Colca Canyon Guide: Condors, Altitude & Tickets

From Arequipa · about 150 km, 3–4 hours by road · Caylloma province

TERRA QUECHUA PERU
Real Adventure Awaits...
TREKKING · BIKING & JUNGLE SPECIALIST

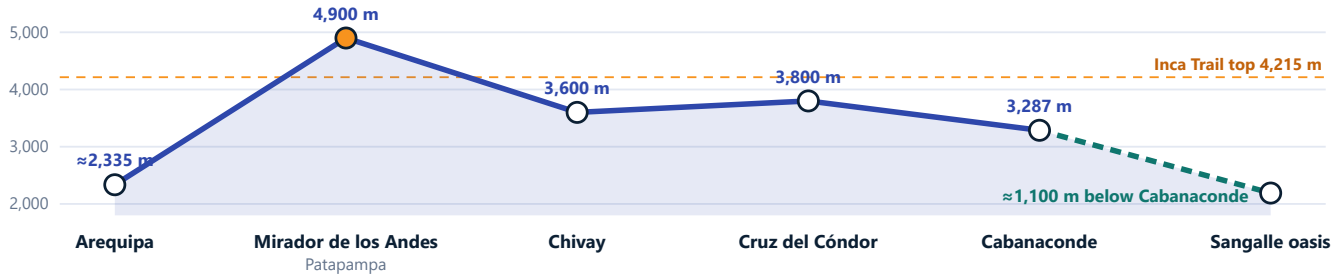
3,200–3,400 m
deep (PromPerú, Andina): about twice the Grand Canyon

≈4,900 m
Mirador de los Andes, the highest point of the trip

8–10 a.m.
best hours to see condors at Cruz del Cóndor

UNESCO
Colca and Andagua Volcanoes Global Geopark since 2019

The road and its altitudes



Approximate altitudes from our itineraries and public sources; the line is a sequence, not to scale. Patapampa is higher than any point on the Inca Trail: spend at least a day in Arequipa first.

Seeing condors

Condors ride the warm air rising from the canyon once the sun heats its walls, so tours arrive early: on our 2-day tour by car around 8:00, on the trek around 8:30. They live there year-round, but nobody can guarantee them: it depends on that day's wind and weather. The Andean condor is listed as Vulnerable (IUCN, since 2020).

How deep is it?



At Cruz del Cóndor the river is about 1,200 m below the viewpoint.

One day, two days or a trek?

Option	What it's like	Best for
1 day (from US$70)	Pickup 2:30–3:00 a.m.; breakfast in Chivay, Cruz del Cóndor, Maca, hot springs, lunch; back late afternoon	Short on time
2 days by car (from US$135)	7:30 a.m. departure; night in Chivay with hot springs and folk show; condors around 8:00 on day 2	No 3 a.m. start, no hiking
2-day trek (from US$159)	Down to San Juan de Chuccho and the Sangalle oasis; 3-hour climb to Cabanaconde from 5:00 a.m.	Fit hikers
3-day trek	Same route with an extra night, via Cosñirhua and Malata	Spreading the effort

Colca tourist ticket 2026 (AUTOCOLCA)

Visitor	Price
Foreign adult	**S/70 (≈US$20)**
Latin American adult	**S/40**
Foreign or Latin American child (6–15)	**S/20**
Peruvian adult / foreign resident	**S/20**
Peruvian student, child (6–15) or over 60	**S/5**
Children 0–5	**Free**

Official prices checked on 5 October 2026. Online or at the Chivay Interpretation Center (5 a.m.–6 p.m.); one entry, passport needed. Not included: La Calera hot springs (S/15) and other local fees.

When to go and what to pack

Rains fall mainly January–March (AUTOCOLCA). The rest of the year: clear days, cold mornings and nights, strong midday sun; the canyon floor is hot.

- [ ] Layers and a warm jacket for the pre-dawn stop at Patapampa
- [ ] Sunscreen, sunglasses and water
- [ ] Swimwear for the hot springs
- [ ] Cash in soles
- [ ] Trek: shoes with good grip; the final climb gains about 1,100 m

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