

quest overseas

BOLIVIA ANIMAL SANCTUARY PROJECT & ANDEAN EXPEDITION

- Work with jaguars, pumas and monkeys in the Amazon Jungle
- Gain hands on experience at Bolivia's only animal rehabilitation sanctuary
- Experience ice climbing, sandboarding, and white water rafting
- Trek the world famous Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

Study Spanish in Sucre and explore the stunning Uyuni Salt Flats before heading into the jungle to volunteer in Bolivia's only animal rehabilitation sanctuary. The Bolivian Amazon Rainforest is known for its vast biodiversity with over 2000 plant species, 80 mammal species, over 650 types of birds and includes many endangered animals. Sadly it has become increasingly fashionable for these animals to become pets or circus performers. Volunteers are urgently needed to improve the lives of these beautiful creatures and to help to combat this illegal trade. Quest are working with the community foundation of Inti Wara Yassi, the only sanctuary of its kind in Bolivia, which strives to enhance the animals' quality of life and where possible reintroduce them into the wild. This is an immensely valuable project, a world away from anything you've ever seen before.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to a change in our insurance policy working with the big cats is entirely optional and to be undertaken at your own risk, you will not be covered for any liability incurred if you choose to work with the big cats. However, your personal insurance does still cover you for any medical issues related to working with cats.

The project is then followed by an awesome 6-week, adrenalin-filled expedition exploring the natural wonders of Peru, Chile and Bolivia. You'll sand-board, ice-climb, trek, dance, and white-water raft your way through South America!

Activities: Caring for monkeys, parrots, jaguars and pumas. Feeding animals, clearing out enclosures, accompanying them on walks through the forest, assisting the on-site vet, developing new enclosures and infrastructure for the new sanctuary. , Trekking, Ice Climbing, Sand Boarding, Wildlife Spotting, White Water Rafting, Flight over the Nazca Lines, Trekking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

Team size: 10 -16 people, Gap Year and University students

Duration: 13 weeks: 3 weeks language phase, 4 weeks project work, 6 weeks expedition.

Departs: February & March. Please contact the office for further details

Cost: 13 weeks £4,400 + £700 project donation

Includes all accommodation, food, activities, in-country travel, airport transfers and travel insurance. Quest leaders, contribution to your project to cover short and medium-term costs and long-term ongoing support. Excludes international flights



Language – Weeks 1-3

Immerse yourself in Bolivian culture whilst learning Spanish. Explore the beautiful city of Sucre and spend weekends exploring the stunning Salar de Uyuni by 4x4 and visiting the fascinating Silver Mine in Potosi.

Project – Weeks 4-7

A rare opportunity to gain hands on experience looking after endangered species such as monkeys, jaguars, and pumas rescued from illegal traders in the heart of the Bolivian jungle. At the only two sanctuaries of their kind in the Amazon, volunteers will work with animals, rehabilitate them back into the wild if possible, and develop the much-needed facilities to improve each animal's standard of living.

One of the wonderful aspects of this project is that volunteers get to live and work in two different locations in the Bolivian Amazon Rainforest. Three parks make up the Inti Wara Yassi sanctuaries and volunteers have to opportunity to work in 2 of these. The original sanctuary, Parque Machia is located in Villa Tunari, a laid back tropical Bolivian village located between the towns of Cochabamba and Santa Cruz. Ambue Ari is located 7 Km from the picturesque village of Santa Maria. It's a magical place and with the children from the local communities working at the park too, it will make for a truly unforgettable and unique experience. The new park, Jacq Quisi is located on the border of the beautiful Madidi National Park and volunteers will be developing the much-needed infrastructure to allow animals living there a high quality of life.

In 1996 the community foundation of Inti Wara Yassi was granted control over 36 hectares of forested land near Villa Tunari with the initial aim to provide a home for confiscated animals and abandoned tropical pets. The sanctuary was used to create ecological awareness amongst the public and to rehabilitate the animals where possible. Those who are beyond rehabilitation remain at the park to see out their days in a comfortable environment. Recent developments however have led to the threat of Parque Machia being confiscated from the foundation, and so in 2003 Quest helped to finance the purchase of the new secure park, where the animals would be able to live for years to come.

Expedition Itinerary

Weeks 8-9 – La Paz, Apolobamba Range TREK & Lake Titicaca.

La Paz is one of the most lively, colourful and spectacular cities in South America. Try your hand at ice climbing, and experience the hustle and bustle of the many local markets within La Paz After a few days acclimatisation you will trek for 3 days in the stunning Apolobamba Range. Then head to Lake Titicaca, the Sacred lake of the Andes and the origin of the Inca civilization. Kayak on the lake and visit indigenous communities

Week 10 – Colca Canyon TREK & Arequipa.

After a days relaxation & preparation in Arequipa, a beautiful city with magnificent colonial architecture nestling between smoking volcanoes, trek down into the second deepest canyon in the world, the Colca Canyon, which is twice the depth of the Grand Canyon

Week 11 – Peruvian Coastal Desert SANBOARDING.

4 days travelling by private bus up to Lima. Snorkel off the Ballestas Islands which are rightly nicknamed the 'Mini Galapagos' for their abundance of marine and bird life. Sand-board down South America's largest sand dunes, and relax in the sun and sleep out under the desert stars on the beach of Puerto Inca.

Week 12 – Huaraz, Cordillera Blanca TREK & BEACH.

Relax in the beautiful scenery of the Cordillera Blanca in Huaraz before setting off on a trek of up to 5 days, possibly summiting a snow covered peak! As a reward you will be spending a couple of days on a beautiful Pacific beach, perhaps with the chance to try your hand at surfing.

Week 13: Cusco & Inca Trail to MACHU PICCHU

Discover the magical city of Cusco, the archaeological capital of South America. After white water rafting you trek the world famous Inca Trail to Machu Picchu to see the sunrise and the ancient city appear through the swirling mist. A magical and spectacular way to finish your experience with Quest.

Food & drink

Food will mainly be prepared for the team by local staff, but you will also get the chance to eat out at local restaurants and sample the colourful markets and cook for yourselves. On expedition, you will generally eat at hostels and local restaurants, except for when you are trekking, where you will cook for the team in small groups

Accommodation

Whilst at Parque Machia your stay will be in the volunteer "Casa" on the edge of the jungle, a two-minute walk from the village of Villa Tunari. Volunteers usually share a simple room with between 1 and 3 other Quest volunteers whereas at Ambue Ari & Jacq Cuisi you will be staying in a traditional wooden sided building with a thatched roof, in the picturesque village of Santa Maria. The accommodation here is very rustic, and volunteers will be sleeping in bunk beds. During the expedition you will generally sleep in local hostels, and the odd hotel, and whilst trekking you will camp out under the stars. You will have the chance to do your laundry and email home at regular intervals.

Weather

From the heat and humidity of the Bolivian rainforests to sunny skies and cold nights of the mountains, you will experience a variety of weather depending on the altitude and environment. You are provided with a detailed kit list to ensure that you are suitably prepared.

Leaders

You will have one leader with you for the Language and Project phase, and two leaders for the 6 week Explorer. They are there to make sure everything runs smoothly, safely and to give maximum reward to all those involved. We are incredibly picky about selecting our leaders and you can guarantee that they will be some of the most experienced, passionate, enthusiastic and up for it people you will ever meet. They are also a really good laugh and have heaps of knowledge that you can tap into. Leaders receive Quest training every year. All leaders are Wilderness First Aid trained and speak Spanish. Our Expedition Leaders having a minimum of Summer Mountain Leader training.

Preparation

Quest provides Pre-Departure Training in the UK for all team members. It covers Responsible Travel, Cultural Awareness, Health & Hygiene, Risk Assessment, Teamwork and Onward Travel. It also provides you with the opportunity to meet the rest of your team and your leaders before going overseas.

Vaccinations

Quest Overseas keeps up to date with the latest recommendations on all medical considerations relating to your time with us. We will pass these on to you in good time before your departure overseas.

Responsible Travel

Responsible Travel is an ethos that should be at the heart of all travel. For all of us at Quest it is about making a tangible 'positive impact' on both man and the environment with everything that we and our clients do. We ensure that we make a positive impact on communities and environments that we are lucky enough to visit.

Recommended reading

Inca Cola by Matthew Parris

Touching the Void by Joe Simpson

The Silver River by Ben Richards

The Motorcycle Diaries by Ernesto 'Che' Guevara



Quest Overseas

15A Cambridge Grove

Hove

East Sussex

BN3 3ED

01273 777206

Info@questoverseas.com

www.questoverseas.com