

Chopicalqui (20,847') and Pisco (18,871') Cordillera Blanca Range, Peru

(with optional Cordillera Huayhuash pre-trip extension)

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Climb a 20,000+' mountain on this expedition in one of the most beautiful ranges in the world. This 12-day expedition will focus its sights on two peaks, Chopicalqui and Pisco, both a few hours' drive north of Huaraz, in Northern Peru, located in the famed Cordillera Blanca Range.

This expedition is appropriate for fit and adventurous climbers with basic to intermediate snow and ice skills. Climbers who have climbed in places like Mexico, Ecuador, Aconcagua, Nepal, or on higher glaciated peaks in the U.S. will find this trip a perfect fit. Those who have attended one of IMG's expedition skills training seminars or multi day climbs on Mt. Rainier may also find this incredible trip will be within their reach. If you're interested in this expedition but not sure if you have the necessary skills, give us call, and we'll help you make an educated decision. Bottom line is, if you're fit, have worn crampons more than a couple of days on a glaciated peak—we're guessing you'll do well on this adventure.



Chopicalqui from Pisco Camp One. An incredible evening shot. Our route travels up the right-hand SE Ridge

One of IMG's veteran lead guides will lead the trip, working in concert with an IFMGA certified guide from Huaraz. Maximo Henostroza, veteran Huaraz guide, climbed Everest with one of our IMG guides back in 2001. Maximo will coordinate our ground operations for this trip. Maximo knows the mountains of the Cordillera Blanca better than anyone; his father started guiding and working in 'The Blanca' over 50 years ago and Maximo followed in his foot-steps, becoming one of the first fully certified guides in Peru.

Mules will support the climbing group to Camp One of Pisco, and base camp on Chopicalqui, and from there, porters will assist our group to keep our loads to a manageable size and weight. Working together as a team: guides, porters, and climbers, we'll be an efficient crew, pulling together to set up camps and doing whatever is necessary to help us to achieve our best chances of success.

Camps are placed between 12,000' and 17,500' and there is plenty of time planned into the itinerary for proper acclimatization for our ultimate summit, Chopicalqui. Our hotels and camps will include double-sleeping accommodations (single upon request), and a full dining experience during the trek, complete with dining tent, a table full of condiments and tasty goodies, and chairs. Our local cooking staff will prepare a whole-foods based cuisine that will nourish the team and energize us for the following day's trek.

The Chopicalqui Expedition begins in Lima, Peru. After an early arrival in Lima, we'll begin our journey to Huaraz in northern Peru in a private bus, stopping along the way as needed to enjoy the 8-hour scenic drive. Air travel between Lima and Huaraz is possible, but not recommended due to the size of the airport, weather and aircraft load restrictions.

Trip Highlights

- The pinnacle of the trip is an attempt of Nevado Chopicalqui (20,847'). Climb to over 6,000 meters on this mini-expedition. From the summit you will see dozens of icy-clad peaks- one of the best summit views in the range- and quite possibly the world!
- The peak of Nevado Pisco (18,871'), will be used as a pre-Chopicalqui warm-up climb—an incredible ascent in its own right, complete with a steep 1-pitch headwall that will lead our team to a rolling but spectacular climb to the summit.
- Trip leaders include both an IMG veteran Senior Guide and a Peruvian IFMGA Certified Guide for the best possible experience and leadership.
- Out of the 16-day itinerary, door-to-door from your home, 12 days are spent climbing or trekking—a very high activity to travel ratio!
- Mules and porters will transport a large part of your gear during our trip to base camps, which will help make the experience more enjoyable. Porters will be used on the Pisco and Chopicalqui ascents to reduce load weight and size for climbers. Optional carries between camps will be made to further stage gear for overall team success.
- A small cook staff will accompany the trek team to base camps, and porters and guides will run the kitchen routine when climbing.



The summit ridge on Chopicalqui is definitely a trip highlight!



Pisco, our warmup/acclimatization climb, is fun and exciting summit!

- Ample time to comfortably acclimatize to the higher altitude.
- Private vehicle with driver for all transfers. Your leaders will meet you at the airport in Lima and transport you by private van/bus directly to Huaraz and back. Trip leaders supervise every step of the journey for your travel security and comfort. Transportation with the group to and from the trailheads is included, in addition to all hotels and lodging during the trip itinerary.
- There is a 2 week pre-climb trek available prior to this expedition in the Cordillera Huayhuash. While going on the Huayhuash trek is optional and not required, those climbers who do go on the trek will be very acclimated for the Chopicalqui ascent and will get the chance to fully immerse themselves into the Peruvian trekking and climbing scene!

“I pay for the expertise, but I hope for a complete experience — I got it all... I can safely say I won't climb with any outfit but IMG...”

—Jeff M.

For more comments from IMG climbers, please see our website at: www.mountainguides.com/comments.shtml

2017 Dates and Prices

Nevado Chopicalqui Expedition

Dates: July 15-30, 2017

Land cost: \$3,400

Pre- Chopicalqui Expedition Option: Cordillera Huayhuash Trek

[\(Please view the separate program information\)](#)

Dates: July 1-16, 2017

Land cost: \$3,000

(The above price includes a \$400 discount for attending both of our 2017 Cordillera programs, back-to-back)

Costs included:

IMG senior guide to lead each trip along with a local IFMGA guide, cooks, drivers, porters/mules, group equipment (kitchen, tents, etc.), climbing permit fees/park fees, airport transfers, ground transportation, lodging starting with your arrival in Lima and during the trek dates in Huaraz. While in Huaraz, 4 nights' accommodation are included. We can make a reservation in Lima for you if you wish to come early or stay on after the trip ends at additional cost. Hearty continental breakfasts in our Huaraz hotel are included, and all food during the trek to camps and base camp are included (you may want to supplement your provided lunch with snacks).

Costs not included:

International airfare to/from Peru, Peru visa on arrival (at present, no fee for American or Canadian citizens), taxis, food and lodging should you arrive in Lima or Huaraz early or stay longer than itinerary, alcoholic beverages during the trip, snacks and beverages at road-side stops, personal shopping and snacks for your drive to and from Huaraz. You will also need to provide your own favorite lunch foods for the actual climb days—so you have exactly what you're used to eating. Personal trekking or climbing equipment. [Trip Cancellation and Travel Insurance](#). Meals in the cities of Lima and Huaraz except continental breakfast in the hotels as supplied.

Please bring \$250 for the local guide and staff tip pool. If you participate in the pre-Chopicalqui Huayhuash trek, please bring an additional \$250 for the local guides and porter tip pool. We will collect the tip pool at the hotel upon arrival in Huaraz, for distribution to all our Peruvian staff throughout the trip. The tip pool provides rewards for our reliable drivers, porters, cooks, local Peruvian guides, kitchen staff at the hotel, and others who help make our program a success, year-after-year. You will be given an opportunity to participate in the tipping process. Your IMG guide will organize the tipping pool, so if you wish to tip your IMG guide, you may do that separately and personally. Thank you in advance for your support of our hardworking and skilled staff who will do their best to provide you an excellent Peruvian experience.

Prerequisites

Excellent all around fitness and basic mountaineering experience at altitude is necessary, along with some steep ice and snow experience. Expedition experience on other peaks above 15,000 feet is a plus and provides a solid base for this trek. Previous hiking/trekking/backpacking experience is helpful as well.

Chopicalqui is physically demanding because of its altitude, length of climbing days, deep snow at times, and some technical challenges near the summit. As a 6,000-meter peak, this ascent is accessible and “doable” by most intermediate fit climbers. Climbers should be comfortable tying their own tie-in knots, putting on harness and crampons, and getting packed and geared up for each day of climbing. Helpful technical skills include understanding running belays, belaying, and using two ice tools to climb short but steep sections near the summit. Since rappelling will likely need to be done to descend from the summit plateau down to the summit ridge, climbers should have some experience rappelling in a snowy environment.

Some training and skill review may be conducted at or above base camp as needed to help climbers who need assistance preparing for parts of this ascent.

While a challenging ascent on all levels, this climb is spectacular and offers some of the most incredible views as one climbs higher up the mountain. From the summit of Chopi, many nearby 6,000-meter summits can be seen!

Non-climbers and trekkers from the Huayhuash Trek who wish to accompany a climbing friend, may extend their Peru experience and join the Chopicalqui Expedition and skip the climbing days -- staying and touring around base camp.



Huascarán from the summit of Chopicalqui!

Climbing in Peru with International Mountain Guides

In addition to the IMG lead guide on this trip, the expedition will be accompanied by a local veteran guide knowledgeable of the geography, history and culture of the area. During the trekking and climbing portion of our program, we will use mules and local porters to transport our gear and supplies. This provides the climbing team and opportunity to move to each camp with a little less effort, and arrive at camp less fatigued; a benefit for those high-altitude climbing days higher on the mountain. In base camp, meals will be served by our cook in a dining tent set up for your comfort during breakfast and dinner. On the mountain, guides and cooks will take care of the cooking duties, but all members of the team will pitch in as necessary.

The mountains of northern Peru, the Cordillera Blanca, include the most well-known and spectacular peaks in all of the Andes. These mountains include 20 summits over 6,000 meters and a staggering list of peaks over 5,000 meters. High, stunning peaks piercing the sky with beautiful turquoise lakes and alpine meadows surround many of our camps; this is without a doubt one of the most beautiful mountain destinations in the world.

Upon your arrival in Lima from the States, you'll be met by your IMG guide, local guide and driver, then ushered onto a private van/bus at the airport. From Lima, your 8-hour drive to Huaraz will allow time to get to know the rest of the team, talk about the upcoming program with your guide, and perhaps catch up on a little sleep.

In Huaraz, you'll check into our pleasant European-style hotel, get oriented in this hospitable and scenic town and enjoy your first in-country dinner. The guides will be full of useful information and will organize the group's activities over the next two days. Huaraz is located at 10,200 feet in elevation, so this is a crucial time to start the acclimatization process. The first full day is limited to mild exertion only, touring town and trekking above the city. On day two, the guides will take you on an acclimatization hike to one of our favorite local hikes for the day, a

gain of 2,000 to 3,000 feet in elevation. Three nights in Huaraz will allow plenty of time to start adjusting to altitude prior to the start of the actual trek.

Climbing days will average between 3-8 hours, with summit days on Pisco and Chopicalqui as long as 12 or more hours. To our base camps, most of your gear will be carried by mule, and higher on the mountain, porters will assist with our loads to high camp. During this trip you'll be travelling on varied terrain, from easy trail, to challenging moraines, moderate glaciers, to steep but short 2-tool snow and ice pitches. Porters will usually travel ahead of our group, and often times have tents set up prior to our arrival, making it easy to get organized for the evening.

Without question, the scenery on this trip is stunning from day one. So be prepared with your camera for some stellar vistas!

To accimate for Chopicalqui, our group will spend time climbing Pisco, a peak near Chopicalqui. Standing at 18,871', Pisco is a perfect warm-up and acclimatization for our higher goal. On the ascent of Pisco, our team will be able to practice most of the skills needed for Chopicalqui, so we will be well prepared for the higher summit when the time comes. If for some reason we only reach the Moraine Camp on Pisco, camp there, and can go no further, we will have accomplished our acclimatization goal for Chopicalqui—the most important preparation for that ascent.

Our ascent of Chopicalqui will be via the Southwest Ridge. We may make a carry of gear to the higher camps to make our summit climb a bit easier. The trek from base camp to our moraine camp first climbs up a minor lateral moraine above camp, then traverses across a large terminal moraine, then up the opposite side up a steeper lateral moraine. This leads to the camp underneath some cliffs.

The next day we'll climb along the margin of the glacier, then ascend a rolling glacier, around some crevasses, to high camp. From high camp on the summit day, the route wanders around large crevasses up a broad but ever more defined ridge. We may set some fixed rope here or use some running belays, depending on conditions. The summit is often blocked by large crevasses that can often be end-run at the far end. The final steep snow climb to the actual summit is along a broad ridge, often with deep snow. There may be a crevasse that requires some two-tool climbing to surmount it, and then a short ascending walk to the broad summit. From the 20,847' peak the views are incredible! A rappel may be needed to descend the summit slope and crevasse, so climbers need to be familiar with this skill.



Chopicalqui from Pisco; the SW Ridge on right snowy skyline.

Please note: Occasionally Chopicalqui has new deep unconsolidated snow or avalanche conditions that make the mountain impractical to climb. We will likely know this prior to launching on the ascent. Other times, the large crevasse near the summit is known to be impassable (it changes each year). If this is the case, or if the group climbing skills or fitness levels do not match up with the requirements of the Chopicalqui climb, we'll conduct a mountaineering camp based near Yanapaccha (17,909'), and cover many mountaineering skills, including belaying, crevasse rescue, and ice climbing. Following that, we'll ascend Yanapaccha, a moderate snow and ice climb that culminates with a couple of steep pitches of ice that requires two tools, that leads to its spectacular summit, with views of Chopicalqui, Huascaran, Pisco, the Huandoy group, and many other Cordilleran peaks. It's an exciting climb and very worthy as a close alternative to Chopicalqui, if that peak isn't in condition.

If for some reason Chopicalqui is not in shape after our Pisco climb, and the group prefers not to train and climb on Yanapaccha (which is close and nearby), we will opt for a trip into the Ishinca Valley, a wonderful place to climb two stellar peaks, Nevado Urus (17,782') and Nevado Ishinca (18,143'). Both are exciting and fun peaks.

The main idea here is that we have options if the weather and/or conditions do not allow a good solid shot at Chopicalqui. With either Yanapaccha or the Ishinca Valley as back-up plans, we are flexible and will have a great time either way!

Join us on this challenging and spectacular climbing adventure. It's an experience that will provide memories to last a lifetime!

Insurance and Travel Arrangements

We invest in insurance coverage for commercial liability and medical and disability insurance for our employees while participating on our programs. We cannot insure you for your personal needs, but we do expect you to be as fiscally responsible as we are. We require that you insure yourself against potentially expensive difficulties that may arise. First, Trip Cancellation Insurance may provide financial relief should you be forced to withdraw from the program before it even happens. Next, make sure you have adequate Travel Insurance for coverage should you have a problem during the trip. Medical care and evacuation in remote locations can be expensive. For more information, please see our page on [cancellation, rescue/repatriation insurance](#) or contact the IMG Office.

Our team will fly to Lima via an overnight flight, arriving in Lima in the late evening/early a.m. For help with travel arrangements, IMG recommends our travel agency, CTT Destinations: IMG@CTTDestinations.com or 800-909-6647. Owner Pirjo DeHart can help you to coordinate your travel plans with the IMG itinerary.

Immunizations

The following may be recommended for travel to Peru. Consult a travel clinic, and check out the Center for Disease Control Website at www.cdc.gov

- ☐ Tetanus-Diphtheria, Polio, MMR: You should already have these. Do you need a booster?
- ☐ Meningitis, Hepatitis A and B: Recommended. Ask your physician/travel clinic for advice.
- ☐ Yellow Fever: Recommended, but not currently required.
- ☐ Cholera: Not a very effective vaccine. Ask your physician/travel clinic for advice.
- ☐ Rabies and Typhoid: Not a bad idea to be on the safe side, the new vaccines are easy.
- ☐ Malaria: We are above the Malaria zone on the mountain, but depending on your travel plans and local health department advice, you may want to bring long sleeves and bug juice for evenings in cities; chemoprophylaxis is especially a good idea if you plan to travel to lower elevations in Peru.

NOTE: Although many immunizations say they cover 5 years, they are most effective during years 1 through 3. If you are on the 'edge' of coverage in years 4 or 5, consider a booster.

IMG Peru: Chopicalqui and Pisco Itinerary

Day 1:

Overnight flight from USA to Lima; arrive early morning the next day in Lima. Depending on your flight plans, you may want or need to overnight in Lima.

Day 2:

We'll pick most trekkers and climbers up at the airport after their early-morning arrival, and then travel from Lima to Huaraz. There's a modest place for breakfast just out of town if you're hungry for breakfast. After a drive through the Pacific desert, we'll stop for lunch or snack along the way. During our 7-8 hour drive, other stops will include a visit to a fresh fruit stand where it's possible to purchase some exotic treats for the day. Our travels will take us over a 13,000'+ pass, and back down again to Huaraz (10,000'), our base of operations for the trip. After a short rest, we'll have dinner and a quick orientation for our next day. Overnight in Huaraz.

Chopicalqui Climbers who were on the Cordillera Huayhuash Trek: For those trekkers who are staying longer and have joined our Chopicalqui climb, this will be a well-earned rest day in Huaraz. We will also use this time to pack up for the climbing expedition and make preparations for our departure the next morning.

Day 3: Acclimatization hike

An acclimatization and sightseeing day. After breakfast in our hotel, we'll travel by van into the Cordillera Negra, the 'black' mountain range that sits opposite of the Cordillera Blanca, the 'white' mountain range. From the Negra, there is an awesome overview of the Blanca and all its grandeur. There are a couple of hiking options in the Negra, so we'll decide while in Huaraz what fits best for our group. If we do the longer option, we'll start from the trailhead at Punta Callan (13,100'), where we'll walk down to Huaraz for 3 to 4 hours on an ancient Incan trail. Prior to dinner, we'll organize our gear for the trek, and prepare for our departure in the morning. Overnight in Huaraz.

Day 4: Acclimatization hike

After breakfast, we'll do some more packing in preparation for our climbing expedition, and also pack for another day hike. Like the day before, there are many options. One option is a hike to Lago (Lake) Churup, which starts with transport in cars/van to Pitec, at 12,467', and then hike for 3-4 hours to the lake, an incredibly beautiful area located at 15,091'. There are other worthy options, and we'll decide the night before what's best for our group. After lunch during the trek, our group will descend and return to Huaraz to further help our acclimatization. We'll relax here, have dinner, and then prepare for our Pisco and Chopicalqui climb, which will start the next day.

If we have Huayhuash trekkers on our Chopicalqui climb, we will select some alternative hikes for our team so you won't repeat hikes; there's lots to pick from!

Day 5: Pisco day 1—Huaraz to Pisco Base Camp

Up early for breakfast, and then travel by private bus for 3 hours to the Pisco trailhead. After heading north for an hour on the main highway, we turn into the mountain and head into the Quebrada Llanganuco, or Llanganuco Valley. With impressive views of Huascarán, the highest mountain in Peru, standing at 22,205', Chopicalqui is actually a separate peak of the Huascarán massive—a huge expanse of glacier and granite. Quebrada Llanganuco is an incredible glacier-carved valley that cuts along-side of Huascarán and Chopicalqui, and driving along the valley floor we'll pass by two large lagoons, or lakes. They're a beautiful blue color which stands in contrast to the steep-walled glacier carved granite that stretches thousands of feet above the valley floor. You really need to see it for yourself!

After arrival at our drop-off area for Pisco, we'll need to work as a team to shuttle our gear into the base camp area, about a 10-minute walk from the vans. Our camp at 12,800' will be placed in the base camp meadow area known as Cebollapampa, our home for the next two nights. First, we'll set up our sleeping tents, allowing us to move into the tents with little effort. The rest of camp will come together in time and our expedition routine begins...woohoo!

We'll migrate to the dining tent for our usual afternoon tea and snacks. Often there's time in the afternoon for a short nap, reading, or some easy walks around our beautiful alpine camps. No doubt there will be many opportunities to take incredible pictures from nearly every camp on this trip. Dinner will follow, with a recap of our day and a review of the plan for the following day.

Our primary goals today: Establish base camp and get into the active-rest routine. Do a little; rest a little, and repeat. Not doing too much work or activity upon arrival at new higher camps is key for solid acclimatization, no matter how good you feel. On the same level, total inactivity when in camp can set you up for problems, too, so it's a matter of balance between activity and rest. Your trip leader will remind you of these keys for success throughout the expedition.

Day 6: Pisco day 2—Acclimatization Hike/Return to Pisco Base Camp

Our first morning in the mountains will start slow, with fresh, warm water for washing that's presented at climbers' tents with our wake-up call, along with tea or coffee. After a hearty breakfast, our team will pack up for a day hike to Laguna 69, a 3-4 hour trip up the valley.

The views of the area expand as we climb higher, and Chacaraju, a summit over 20,000', towers over the lake. We'll also see Yanapacha, another beautiful Cordillera Blanca summit. The trek to the 15,088' lake is one of the 'best day-hikes' in South America, so you won't be disappointed. The return to camp will take about half our up time, and we'll return by mid-afternoon. After a short rest, we may sort some gear for our trip to our first camp on Pisco. Dinner will follow shortly, and then we'll hit the sack early.

Note: Many of the land features, mountains, lakes, and areas, are named in the local Quechan language. Our local guides will help translate and pronounce for our group throughout the trip.

Day 7: Pisco day 3—Pisco Base Camp to Camp One

We'll rise with the sun around 6:30 with our usual morning routine, have breakfast, and then pack up for our trip to our first camp on Pisco. Mules will assist our move of group and personal gear to our camp, so climbers will be able to walk along with trekking shoes and light packs.

The primary goal of the trip, Chopicalqui, will become visible over our shoulders, and help motivate us as we appreciate the view.



Our view the next day: Pisco, as viewed from Pisco Base Camp. A stellar view!



A full view of Pisco. Our Moraine Camp, our highest camp, will be placed near the glacier tongue on the left side.

The hike to camp will take 3-4 hours, and upon arrival, we'll re-erect our traditional base camp with the help of our porters. Our base camp consists of a cook/dining tent, bathroom tent, and sleeping tents—and incredible views.

After a warm meal, we'll rest for a bit, and then pack for the climb of Pisco. There will be some time in the afternoon for a visit to the local refugio, and time to take in the views. Dinner will shortly follow.

Day 8: Pisco day 4—Camp One to Moraine Camp

Up again with the sun, we'll have breakfast and wrap-up our packing. By mid-morning, we'll begin our trek to our high camp, better known as "Moraine Camp." With assistance from our porters, we'll make short work of the three hour move to camp with moderate packs (30-35lbs). After tents are set-up, we'll make final preparations for our climb, and hit the sack early after dinner.

Day 9: Pisco day 4—Summit day!

After a mid-night or 1AM wake-up call, we'll have a warm breakfast and then depart for the summit of Pisco. The route is easy along the rock slabs that lead to the glacier, and from there, it's a moderate glacier climb to a key crevasse that will likely require a belay. Your guides will lead the short pitch of moderate ice, and climbers will follow with two climbing tools. It sounds steep, but with the guidance of your leaders, it'll be very doable.



Enroute to the summit, there are incredible views of 6,000 meter peaks, such as Artesonraju and Alpamayo!

After a short break at the top of the ice wall, it's a rolling, ascending glacier climb to the summit, much like Mt. Rainier. The 4-5 hour climb to the summit is a moderate effort, and the payoff is huge. Views from the summit are simply incredible, with Huascarán, Chopicalqui, Artesonraju, Alpamayo, and many other Cordillera Blanca peaks stretching out the vista for miles.

After some time on Pisco's summit, we'll descend to the Moraine Camp, rappelling the ice pitch on the way down. It won't take much time to reach camp. After a break, our trusty porters will assist with the return to Camp One. A warm meal will await, along with smiles from our cook. Yes, it'll be a long day, but a day worth the effort. We'll fall into bed for a good night sleep.

Day 10: Chopicalqui day 1— Pisco Camp 1 to Base Camp, then to Chopi Base Camp

From Pisco Camp One, we'll descend to Cebollapampa, consume some cold drinks and celebrate our success. Mules will assist with the move, so the trip will go easy. It won't take long.

We'll shuttle climbers and guides from base camp up the road in a van to the Chopicalqui trailhead—some may opt though, to walk the short distance with our mules. It's a short hike to Chopi base camp (13,776') from there; no more than an hour, and that will leave the afternoon to rest and sort gear for the next day. We'll be off to bed early.

Day 11: Chopicalqui day 2— Chopi Base Camp to Moraine Camp

Sleep in, finish organizing gear, and climbers and porters will depart by noon for our first camp on Chopicalqui. The ascent is over a lateral and terminal moraine, and then heads up a steep lateral moraine to camp. Ascent time to our camp at 16,072' will take 4-5 hours. Camp will be placed under some cliffs, near the glacier. Porters will also assist with setting up tents and help with meal preparations.



Chopicalqui Moraine Camp, with lots of space to stretch out and super views!

Day 12: Chopicalqui day 3— Moraine Camp to Camp One

Climbers will ascend to high camp in 4-5 hours and prepare for the summit climb the next day. The climb to camp is up some morainal rubble, and after roping up, the team will climb the glacier, at times with short steep sections up to 45 degrees. We will need to take some long end-runs around large crevasses once we hit the easier glacier. This will take us to a camp at 17,548'. Any extra time at this camp will be spent resting in preparation for the summit.

Day 13: Chopicalqui day 4— Summit Day on Chopi: Descend to Moraine Camp

Today our team will awake early, dress, eat a quick breakfast and then rope-up and begin our climb around 3AM. The climb is primarily up glacier, end-running crevasses, and then finishing with a climb along the Southwest ridge. Along the ridge we may use running belays, or perhaps belay climbers as needed. Slopes vary in terms of steepness. The final ascent to the summit may be over a large crevasse, demanding a steep 60-degree snow and ice climb to the summit. Climb time to the summit will be around 7-9 hours.

We'll spend no more than an hour on the 20,847' summit, resting and taking hero shots, and taking in the expansive Cordillera Blanca range.

On the descent, we may rappel on descent to more walkable terrain. We'll descend to our high camp, and then porters will help us haul our group gear down to our moraine camp. Total descent time from Chopi to camp 1 is about 4-6 hours, and then about an hour to moraine camp. This will be the longest day of our Chopicalqui expedition, about 14-18 hours—and you'll be ready for it! Eat a quick dinner and then drop into bed!

Day 14: Chopicalqui day 4— Chopi Moraine Camp to Base Camp: Transfer to Huaraz

From moraine camp, our team will descend to base camp, pack up, and then take the short walk back to the road. Our transportation will show up shortly afterwards, and we'll make the drive back to Huaraz. Time to the trailhead will be around 3-5 hours.

We'll wrap up our Chopicalqui summit climb with a dinner in town, and prepare for our trip home.

Day 15:

We may have some time for some early morning shopping before our departure for Lima, an 8-hours+ drive to the airport. We'll stop along the way for some breaks and snacks, then make our way to the airport for late flights home.

Day 16:

Our climbing team arrives home this day, with reunions with family and friends. Celebrate life!

IMG Peru: Chopicalqui / Pisco—Gear List

This equipment list is meant to help you compile your personal gear for the trek and optional climb. Most items are required; if you plan to leave something behind, please alert IMG before leaving it home, or better yet, bring it, and let's decide to take or leave it while in the hotel.

Please consider each item carefully and be sure you understand the function of each piece of equipment before you substitute or delete items. Keep in mind that this list has been carefully compiled by IMG to give you the best experience in Peru. Don't cut corners on the quality of your gear.

ON THE TREK

FEET:

- ☐ Medium to medium heavy weight waterproof trekking boots — with suitable ankle-high ankle support; make sure whatever you wear is broken in and very comfortable; if leather, treat the boot multiple times with waterproofing). If synthetic, treat with a waterproof boot spray.
- ☐ You will need double Climbing Boots with expedition liners on these climbs; it can be very cold when standing at belay or rappel stations, and the snow on Chopicalqui can be extremely cold. Our pace is measured and slow on the summit days, so keeping your feet warm at 6,000 meters is important. There are lots of choices out there; Koflach, Scarpa, Boreal, and La Sportiva all make excellent models. Your lead guide will check with you before departure to make sure you have an appropriate climbing boot for this trip.
- ☐ Wool or wool/synthetic blend socks (4 complete changes; that would be 2 for Pisco, and 2 for Chopi)
 - o You may want to bring 2 more sets of fresh socks to use with your trekking boots
- ☐ Larger gaiters, to fit climbing boots. It's very common to have deep snow on Chopi, and gaiters are likely needed in the conditions we'll experience. Often times we avoid gaiters these days; on Chopi, you'll want them for the deep snow and cold.

LOWER BODY:

- ☐ Long john bottoms (1 pair, lightweight wool or synthetic)
- ☐ Underwear (2-3 pair for trail use); hand washable and quick drying are best
- ☐ Lightweight to medium weight stretch nylon hiking/soft shell climbing pants, Schoeller type fabric is preferred.
- ☐ Waterproof/breathable pants (with full length side leg zips)
- ☐ Lightweight synthetic insulated pants (optional; for camp use—the Outdoor Research “Neoplume” pants are very comfy and help retain heat while resting at camps). Maybe take up Chopi.

UPPER BODY:

- ☐ Long john top (1 lightweight— zip neck is best)
- ☐ Soft shell or fleece jacket.
- ☐ Bring a second lightweight fleece layer, or vest, or Primaloft jacket.
- ☐ Waterproof/breathable jacket with attached hood. Avoid zip-on or snap-on hoods.
- ☐ Warm down or synthetic parka with attached hood (on the warm side, and not too light)
- ☐ T-shirt (synthetic is best)
- ☐ Sun hoody or button-down sun shirt (optional)

HEAD AND HANDWEAR:

- ☐ Synthetic or wool hat
- ☐ Sun hat or baseball cap
- ☐ Neck gaiter. Also consider a Balaclava
- ☐ Wool or fleece gloves
- ☐ Ski Gloves: A warm insulated glove with leather palm (treat with waterproof tech spray)
- ☐ Chemical hand warmers; 4 sets for cold mornings
- ☐ Mittens: Fleece mittens with an over-mitten. Nothing compares with a mitten for warmth at higher altitudes. Chances are you won't need them, but these could be critical if you get cold during the summit climb.

SLEEPING:

- ☐ Sleeping bag (down or synthetic, down to 0f-15f degrees, compression stuff bag)
- ☐ Therm-a-Rest pad. IMG will provide a closed cell full-length foam pad (you'll use your Therm-a Rest and the pad for supreme comfort!)

CLIMBING GEAR:

- ☐ Ice Axe: A 60-70 cm—Make sure it's designed for STEEP climbing and will stick easily in hard-steep glacier ice. Attach a light weight wrist leash that is usable for climbing steeper terrain. A lightweight aluminum ice axe is not a good choice for this trip. Suggested models: Black Diamond Viper or Petzl Sum'Tek.
- ☐ ONE climbing tool (45-55 cm) with leash designed for ice climbing.
- ☐ 12 point Crampons: These must be sharp and fit your boot perfectly, and tested for climbing on steep ice
- ☐ Lightweight alpine climbing harness: Make sure the buckle is easy to thread in cold conditions! Gear loops will be useful for this, as well as adjustable leg loops. Make sure your harness is NOT more than 5-years old; if so, please buy a new lightweight one.
- ☐ Lightweight climbing helmet: Required. Be sure you can comfortably fit a warm hat underneath, and confirm if your headlight will fit on the helmet using the built-in clips.
- ☐ Hardware: Bring 4 locking and 3 lightweight regular carabiners (something like the BD 'Oz'). It is helpful if at least two of the locking carabiners have a "key gate", like the Petzl Attache 3D (a lightweight locking pear-style carabiner).
- ☐ Other gear: One 48" x 1" NYLON sewn loop; one 24" SPECTRA sewn loop. Please also bring 20' of 7 mm Perlon; we will tie some other loops in our hotel that will be used on the climb.
- ☐ For rappelling, the Black Diamond ATC Guide is a good choice since it can handle ropes from 7.7mm to 11mm. Let your lead guide know if you plan to bring something else.
- ☐ Avalanche Transceiver: an avalanche transceiver may be required for your climb. If you are providing your own beacon, it must meet industry standards. IMG will make the decision based on current conditions for your upcoming climb. *available for rent from IMG.*

TREK/CLIMB MISCELLANEOUS:

- ☐ Pack (medium size, internal frame, in the range of 55-60 liters. Top loading works best. Look for a pack which is comfortable to carry, light, and one which has a minimum number of bells and whistles.)
- ☐ Adjustable ski poles (please bring both poles; they are a great item to have when you're fatigued or need some extra help stepping up or down large rocks and other obstacles; also nice to have along if you twist an ankle)
- ☐ Extra-large stuff sacks (2; for packing clothes and bulk of personal lunch; to keep things organized and dry in your duffle bag); line each of your larger storage stuff bags with a kitchen or larger garbage can sized plastic bag to increase the waterproofness.
- ☐ Medium stuff bag (for daily lunch; to be carried in your pack)

- ☐ Sunglasses (1 pair dark pair; plus retainers, i.e. Chums). Extra eye glasses or contacts?
- ☐ Lightweight goggles w/no fog cloth
- ☐ Sun cream (1 full bottle; 50+ SPF protection); Also, a small tube of sunscreen for climbing
- ☐ Lip protection (with high SPF). Put your lip protection on a string and hang it from your neck; that way you'll use it. It also works great for your nose.
- ☐ Include a small Swiss Army utility knife. A Leatherman C4 or lighter is perfect.
- ☐ Water bottles (2 wide mouth 1 qt. Nalgene type bottles; a water hydration system can substitute for one bottle)
- ☐ Toilet paper (2 large rolls in zip-lock bag); plus personal hygiene wipes;
- ☐ Small hand sanitizer, plus a small plastic bottle of biodegradable liquid trail soap
- ☐ Garbage bags (5-6 large, heavy duty; 30+ gal; use these to line your pack and all of your large stuff bags; it's an excellent way to keep your gear dry. At camps, put your boots in one. Extra bags are ALWAYS GOOD!)
- ☐ Bright Headlight (LED with fresh batteries, plus 2 spare sets).
- ☐ Potable Agua tablets for water purification (1 bottle of 50 tablets, or, lightweight personal water purification device—make sure you know how to use it, and what it filters; must filter viruses and use iodine to be 100% effective. We will boil water each evening, and that usually suffices for most uses, but please treat your drinking water if inclined)
- ☐ Personal items (for trek): Toothbrush & paste, small travel washcloth and towel. Small antiperspirant (optional). Only a small amount of lightweight personal items should be taken on the climbs, while the rest of it will be left at our base camps.
- ☐ Day pack (highly recommended for air travel & general touring — lightweight with few frills, top loading is best). Leave at the hotel while on the trek; you won't need it
- ☐ Lunch (for on and off mountain, to supplement provided lunches). Please bring a variety of foods weighing in total no more than 5 lbs. Lunch ideas include: string cheese, beef jerky, dried fruit, candy bars, energy bars, hard candies, nuts, electrolyte replacement drink mix (several quarts repackaged into a Ziploc bag), 4 quarts worth of performance powdered power drink mix for your harder days. Salty snacks are often appreciated. Please also bring a total of 8 GU's for our climbs (4 for each climb).
 - o Note: While trekking to base camps, and for our first day climbing out of our base camps, you will be provided a small daily lunch bag by our local cooks, which usually consists of a simple sandwich, piece of fruit, some cheese, sometimes a boiled egg, and a couple of candies.
- ☐ Eating utensils: Bring a lightweight mug, a decent sized lightweight bowl, and spoon. It is nice to have a small stuff sack OR ZIPLOCK bag to keep them clean. Consider taking just a large mug to be used for drinking and eating out of, to save weight. Or, consider one of the flat "Fish" bowls that can also serve dual purpose for those wanting to save more weight.
- ☐ First aid kit (To cover your personal needs only); Band-Aids, 1" roll of athletic tape, moleskin, non-prescription pain meds and anti-inflammatory drugs such as Advil. Three-inch-wide Ace bandage. Cough drops (10). Pepto Bismol tablets are helpful for dealing with minor stomach distress. Imodium is an effective over the counter aid for diarrhea. Consult with you doctor about the trip and travel at altitude and bring any recommended prescription drugs in original prescription bottles.
- ☐ Prescription Medications to Highly Consider:
 1. Antibiotic for upper respiratory problems (azithromycin)
 2. Antibiotic for GI problems (Cipro or azithromycin)
 3. Diamox (acetazolamide) for acclimatization (125 mg tabs recommended; enough for a 10-days; normal prescription is 125 mg twice per day. Don't bring the 500 mg tabs; they are not for altitude use.)
 4. Asthma medication and/or EPI pen, if any history
 5. For serious illness on high altitude expeditions/long high altitude treks, standard treatment protocol is immediate descent and if necessary: Nifedipine for Pulmonary

Edema (we suggest 30mg time release tablets — bring a couple tablets), and Dexamethasone for cerebral edema (bring a few 4mg tablets)

6. Avoid sleeping pills of any kind while on the trek or climbs

TRAVEL MISCELLANEOUS:

- ☐ Passport/Visa. United States and Canadian citizen will be provided a visa upon entry. Other citizens should check the Peruvian Consulate website for information about their visa requirements.
- ☐ International shot record
- ☐ Money (\$250 for the local staff tips, plus \$300-500 for misc., drinks, some meals, travel, and gifts. Bring some smaller bills, a couple of \$5's and some \$10's to help make the tip division easy, the rest in \$20 works well) ATM's are available in Huaraz.
- ☐ Make sure all your US bills are in good shape, of the NEW STYLE, with no tears, ink markings or excess wear; warn or old bills may not be accepted
- ☐ Credit cards (be sure to notify your card company you'll be using it out of country prior to departure on your trip so merchants don't decline your international purchases; bring a second credit card as back-up)
- ☐ Money belt/neck pouch
- ☐ Running/tennis shoes/low-top trekking shoes (use as travel and camp shoes, up to base camps)
- ☐ Flip-flops/Chacos (hotel use and camp)
- ☐ Socks; cotton or synthetic, for travel (3)
- ☐ Small bag of liquid biodegradable soap (for clothes; take this up to our base camps, too)
- ☐ Underwear for travel (3-4); hand washable is nice and easy
- ☐ Cotton pants or synthetic travel pants (2)
- ☐ Toiletries for travel (be sure to keep it light here).
- ☐ Dress shirts (1-2)
- ☐ T-shirts or short sleeve travel shirts (2-3)
- ☐ Large duffel bag (to fit trekking pack and other gear during air travel, and during the trek this duffel bag will be used to contain your sleeping bag and extra gear—which is carried on a mule. Don't forget a small TSA combination lock)
- ☐ Second large duffel bag (for air travel and to store gear at hotel; TSA lock)
- ☐ Ear plugs (2-3 pair; for air travel and sleeping while camping)

Clothing Notes: Easy-wash travel clothing is convenient, as are jeans and non-flashy shirts. Cotton for trail use is generally DISCOURAGED. Avoid bright colors or super flashy clothing that mark you as a tourist. Huaraz is "tourist and mountain friendly" so being a tourist doesn't create any problems or attract unnecessary attention; it's a good idea to dress-down. Avoid skimpy clothing or short shorts so we don't offend the locals.

OPTIONAL:

- ☐ Hiking shorts (nylon hiking style is best. Best of all are the nylon zip-off hiking pants)
- ☐ Diary, pen and pencil
- ☐ iPod or portable music player. Consider bringing a small solar panel to charge your player.
- ☐ Books. Plan on doing some trading/sharing!
- ☐ Camera(s), extra storage media cards and extra batteries
- ☐ Thumb drive for swapping pictures; if we have time at the end of the trek in the hotel

About Gear Donations for the Local Guides and Mule Drivers

We like to encourage our Peru climbers to bring along some of their used and close-to-worn-out-gear and clothing on this trip. This gear can then be donated to our local guides and staff after the trek-and make your bag lighter for your flight home. Appropriate items include long

underwear tops and bottoms, fleeces clothing, trekking pants, socks, gloves and mittens, outerwear, gaiters, and other clothing items that you've used during your trip but you no longer need-or want. This token is not expected by us or our local staff, but it is a good way to "unload" some of your older gear that you no longer need or want and help out the families of the folks we work with who can put it to good use. Extra trek food can also be left for the Peruvian staff after the trek and climb.

We certainly don't want to overwhelm our local staff, and your guides will help coordinate the donation so that all are treated fairly. Our local contacts certainly appreciate anything you can give them, but please don't make any promises along the way. Thank you in advance for whatever you do for the local families we work with!

Gear Note

Lastly mark all personal gear including water bottles clearly in indelible ink with your name, or wrap colored tape around your bottles (or use a sticker). Check the condition of your gear and be sure to test new pieces of equipment thoroughly.

“I can't say enough good things about both the logistics and the staff. I had plenty of ideas about how the trip should go and what was possible. Your expedition service surpassed all my expectations, provided me with the best opportunity to summit... and as such, I was successful in fulfilling a dream of 20 years. I will recommend your service to anyone interested. It was simply the best on the mountain...”

—Dan G.

“You run an amazing outfit. The logistics were awesome, and I was thrilled to be able to succeed... I want to let you know that I am grateful that I got my money's worth. I worked so hard to be able to afford the trip and it was worth every cent... Thank you for everything... I look forward to planning another climb with you in the near future...”

—Gary G.

“I was very impressed with how smoothly the logistics unfolded in all steps of the trip. I know how many details go into trip planning and there wasn't a missed step... I'd like to give a big thumb's up to you, and I'll be sure to look at another trip with IMG... Thank you for all you did to ensure such a wonderful experience.”

—Grace P.

For more comments from IMG climbers, please see our website at: www.mountainguides.com/comments.shtml
