

Ticlla Circuit

TREKKING

DURATION 5-6 days
DISTANCE 78km
TOTAL ASCENT 2700m
HIGHEST POINT 5050m
TERRAIN Rough Path
EFFORT Difficult

THE TICLLA CIRCUIT

The Cordillera Central offer some excellent trekking and the focus of the range is this circuit trek around the highest peak, Ticlla 5897m. There are some exceptionally beautiful high altitude lagoons, interesting wildlife and very friendly local people. The range is much, much quieter than the popular treks in the Cordillera Blanca and Huayhuash to the north, and the weather is better too. The dry season runs from May to September.

The easiest place to start this trek is from the village of Miraflores to the southeast, but a similar itinerary could also be followed from Ayaviri to the west or Tanta to the north west. A brief description is also given of a longer variation to the basic circuit. Being a circular trek it would be quite feasible to do this walk in reverse.

ACCESS

There are two main ways of approaching Miraflores. These are either from the inland city of Huancayo or from the coast at Cañete.

Approaching from Huancayo has a big advantage for acclimatisation because of the altitude of this city. From Huancayo travel via Angasmayo and San Jose de Quero to reach Miraflores; there was reported to be a bus on Sundays only, otherwise you will have to arrange private transport - it's a 5 hour drive on a reasonable road. From Cañete travel via the town of Yauyos, from where you may need to hire a private vehicle.

MIRAFLORES

The village of Miraflores is a friendly wee place at an altitude of 3650m. There are only a few very small and basic shops. Accommodation, donkeys and any other basic tourist facilities can usually be found here. For all of these try asking at the mayor's office on the southwest corner of the square or just sit and wait in the square and ask the locals who come past.

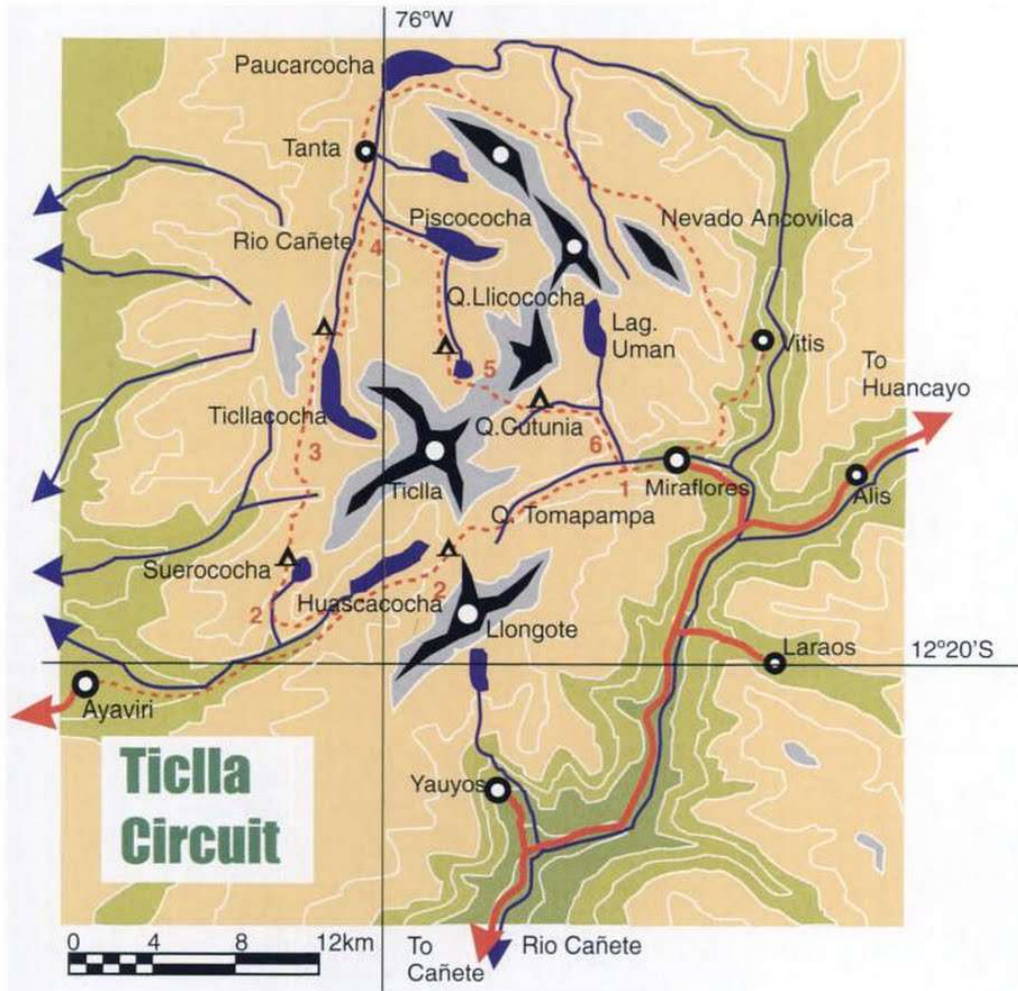
MAPS TO USE

Peruvian IGM sheets 25-k 'Huarochiri' and 25-l 'Yauyos' at 1:100,000

THE ROUTE

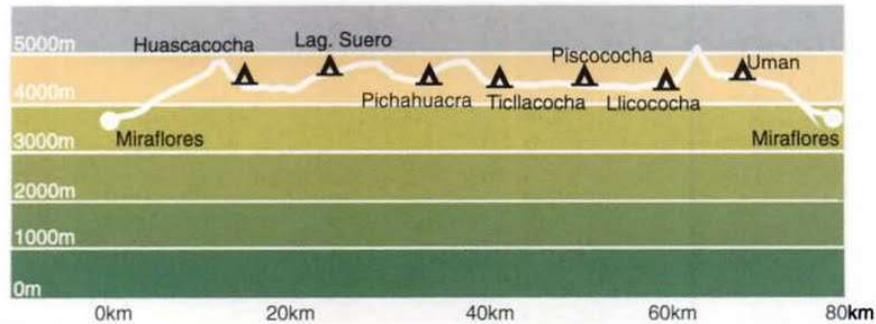
1. 6 hours. From Miraflores walk up lanes in the Quebrada Tomapampa valley which leads west to a high pass of 4750m. There are lots of nice flowers and cacti in this valley. It is possible to camp in high pastures at Ancacucho just before the pass, **3-4 hours**. There are good views of the dramatic southeast face of Ticlla from near here. From Ancacucho climb over the pass and descend to the long Laguna Huasacocha (4250m) under the south slopes of Ticlla. There are good campsites at the near (northeast) end of this scenic lake, **2 hours**.

2. 4 hours Walk down the south side of the lake to the far end. Then cross the outflow stream and begin gradually ascending the hillside on the north side of the valley. This leads into the Quebrada Suero and a short walk up this valley to the scenic Laguna Suerococha, where camping is possible, **3-4 hours**.



3. 4 hours From Laguna Suerococha climb grassy slopes to the northwest and a pass at 4800m. Go down the valley on the other side till it begins to steepen and then traverse right on animal tracks to the head of the Quebrada Pichahuacra. **2 hours**. Climb a steep side valley to the north and a pass of 4750m with views of the beautiful curving Laguna Ticllacocha. It is a steep descent to the north to reach campsites at the outflow stream of this lake, **2 hours**. A worthwhile side trip from here if you have time is to walk up to the end of the valley on the north side of the lakes to the spectacular mountain cirque under the northwest side of Ticlla

4. 3 hours Walk down the headwaters of the Rio Cañete to the north for about 7km (2 hours) until another wide valley joins from the right, turn into this valley and follow the stream up to Laguna Piscococha. There are nice campsites at several points on the south shores, **3 hours**. From the junction of the major valleys the small settlement of Tanta is just an hour to the north. It is possible to start or leave the trek here, though it might be difficult to arrange transport. (There is reported to be a once a week colectivo to Jauja) In Tanta you can also purchase some basic supplies, such as Inca Kola.



5. 5-6 hours From Piscococha walk up the swampy Quebrada Llicococha to the south, there is a good path on the right hand side, to the blue green waters of the scenic Laguna Llicococha, **2-3 hours**. Just beyond this lagoon the path climbs steeply up and over the highest pass of the circuit, at 5050m, then descends steeply to the Quebrada Cutunia at 4600m. **2-3 hours**.

6. 4-5 hours. Walk out down the Quebrada Cutunia passing the settlement of Uman at the valley junction. From here there is a worthwhile side trip to the impressive Lagunas Uman to the north, (2 hours return). Then descend the steep and narrow Q. Huayllacancha by a rocky path on the right hand (west) bank. You rejoin the original route out of

Miraflores for the last hour. **4-5 hours** from Cutunia to Miraflores.

A LONGER ALTERNATIVE RETURN FROM TANTA TO MIRAFLORES

From the village of Tanta follow the Rio Cañete north for to Laguna Paucarcocha and climb southeast into a hanging valley. A track leads southeast from here crossing three high passes of up to 4800m and going round the north side of Nevado Ancovilca to reach the village of Vitis, **3 days** from Tanta. From Vitis it will take another day through fields and pastures to return to Miraflores.



Campsite at Ancacucho

