

Frank A. Nederhand
Address: 3483 South Leeds Cove
West Valley City, Utah 84128
Email: franka.nederhand@gmail.com
Phone: 678-488-3228

Aychana, a new route on the seldom climbed Verdish-Ventanilla in the Huaytapallana Mountains of Peru, May 14, 2025.

In 2014 and 2015 Quique Apolinario Villafan a good friend of mine and talented Peruvian Mountain Guide and I explored the Pariacacca Mountain Range that is east of Lima, Peru and just west of the largest city in the central highlands; Huancayo, Peru. In 2024 I had the opportunity to work with a coworker who was from Huancayo, Peru and I asked her if she had any suggestions on mountains to climb east of Huancayo. She told me about the Huaytapallana Mountain Range. I became very intrigued about this mountain range upon finding out that ancient Peruvian folklore connects these two mountain ranges in an interesting Romeo and Juliette style story about two lesser Gods that fell in love and later were tragically turned into the namesake mountains these two ranges are named after. I contacted my friend Quique to see if we could visit and climb in this mountain range. It so happened that Quique had been contemplating visiting a new rock-climbing area 248 km (155 miles) north of Huancayo called the Huayllay National Sanctuary due to the many fantastically formed rock spires there. Quique also found out that there was a small mountaineering club in Huancayo that we could work with to find an appropriate mountain to climb in the Huaytapallana Mountains.

On May 6, 2025, I arrived late in the evening in Lima, Peru. The next day Quique and I took the night bus to Cerro de Pasco¹ on our way to the Huayllay Sanctuary, which is 42.5 km (26.6 miles) from there. After spending several days climbing and exploring the many beautiful and interesting rock formations there we took a combi-bus to Huancayo early in the morning of May 11, 2025, arriving in Huancayo in the afternoon.

¹ Cerro de Pasco is the highest city (4300-4420 meters) with a population over 50,000 in the world.

Scenes from the Huayllay, Peru
(Huayllay National Sanctuary)



Figure 1

Various scenes from the Huayllay National Sanctuary.

Huayllay to Huancayo

Point	Name	Distance	Elevation
1	Huayllay Sanctuary	0	4125 m
2	Lake Junin Marsh	60 km	4125 m
3	Chacamarca	77 km	4205 m
4	City of La Oroya	122 km	3744 m
5	City of Huari	146 km	3634 m
6	Leave the Mountains	202 km	3383 m
7	Huancayo Center	248 km	3282 m

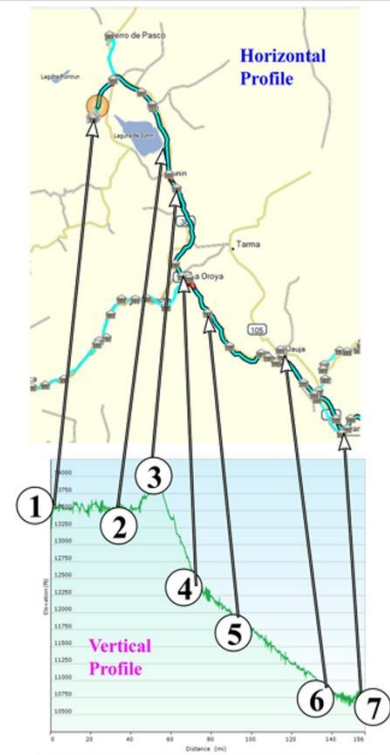


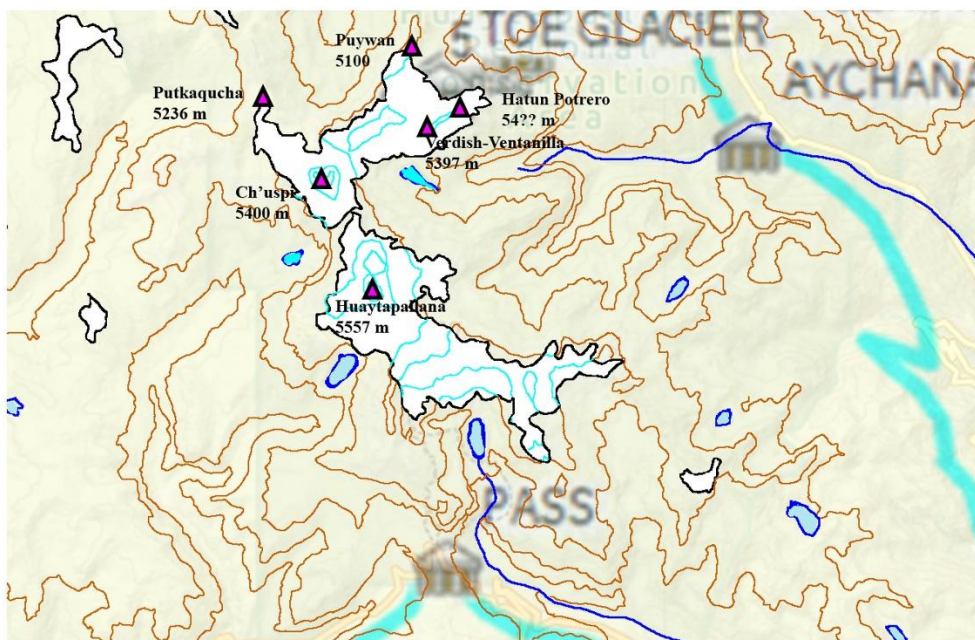
Figure 2

The horizontal and vertical profile of our bus ride from the Huayllay to Huancayo.

In Huancayo we were met by a member of the Huancayo Mountaineering Club, Ruben Flores. Ruben would become an asset to our climbing in the Huaytapallana Mountain Range. The following day (May 12) Quique was able to meet with a group of the Huancayo Mountaineering Club including one member with the nick name “Hombre Verde.” Hombre Verde (Freud Baldeon) was the first to climb the mountain “Nevado Verdish-Ventanilla” in 2017 and suggested we climb that peak since the tallest mountain in the range, Nevado Huaytapallana, is slated to be closed to climbing by the Regional Government Council due to environmental degradation concerns from overuse by visitors and climate change over the past several decades.²

So, early on May 13, 2025, Ruben, Quique, Freud, Hugo (our 4x4 driver) and I began our trip from Huancayo to the Verdish-Ventanilla Base Camp. Figure 3 contains a vertical and horizontal plot showing our track through the Huaytapallana Mountain Range and to our base camp.

² The newspaper “La Republica” based out of Lima, Peru reports (June 19, 2025) that the Junin Regional Council, Peru has voted to close the Glacier on Nevado Huaytapallana indefinitely due to environmental concerns and its impact on the watershed that supplies water to the Huancayo region. A recent scientific study of the Huaytapallana Glacier has shown that the glacier has lost 70% of its mass as of 2024. The closure takes effect June 20, 2025.



Huancayo to Verdish-Ventanilla Base Camp

Point	Name	Distance	Elevation
1	Huancayo (Constitution Plaza)	0	3203 m
2	Pass	29 km	4555 m
3	City of Lucma	66.6 km	2666 m
4	City of Aychana	90.3 km	3675 m
5	Gate to access Base Camp	102 km	4446 m
6	Base Camp	105 km	4700 m

Permission was requested and granted to Access the Base Camp through the Gate. The City fathers of Aychana hold the keys to the Gate.

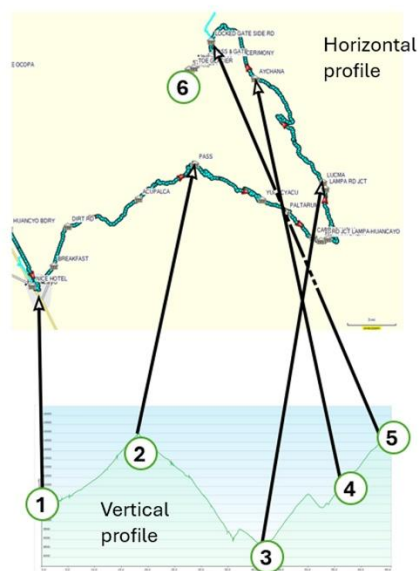


Figure 3

Vertical and Horizontal profile pictures with accompanying table and map of our trip from Huancayo to the Verdish-Ventanilla Base camp.



Hatun Potrero , Verdish-ventanilla and the Vacuna Valley as seen from our basecamp (looking south)

Figure 4

The Verdish-Ventanilla basecamp at sunset the day before we made our summit attempt on the mountain. Verdish-Ventanilla is the snow covered peak partially shrouded by a small cloud. The summit is actually out of sight and behind the rocky peak just in front of Verdish-Ventanilla called Nevado Hatun Potrero.

On May 14, 2025, between 12:30am and 1:00am we [Ruben (Peru), Quique (Peru) and Frank (USA)] got up and prepared to start our climb of Nevado Verdish-Ventanilla. Figure 5 shows the horizontal and vertical profile of our climb. We left our base camp at 1:38am and summited 7 hours later at 8:38am. We rate this route using the French Alpine Grade as PD+ (Not too hard to somewhat hard).

Figures 5 and 7 contain route GPS horizontal and vertical profiles of the first ascent climb “Aychana.” Figures 6, 8-13 are pictures taken during and shortly after the climb. Figure 12 is an annotated version of the upper portion of the new route “Aychana.” We named this route after the small village that maintains the Vacuna Sanctuary at the base of the mountain and who gave us permission to use the base camp we used to climb the mountain.

Verdish-Ventanilla Climb Profile points				
Point	Name	Elevation m	Elevation (ft)	Distance km
0	Base Camp	4709	(15,450)	0.00
1	1 st Rest	4767	(15,641)	1.12
2	2 nd Rest	4881	(16,014)	2.24
3	Glacier Toe	4931	(16,179)	2.72
4	3 rd Rest	5056	(16,589)	3.36
5	4 th Rest	5104	(16,744)	3.64
6	5 th Rest	5137	(16,852)	3.84
7	Traverse	5317	(17,444)	4.64
8	Summit	5397	(17,707)	5.12

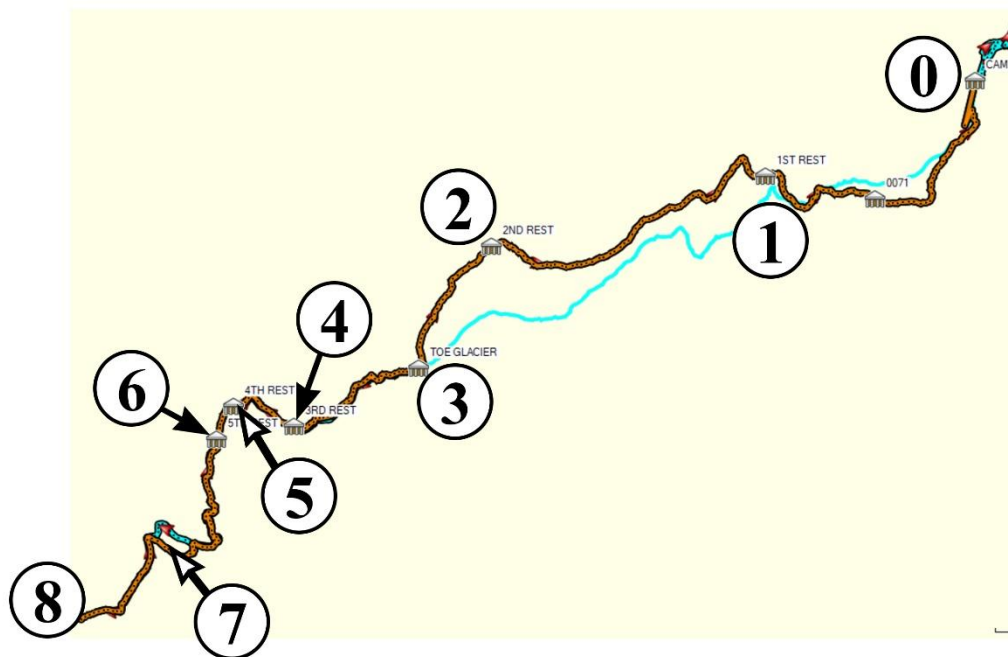


Figure 5

The horizontal profile and profile table of our climb of Verdish-Ventanilla.



Point 3, Glacier Toe

Figure 6

Frank glad to be finally on the glacier toe which is Point 3 on the table provided in Figure 5.



Figure 7

Vertical and Horizontal profile of the glacier portion of the climb (points 3 through 8)



Figure 8

Sunrise on the glacier, Frank and Ruben gladly stop to pose for this picture and catch their breath.



Figure 9

Looking north with Quique and Ruben on the Summit (yes, it is a knife edge)



Figure 10

Looking South from the summit, Quique and Frank with Frank's climbing gym summit flag unfurled.

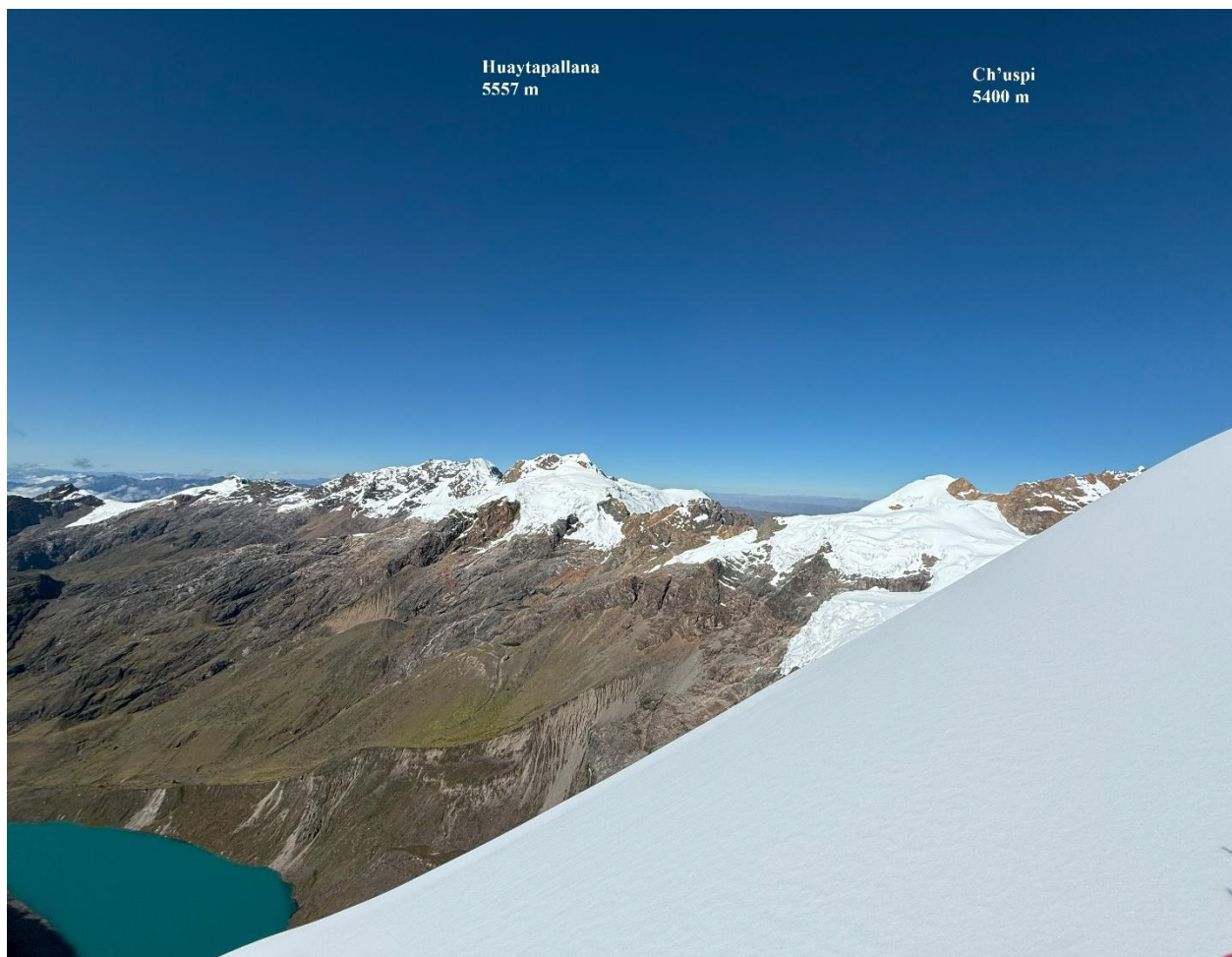


Figure 11

Looking southwest from near the summit you can see Nevado Hauytapallana and Ch'uspi.



Figure 12

An annotated picture of the upper portion of the first ascent route “Aychana” named after the small village that maintains the Vacuna Sanctuary that is at the base of the mountain and leaders there that were kind enough to let us use the base camp close to the mountain.



Frank, Quique, Hombre Verde (Freud), Ruben

Figure 13

Celebrating a successful climb with the Huancayo Mountaineering Club.