

# “La Cordillera Blanca”

29<sup>st</sup> of July – 09<sup>th</sup> of August 2018

750 euro per person / 12 days

This adventurous trip takes you from the dry coastal desert up to the impressive Cordillera Blanca (The White Mountain range). This area is home to Peru highest mountains with more than 30 mountains reaching over 6.000 metres in altitude! The peaks are impressive, to say the least, and 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.



The journey starts from 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 will have the opportunity to get used to the Peruvian lifestyle. You can relax on the beach or take surfing lessons.

You can visit the numerous attractions in the area, such as the largest pre-Columbian mud city of *Chan Chan*, the former capital of the Chimu Empire and the various pyramid temples of the Moche culture. Most importantly, in Huanchaco you will meet the FairMail teenagers and get a glimpse of their daily life. You will also visit FairMail office which is the heart of our activities, where most of our pictures are taken!



After 2 days in Huanchaco, we travel by bus with the entire group from the desert to the Andes Mountains. First, we acclimatize in the town of Huaraz before leaving to Vicos. This small rural village will be our base camp and we will be host by a local community of *campesinos*. They will show

us what life is like in the Peruvian Andes, they will share their traditions with us, they will teach us how to harvest wheat and most importantly they will show us the breathtaking surroundings: mountain lakes, forest, thermal 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 from all over the world on our photography trips. The main goal of the whole group is to take pictures, not to see as many tourist destinations as possible. The approach “been there done that” is simply not our traveling style. 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. Besides being a budget-driven choice, we believe it is away for our traveller friends to experience what life is like in Peru and to connect with local people. We love nature and we love to capture its



beauty, this is why a good part of our programme will take place in natural environments. Hiking shoes and raincoats are part of our equipment! During our trip we speak Spanish and English. There is an English-speaking tour guide, so it is not necessary to speak Spanish fluently.

However, you can make the most of your journey when you speak a little Spanish

because it helps you connect with the teenagers and the locals. It is possible to take some Spanish lessons during your first days in Huanchaco.

We love to involve our traveller friends in all the activities that we plan to do, but you will never be forced to join them if for any reason you don't feel like it.

### **About the accommodation**

We mostly sleep in small basic hostels and there are several reasons behind this choice. First of all, most of the times there is simply no alternative. Secondly, we only have a limited budget for the teenagers. Moreover, by choosing family-owned hostels we benefit local people and local economy. Last but not least, the teenagers are not accustomed to luxury and for you it is a great opportunity to experience the real Peru. We carefully select family home stays and hostels: they all have at least basic bathing facilities, although hot water is not always



guaranteed. The accommodation in Huanchaco is a bit more luxurious than in the inland areas, in Huanchaco you will be sharing a room in a cosy hostel that is just a few steps away from the office!

### **About the meals**

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

### About transport

We use buses and sometimes private cars during the trip. On the main roads we use luxurious bus services with facilities on board, like large and adjustable seats, toilet and sometimes hot meals. On internal routes between smaller cities there are only simple local 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 on the bus, loud “*cumbia*” music on the radio and off we go! On the routes where there is no regular public transport, we use the *colectivos*, private cars 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 in the Cordillera Blanca, so infrastructures may be different than what you are normally used to. The accommodations are fine but consider that we will mostly stay in locally run hostels and not in luxury hotels. Also, the transport on the private cars with driver will be comfortable enough. But you must realize that a lot of the roads we will drive on will be unpaved and sometimes in poor conditions. The advantage is that we drive pretty slowly, so we can enjoy the beautiful scenery.

### What makes this journey sustainable?

Why is this journey different from the average travel agency trip? Or in other words, what makes this journey sustainable?

1. The good thing about FairMail photography trips is that with your contribution not only do you treat yourself with a unique holiday,



but **you also give one of the FairMail teenagers the possibility to join the**

## Description Photography Journey “La Cordillera Blanca”

- trip** by covering his/her costs. Thanks to your generosity one of our teenagers will be able to take new pictures and earn money for his/her education.
2. Your presence is obviously not just about the money. We really **value your view on beauty** as a western individual, the teenagers love to learn what beauty means to you, so that they can understand what the 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 other words, you are helping the teenagers improve their future!
  3. By joining FairMail on this trip, **you also support the economic development of the communities we visit**. We mainly use services like accommodation, food, transport and guides from people who live in the area to maximize the social and economic benefits for local communities. Unlike regular tour operators that don't have any positive impact on the residents, we keep the interests of the local communities at heart.
  4. Moreover, since FairMail cares about the environment, you also have the option to “**make your seat green**” during your flight to Peru by using Atmosfair. This organisation plants trees to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions, for a small additional amount. Atmosfair 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).

## TRAVEL ITINERARY

The minimum amount of days for the Basic Program is 12 days. You also have the possibility to extend your journey with extra days in Huanchaco to relax, learn Spanish, surf or volunteer at local organisations.

Day 1.	29 <sup>th</sup> July	Arrival in Huanchaco
Day 2	30 <sup>th</sup> of July	Huanchaco – Explore the surroundings
Day 3	31 <sup>st</sup> of August	Huanchaco – meet the FairMail Teenagers + night Bus to Huaraz

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Day 4	1 <sup>st</sup> of August	Huaraz – Acclimatisation
Day 5	2 <sup>nd</sup> of August	Car from Huaraz to Vicos
Day 6	3 <sup>rd</sup> of August	Honcopampa waterfall
Day 7	4 <sup>th</sup> of August	Vicos
Day 8	5 <sup>th</sup> of August	Lake Llacshaq
Day 9	6 <sup>th</sup> of August	Chancos hot springs
Day 10	7 <sup>th</sup> of August	Yungay - Laguna de Llanguanuco – Night bus back to Huanchaco
Day 11	8 <sup>th</sup> of August	Relax in Huanchaco
Day 12	9 <sup>th</sup> of August	Visit to the photographers' families

### DAILY PROGRAM

#### Day 1. 29<sup>th</sup> of July - Arrival in Huanchaco

You will get a warm welcome from your English-speaking tour guide on the bus station or airport in Trujillo, depending on your travel arrangements. A 20-minute taxi drive will take you both to your beach side hotel in Huanchaco. Today you have plenty of time for yourself to adjust to the new climate, the new time zone and to start feeling the positive vibes of Huanchaco! Huanchaco is your first approach with the coastal Peruvian lifestyle and here you will have the opportunity to get used to the Peruvian lifestyle. You can relax on the beach, take surfing or Spanish lessons and start exploring the wonders of the Peruvian cuisine.



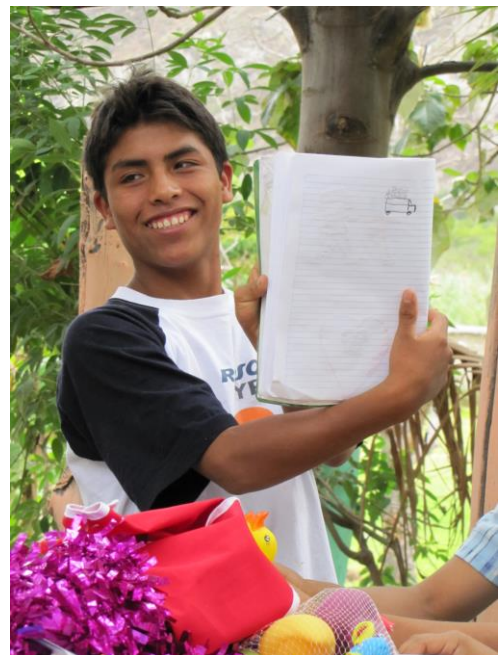
#### Day 2. 30<sup>th</sup> of July – Explore

**the surroundings** This is your first full day in Huanchaco and we suggest you make the most of it by exploring the numerous attractions in the area. Huanchaco is by far the perfect location to visit other tourist

attractions in Northern Peru. The whole area is rich in ruins of different pre-Inca empires, like the capital of the Chimu empire, Chan Chan. - the biggest pre-Colombian mud city of the Americas, a world heritage monument of Unesco. You can also visit the three Moche temples located in Trujillo: Huaca del Sol y del la Luna, Huaca Esmeralda and Huaca Arco Iris. You can also take a day trip to El Brujo heritage site, which is just 2 hours north Trujillo. And why, not if you like in the mood for adventure, you can go sandboarding on the dunes of the Laguna de Conache.

**Day 3. 31<sup>st</sup> of July – Meet the teenagers and travel mates**

Today is a very special day because you will meet your travel mates in Huanchaco and the FairMail teenagers. You will get the chance to get to know everyone and to see with your own eyes how FairMail works. We will all meet at the FairMail office, we'll play games, participate in a photo activity and have a delicious snack prepared by our local managers! What best way to conclude the morning than with a group lunch in a cosy Peruvian restaurant? The afternoon is free for you to continue collecting wonderful memories! After dinner we take a night bus that will drive us to Huaraz. When we wake up in morning we'll be in the Peruvian Andes!



**Day 4. 1<sup>st</sup> of August – Huaraz**

After leaving all the luggage in the hostel where we are going to spend the night, we'll go for a healthy and nutritious Andean breakfast to set us up ready for the day! In the morning we will have a fun and adventurous photo treasure hunt. Teamed up with one of the FairMail teenagers you will hunt around the town looking for pictures on your list. A great way to get to know each other, explore Huaraz and get in touch with the locals. After lunch we will all have time to rest and in the second part of the

afternoon the teenagers will start working on their *photo perfecta*. We'll have dinner in a local restaurant and off to the bed to recharge our batteries!

**Day 5. 2<sup>nd</sup> of August - Vicos**

Right after breakfast, we will be picked up by our local guide. A local bus will drive us to Vicos, the small Quechua town, located 50 km north Huaraz that will be our base camp for the next 5 days. Upon arrival in Vicos, we will be taken to the house of our local hosts (half of the group will be staying at



Julio's house and half of the group at Pablo's house) and our host family will welcome us with medicinal herb tea made of plants that we will learn to recognize in the field and during a small walk around the farm. Afterwards, a lunch made from local ingredients will be waiting for us in Pablo's kitchen, prepared by his wife Lucy. In the afternoon, the teenagers will continue working on their photo perfecta and you are free to help out or have some time for yourself. Afterwards, our bus takes the guests who stay with Julio's family to his house at the other side of the community of Vicos. All together we will have dinner at Pablo's house and our hosts can share stories, legends and myths of their community with us, and they can teach us some Quechua, too! After this great dinner and some talking we will get a good night sleep in the lodge next to the house of our local host family.

**Day 6. 3<sup>rd</sup> of August - Hike to Honcopampa**

After a nutritious *campesino* breakfast (made of soup of sweet porridge, corn and/or potatoes, *cachangas* with honey, quinoa juice with apple or bread with cheese) we will drive to Honcopampa. Upon arrival at the ruins of Honcopampa we have time to explore the area, visit the pre-Inca ruins and enjoy the beautiful view. It is also the perfect spot to enjoy our *campesino* picnic. Afterwards, we will do a short hike up to the waterfall of Honcopampa (depending on our pace between 1-2 hours). Here we will have another session of *foto perfecta*. At this point we have to options: we can drive home or walk home crossing the old bridge of Wiyash and Huapra. Dinner will be at Julio's house. Overnight stay at the host families.



**Day 7. 4<sup>th</sup> of August – Vicos: harvesting wheat and baking bread**

Today we will learn a lot about Quechua traditions. After breakfast, we will visit Julian’s farm. Together with Julian we will experience the typical way of harvesting wheat. First, we will carry the wheat from the field to the spot where we will thresh it afterwards with the help of a horse. When the threshing is completed, we will learn how to ventilate and clean the wheat with a pitchfork. Finally, we take the selected wheat to the storage and regain our energies during a good lunch at Julian’s house. In the afternoon, we hike to the



house of the local craftsman Manuel Apeña (ca.45 min). Here, we can visit the workshop, where Manuel produces for example wooden spoons, typical cloths and blankets. We hike back to Pablo’s house where another activity is waiting for us: preparing and baking bread in the adobe oven. After the baking is finished, we can try the *campesino* bread fresh out of the oven. We will have dinner all together at Pablo’s house. Overnight stay at the host families.

**Day 8. 5<sup>th</sup> of August – Hike to Lake Llacshaq**

After breakfast, we will start our walk towards a glacial lagoon. Today’s destination will be the Llaqshac lagoon; at about 4,600 meters of altitude, below the glacier that carries the same name. During the walk we’ll pass by some beautiful viewpoints and we’ll have a continuous view of the snow-capped peaks around us, such as Huascarán at 6,768 meters in altitude. At these heights we will also come across quenual forests (native Andean tree) and possibly deer and foxes. We will stop at different view-points to enjoy the fantastic views on the Cordillera Negra. We will have a break a picnic at the lake and enjoy the beautiful surroundings before heading down again. During the walk back we can also visit some prehistoric rock paintings. Our bus will wait for us in Qatcash Irqa again to take us back to Vicos. We will have dinner at Julio’s house. Overnight stay at the host families.

**Day 9. 6<sup>th</sup> of August – Chanchos hot spring + Pachamanca**

After breakfast, we walk together to the hot springs of Chancos. Now, it's time to relax after the many exciting activities of the last days! We will enjoy the natural open air thermal baths situated at the bottom of the mountain village. Boiling hot



water comes from the volcanic rocks deep below the ground and supply medicinal water for the hot baths and natural cave saunas! Around midday we will be back at Pablo's house, where a snack is already waiting for us - surely the hot springs made us hungry! Now, our final activity in Vicos is waiting for us: The PACHAMANCA: an important part of Peruvian

Cuisine and cultural tradition, which has existed since the time of the Inca Empire, Pachamanca is a Quechua word composed by 'pacha' -*earth*- and 'manca' -*pot*- (cooking vessel). Pachamanca is an ancient cooking technique which consists of cooking tubers, vegetables and meat underground using hot stones, which are first heated by fire. The food is covered with soil and, as a sign of good luck, a cross is placed on top. We will help with the preparations - packing up the meat, constructing the stone oven and covering it with the right combination of herbs, grass and soil. The musicians will invite us to learn about their instruments and music. While the Pachamanca is cooking, we will participate in a 'Pago a la Pachamama' (payment to Mother Earth), a ritual of gratitude to the Earth and everything it provides us with and the nature that surrounds us. We ask for the Apu's (mountain god's) blessing and ask the coca leaves to make our wishes come true. Once we are finished with our payment to Mother Earth, the Pachamanca will be ready and together we will have time to enjoy this unique meal. Afterwards, the local people will invite us to celebrate our visit by dancing the 'Huayno' with them amongst our new friends in this beautiful mountain landscape. It will be a great ending of our visit to Vicos, an enchanting community that, thanks to our visit, has benefitted from sustainable tourism development. It is now time to say goodbye to our new friends and our bus will take us to Yungay. Dinner and overnight stay in Yungay.

**Day 10. 7<sup>th</sup> of August – Hike to Laguna de Llanganuco**

We will have breakfast in the hostel before we start off for the Laguna de Llanganuco, one of the most beautiful mountain lakes of the area. Today will be a great opportunity to connect with nature. We will relax at the lake, take great pictures and have a picnic. A boat ride on the lake is optional. We will walk back through a beautiful quenual forest along the famous Maria Josefa trail. At the end of the trail our bus is waiting for us to take us back down to Yungay and from there to Carhuaz where we take our night bus to Trujillo.

**Day 11. 8<sup>th</sup> of August – Huanchaco**

We arrive in Trujillo early in the morning. The teenagers go back to their parents while you go back to Huanchaco. After an intense week in the Peruvian Andes, we all deserve some time to relax! The program of this day is entirely up to you: you can enjoy the beach, take surfing lessons or visit the many ruins in the area.

**Day 12 . 9<sup>th</sup> of August – Trujillo - Visit the teenagers’ houses**

The last day of the trip will likely offer you the the most impressive and eye-opening experience of the past 9 days: the visits to the teenagers’ houses. After travelling with the kids for the past 9 days, today you get the chance to see where they come from and meet their parents. When you realize how much they struggle in their daily life, you will admire these motivated and hard-working teenagers even more! Today is also your last chance to say goodbye, as at the end of the day, you will part way with FairMail teenagers.



## PARTICIPATION FEES

### 1) BASIC PROGRAM – 12 days – 750,00 €

The Basic Program is an all-included packet without hidden costs. What makes this journey sustainable is that in the 750,00€ that we charge you, there is included a 175,00€ contribution for one of our kids, which simply put means that **thanks to you one of our teenage photographers can join the trip!**

Included:	Excluded:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English speaking guide (founder of FairMail) throughout the whole trip</li> <li>• All overnight stays in a shared room in hostels or with local families.</li> <li>• All meals, except the days in Huanchaco</li> <li>• Transport during basic program</li> <li>• Entrance fees during basic program</li> <li>• Bus station or Airport pickup in Huanchaco</li> <li>• Lunch meeting with the FairMail teenagers before departure</li> <li>• Preparation Package</li> <li>• Teenage contribution (175,00€)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flight to Peru</li> <li>• Transport by bus or airplane from Lima to Huanchaco (from 15,00€)</li> <li>• Airport pick-up Lima (from 10,00€)</li> <li>• Overnight stay in Lima (from 10 euro)</li> <li>• Any transport beside the basic program</li> <li>• Food and drinks beside the 3 daily meals.</li> <li>• Photography equipment</li> <li>• Tours of the temples around Huanchaco</li> </ul>

## 2) EXTRA OPTIONS

If you want to spend extra days in Peru, we recommend the following options:

<p><b>1. Extra beach holiday in Huanchaco - 4 days - 75 euro</b></p> <p>This extra option gives you more time in Huanchaco before or after the photography trip. You can chill out on the beach or visit the heritage sites around Huanchaco. During these days you can also meet the FairMail teenagers and take part in the activities in the office.</p>	
<b>Included:</b>	<b>Excluded:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 days overnight stay in a shared room in a cosy hostel (without breakfast)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All meals</li> <li>• Entry to heritage sites</li> <li>• Local transport</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Lima comfort package upon arrival- 1 day - 50 euro</b></p> <p>With this package deal you don't have to worry about anything when you arrive in Lima. Your transport to Huanchaco will be arranged for you.</p>	
<b>Included:</b>	<b>Excluded:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Airport pickup in Lima</li> <li>• 1 overnight stay in Lima after arrival</li> <li>• Breakfast</li> <li>• Bus ticket Lima - Trujillo in luxurious day bus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport to bus station in Lima</li> <li>• Meals in Lima</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Lima comfort package upon departure - 1 day - 50 euro</b></p> <p>With this package deal you don't have to worry about anything when you go back to Lima. Your transport to Lima will be arranged for you. The next day you will be dropped off at the airport.</p>	
<b>Included:</b>	<b>Excluded:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Airport drop-off Lima</li> <li>• 1 overnight stay in Lima before departure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport to bus station in Trujillo (near Huanchaco)</li> <li>• Other meals</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Breakfast</li><li>• Bus ticket Trujillo - Lima in luxurious day bus</li></ul>	
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### **PACKING LIST – What should you pack?**

- 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



**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ON BOARD!!**