess baggage charges; airport taxes (if any); cost of medical immunizations; and items of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.); meals not noted on itinerary.

TRIP PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation25% of land cost
120 days prior to departure25% of land cost
90 days prior to departure.....Balance

CANCELLATION FEE SCHEDULE

From time of reservation
until 90 days prior to departure25% of land cost
89-60 days prior to departure.....50% of land cost
59 days or fewer prior to departure.....100% of land cost

EXPERT LEADERSHIP

Expert leadership is the key to every successful trip. Cattara attracts knowledgeable and gifted leaders who are passionate about guiding trips and truly enjoy sharing the experience with others. They understand the cultures and traditions they work in and are a fountain of information. In addition to making sure everything runs smoothly and safely, Cattara guides enhance your experience by being educators, companions, and the best of friends.

TRIP LEADER



Cathy Ann Taylor, a high-altitude trekking & cultural guide for the last 37 years, will be leading this trip. Cathy Ann has trekked all over Nepal, Tibet, India, and Bhutan, with well over 200 trips in the Himalayas (she still considers the Himalayas her “second home”)! She has also hiked extensively in the European Alps (Tour du Mont Blanc—six times, Tour of Monte Rosa, The Haute Route, Gran Paradiso, Scotland—four times, and the Dolomites—five times), the Georgian Caucasus—eight times, South America (21 trips in Peru, 7 in Patagonia), Antarctica—four times,

Kilimanjaro—one time, Morocco—five times, The Great Walk of Africa Kenya—five times, Vietnam—three times, Laos—two times, Cambodia—seven times, and Uganda & Rwanda—nine times. A devout hiker and mountain biker, she leaves no trail undiscovered, and her passion for the mountains, caring nature, and boundless energy are renowned. Her experience, knowledge, positive attitude (she can find the good in anything!), and her wonderful rapport with the local staff will enhance your experience. With the help of caring and like-minded individuals she has been able to manage the sponsorship of nineteen remote village children, all of whom are in boarding school in Nepal or in universities in India, Nepal, and the United States. She consistently gets rave reviews from members of her groups and has quite a following. Cathy Ann is active in the Breast Cancer Prevention Partners and has participated in sixteen expeditions, including Mount McKinley, Mount Cho Oyu, Mount Fuji, Mount Shasta, and Mount Rainier, which helped increase awareness of breast cancer. Cat’s special trekking program, Sacred Treks, benefits Breast Cancer Prevention Partners. Past trips include Bhutan, Mont Blanc, Peru, Everest, Ladakh, Mustang, Georgian Caucasus, Sikkim, Dolomites, Cordillera Blanca, and Annapurna Sanctuary treks (she has raised \$1.8M to date!). Cathy Ann has also been active in the American Himalayan Foundation and has helped raised \$35,000 for their STOP Girl Trafficking project. She has also raised over \$25,000 for Lama Pasang’s Himalayan Children’s Care Home which houses 87 children from Mustang, Nepal. Cathy Ann is also involved

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in fundraising for the National MS Society and has raised over \$95,000 for the organization. Cathy Ann is also involved in fundraising for the Nepal Youth Foundation and has raised ~ \$30,000 for the organization. She has also reached the summits of Ama Dablam (22,500') and Island Peak (20,305') in Nepal and Argentina's Aconcagua (22,834'), the highest peak in South America. Cathy Ann received an honorable mention in *Hooked on the Outdoors* magazine's Outdoor Person of the Year Awards and also received a letter of recognition for her fundraising and environmental work from former Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi.

PHYSICAL EXPECTATIONS

You should be an experienced hiker in very good physical condition. This trip is challenging and is designed for those who are very fit and experienced in the outdoors. You will be hiking five to seven hours a day on steep and rocky mountain trails, and mostly at elevations above 12,000 feet (highest elevation reached is 15,584'), and with many campsites at around 12,000 feet. Pack animals will carry the gear; you'll just need to carry your daypack with essential things you need during the day. Even so, hiking at high altitudes is challenging, as you can experience a variety of symptoms you wouldn't encounter at sea level (shortness of breath, sleeplessness, and headaches). You should be aware of the demands and risks imposed by very high altitude, be in excellent underlying health, and prepare by training rigorously. We recommend you have a thorough physical exam and evaluation to uncover any general medical problem that might flare up while trekking in the remote areas of Peru, where medical care may be many days away. Some experience with exercise at high altitude is highly recommended.

While on trek, you should drink a lot of water—this helps to avoid dehydration. The prescription drug Acetazolamide (Diamox) can also help acclimatization, prevent acute mountain sickness, and treat mild cases of mountain sickness but hydration, eating well, and hiking at a slow pace are the best remedies.

For physical preparation for this very challenging trek, we strongly recommend regular cardiovascular exercise for one to two hours at least 4-5 times a week. We suggest stair climbing, running, and mountain biking on hills or elliptical or treadmill training in the gym with 10-15 pound daypacks. This gets the heart rate going, which will be very beneficial for the type of high altitude trekking you will be undertaking. And, of course, the best way to train for a trek is to go hiking! We recommend you get out on the trails at least once a week for 5-6 hours. Wear your boots and daypack with 20 lbs. of gear in it and pick some trails with hills so you can strengthen your leg muscles and build up your stamina.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

You will need a passport, valid for at least six months beyond the date of completion of the trip. No visas are required for this trip (for US citizens). Please make a photocopy of the photo page of your passport and carry it separately from your passport. If your passport is lost or stolen, a photocopy will help the local consulate speed up authorization for replacement.

AIR TRAVEL

Airfare is not included in the land cost of the trip. For air reservations, please contact the airlines directly, either by phone or via the Internet. Many travelers elect to use their “frequent flyer” miles when traveling, but please check with us before purchasing or obtaining your tickets. We need to verify your arrival and departure schedule and ensure we have enough participants to operate the trip. Note—Names on air tickets and passports must match!

MEDICAL MATTERS

No vaccinations are currently required to enter Peru, but the usual immunizations for typhoid, tetanus, hepatitis A, and polio are *recommended*. These regulations and recommendations change frequently, so please check with your local health department or CDC for more information (www.cdc.gov).

Please advise us of any pre-existing medical conditions that may affect your health on the trek (recent injuries or surgeries, chronic illnesses, etc.). We recommend you bring your own personal first-aid kit, pain killers, and allergy medicines if you are prone to allergic reactions (especially EpiPen's if you are allergic to bee stings). Moleskin or Second Skin for blisters is also recommended, as well as Band-Aids and antibiotic ointment. Consult your doctor about bringing other medications, such as Diamox for altitude (125mg tablets or less), antibiotics like Azithromycin for stomach ailments, and a broad-spectrum antibiotic. The trip leader will also carry a basic kit for emergencies but will not have any prescription medications. We strongly recommend you get a medical check-up before the trek if you are over 60 years of age.

EATING OUT & HYGIENE

Although you need to be careful about eating out in Peru, we believe it is fun learning experience, and Lima and Huaraz are full of wonderful little restaurants. Make sure you drink water that is treated or bottled and food that is fully cooked. Most importantly, wash your hands frequently with soap and water, carry hand sanitizer, and your face mask.

MONEY MATTERS

You should bring enough money for any souvenirs you may buy, plus a few meals that are not included in the cost of the trip (e.g., various meals in Lima, or meals and accommodation En route to Peru). Depending on how much of a shopper you are, \$200-\$300 should be enough for incidentals and souvenirs. The ATMs give both US dollars & Nuevo Soles. ATMs are available at the airport, and in downtown Lima and Huaraz, make sure you make arrangements with your bank. The currency in Peru is the Nuevo Sol, but US dollars are widely used and accepted, **be sure to bring crisp US bills, as torn and defaced currency is not accepted**. Credit cards are generally accepted at most restaurants and shops (Visa is the most widely accepted). The exchange rate as of June 17, 2026, is 3.41 (PEN) Nuevo Sol per one US dollar. You should bring an additional amount for optional gratuities to the trip leader, local guide, and camp staff. At least US \$500 per guest is recommended for the trip leader; at least \$250 per guest for the local lead guide, the assistant local guide, and the camp staff. You can present your gratuities to your trip leader individually. The tips for the local guides and camp staff will be collected and divided by the trip leader. When tipping in

hotels for your luggage it's generally \$2.00 per bag. Tips to the drivers and transfer agents are included in the cost of your trip.

WEATHER & CLIMATE

As in most mountain environments, the weather in the Andes can be unpredictable, so each day on the trail you need to be prepared for a variety of weather conditions: hot sun, wind, rain. The months from May through October are usually the driest and clearest. However, you will carry your raingear and jacket in your daypack every day, even if the morning starts out bright and hot. Dressing in layers that can be adjusted to suit the prevailing conditions is highly recommended. The temperatures during the day can range up to the mid-70s and drop to 30-40° at night.

LIFE ON THE TRAIL

Your trekking day typically starts at 6:30-7:00 a.m., when the camp staff will bring you “bed tea” to start the day, along with a large bowl of hot water for washing. (Bring along a washcloth and you can have a full sponge bath in the privacy of your tent!) After packing your bags, you'll enjoy a hearty breakfast of quinoa, eggs, fresh fruit, and toast or pancakes. By 8:00 or 8:30 you're off on the trail. A trailside lunch breaks up the day, giving you time to rest and refuel before heading out on the trail for the afternoon hike. You usually arrive in camp by 4:00 p.m. and have time to wash up and get settled in your tent before enjoying tea and snacks in the dining tent. While waiting for dinner, you can write in your journal, read a book, play cards, or simply relax. The day ends with a hot, multi-course dinner. After dinner you can gaze at the stars (incredible viewing in this part of the world) and the moonlit peaks, go over the events of the day, or retire to your tent to read for a while before heading off to sleep.

INCIDENTALS

Laundry: Laundry service is available at the hotel.

Electricity: Most hotels in Peru feature both 110 and 220V, 60Hz outlets. It's a good idea to buy a converter set with a selection of plug adapters before you leave the US. If your appliance has a dual voltage switch, you will simply need an adapter plug but not a converter (camera chargers can be used as they are—no need for an adapter). Of course, there won't be electricity when we're camping.

Time Zones: Peru is Greenwich Mean Time minus five hours. That means that Lima and Huaraz are the same time as New York and three hours ahead of California. Peru does not observe Daylight Savings Time.

Communications: While we discourage the use of cell phones on our trip, we can't deny the fact that you may want to be in touch with your friends or family. Please be sensitive to the needs of others and use them in the privacy of your room. Contact your cell phone service about international coverage.



WHAT TO BRING: CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT LIST

Packing Notes

It's best to go as light as possible and take only the essentials. Excess baggage can be a burden, not only to you but to support personnel.

Always bring all irreplaceable items, such as camera, medications, important documentation, and trekking boots in your carryon luggage.

Luggage

- ☐ Duffel bag. A good size is about 14" x 15" x 36" (50-60L)—large enough to hold your sleeping bag plus your trekking clothes and gear. It should have a full-length zipper (for easy access) and be sturdy and water-resistant or waterproof.
- ☐ Daypack with a capacity of 24-32 liters, with a good, padded waist belt. It can double as your carryon bag. Remember, you must carry your synthetic jacket and rain gear with you every day on the trail, as well as your snacks, 2 liters of water, sunscreen, warm hat, gloves, camera, and cover for daypack in case of rain. Be sure your daypack is large enough!
- ☐ Spare roll-up duffel (optional). This is essential to store city clothes in Huaraz while on trek and if you wish to bring home those great souvenirs! It should be lockable.

Clothing Notes

As in every mountain environment, the weather can be unpredictable. You can expect some sunny days (the Santa Cruz area is known for having nice weather), but there is always the possibility of rainy and windy conditions. At high elevations, you can expect to encounter cool climates, so bring comfortable clothing that will protect you from cold and possibly wet weather. Synthetic fabrics (or wool) are the most effective barriers against the cold. They provide the best insulation, are light in weight, wick away perspiration, and dry quickly if wet. (Cotton garments are not good in cold or wet mountain conditions.)

When layering, your innermost layer should be a synthetic T-shirt. The middle layer can be a synthetic turtleneck or wool shirt, and pants. The outermost layer should be a synthetic jacket, and/or a good quality wind/rain jacket and over-pants.

We haven't included quantities for each item listed. Use your own judgment, based on the expected weather conditions, your personal needs, and the overall weight restrictions for your luggage.

Underwear

- ☐ Regular underwear. Synthetics are easier to wash and dry.
- ☐ Thermal underwear—one lightweight set (wool is also good). You can use them to sleep at night and as layers for maximum warmth.

Socks

- ☐ Casual socks (synthetic for easy washing and drying) that are suitable for walking (not hiking) shoes.
- ☐ Light-weight hiking socks (synthetic or wool/synthetic).
- ☐ Synthetic or silk sock liners—optional. Some people wear sock liners to help prevent blisters, and some wear the same pair of hiking socks for three days in a row and achieve the same result.

Shirts

- ☐ Long-sleeved, synthetic, or wool shirts.
- ☐ Short-sleeved synthetic T-shirts (in case we have some hot, sunny days on trek).

Pants

- ☐ Full-length synthetic hiking pants.
- ☐ Fleece pants, ideal for around camp.
- ☐ Casual pants or skirts for non-hiking activities (in Huaraz).

Outerwear

- ☐ Medium-weight jacket of synthetic fabric or a lightweight down sweater.
- ☐ Medium-weight down or synthetic-fill jacket (ideal for camp time).
- ☐ Rain/wind shell (must fit over bulky clothing).
- ☐ Rain/wind pants, preferably with full-length side zipper (must fit over your other pants).
- ☐ Gloves or mittens (fleece or combination of fleece with waterproof shell overmitt or glove).
- ☐ Waterproof daypack cover.

Head Gear

- ☐ Sun hat with wide brim, preferably with a chin strap to keep it from blowing off, or baseball cap.
- ☐ Fleece or wool hat.
- ☐ BUFF (neck gaiter). A generally useful item—it will keep your neck from getting sunburned and can provide warmth and wind protection.

Footwear

Please break new boots in well before the trip.

- ☐ Light to Medium - weight, sturdy hiking boots with padded ankle, good arch support, and lug sole for traction. Your hiking boots should be waterproofed, well broken in, and suitable for hiking on rocky terrain and possibly snow.
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes to wear while in towns (can be stored in Huaraz while on trek).
- ☐ Tennis shoes, slip-on clogs, or Teva-type sandals to wear in camp.

Sleeping Gear

- ☐ Sleeping bag with a recommended rating of 0° to 5°F.
- ☐ We provide 72" long Therm-A-Rest sleeping pads.

Other Items

- ☐ Water bottles, 1 or 1.5 quart capacity. Make sure they are leak-proof and heavy duty. Bring 2 and mark them with your name or initials as several people may have the same bottle.
Note—CamelBaks or other bladder hydration systems are not recommended, as they often break or leak, are difficult to fill with boiled water, and are hard to keep clean.
- ☐ Hiking poles—highly recommended. These are essential to relieve the impact on your knees during long downhills; they are also useful on uphill. Practice with them before the trip.
- ☐ Parachute cord to use as a clothesline inside your tent.
- ☐ Toiletry kit—biodegradable soap, toothbrush, feminine products, etc.
- ☐ Roll of toilet paper. Toilet paper is provided at camp, but you need to carry your own on trek during the day.
- ☐ Purell hand sanitizer for quick hand washing and hygiene (a must!).
- ☐ Personal medical kit, including antibiotics, pain killers, and blister protection.
- ☐ Throat lozenges (or hard candies), about 12 of them. Good for soothing sore or dry throats at altitude.
- ☐ Body lotion for dry skin at higher altitudes.
- ☐ Small towel of synthetic-type fabric.
- ☐ Sponge or washcloth to wash up at camp.
- ☐ Ace bandage or brace if you're prone to sore knees or ankles.
- ☐ Sunglasses (100% UVA/UVB protected).
- ☐ Spare pair of prescription glasses, prescription sunglasses, or contact lenses.
- ☐ Sunscreen lotion and lipstick of SPF 25 or higher.
- ☐ Small headlamp with spare batteries.
- ☐ Small padlock or combination lock for your stored duffel.

- ☐ Heavyweight plastic garbage bag(s) to help keep the contents of your backpack and duffel bag dry during hikes.
- ☐ Travel purse.

Optional Travel Accessories

- ☐ Camera and plenty of memory cards and extra batteries.
- ☐ Repair kit with needle, thread, and safety pins.
- ☐ Pair of compact binoculars.
- ☐ Swiss Army-type pocket knife.
- ☐ Powdered mixes such as electrolytes for your water.
- ☐ Your favorite trail snacks or candy, especially if you have dietary restrictions.
- ☐ Reading and writing material.
- ☐ Sit upon pad for the trail.

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