



# Detailed itinerary FairMail

## *The Organic Coffee route”*

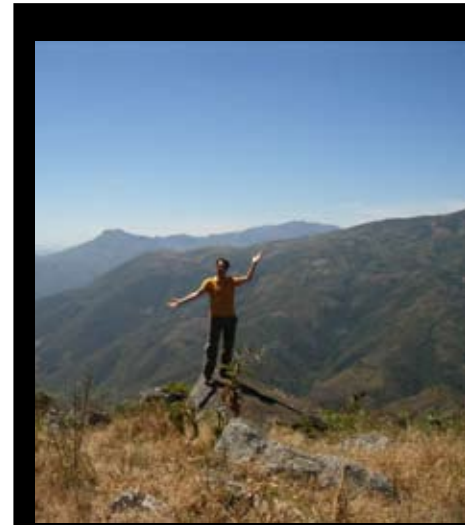
### **Description**

The Organic Coffee route is a unique adventure tour to the origin of our daily coffee. During this 10 day tour, we visit several small coffee farmers in the heart of the northern Peruvian cloud forest. The main focus, besides taking pictures, is to have contact with local people. That's the best way to discover how the locals live in this area. They don't only live of the export of organic coffee, but also organic sugar and woven textiles. You will see the impact of fair trade in this traditionally disadvantaged region in the world with your own eyes.

The Organic Coffee route goes over the flanks of the Andes where it descends into the Amazon rainforest. A great natural beauty, wonderful smells, humid air, greenery and water are part of the landscape. Some villages even don't have electric power, which gives you the opportunity to see the most impressive stars ever! This destination is barely visited because of the remoteness of the cloud forest of the Andes Mountains and because the tourism infrastructure is still not well developed. This guarantees an adventurous journey far from the beaten path, filled with authentic picture moments.

The journey starts in the friendly fishing village of Huanchaco, where the residents still fish in the graceful reed fishing boats, a tradition that goes back many centuries. In Huanchaco you'll have the opportunity to get used to the Peruvian lifestyle. You can relax on the beach or take some surfing lessons. You can also have a look at the various attractions in the area, like the largest pre-Columbian mud city of Chan Chan, the former capital of the Chimu empire or the various pyramid temples of the Moche culture. In Huanchaco you will also meet the Fair Mail teenagers and see how they live their daily life.

After several days in Huanchaco, you travel by public transport with the entire group from the desert to the Andes Mountains. For 7 days we do a tour around the border area of Ecuador. Roads and public transport are scarce in this region, so there will be a lot of walking involved. Of course in a quiet pace so you can take a lot of great pictures! During these walks and taking the pictures, you'll have a lot of contact with the locals and that's how you get to know their way of life. The residents of this area are hardly in contact with tourism and soon you will be touched by their genuine friendliness and hospitality.



### About travelling with FairMail

The FairMail team likes to invite travellers during our photography journey. If you want to join us, you have to realize that you travel with teenagers and that you'll have to adapt to their mode of transportation. The main goal of the whole group is to take pictures, not to view as many touristic sites as possible. Due to the limited budget of FairMail and the teenagers, we sleep in a basic accommodation, use public transport as much as possible and we eat in local restaurants. Sometimes we will walk for a few hours in a row in a mountainous area with primitive footpaths. Walking shoes and a raincoat are part of your equipment! Alternately we speak Spanish, English and Dutch in the group. There is a Dutch speaking tour guide, so it is not necessary to speak Spanish fluently. However, you will get more out of your journey when you speak some Spanish words, because that's the way to make contact with the teenagers and the locals. It is possible to take some Spanish lessons during your first days in Huanchaco.

### About the accommodation

We mostly use family home stays or small basic hostels during this journey. We use them because there is no alternative on the destinations we visit, but also because of the limited budget we have for the teenagers. The teenagers are not accustomed to luxury and for you it can be a new experience. By this way of travelling you get to understand what living in Peru is like, and it also gives the local families a benefit from tourism in their area. Imagine staying one night at a Peruvian farmer's house on a straw mattress and an outside toilet! All carefully selected family home stays and hostels do have at least basic bathing facilities, although not always with hot water. During family home stays you can have your breakfast with the family and easy make contact. The accommodation in Huanchaco is a bit more luxurious than in the inland areas, for example they all have hot showers.

### About the meals

The food is included during the journey through the inlands, only in Huanchaco you pay for your own food. This means that you eat the same food as the rest of the group. This is the best way to experience some of the excellent local dishes! Due to the budget and the expectations of the teenagers we often eat in simple and inexpensive local restaurants and not in tourist restaurants. Of course you are free to order something else at your own costs.

### About transport

We use buses and sometimes private cars during this journey. On the main roads are luxurious bus services with many facilities on board, like large and adjustable seats, a toilet and sometimes hot meals. For the routes between smaller cities there are only simple buses available. When the quality is acceptable and the distance not too long on these routes, we use public transport. It is for a couple of times also nice to experience how the public transport is organised in a developing country like Peru. Sheep on the roof, chickens in the bus, loud cumbia music on the radio and there you go. And stop again, and go! On routes where there is no regular public transport, we use a type called "collectivos" a private car with a driver. These are reasonably comfortable station wagons used as



public transport on the remote routes. The advantage of this way of transport is that we can stop to enjoy the overwhelming landscape, to take a picture or to buy some fruit along the way.

### **The level of comfort during this journey**

Tourism is only just developing at the organic coffee route, so infrastructure may be different than you're normally used to. The accommodations are fine, but considerate that you mostly stay with local families and not in luxury hotels. Also the transport with the private car with driver will be comfortable enough. But you must realize that the area of the coffee route has mainly unpaved roads and some parts are in a poor condition. The advantage is that you drive pretty slowly, so you can enjoy the beautiful scenery.

### **Best period to travel**

The Organic Coffee Route is situated in the cloud forest of the northern Andes, on the edge of the Amazon rainforest. The rainy season is from January to March, but showers can occur every day of the year and during the rainy season it can be sunny and dry for a couple of days as well. The average temperature varies between 11 and 29 degrees Celsius.

### **What to take?**

- Cash, during the last week of the journey there won't be any ATM's.

(There are ATM's in Huanchaco and Piura)

- Raincoat/ clothes
- Warm clothes (during the night-time on high altitude)
- Hiking shoes
- Light clothes (during hot days)
- Cap or sun protection for your head
- Bathing suit
- Photo or video camera
- Valid passport
- Copies of travel documents
- Daypack
- Towels
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Insect repellent
- Flashlight
- Pocketknife

### **What makes this journey sustainable?**

Why is this journey different than the original destination? Or in other words, what makes this journey sustainable?

The good thing about Fairmail photography journeys is that you not only treat yourself to a unique holiday but also one of the teenagers from FairMail. With your contribution to the journey, we can cover the costs for one of the Fair Mail teenagers to go with us on tour. It's obviously not just about money. You can also share your western view on beauty with the teenagers, so they learn what customers of FairMail cards like to see on their postcards. This helps them to sell more cards and earn more money for their education. In a fun and relaxed way you support talented, but underprivileged teenagers, to improve their future! You also have the option to "make your seat green" during your flight to Peru by using Atmos Fair. This organisation plants trees to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions, for a small additional amount. Atmos Fair is one of the few CO2 compensation options that have the 'Gold Standard' by the World Wildlife Fund. For more information you can check their website [www.atmosfair.com](http://www.atmosfair.com).

By booking this journey you also support economic development of the communities we visit. We mainly use services from people who live in the area like accommodation, transport and guides. Other travel

agencies mainly use large tour operators who visit the area, but don't leave any positive things for the residents. You stay with local families in Huanchaco, Sicches, Sicchespampa and Montero and you use also local transport services. Also the guides who are also the local coffee farmers are from the area itself. In Ayabaca and Piura you don't stay with a local family, but in a local hostel.

### **Minimum amount of days**

Minimum of 10 days and the possibility to extend your journey with extra days in Huanchaco to relax, learn Spanish, surf or volunteer at a local organisation.

### **Prices**

Everybody has different wishes and a different budget. That's why we offer the Basic Program of 10 days for a fixed low price.

For people who want more, there is an opportunity to choose for Extra Options besides the Basic Program. The Basic Program is a total journey without hidden costs. We expect that our customers support the FairMail teenagers, so € 135,00 contribution to the project is included in the price of the Basic Program. For this amount of money we can take one of the teenagers on this journey!

Basic Program - 10 days: € 506,00

Included::

- Dutch speaking guide (founder of FairMail)
- All overnight stays in a shared room in hostals or with local families.
- All meals, except the first day in Huanchaco
- Transport during basic program
- Entrance fees during basic program
- Bus station of Airport pickup in Huanchaco
- Lunchmeeting with the FairMail teenagers before departure
- Preparation Package
- Project contribution (€ 135,00)

Excluded:

- Flight to Peru (from Europe from 850 euro)
- Transport by bus or airplane from Lima to Huanchaco (from 15,00)
- Airport pick-up Lima (from 10 euro)
- 1 overnight stay in Lima (from 10 euro)
- Airport tax (around 25 euro)
- Any (taxi) transport besides the basic program
- Food en drinks besides the 3 daily meals.
- Photography equipment
- Tips
- Optional tours around Huanchaco

Extra Options:

Besides the Basic Program we also offer extra options:

1. Lima comfort package outward - 1 day - 36 euro
2. Lima comfort package return - 1 day - 36 euro
3. Extra beach holiday in Huanchaco - 4 days - 50 euro
4. Fee single room - 10 days - 50 euro
5. Spanish lessons - 7 euro each hour
6. Volunteering - 50 euro each person
7. CO2 compensation flight - 150 euro each person

### 1. Lima comfort package outward - 1 day - 36 euro

With this package deal you don't have to worry about anything when you arrive in Lima. Also your transport to Huanchaco will be arranged for you. You can also arrange your transport and overnight stay in Lima by contacting Casa Ana.

#### Included:

- airport pickup Lima
- 1 overnight family home stay in Lima after arrival
- breakfast
- bus ticket Lima - Trujillo in luxurious day bus

#### Excluded:

- transport to busstation in Lima
- other meals

### 2. Lima comfort package return - 1 day - 36 euro

With this package deal you don't have to worry about anything when you go back to Lima. Also your transport to Lima will be arranged for you. The next day you will be dropped off at the airport.. You can also arrange your transport and overnight stay in Lima by contacting Casa Ana.

#### Included:

- airport drop-off Lima
- 1 overnight family home stay in Lima before departure
- breakfast
- bus ticket Trujillo - Lima in luxurious day bus

#### Excluded:

- transport to bus station in Trujillo (near Huanchaco)
- other meals
- airport tax

### 3. Extra beach holiday in Huanchaco - 4 days - 50 euro

This extra option gives you more time in Huanchaco after the photography journey. You can chill out on the beach or visit various sights around Huanchaco. During these days you can also already meet the FairMail teenagers. They like to take you to their neighbourhood and introduce you to their parents. If you like you can stay for dinner with them.

#### Included:

- 4 days overnight stay in a shared room in a cosy hostel (without breakfast) or with a local family (including breakfast).

#### Excluded:

- breakfast if you stay in the hostel
- other meals

### 4. Fee single room - 10 days - 50 euro

If you want more privacy it is almost always possible to book a private room. In some cases it is not possible; we will explain it to you if you make a reservation with us.

### 5. Spanish lessons - 7 euro each hour

We have a good relationship with a local language school in Huanchaco. They offer Spanish lessons for all levels. According to the amount of days you are planning to stay in Huanchaco, we can arrange these lessons for you. The lessons are in a private setting with an English speaking Peruvian teacher. You can

decide yourself how many lessons you want. We really recommend this extra option if you want to take most out of your journey.

#### 6. Volunteering - 50 euro each person

Besides the possibility to volunteer for FairMail (minimum of 6 weeks), there are many different projects in and around Huanchaco to volunteer for a shorter amount of time. We would like to help you with that, but you can also contact Otra Cosa Volunteer Agency or check their website for more information ([www.otracosa.nl](http://www.otracosa.nl)).

#### 7. CO2 compensation flight - 150 euro each person

The emissions of a persons return flight from Amsterdam to Lima are the equivalent of 6060 kg CO2. You can choose to offset these emissions in a climate project of Atmosfair project for 150 Euros. You will receive a certificate of Atmosfair. Unlike other CO2 compensation possibilities Atmosfair is one of the few who have the 'Gold Standard label by the World Wildlife Fund. For more information check [www.atmosfair.com](http://www.atmosfair.com).

### Travel itinerary

Day	Route	Transport
1	Huanchaco	Public Transport
2	Huanchaco - Piura	Luxurious day bus
3	Piura - Ayabaca	Local day bus
4	Ayabaca - Sicches	Walking
5	Sicches - Sicchespampa	Walking
6	Sicchespampa - Sicches	Walking
7	Sicches - Montero	Local van
8	Montero - La majada - Montero	Walking
9	Montero - Piura	Local van
10	Piura - Catacaos - Trujillo	Private car with driver
11	'early morning arrival in Huanchaco	Luxurious nightbus

This is the Basic Program. If it's possible to spend more time, we recommend to stay for example 4 extra days in Huanchaco at the beginning of your journey. This is only € 50,00 extra.

### Day to day program

#### Day 1. Huanchaco

You will get a warm welcome from your Dutch speaking tour guide on the bus station in Trujillo. Together you drive in 20 minutes by taxi to the coastal town of Huanchaco. Depending on your reservation, we take you to your local host family or hostel. Today you meet your travel companions in Huanchaco, the Fair Mail teenagers and the other participants. We expect you at the end of the morning at the office of Fair-Mail. You'll get the chance to meet everyone and to see how FairMail works. In the afternoon we all have lunch together in a cosy Peruvian fish restaurant. Later that afternoon you can choose to go to one of the teenagers houses to meet their family and to see where they live. Maybe you will be invited to stay for dinner! After that you go back to Huanchaco by yourself. A lot of new impressions will pass through your head when you reach your bed in your hostel or at your host family.

#### Day 2. Huanchaco - Piura

In the morning you have some time to do grocery shopping at the market in Huanchaco. Around lunch time we leave to the bus station in Trujillo to take the bus to Piura. This bus ride takes in total around 6 hours and fortunately we drive in a luxury bus with lazy chairs. They also serve food on board. Out of the window you will see how many different kinds of deserts there are on the northern coast of Peru. The landscape is not boring at all and changes from time to time. The desert on the northern coast of Peru is one of the driest deserts of the earth. At night we stay in a hostel in the centre of the regional capital Piura.

### Day 3. Piura - Ayabaca

We take a local regional bus to Ayabaca early in the morning. This is about 6 hours driving from Piura. Halfway we leave the good road behind us and see how the dry desert landscape turns into steppe and later into the Andes Mountains. We will almost reach an altitude of 3000 meters above sea level! Ayabaca is not only the district capital, but also an important pilgrimage to ask the statue of 'Senor 'Cautivo' for a miracle. It might be cold at this altitude during the night-time. The afternoon is free to acclimatize, to have a look around the authentic village or to take some nice pictures in the floodlight. This is also the place where we took a photo of the 2007 Christmas Card! At night we stay in a simple hostel at the central square of Ayabaca.

### Day 4. Ayabaca - Sicches

Today's program will be a long and beautiful walk to Sicches. The walk is mostly downhill and we use a donkey to carry our bags, so we have enough energy left to take pictures of the beautiful cloud forest we walk through. First we walk 5 kilometres slightly uphill to the top of the Cerro Yantuma. From here you'll have a beautiful view of the area and you can even see the border with Ecuador. From that point the track goes only downhill, through the protected 'Bosque Cuyes' the cloud forest that grows on the sides of the mountain ridge. Along the way we pass waterfalls, orchids, bromelias and small settlements of coffee and sugar farmers. We will reach Sicches, based at an altitude of 1400 meters above sea level after 6 hours. The climate in Sicches is considerably warmer and more humid and therefore very suitable for the cultivation of (organic) coffee, sugar and cocoa. Sicches is a much smaller district capital than Ayabaca, and that is also its charm. The lifestyle is very 'tranquilo'. We stay in the only small hostel of a local family in Sicches.

### Day 5. Sicches - Sicchespampa

The next two days we will get to know the life of the organic coffee and sugar farmers a bit better. In the small town of Sicchespampa is a small group of farmers actively engaged in producing and exporting organic coffee and sugar for the European and American market. These people are very hospitable and they also regularly work with volunteers from Europe and the U.S. The volunteers help on the land or in the little sugar factory. To get to Sicchespampa we have to do a 3 hour uphill walk through the coffee and sugar fields which are built on the slopes of the mountains. We arrive in Sicchespampa around lunchtime and we will split up into pairs, so that everyone can go for lunch with different host families. Delicious fresh cassava straight from the land, with homemade cheese and herbs from the garden! After lunch our host takes us for a relaxed tour around the organic sugar factory, we can inspect the fields and walk to a beautiful view point. In the floodlight we certainly take some photos of the kids that are playing and in the night we stay in pairs at different farm families. A unique experience!

### Day 6. Sicchespampa - Sicches

You will wake up by the sound of the natural alarm clock of the rooster and have breakfast with your host family. You have some more time to spend with the family, maybe you can take the cows to the fields, feed the guinea pigs, collect wood or check out the sugar reed in the field. Around noon we walk downhill to Sicches and in the afternoon you are free to go wherever you want. If you want you can come to the meeting with the teenagers to talk about the taken pictures so far. Maybe they can use your knowledge to make even better pictures the last days.

### Day 7. Sicches - Montero

The once a day bus service from Sicches back to civilization departs early in the morning. We better catch that one and drive for two or three hours (depends on the condition of the road) to Montero. This village is a bit bigger than Sicches and gave itself the title "Capital of fair trade". It's a nice village with lovely people. Not only the village is worth a visit, also the nature in the surrounding area. A beautiful waterfall with a lake can be found on a walking distance. There are always some girls and boys playing football or volleyball after school and you can challenge them for a game! In Montero is also a fair trade textile shop. Women from the surrounding areas make fancy bags, scarves, ponchos, carpets etc.. All these goods are exported to Europe and the U.S., and gives the women a good wage. Some of them earn even more

money then their husbands who work on the fields! You'll have time to visit the shop in the afternoon and tomorrow we visit a couple of these women in their house.

#### Day 8. Montero - La Majada

Today we do a nice and relaxed hike to the close village La Majada. In this village live a couple of women who export their woven textile to foreign countries. From there we walk in two hours uphill through arid vegetation. Along the way we see different houses where women weave textile, a beautiful picture moment and maybe the women let you try to weave yourself! During the afternoon you are free to relax or to have a better look at the area.

#### Day 9. Montero - Piura

Today we leave Montero, back to the regional capital Piura, the city where the trip one week ago started. After a 3 hour ride you will be back in your hostel where you can enjoy a good bed and a hot shower. This also gives you a chance to check on your e-mails and to get money at the ATM. What a difference compare to the mountainside! In the afternoon we split the group in pairs to do a photo quest. You can help the teenagers to have a good look!

#### Day 10. Piura - Catacaos - Trujillo

It is not that far to visit Catacaos, the carnival capital of the Peruvian coast! The carnival festival already starts in January, and is really worth a visit. Also besides the carnival it is nice to taste a bit of the atmosphere of this colonial village, known for its ceramics and arts. Off course you can take pictures of the artists and buy a souvenir for your friends or family at home. After dinner we drive back to Trujillo in a luxury night bus. This takes about 7 hours.

#### Day 11. Trujillo - Huanchaco

We arrive early in the morning in Trujillo. The teenagers go back to their parents. You can go back to Huanchaco by bus or take to plane to the next destination or back home. It all depends on your own plans.

#### Extra days in Huanchaco

At the start or end of the journey you can book some extra days in the nice fishing town of Huanchaco. This is the only place in Peru where they still fish in the traditional reed fishing boats, the cabellitos de totora. This is a tradition that goes back for centuries. Huanchaco is a village with a lot of facilities for tourists, still has character and very friendly people for who it's not all about money.

When you stay in Huanchaco you have more time to get to know FairMail and to visit the teenagers at their house. They love to show you their place and for you it will be an impressive experience.

Huanchaco is by far the perfect location to visit other tourist attractions in North Peru. In a radius of 2 hours from Huanchaco you find many ruins of different pre-Inca empires, like the capital of the Chimu empire, Chan Chan. Chan Chan is the biggest pre Colombian mudcity of the America's, a world heritage monument of Unesco. You can also visit the Moche temples of the sun and the moon and El Brujo. A little bit further you can visit the tomb of "El señor de Sipan", the biggest tomb ever found since Tutanchamon. Also Batan Grande and Tucume, two big pyramids are relatively close by. All these archaeological monuments are not covered with tourists and pretty easy to visit. The area is also attractive because of the warm beaches and the good surf breaks. Chicama for example is the longest wave in the world and goes on for one kilometre!

