

The Ultimate Andean Road Trip



This trip is more of a backroad journey. It will appeal to those who are open, flexible and with a great sense of adventure. The journey is also a photographers and artists dream! A small group of twelve will be just enough, without being too much. ¡ Viajemos!

Tuesday

November 11

Evening arrival to Lima * Overnight Lima/ Miraflores

Hotel Senorial Miraflores senorial.com

Wednesday

November 12

Drive to the Pearl of the Andes * Overnight Tarma (BLD)

Depart Lima, 'The City of the Kings' towards the Central Sierra in private transport, destination Tarma. You stop at various points of vistas along the way. Ticlio, the mountain pass of the Cordillera Central at an elevation of 15,807 ft, passes the main line of the highest standard-gauge railway in the world. The railroad was built to service the lead and zinc mines at La Oroya and Morococha and reaches the pass from the west via the Galera Tunnel, 3,855 ft in length, which emerges at the Ticlio station. Tarma, the Flower City, is also known as the pearl of the Andes, and is located 150 miles east of Lima, in



the mountain ranges of the Central Andes, in a fertile valley at 9,000 ft. Your stay is in a 250 yr old working hacienda, one of the few not to be divided up during the agrarian reform. It was not divided in part, due to the fair working conditions of the Gandolfo family. There is a Peruvian/ Italian/German mix of hospitality here. Upon arrival and after coca tea, you get a flat acclimating hike in and around the hacienda grounds and to the next town. Don Pepe enjoys telling his family history around the fire, he knows you are interested! haciendalaflorida.com

Thursday

November 13 Inka Trail Hike

* Overnight Tarma (BLD)

A visit to the Valley of Flowers is a good way to start this day. Then hike the Inca Trail between Huasqui and Tarmatambo. Hermoso!!!

Tarmatambo was founded by the Incas and was their administrative center under the jurisdiction of Tawantinsuyo. This day there is an option to hang back at the hacienda and shadow the charismatic owners, Inge & Pepe during their daily Hacienda 'routine' haciendalaflorida.com



Friday

November 14 Tarma to Huancayo * Overnight Huancayo (BLD)

It is a noon departure from the Hacienda, you will need time to milk a cow, morning stretch class in the garden with Inge, out to the fields with Pepe.... You drive towards Huancayo, there are mountain vistas, alpacas, llamas, vicunas, and small hamlets to take in along the way. You pass through the town of Juaja, the first Peruvian capital of the Spanish. The central altiplano's megametropolis, bustling Huancayo mixes its modern facade with a strong underlying sense of tradition. The hotel is near the square, you just might want to take advantage of a Friday night peña and dance with the locals! hotelpresidente.com.pe

Saturday

November 15 Huancayo to Huancavelica * Overnight Huancavelica (BLD)



Before leaving Huancayo, you visit the oldest market in Peru. There is no market with more potatoes being sold in the world! The stunning 150 km drive to Huancavelica is an ancient route that follows the train track that was built for the areas mining activities. This is another day of incredible Andean scenery. The provincial town of Huancavelica is bursting with beautiful churches, charming plazas and mineral springs and lies picturesquely nestled within craggy peaks. You stay on the main square, at the stately Hotel Presidente. hotelpresidente.com.pe

Sunday

November 16 Huancavelica * Overnight Huancavelica (BLD)

A late morning hike to visit the nearby town of Sacsamarca is a good introduction to the area. Huancavelica was a strategic Inca center and shortly after the conquest the Spanish discovered its mineral wealth. By 1564 the Spaniards were sending indigenous Peruvian slaves to Huancavelica to work in the mercury and silver mines. The present town was founded in 1571. Today, the town of Huancavelica, albeit still in one of Peru's more impoverished and rarely visited departments, is a serene spot to soak up life as locals live it. This entails partying at one of the frequent fiestas, browsing the markets or, for the most part, sitting on the plaza just watching the colorful cross-section of society pass by. The 'Plaza Mayor' is an architectural gem and one of the best preserved plaza's in Peru.

hotelpresidente.com.pe

Monday

November 17 Huancavelica to Paccha * Overnight Paccha (BLD)

You start out on the highway to Ayacucho, drive through Peru's second largest alpaca reserve, and then veer off towards Paccha, this is where it gets more custom, nobody really does this! We'll just say it's all in a days drive without getting too specific. Remember, this is part of what makes it the 'Ultimate Andean Road Trip' You will be the second group Paccha has ever hosted! Make you feel special? Well, you are! The community is ready and excited to explore the possibilities of hosting small groups. The opportunities for them, that a visit inspires, will contribute to their economy and cultural pride. You arrive just in time for dinner at 'Cafe Adela' Overnight dormitory style in the town hall



Tuesday

November 18 Paccha * Overnight Paccha (BLD)

There are two unique days of cultural exchange amongst the small towns that 'Fundacion Comunidad' has been involved with for the past fifteen years. School is in session and as you visit some of the different education projects that the Foundation (you) have supported, you may be required to teach a class or two! This is where we get creative. An evening slide show (yes there is electricity) of our lives back home is of most interest to your new Pacchino friends. Popcorn included.

Wednesday

November 19 Paccha * Overnight Paccha (BLD)

More cultural exchange today. There are fantastic hikes from Paccha. During today's exploration you take the shady path near the river, to the house Wilber was born. It is a well used path by the outlying communities and you are sure to meet some new folks. This is a good way to follow some locals around and see what they are planting and where (hoes provided). This is an agrarian society and November is planting time.

Thursday

November 20 Paccha to Ayacucho * Overnight Ayacucho (BL)

You will find it hard to leave today. Don't worry, I'll be planning your return trip! The drive to Ayacucho is just a little over two hours. You arrive in time for lunch on the balcony overlooking the Plaza de Armas in Ayacucho. This is a beautiful spot to sit back and reflect on what you have experienced along the way. The cappuccino's aren't too bad either. Don't think you can spend the whole afternoon hanging out though, you have to at least walk to Wilber's house in the Santa Ana neighborhood. Overnight ViaVia Hotel viaviacafe.com

Friday

November 21 Around Ayacucho * Overnight Ayacucho (B)

With 33 churches in town....how will you ever have enough time? Ok, maybe some church walk by's, but let's at least say we walked by all of them! It's a day on foot exploring Ayacucho, and it's an easy city to amble on your own if you choose. The university offers a small and comprehensive exhibit that is included. Wilber always knows an extra uphill loop to the top of a hill with a good view of the city and the surrounding valley. There is an opportunity to try your hand at weaving during your Ayacucho stay. Huamanga, as the city is referred to by the locals, is the weaving capital of South America. It was also the center of the 'Sendero Luminoso' from 1980-2000. The memorial museum educates about the history of this difficult and tragic time in Peru's recent history. *Overnight ViaVia Hotel*

Saturday

November 22 Ayacucho * Overnight Ayacucho (BL)

The Wari Archaeological complex in route is your first stop. You will most likely encounter archeology students working on the grounds as this is a more recent and evolving Wari site. Then to Quinua, a well preserved colonial town, known for their skilled ceramic artists. Along the way you pass through a major Cochineal and prickly pear producing area. 10 km north of Quinua is the 'Historic Sanctuary of the Pampa of Ayacucho'. The Battle of Ayacucho was fought on this field on December 9, 1824. This defined the emancipation of Peru, and all of South America, from the Spanish dominance. *Overnight Ayacucho ViaVia Hotel*

Sunday

November 23 Ayacucho to Lima * Evening flight to states (BLD)

After all that overland ruggedness, it's an easy 45 min flight to Lima! The flight lands you in Lima at aprox 8 am, giving you a full Sunday in Peru's capital city. I love Sundays in Lima! They shut down the main road between Miraflores and Lima..what does that mean for you? A peaceful walk to the historic center of Lima perhaps? Why? Because the best gelato in SouthAmerica is on the way! Oh, and so is Humberto's new apartment that is big enough for a dinner party. Most flights depart before midnight on the 23rd , or just after midnight on the 24th.

\$3,495 per person. Includes: \$100 pp donation to Fundacion Comunidad, guiding services, private transport, flight to Lima from Ayacucho, lodging, cultural activities, meals as stated on itinerary.