

## PERU

### The Peruvian source of the Amazon River

The Amazon River has long been recognized as the largest river in the world by volume –accounting for a fifth of the world’s total river flow. But a series of expeditions into the highlands of Southern Peru over the past decade have also established it as the longest river in the world.

A stream of the Apacheta River in the Arequipa Region, on the slopes of Nevado Mismi,



in southern Peru, more than 5,000 metres above the sea level, has been found to be the origin of the Amazon River, according to research published by the Geographic Society of Lima.

The finding by Polish scientist Jacek Palkiewicz after 12 years of research has recently been confirmed by Peruvian geologists and geographers. The finding, proved by hydrographic and geomorphologic criteria, would put an end to long disputes over the origin of the river. They explored snowy areas and glaciers and discovered that the Amazon River doesn't have its origin in a glacier as it was thought. The Apacheta's stream determined by the scientists as the origin of the Amazon River had its headwaters in a small pool where there was a permanent ice layer coming from the subterraneous. The new finding will put the length of the Amazon River at about 7,000 km, overtaking the Nile River, which has a length of 6,400 to 6,700 km according to different measurements, as the world's longest.

The Amazon is 6785 km long and, in its widest part, crosses a distance of 330 km. The Amazon River is one of the rivers with the largest content of water in the world with average content of 219000m<sup>2</sup>/s of water; it is responsible for one fifth of all the water in the ocean.

# M&R Tours

There are different options for visiting the true origin of the Amazon River. You can reach this spot by cruise, in a remarkable voyage of exploration traveling up the Amazon and beyond its confluence of the Ucayali and Marañón Rivers into the remote Peruvian Amazon, in a styled vessel with first class elegant service. Or you can take a 3 to 5 days trek expedition, depending on the preferred route, where you will be able to appreciate a typical high Andean landscape with its classic fauna (llama and alpaca) and flora.

This truly unique place is now incorporated in a Southern Peru trekking and visitors program, and besides experience the place by trek or by cruise, you also will help the neighboring communities of Lari and Caylloma to increase their income from services offered to travelers.

The source itself is quite an impressive beginning to an impressive river. There is a large cross marking the spot.

The volcanic peak of Nevado Mismi is among the highest points of Peru's Colca Canyon, widely considered the most scenic regions in the entire country. The impressive and majestic Colca Canyon is twice as deep as the Grand Canyon in Arizona. The main town in the Colca Valley is Chivay, which is quite scenic itself. Chivay has a nice selection of restaurants, and as far as good hotels go, there are some nice moderately-priced options. The Colca Valley pertains to the area around the north and south banks of the Colca Canyon, and with some nice villages within easy reach of one another, it is an increasingly welcome side-trip for curious tourists. Generally, visitors to the Colca Canyon come by way of Arequipa, which is just around 100 miles to the southeast.



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Tte. Gral. Juan D. Perón 2370 2nd Floor Off. 7  
C1040AAL Buenos Aires – Argentina  
Phone/ Fax + 54 11 4951 5968  
[www.m-rtours.com](http://www.m-rtours.com) - [info@m-rtours.com](mailto:info@m-rtours.com)