

# HUASCARAN NATIONAL PARK

## Chavin and the cordillera Huayhuash



Kiky Castañeda

Rempeza mountain and Ishirca Lagoon

The Huascaran National Park, in the Cordillera Blanca mountain range, covers an area of 340,000 hectares (840 acres) that includes 296 lakes and 663 glaciers—as well as the highest peaks in Peru, including Huascaran at 6,768 meters (22,206 feet), Huandoy and Alpamayo. It includes protected areas for Andean plant species such as the Puya Raimondi and the queñual tree, and wildlife such as the Andean condor and the vicuña.

The Huascaran National Park was listed by UNESCO in 1977 as a nucleus of the Biosphere Reserve and in 1985 declared it a World Natural Heritage Site.

To the southeast of Huaraz, in the Callejon de Conchucos and at 3,810 meters (12,500 feet) is the Archaeological Complex of Chavin de Huantar, which consists of temples, tunnels, stone buildings and plazas. This site was the most important ceremonial center of the ancient Chavin culture and was built around 1200 B.C. In one of the tunnels of the temple is the Lanzon, an impressive and fierce-looking mythical figure 4.53 meters tall (14.88 feet) and carved in the shape of a giant arrowhead.

The Cordillera Huayhuash lies at the extreme south of the Cordillera Blanca, on the border with the Huanuco region. Lake Conococha is the source of the Santa River, and the range includes Mt. Yerupaja (6,634 meters/21,766 feet), the country's second highest peak and the most difficult to climb. The area's most impressive and demanding trekking route begins at the town of Chiquian (3,200 meters / 10,499) feet.



A. Solimano / PromPerú

Llanganuco Lagoon

# CUSCO

## and the Sacred Valley of the Incas



R. Uccelli / PromPerú

Main Square of Cusco

The city of Cusco is located in the southeastern Andes. Its name in Quechua means "center of the world", when it was the capital of the empire or Tahuantinsuyo (four regions). Legend has it that the city was founded by Manco Capac and Mama Occllo, who rose out of Lake Titicaca.

The architectural legacy of Cusco dates back to the 15th century and is attributed to the Inca Pachacutec (1438-1471), who built the city's most remarkable constructions, including fine stone carving and perfect locking between stone blocks, and the trapezoidal design of entryways. These buildings include Sacsayhuaman, in the upper part of the city; the Korikancha (temple of the sun) on top of which the Spanish built the Santo Domingo convent; and on the street called Hatun Rumiyoq (two blocks from the main square), the wall that includes the famous 12-sided stone.

Following the arrival of the Spaniards, Cusco became a mestizo and colonial city featuring splendid colonial constructions, built on top of Inca foundations, and which developed its own mestizo style of architecture and painting that can be seen in the Cathedral and the Compañía de Jesús church.

The city is known as the Archaeological Capital of the Americas. UNESCO declared Cusco a World Heritage Site in 1983.

The Sacred Valley includes the remarkable archaeological areas of Pisac and Ollantaytambo. Also the Inca Market in Pisac.

The archaeological complex of Choquequirao is 185 km (114 miles) from Cusco, with a main square, storage buildings, terracing systems and ceremonial platforms.



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Sacsayhuaman fortress