

# “Tierra Andina”

2<sup>th</sup> of January – 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2018

650 euro per person / 11 days

## Description

This adventurous journey with FairMail Peru’s teenager photographers leads you to one of the most authentic regions of Peru’s northern Andes. The small mountain city of Huamachuco is situated in an inter-Andean valley and makes an ideal starting point to visit high altitude lakes, natural hot springs, rural countryside and impressive pre-Inca ruins. During this tour you will travel across the dry coastal strip of Peru and up to the Andes Mountains.



One of the goals of this trip is to capture on camera the beauty provided by the surroundings and turn this beauty into a source of income for the FairMail teenagers! Because of its remoteness, the destinations on this trip are hardly visited by tourists which means an adventurous journey off the beaten track with plenty of shooting opportunities.

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 will have the opportunity to get used to the Peruvian lifestyle. You can relax on the beach or take some surfing lessons. You can visit the various attractions in the area, like the largest pre-Columbian mud city of Chan Chan, the former capital of the Chimú 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 two days of acclimatization in Huanchaco, we leave the coast and reach Huamachuco, in the heart of the Andes. The small city, whose architecture still shows the signs of its pre-Incan and Spanish past, is



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situated in a lush green valley. It also serves as a hub to visit the nearby mountain lakes. Our next stop will be the village of Curgos where we will visit the thermal baths and work on some photography exercises in this typical Andean setting. This place has an authentic beauty and that is just what we need for our pictures!

Our hikes are an interesting opportunity to learn more about the nature and the people who live there. Because the residents of this area are hardly in contact with tourists, you will be touched by their genuine hospitality.

### **About travelling with FairMail**

FairMail team likes to invite fellow travellers on our photography journey! The main goal of the journey is to take pictures, not to visit as many tourist destinations as possible, the approach “been there, done that” is simply not our traveling style. Due to the limited budget available to FairMail and the teenagers, traveling with FairMail requires adaptation: we sleep in basic



accommodation facilities, use public transport as much as possible and eat in local restaurants. Besides being a budget-driven choice, we believe it is a way for our traveller friends to experience what life is like in Peru and to truly connect with local people. We love nature and we love to capture its beauty, this is why we include hikes in the mountains along primitive footpaths. Walking shoes and a raincoat are part of your equipment! During our trip we speak Spanish, English and Dutch. There is a Dutch and 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 accommodations**

We mostly sleep in small basic hostels during this journey 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.

### **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 this journey. 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 *collectivos*, 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 north of Peru, so infrastructures may be different than what you are normally used to. The accommodations are fine, but consider that you 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.

### **Best travel period**

This is a journey into the Peruvian Andes where the rainy season used to be from mid-January to the end of March. But like everywhere else in the world, climate is not as reliable as it used to be. The average temperature varies between 20 and 30 degrees Celsius.

## 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 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 a fun and relaxed way, you support talented, but underprivileged teenagers, to 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 from people who live in the area like accommodation, transport and guides to maximize the social and economic benefits for local communities. Regular travel agencies mainly use large tour operators that don't have any positive impact on the residents.
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).

## Minimum amount of days and travel itinerary

The minimum amount of days for the Basic Program is 11 days

Day	Day	Route	Transport
1	2th of January	Arrival in Trujillo/Huanchaco	
2	3th of January	Huanchaco (meeting FairMail)	Walking
3	4th of January	Huanchaco – Huamachuco	Local day bus
4	5th of January	Huamachuco & treasure hunt exercise	Walking
5	6th of January	Visit Sausacocha lake & perfect picture	Private car

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		exercise	
6	7th of January	Visit Curgos village & make movie	Local bus
7	8th of January	Visit Eden hot springs	Private car
8	9th of January	Perfect picture exercise & bus back to Huamachuco via Collasgón lake	Local bus
9	10th of January	Marcahuamacuco ruins plus walk back	Private car
10	11th of January	Arrival Trujillo, back to Huanchaco	Local day bus
11	12th of January	Trujillo, visit the teenagers houses	

This is the Basic Program. It goes without saying, you can always extend your stay in Huanchaco and make the most of what this lovely fisher village has to offer you: a sunny beach, the ocean, delicious food, Spanish classes, lots of sightseeing and volunteering opportunities. We recommend to stay for example 4 extra days in Huanchaco at the beginning or at the end of your journey. This will only cost you an extra € 75,00 (see *Extra Options*, pag. 11)

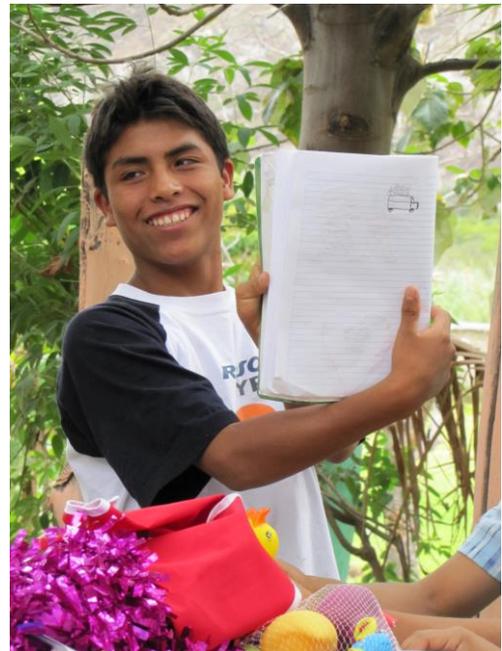
### Day to day program

#### Day 1. Huanchaco

You will get a warm welcome from your Dutch and English speaking tour guide on the bus station or airport in Trujillo. A 20-minute taxi drive will take you to the coastal fishing village of Huanchaco where we will show you your hostel. You have the rest of the day off to get to know Huanchaco and to acclimatize.

#### Day 2. Huanchaco

Today you meet your travel mates in Huanchaco, the FairMail teenagers and the other participants. We will meet in the morning at the FairMail office. You will get the chance to meet everyone and to see how FairMail works. We all have lunch together in a cosy Peruvian restaurant. The afternoon is free. 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. Chan Chan is the biggest pre Colombian mud city 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. The area is also attractive because of the beaches and the good surf breaks. A lot of opportunities to collect wonderful memories!



### Day 3. Huanchaco – Huamachuco

In the morning you have some time to do grocery shopping at the market in Huanchaco or see the fishermen bring in their catch to the beach. After that we head for Trujillo to catch the local bus to Huamachuco. Huamachuco is situated in the heartland of the Northern Peruvian Andes at 3.169 meters above sea level. It will take approximately 6 hours by local bus to cover a distance of 184 km. The bus will drive us up the Andean valleys and we will reach a 4.100-meter-high mountain pass before winding down into the inter-Andean valley where Huamachuco is situated. After arriving we will check into our hostel near the central “plaza de armas”. The afternoon will be free to explore the city.



### Day 4. Huamachuco

Today we take it easy to make sure that everybody has the opportunity to get used to the altitude. Drinking enough coca tea will definitely help too!

After breakfast we will do a photo scavenger hunt in pairs around town, you will team up with one of the teenager and embark on a fun photo adventure! The pair that takes the best pictures of all the things on the list wins a nice prize! The goal of the exercise is to learn to observe the surroundings, an essential capacity for a good photographer of course. Besides that, it is a good way to get to know each other and the new place.



After lunch there will be some free time to relax and for the kids to start drawing their “perfect pictures” for tomorrow’s presentation. At dusk we will go out again together to make use of the good light and see if we can shoot some cards. We sleep in the same hotel in Huamachuco.

### Day 5. Sausacocha Lake

After breakfast we leave Huamachuco for one of Huamachuco’s highlights: the high altitude lake of Sausacocha. Situated at a short 9 km drive from Huamachuco, this 3.200 a.s.l. lake is a blue 172-hectare big mirror of water amidst the rolling hills that surround it. Many wild birds habit the lake. Local Huamchucinos (the local population) love to visit it to eat fresh trout from the lake. Of course we will have some too!



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The main purpose of our visit is to work on the teenagers “perfect picture”. After arrival they will present the drawings they made showing their idea for a “perfect picture” that will make it into a FairMail postcard by the end of the trip. Visualizing and sharing their ideas helps a lot to convert their ideas into reality. After receiving feedback from the whole group, the teenagers get to work with the help of the other group members on the shores of the lakes.

After a delicious trout lunch, there is an optional boat ride or you can just hang out around the lake. Those with plenty of energy left can climb up to the viewpoint overlooking the lake before we head back to Huamachuco. We sleep in the same hotel in Huamachuco for the third night.



### Day 6. Curgos

After breakfast we leave Huamachuco for the village of Curgos, about 15 kilometres southeast of Huamachuco where we will be staying for the next two days. By local public transport we drive through the rural countryside until the final destination. Curgos is a pure and authentic Andean village. Because of the fact that there are no major tourist attractions in Curgos, there are virtually no tourists and this will make our time there simply special. After lunch we check the place out. Walking together with the teenagers will help you get in contact with the locals and take some special pictures of the surprising meetings you have along the way. We also have a nice creativity-enhancing activity which implies directing, acting, playing and editing a movie!

In the evening we will watch a selection of the photos that the teenagers have taken so far. This feedback helps them realize the great pictures that they have already taken and what is still missing to transform a few of their ideas and concepts into pictures that are good enough to make it into a FairMail card. By sharing this we all know what to focus on during the last 3 days of the trip still ahead of us!



### Day 7. Eden Hot Springs

Actually there is one special attraction to Curgos, the nearby *Agua termales El Eden* natural springs. A 10 kilometre drive down into the deep valley of the Chusgón River brings us to the natural spring with medicinal hot waters called *El Eden* at 2.750 meters above sea level.



*El Eden* is beautifully situated in a natural environment with great views over the natural countryside from your hot pool. Nearby there are also natural salt mines dating back from Inca times. It is the perfect place to relax, breath clean air and let the natural environment inspire us to take some nice pictures and follow up on yesterday's feedback.

### **Day 8. Curgos - Huamachuco**

In the morning we will have one last photo session to finalize the perfect pictures. We will get up early to make good use of the beautiful dawn light to take pictures in pairs before breakfast. Afterwards we take the same road back to Huamachuco stopping for a moment at the Lagunas Collasgón along the way, if time allows. This 500-hectare big wetland is full of wild birds and the area is designated to bring back the *vicuña* (a small non-domesticated llama with very fine fur).



Back in Huamachuco, it will feel like we are back in civilization with internet, paved roads and cars on the roads. The contrast is inspiring though and it helps realize how special the past few days have been!

### **Day 9. Huamachuco - Marcahuamachuco**

We kept the highlight of the trip to the end. Today we literally go to the highest point of the trip at 3.600 meters above sea level: the Marcahuamachuco ruins. After breakfast we will drive for about 10 kilometres up to these impressive ruins situated on a 2 km<sup>2</sup> big flat mountain top. Different civilizations have built their political, religious and administrative centres here since 400 B.C.. Due to the warm micro climate, the superb views over the surrounding countryside and the steep ridges functioning as natural defences, this site was the perfect place to build the old city. Today one can still see the high level of urban planning, hydraulic engineering and architecture of the past in the 10-meter-high standing walls, 3 story buildings and protective towers.



The size of the ruins, the splendid views and the opportunities to take photos justify a lengthy stay at the ruins. We will have a picnic for lunch with the food that we brought along at a nice viewpoint before walking back to Huamachuco (10 km). If we are lucky, we will catch a ride along the way from a passing truck or bus. Back in town, there is a small museum dedicated to the ruins which is worth visiting to better understand what we saw in the morning. We sleep in the same hotel in Huamachuco.

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In the evening we will have time to look at the final selection of the best photos taken during the trip and feel good about the results we achieved while having so much fun together.

### Day 10 Huamachuco - Trujillo

After breakfast we take the bus back to Trujillo. We will arrive at the end of the afternoon probably. The teenagers go back to their parents while you go back to Huanchaco to relax and enjoy the beach again. The coastal culture is so different that it is hard to believe that Huanchaco and Huamacucho are in the same country!

### Day 11. Trujillo – house visits

We kept for the last day of the trip what most of the past travellers thought to be the most impressive and eye-opening experience: the visits to the teenager’s houses. After travelling with the kids for the past 9 days, today you get the chance to see where they come from, meet their parents and, if conditions are in place, even check out their schools. 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.



### Extra days in Huanchaco

You can choose to spend some extra days in the nice fishing village of Huanchaco before or after the photography trip. Huanchaco is the only place in Peru where fishermen still use the traditional reed fishing boats, the *caballitos de totora*. This is a tradition that dates back centuries. Huanchaco is a village with a lot of facilities for tourists, but the locals have kept the Peruvian authentic welcoming spirit, in other words it is not all about the money.

Moreover, Huanchaco is by far the perfect location to visit other landmarks in North Peru. In a radius of 2 hours from Huanchaco you will find many ruins of different pre-Inca empires, like the capital of the Chimu empire, Chan Chan. Chan Chan is the biggest pre Colombian mud city 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 north, you can visit the tomb of “El señor de Sipan”, the biggest tomb ever found since Tutanchamon. Also the pyramids of Batan Grande and Tucume, are relatively close by. All these archaeological sites are easy to reach

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and to visit because they are not packed with tourists. The whole area is also famous for its long, warm beaches and the good surf breaks. The beach of Chicama, for example, has the longest waves in the world!

Besides tourism, if you choose to stay a little longer in Huanchaco, you will have the chance to experience life in FairMail and to visit the teenagers at their houses. They would love to show you their place and, we guarantee, it will be a memorable, eye-opening experience.

### Prices:

#### **Basic Program - 11 days: € 650**

What makes traveling with FairMail really special is that by paying the Basic Program fee, you make it possible for one FairMail teenager to join the trip. A contribution of € 165 is indeed included in the € 650 to cover the costs for one of our teenagers.

#### Included:

- Dutch and English speaking guide
- All overnight stays in a shared room in hostels
- All meals, except the first, second and last day in Huanchaco
- Transport during basic program
- Entrance fees during basic program
- Bus station or Airport pickup in Huanchaco
- Lunch meeting with the FairMail teenagers before departure
- Preparation Package
- Project contribution (€ 165)

#### Excluded:

- Flight to Peru (from Europe from 850 euro)
- Transport by bus or airplane from Lima to Huanchaco (from 20)
- Airport pick-up Lima (from 10 euro)
- 1 overnight stay in Lima (from 15 euro)
- Any (taxi) transport besides the basic program
- Food and drinks besides the 3 daily meals.
- Photography equipment
- Tips
- Optional tours around Huanchaco

**Extra Options:**

Besides the Basic Program we also offer extra options:

1. Lima comfort package outward - 1 day - 50 euro
2. Lima comfort package return - 1 day - 50 euro
3. Extra beach holiday in Huanchaco - 4 days - 75 euro
4. Fee single room - 11 days - 75 euro
5. CO2 compensation flight - 150 euro each person

**1. Lima comfort package outward - 1 day - 50 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 directly.

Included:

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

Excluded:

- transport to bus station in Lima
- other meals

**2. Lima comfort package return - 1 day - 50 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 directly.

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 taxi

### **3. Extra beach holiday in Huanchaco - 4 days - 75 euro**

This extra option gives you more time in Huanchaco before or after the photography journey. You can chill out on the beach and visit various sites around Huanchaco. During these days you can also meet the FairMail teenagers in advance. They like to show you their neighbourhood and introduce you to their parents. If you like, you can also stay for dinner at their places.

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 - 11 days - 75 euro**

If you want more privacy during the trip it is almost always possible to book a private room. In some cases it is not possible though, it depends on the structure we are sleeping in. We can provide you with further information if you chose to book this option.

### **5. CO2 compensation flight - 150 euro each person**

The emissions of a person's return flight from Amsterdam to Lima amount to 6060 kg CO<sub>2</sub>. You can choose to offset these emissions thanks to a climate project of Atmosfair for 150 Euros. You will receive a certificate from Atmosfair. Unlike other CO<sub>2</sub> compensation options, 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).

**PACKING LIST – What should you pack?**

- Cash, in the village of Curgos there won't be any ATM's.  
(There are ATM's in Huanchaco and Huamachuco)
- 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
- Flashlight
- Pocketknife