

Peru Climbing School Urus, Ishinca, & Tocllaraju



June 1-15, 2016; May 31-14, 2017 \$3500 (*land costs*)

Difficulty Level: Introductory - No technical climbing or altitude experience is necessary. It is imperative, however, that you are in good physical shape, and able to hike in rugged terrain for long days. We are happy to detail physical and technical training programs as needed to get you ready for our introductory expeditions.



The Cordillera Blanca is a stunning range of five and six thousand meter peaks, and the Ishinca Valley is one of a half dozen that cut deep into the center of the range. The Ishinca Valley offers the perfect place to establish a base camp, from which we can climb three peaks. It provides countless opportunities for learning and practicing the skills essential to high altitude mountaineering while climbing progressively higher and more complex mountains.

Our trip begins with two days in Hauraz, the mountaineering capital of South America. We will then head into the Ishinca Valley, using burros to assist bringing two weeks of food and equipment into our base camp. From this camp, at 14,000 feet, we will utilize the surrounding glaciers and mountains to learn and then hone basic mountaineering skills. These skills will include route assessment, roped glacier travel, crevasse rescue, crampon and ice axe skills, and an understanding of high altitude physiology. In between skills sessions we will soak up the incredible beauty of this remote valley. The main goal of our “school” programs is to obtain the mountain skills necessary to be a confident and active participant on this and other climbing teams moving forward.

As our skills increase we will attempt progressively more challenging peaks. We will begin on Urus (17,777 feet), a one-day glaciated climb from base camp. Next, we will take on Ishinca. At 18,138 feet, this valley’s namesake will be a real challenge. We will place an additional high camp at the base of the mountain’s glacier, from where we can reinforce acclimatization and our understanding of glaciology and route assessment before taking off onto the glacier for a summit at dawn.

Finally, we will attempt Tocllaraju (19,780 feet). Tocllaraju is a true expedition peak. Again we will place a high camp immediately below the glacier, before winding our way over a rock ridge, a heavily crevassed glacier, and a steep headwall onto Tocllaraju’s airy summit. The views from this peak are those mountaineers dream of—countless jagged peaks spread out before us, stunning sunrises, and lush valleys far below. We will truly have earned our time here!

Alpenglow’s Peru Climbing School will be guided by one or more of Alpenglow’s AMGA

certified lead guides. AMGA (American Mountain Guides Association) certification is the highest possible training available to guides, and only the most experienced and dedicated attain it. Our lead guides have all traveled and climbed extensively in South America and know the Peruvian Andes intimately. Their knowledge of Andean culture as well as the mountains, combined with their passion for teaching others to become competent mountaineers, guarantees that your experience will be one to remember!

We combine our guides' experience with the local expertise of our close friend and expert Peruvian logistics operator, Alfredo Ibarra. Waking each morning to Alfredo's smile, not to mention, hot coffee, and incredible pancakes, will be a highlight of your trip. And our small team size and low ratio of climbers to guides (3:1) ensures that you stay healthy and strong, and are able to enjoy each component of your experience.



Peru Climbing School Itinerary

Day 1	Leave the USA for Peru in the afternoon. Flights should arrive in Lima between 6pm and midnight.
Day 2	Drive to Huaraz (8 hours) in our private van, where we are based out of a small but beautiful hotel (10,000 feet).
Day 3	An acclimatization and organization day in Huaraz.
Day 4	Drive to Collon. Trek to a Base Camp (14,000 feet) in the Ishinca Valley. We will use burros to assist with our equipment on this full day.
Day 5	A skills development day. We will cover topics including roped glacier travel, crevasse rescue, route and weather assessment, and high altitude physiology. This day will also assist in the acclimatization of our bodies.
Day 6	An additional acclimatization day to use here or later in our schedule.
Day 7	Climb Mt Urus (17,700 feet). A midnight start will put us on the summit shortly after dawn after a climb of a rock ridge, glacier, and final steep summit slope.
Day 8	After a morning of rest, we will move to a high camp on Ishinca.
Day 9	A day of skills on the glacier, including advanced crevasse rescue, self-arrest practice, glaciology, and basic avalanche awareness.
Day 10	Ascent of Ishinca (18,138 feet.) Once again the route will take us up a low angled glacier, perfect for perfecting our roped travel technique, to a final headwall that separates the airy summit from the rest of the mountain.
Day 11	A well deserved day of rest at Base Camp.
Day 12	Move to high camp (17,200 feet) on Tocllaraju.
Day 13	Climb Tocllaraju (19,784 feet). The ascent of this peak is more technical and will challenge all of the skills we have developed. The glacier is heavily crevassed and the angle of the slopes is significantly higher than the previous 2 peaks. We will truly deserve the incredible panoramic views we gain from Tocllaraju's summit.

Day 14	Hike down the Ishinca valley to the road head, returning to Huaraz for a celebration dinner complete with Pisco sours (the local's popular concoction) and perhaps a little salsa dancing!
Day 15	Depart for Lima. Fly to Sao Paulo



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