



# Detailed itinerary

## FairMail Photography excursion

### “La Cordillera Blanca”

This adventure tour takes you from the dry coastal desert up into the impressive Cordillera Blanca (The white mountain range). This area is home to Peru highest mountains with more than 30 mountains reaching over 6000 metres in altitude. But not only the peaks are impressive. So are the narrow canyons that lead there and the lush callejon de Huaylas valley where we will be staying. This typical Andean valley has many beautiful villages, mountain lakes and natural thermal baths we will be visiting while taking pictures for the new FairMail catalogue.

Because of the spectacular mountains the area is already known to mountain climbers from all over the world. Hardly known though is the small rural village of Humacchuco where we will be staying with local families for a total of five days. At 3.300 metres altitude this will be our base camp after acclimatizing to the height in a lower village. We will be staying in private lodges built by the local community at the foot of Peru's highest peak; the 6768 meter high Nevado Huascarán. This way we will have a unique access to the local rural life of our hosts and the beautiful pictures this life provides. An adventurous tour far away from the beaten track full of authentic picture moments is guaranteed!

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 FairMail teenagers and see how they live their daily life.

After several days in Huanchaco, you travel by private bus with the entire group from the desert through the impressive Canyon del Pato to the Andes Mountains. First we acclimatize in the village of Caraz before moving up to Humacchuco. In this area we will spend a week to discover the surrounding mountain lakes, do some trekkings up to the glaciers and rest our feet in natural hot baths. As we will be staying with local families 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 travelling.



The main goal of the whole group is to take pictures, not to see 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 easily 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 also nice to experience for a couple of times 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 "colectivos" 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**

Rural tourism is only just developing in the Cordillera Blanca, so infrastructure may be different than you're normally used to. The accommodations are fine, but considerate that you mostly stay with local families or small local homestays 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 has some 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 travel period**

The Cordillera Blanca is part of the Andean mountain range. The rainy season is from January to April, but the seasons are not so clearly distinguishable any more. So even during the rainy season it can be sunny and dry for a couple of days as well. The average temperature varies between just below zero at night and 20 to 25 degrees Celsius during the day.

### **What to take?**

- Cash, during our stay in Humacchuco there won't be any ATM's.  
(There are ATM's in Trujillo, Caraz and Huaraz)
- 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 posi-

tive things for the residents. You stay with local families in Huanchaco and Humacchuco and you use also local transport services. The guides we use are also local farmers from the area itself. In Caraz, Carhuaz and Huaraz 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 € 150,00 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:

- English/Dutch speaking guide (founder of FairMail)
- All overnight stays in a shared room in hostels or with local families.
- All meals, except the first day in Huanchaco
- Transport during basic program
- Entrance fees during basic program
- Bus station or Airport pickup in Huanchaco
- Lunchmeeting with the FairMail teenagers before departure
- Preparation Package
- Project contribution (€ 150,00)

Excluded:

- Flight to Peru (from Europe from 950 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 and drinks besides the 3 daily meals.
- Photography equipment
- Tips
- Optional tours around Huanchaco

### **Travel itinerary**

Day	Route
1	Huanchaco
2	Huanchaco – Caraz
3	Caraz
4	Caraz – Humacchuco
5	Humacchuco – Laguna Llaganuco
6	Humacchuco – Laguna 69
7	Humacchuco
8	Humacchuco - Carhuaz
9	Carhuaz - Huaraz
10	Huaraz - Huanchaco

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 English or 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 FairMail. 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 - Caraz**

In the morning the whole group will be picked up by our private bus taking us to Caraz. After 2 hours we will leave the coastal desert and start climbing into the Andes. As we are with our own transportation we can stop along the way to take pictures of the breathtaking scenery. We do this through a spectacular canon called the Canon del Pato. Because the canyon is so narrow the unpaved road is equipped with 35 tunnels passing by the wild Santa river filled with gletsjer melt water coming from the Cordillera Blanca. After 35 kilometers the road turns south and you find yourself in the beautiful green Callejon de Huayllas as the valley tucked away between the cordillera negra and cordillera blanca is called. From the bus you can already see the many snow capped peaks of the 6000+ meter high mountains that give the Cordillera Blanca its name. After 9 hours we will reach Caraz. A typical Andean village situated at 2250 metres above sea level and thus a fine altitude to get used to the height.

### **Day 3. Caraz**

Before climbing higher into the Cordillera Blanca we will have a relaxing day in Caraz to get used to the height. And to explore the beautiful countryside surrounded by 6000+ meter high mountains. To get to know each other and the town we will organize a photography treasure hunt. Teamed up with one of the FairMail teenagers you will hunt around town looking for pictures on your list. A great way to get to know each other, exchange perspectives and get in touch with the locals. After the treasure hunt you will have some time for yourself and the last chance to check your email or withdraw cash before we head further up into the cordillera.

### **Day 4. Caraz – Humacchuco**

In about 1,5 hours we will head to Humacchuco with public transport. This village at the foot of Peru's highest mountain (Nevado Huascarán, 6768 metres high) and recently participating in a community based tourism project. This gives us the unique opportunity to stay with local farming families who increase their income by receiving tourists in their village. After leaving our luggage in our guesthouse we will get to know the small village and its inhabitants where we will be spending the next five days. After lunch we will have a short photography class and exercise nearby and announce the winner of yesterday's treasure hunt. We will be sleeping in various private lodges scattered around town in small groups.

### Day 5. Humacchuco – Laguna Llanganuco

For breakfast today is a special local farmers breakfast of sweet porridge, corn and/or potatoes, cachangas (kind of fried pancakes) with honey, quinoa juice with apple or bread with cheese. The right energy you need for today's hike. First we go up the valley by public transport. Up into the beautiful U-shaped Llanganuco valley. The scenery during the trip is spectacular. After a short ride we will arrive at the Llanganuco lake. Here you have some time to relax, take some pictures with lamas and of course enjoy the gorgeous Llanganuco lake. Then we will start hiking downhill through a dense quenual forest: the famous Maria Josefa trail. Along the way we will find Impressive biodiversity, waterfalls and possibly wild animals. A great chance to practice our nature photography. After a 3 hour walk we arrive back in Humacchuco, where a delicious lunch is waiting for you. In the afternoon the teenagers will be presenting their conceptual ideas for their new postcard pictures to the rest of the group. Let them take advantage of your perspective as a western consumer and give them the right tips to improve their ideas. Afterwards you will start working on their pictures together.

### Day 6. Humacchuco – Laguna 69

After another filling campesino breakfast we will take another public bus to go up to Cruce Pisco. During the 3 hour trip you can enjoy the beautiful surroundings. From there we set off for a 3 hour hike to the beautiful lake 69 at 4600 meters altitude. On a clear day you can see the surrounding mountain tops, gletsjers and waterfall reflect in the clear mountain lake.

Once we arrive we will have some time to relax and enjoy the attractive atmosphere. Before we head back to the road and to Humacchuco where dinner is waiting.

### Day 7. Humacchuco

No hikes today. Today we concentrate on improving the pictures the teenagers have taken so far. In small teams you will continue to work on realizing their ideas for their ideal pictures. After lunch we will watch a selection of their best pictures to see where they can still improve.

### Day 8. Humacchuco - Carhuaz

After the last campesino breakfast you will have some time relax and help you host family with daily activities. Or help the teenagers who still aren't satisfied with their pictures yet. Before lunch-time you can help your host family with the preparation of the Pachamanca festival. This will take place around lunch time when the Pachamanca festival with the community starts. Musicians will complete the atmosphere, so will your hosts when they invite you to dance the typical Andean Huayno. After a great feast it is time to say goodbye to the caring families who have accepted us in their village the past few days. Before we start our trip to Carhuaz, which will take about 1,5 hours. There we will stay in a small hostel. Back into civilization!

### Day 9. Carhuaz - Huaraz

We will have breakfast in the hostel before we start off for Chancos, which will take about 20 minutes. There we will enjoy the thermal baths and the beautiful surroundings the place includes. Boiling hot water comes from the volcanic rocks deep below the ground and supply medicinal water for the hot baths and natural cave sauna's! After lunch we will head of the department capital of Huaraz. Now we are really back into civilization. Hot showers, internet and traffic! Surely we can find a nice and cosy restaurant here for our goodbye dinner.

### Day 10. Huaraz - Trujillo

After breakfast we head off for the bus station to take a luxurious public bus back to Trujillo. To get out of the Callejon de Huaylas we will be taking a different route than the way we came. First we climb up to the more than 4000 meter high pass. There we will have our last views of the cordillera blanca before we descend off the western flanks of the cordillera negra back to the Pacific coast. In total it is about 8 hours back to Trujillo where we will arrive at the end of the day. Then the teenagers go back to their parents. You can go back to Huanchaco by bus to rest before continuing

on the rest of your trip. If you still have some time it is really worthwhile to meet the teenagers the next day to visit their homes and families.

### **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 caballitos 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 en 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!

### **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 ([roomlima@hotmail.com](mailto:roomlima@hotmail.com))

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 confirm this with you when 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. You can contact the language school directly via: [davidmercedes@espaanglisch.com](mailto:davidmercedes@espaanglisch.com)

### 6. Volunteering - 70 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).

