

# EXCURSIONS GUIDE

## EXCURSIONS

Excursions are offered on an intimate shared basis, led by one of our expert interpreters, alongside a few other hotel guests. Private experiences can be arranged for an additional charge or by contracting the private program basis.

Our team's knowledge and skills will allow you to explore and experience the authentic Colca Valley thoroughly. The service is offered in Spanish or English, however other languages are available upon request and are subject to additional costs.

Our excursions are not recommended for children under 16. However, some excursions (marked as Suitable for Children) will allow kids under the strict supervision of their parents or tutors. Please note that PUQIO is not responsible for the safety and well-being of children during the excursions.

# EXCURSIONS MAP



# 1 NIGHT

*(Suggested Itinerary)*

DAY 1:	<p><u>NEARBY ACTIVITIES</u></p> <p>Begin with a transfer from Arequipa to PUQIO arriving just in time for lunch. After settling in and getting to know the camp, explore the Colca Valley with short local activities to acclimate. You can visit artisans in Yanque, take a walk to our Puquio (local water spring) or explore the archaeological complex of Uyo Uyo, among other options.</p>
DAY 2:	<p><u>CONDORS</u></p> <p>Departing early in the morning from PUQIO, head to some of the local viewpoints where you can spot the impressive Condors. Our first spot is a canyon observatory, where we will admire the magnitude of the Colca Valley and the Colca River Canyon.</p>



# 2, 3, & 4 NIGHTS



(Suggested Itinerary)



Condor sighting opportunity

FIRST DAY:	<p><u>NEARBY ACTIVITIES</u></p> <p>Explore the Colca Valley with brief nearby activities to acclimate. You can visit artisans in Yanque, take a walk to our Puquio (local water spring), or visit the archaeological complex of Uyo Uyo, among other options.</p>
<p><b>FULL DAYS À LA CARTE</b> (One option per night)</p>	
LAST DAY:	<p><u>NEARBY ACTIVITIES</u></p> <p>Depending on your departure time, you can take advantage of your last day to explore the valley through one of our Nearby Activities. Afterward, you will have a transfer out to Arequipa.</p>



OPTION A:	<p><u>GEYSERS &amp; ALTO PUQIO</u></p>  <p>Explore a volcanic geyser and experience its water and steam eruptions up close. Then, enjoy an andean picnic lunch in peaceful silence.</p>
OPTION B:	<p><u>SIBAYO &amp; CANOCOYA</u></p> <p>Discover a picturesque Andean village that seems to be stuck in time and take an exploratory walk along the Colca river.</p>
OPTION C:	<p><u>CHIMPA FORTRESS</u></p>  <p>A pre-Inca fortress at 3,262 m above sea level that offers views of the canyon and the opportunity to see condors flying from above.</p>







# GEYSER & ALTO PUQIO

*(Option A)*

## PINCHOLLO GEYSER

This excursion offers a complete experience combining the exploration of historical villages like Maca and Pinchollo with impressive natural phenomena. Along the way, you can learn about the colonial architecture of Maca's plaza and church and enjoy panoramic views from the Colca River Canyon observatory. The highlight of the trip is the visit to the Pinchollo Geyser, a volcanic hot water spring that offers a fascinating insight into the region's geothermal activity with its constant eruptions of water and steam.

## LUNCH AT ALTO PUQIO

Enjoy a picnic lunch at our favourite spot in Sallalli. Surrounded by nature, you can indulge in authentic flavours of local products.

## NEARBY ACTIVITY

After finishing the excursion, return to PUQIO to participate in a brief [Nearby Activity](#) in the afternoon.

\*Not suitable for children



# SIBAYO & CANOCOYA

*(Option B)*

## SIBAYO

Sibayo is located an hour away from Yanque. Locally referred to as the "Enchanted Town", it is known for its historic architecture and picturesque streets. Its plaza and church are recognised as national historical monuments, preserving the Collagua legacy.

## LUNCH

Enjoy a quiet picnic lunch in Sibayo, where you can taste traditional cheeses and diverse local produce.

## CANOCOYA

End the excursion with an explorative 7.8 km (4.8 miles) hike from Canocota, along the canyon, admiring the views of the Colca River, the Huaynalima Canyon, and its rich flora.

## NEARBY ACTIVITY

After finishing the excursion, return to PUQIO to participate in a brief Nearby Activity in the afternoon.

\*Suitable for children





# CHIMPA FORTRESS

*(Option C)*

## CHIMPA

The excursion to Chimpa Fortress departs at 6am from PUQIO towards the towns of Lari and Madrigal. After an hour of ascent, we reach the summit at 10,702 feet above sea level (3,262 m.a.s.l.), with views of the Colca Canyon and the majestic flight of the condors. On the way back, visit the historic Purísima Concepción Church in Lari, enriching the cultural experience.

## LUNCH

Enjoy lunch back at PUQIO celebrating local cuisine, prepared with the freshest regional ingredients. Meals accommodate slower digestion at higher altitudes, with natural flavours and spicy touches in the sauces.

## NEARBY ACTIVITY

After finishing the excursion, return to PUQIO to participate in a brief Nearby Activity in the afternoon.

\*Suitable for children aged 12 and older





# UYO UYO ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX

*Step back in time and explore the ancient village of the Collaguas, a pre-Inca culture. Marvel at their advanced hydraulic engineering and wander through the picturesque landscapes where nature and agriculture blend seamlessly on the mountainside.*

The excursion starts with a transfer by car or on foot to the entrance of the archaeological site, 2 km (1.24 miles) from Yanque's main square. We take in the landscape and make a gentle ascent to the pre-Inca Collagua citadel, perched on an elevated part of the ravine. This ancient village features plastered structures and rows of white and grey stones, now surrounded by traditional terrace crops.

DURATION	¼ or ½ day
DIFFICULTY	I
FREQUENCY	Daily
SCHEDULE	Morning and afternoon
ATTRACTIONS	Hiking, archaeological remains, scenic landscape
SUGGESTIONS	Bring a camera, jacket or a raincoat in case of rainy weather, hiking shoes, and sunscreen.
MEALS	Snacks and water

\*Suitable for children





## OJO DE AGUA & TREATMENTS

*Immerse yourself in the regional flora around PUQIO, on your way to the local water spring. Discover plants and fruits with unexpected properties and learn about their traditional uses.*

A walk along the edge of the ravine. During the journey, you will collect aromatic and medicinal herbs, enjoying views of the pre-Inca terraces. Additionally, you will learn about the uses of these herbs and have the opportunity to try traditional infusions used by the Collaguas.

DURATION	¼ or ½ day
DIFFICULTY	I
FREQUENCY	Daily
SCHEDULE	Morning and afternoon
ATTRACTIONS	Local flora and fauna, herb collection, hiking
SUGGESTIONS	Bring a camera, jacket or a raincoat in case of rainy weather, hiking shoes, insect repellent, and sunscreen.
MEALS	Snacks and water

\*Suitable for children





# COPORAQUE & YURAQ QAQA TOMBS

*Explore the charming village of Coporaque, known for its colonial architecture and ancient legends. Visit the impressive tombs of Yuraq Qaqa, surrounded by breathtaking landscapes, and dive into the sacred valley's rich blend of nature and history.*

Starting from PUQIO, the excursion heads to Coporaque to explore its colonial architecture and visit the historic San Juan Bautista Church. Then, it continues to the Yuraq Qaqa tombs, offering panoramic views of the valley. The hike also includes a visit to the archaeological site of San Antonio, passing by mausoleums, irrigation channels, and pre-Inca terraces, and a view of the Occolle arena, an ancestral agricultural laboratory.

DURATION	¼ or ½ day
DIFFICULTY	I, II
FREQUENCY	Daily
SCHEDULE	Morning and afternoon
ATTRACTIONS	Culture, landscapes, adventure
SUGGESTIONS	Bring lightweight clothing and a raincoat in case of rainy weather, sunscreen, and insect repellent.
MEALS	Snacks and water

\*Suitable for children





# YANQUE

*Unveil the charm of Yanque, where the Immaculate Conception Church stands as a baroque marvel amidst the quaint village. Let the vibrant dance of local children in the main square enchant you as you delve into the rich tapestry of culture and tradition.*

This excursion departs towards Yanque and offers an introduction to the local culture. We will be able to visit the Immaculate Conception Church of Yanque, renowned for its historical and artistic significance. It was recognised as a National Monument in 1981 and recently restored.

DURATION	¼ or ½ day
DIFFICULTY	I
FREQUENCY	Daily
SCHEDULE	Morning and afternoon
ATTRACTIONS	Culture, dance, folklore
SUGGESTIONS	Bring a camera, warm clothing, and a raincoat
MEALS	Snacks and water

\*Suitable for children





## YANQUE HORSEBACK JOURNEY

*Ride through Yanque's scenic trails, passing fertile fields and ancient pathways. Pause at breathtaking viewpoints, where the Colca Valley unfolds in a stunning panorama before descending to PUQIO's peaceful retreat.*

This scenic horseback ride follows ancient trails from Yanque to PUQIO. Pass through agricultural fields, pause at Patarana Viewpoint for sweeping valley views, and continue to the Cochapampa reservoirs. Ascend Pallaclle's slopes to Ladera and Munaywichay viewpoints, where neighbouring villages and Apu Walkawalqa unfold in the distance. The journey ends with a descent to Yanque or a peaceful arrival at PUQIO.

DURATION	¼ day
DIFFICULTY	I
FREQUENCY	Pre-booking required
SCHEDULE	Morning and afternoon
ATTRACTIONS	Scenic landscapes, traditional village
SUGGESTIONS	Bring a camera, light clothing, raincoat, hat and sunscreen
MEALS	Water

\*Suitable for children with prior horseback riding experience.







# COLCA'S ARTISANS

*Explore the vibrant world of Colca's artisans, engage with local craftspeople, and discover the cultural richness behind their textiles and crafts in a charming village.*

This excursion departs by car for neighbouring villages, bringing you closer to the artisans and weavers of Colca, who preserve pre-Hispanic traditions. The iconography in alpaca weaving reflects the local cultural richness. You will be able to learn about embroidery styles, looms, and other traditional crafts.

DURATION	¼ day
DIFFICULTY	I
FREQUENCY	Daily
SCHEDULE	Morning and afternoon
ATTRACTIONS	Textile community, crafts, culture
SUGGESTIONS	Bring a camera, warm clothing, and a raincoat in case of rainy weather
MEALS	Snacks and water

\*Suitable for children





# LOCAL FESTIVITIES

Subject to the festivity calendar

Explore the lively villages of the Colca Valley and experience local celebrations that bring ancient traditions to life. Witness the intertwining of Andean cosmovision, Catholicism, and age-old customs, creating a vibrant cultural tapestry.

Drive to nearby villages to immerse yourself in local celebrations, exploring the syncretism between the Andean worldview and Catholic religion. This excursion allows you to witness how the inhabitants have internalised these traditions, celebrating them with energy and devotion.

DURATION	¼ day
DIFFICULTY	I
FREQUENCY	According to festive calendar
SCHEDULE	Morning and afternoon
ATTRACTIONS	Culture, festivals, and folklore
SUGGESTIONS	Bring a camera, warm clothing, and a raincoat if it rains
MEALS	Snacks and water

\*Suitable for children



# CUEVAS DE PUMUNUTA

*Explore the vast and awe-inspiring Pumunuta Caves, where ancient food storage remnants whisper secrets of the past. Immerse yourself in nature's embrace within this unique landscape, high above the Colca Canyon.*

The Pumunuta Caves are located high up in the Colca Canyon. To reach this destination, one must pass through Chivay and the Lunta viewpoint before reaching Tuti, where the hike to the "Refrigerators of Colca" begins. Inside, ancient clay and straw containers used by the Collaguas to preserve grains are found, offering us a fascinating glimpse into ancient life in the region. At the end of this excursion, we will visit the cheese factory in Tuti to taste Andean cheese.

DURATION	½ or ful day
DIFFICULTY	III
FREQUENCY	Upon the traveller's request
SCHEDULE	Morning
ATTRACTIONS	Landscapes, archaeological remains, caves.
SUGGESTIONS	Bring lightweight clothing, hiking shoes, a rain-coat in case of rainy weather, sunscreen, and hat.
MEALS	Snacks and water





## LLAPA YANAHUARA - \$232

*Venture off the beaten path into the rugged mountain trails, where rocky formations and a mysterious deserted village await. Discover the solitude and beauty of an Andean church standing silently amidst the vast landscape.*

Embark on an exhilarating overlanding journey through the high Colca mountains, where nature carves mystical landscapes. We set off towards Callalli, a charming village featuring a traditional church and plaza. From there, we navigate a challenging route that crosses rivers, mountains, and gorges, revealing unique rock formations such as the toad, the bride, and the rock castles. After 1 hour and 30 minutes, we reach Llapa Yanahuara, a deserted village at 4,300 metres above sea level, enveloped in the majestic solitude of the Andes.

DURATION	Full day
DIFFICULTY	II
FREQUENCY	On request
SCHEDULE	Morning
ATTRACTIONS	Landscapes, archaeological remains, lost village of Llapa Yanahuara with Chruch, rock formations
SUGGESTIONS	Bring lightweight clothing and a raincoat in case of rainy weather, sunscreen, and insect repellent.
MEALS	Snacks, picnic lunch, and beverages







# ALTO PINCHOLLO GEYSERS

*Embark on a horseback exploration of the heights of Pinchollo, where numerous geysers create an otherworldly landscape. Be captivated by the breathtaking scenery, untouched nature at its best, in this unforgettable adventure.*

The excursion begins early in the morning from PUQIO and takes you to the village of Maca, a viewpoint of the Canyon, and the geysers at almost 14,435 feet above sea level (4,400 m.a.s.l.). You'll also enjoy a horseback ride to two other geysers at 15,912 feet above sea level (4,850 m.a.s.l.). This experience offers the opportunity to witness natural phenomena and spot the Andean Condor while accompanied by wild horses and cattle. On the return journey, you can enjoy a sundowner with spectacular valley views in Achoma.

DURATION	Full day
DIFFICULTY	III
FREQUENCY	Daily
SCHEDULE	Morning
ATTRACTIONS	Geysers, possible condor sights, wild horses and cattle
SUGGESTIONS	Bring lightweight clothing and a raincoat in case of rainy weather, and sunscreen.
MEALS	Snacks, picnic lunch, or sundowner





# SALINAS & AGUADA BLANCA

*Embark on a breathtaking journey through stunning landscapes. Marvel at geological formations and diverse wildlife, explore the mystical Puruña Stone Forest, and enjoy panoramic views from the volcano viewpoint in the Salinas and Aguada Blanca Reserve.*

The journey from Arequipa to the Colca Valley usually takes three hours via the regular route. However, we also offer an extended excursion through the Salinas and Aguada Blanca Reserve, featuring stunning landscapes, volcanoes, wetlands, unique rock formations, and local fauna. At the route's highest point of 16,076 feet (4,900 m.a.s.l.), you'll enjoy views of volcanoes like Ubinas, Misti, Chachani, Ampato, Sabancaya, and Mismi. We descend into the Colca Valley, arriving at PUQIO at 11,155 feet (3,400 m.a.s.l.). Eating lightly, staying hydrated, and drinking coca mate before departing is recommended.

DURATION	½ day
DIFFICULTY	I
FREQUENCY	Daily
SCHEDULE	Morning and afternoon
ATTRACTIONS	Landscapes, camelids, Volcano viewpoints
SUGGESTIONS	Bring warm clothing, eat a meal before departure and drink coca tea.
MEALS	Snacks, picnic lunch, and beverages

\*Suitable for children





# HIGH-ALTITUDE FISHING

*Fish in serene high-altitude lakes at 15,091 feet above sea level (4,600 m.a.s.l.). Immerse yourself in the pure beauty of nature and enjoy the relaxing outdoors amidst stunning landscapes.*

Embark on a fishing adventure in the serene high-altitude lakes of the Colca Valley. Accompanied by an interpreter, you will have the opportunity to learn about the local fishing techniques and the diverse aquatic life found in these andean waters. Enjoy the tranquility of the stunning landscape while you try your luck at catching native fish species. This excursion offers an unforgettable experience amidst breathtaking scenery.

DURATION	Full day
DIFFICULTY	II
FREQUENCY	On request
SCHEDULE	Morning
ATTRACTIONS	Landscape, native aquatic life, cultural insights
SUGGESTIONS	Bring a hat or cup, sunscreen, sunglasses, light and warm clothing, and shoes that can get dirty, wet, or muddy.
MEALS	Snacks and water



# PUQIO

*by Andean*

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