

quest overseas

RIO CARNIVAL PROJECT + BRAZIL TO PERU EXPEDITION

- Work with children and disabled young people of the Mangueira favela
- Join the Mangueira Carnival Team, taking part in rehearsals and dancing in the parade itself
- Learn Portuguese in vibrant Rio de Janeiro
- Take an epic journey through the best Brazil, Bolivia and Peru have to offer from the golden coast to majestic Machu Picchu

Your journey begins in the vibrant city of Rio de Janeiro with Portuguese language training and an introduction into the Brazilian way of life. You'll work with the Mangueira Social Project working and playing with children of the Mangueira favela and supporting the work of the Casa Lar home for disabled young people during the busy Carnival period. You'll also have the unique experience of taking part in the Rio Carnival, helping with costumes, attending rehearsals and dancing in the parade itself!

Following the project the six-week expedition takes you through the highlights of one of the most exciting countries in South America. From the beach culture of Rio de Janeiro to the ancient civilisations of Lake Titicaca, from the wild wetlands of the Pantanal to the dizzying heights of the Andes, South America cannot fail to fill you with wonder.

Sights: Rio de Janeiro, Serra dos Orgaos National Park, The Pantanal, Santa Cruz, Sucre, Potosi, The Uyuni Salt Flats, La Paz, The Choro Trail, Lake Titicaca, Machu Picchu.

Activities: Language course, city tour, football match at the Maracana, Rio nightlife, Rio Carnival, Samba rehearsals, community project work with children and disabled young people. Hang gliding, trekking, whitewater rafting, wildlife spotting, surfing, 4x4s and dug out canoe safaris, piranha fishing, colonial cities, horse riding, ice climbing and more.

Team size: 10 - 16 people

For: Gap Year and University students

Duration: 13 weeks total: 3 weeks language + 4 weeks project + 6 weeks expedition

Departs: January each year – depending on Carnival dates.

Cost: £4450 + £700 Project donation
Includes all accommodation, food, activities, in-country travel, local tipping, airport transfers, Quest leaders and travel insurance. £700 contribution to your project to cover short and medium-term costs and long-term ongoing support. Excludes international flights.



Language

Based in vibrant Rio de Janeiro, your language lessons take up 3-4 hours of your day, 5 days a week. Lessons are in small groups and are tailored to your individual language levels and ability. You are taught through a range of styles from classroom to games to shopping at local markets. Afternoons and weekends will be spent exploring the endless sights of Rio from Sugar Loaf Mountain to Christ the Redeemer to a football match at the famous Maracana stadium, there's always something to do. We spend a long weekend at the island paradise of Isla Grande, 3 hours from Rio.

Project

Where?

Rio, as a city, continues to grow in size despite a distinct lack of land, with this migration to the city comes the growth of the 'favelas'. These shantytown areas crawl up every available hill and typify the issues of urban poverty in large Brazilian cities. The Mangueira area is a prime example of a favela, settled on hill previously considered un-inhabitable, more than 15,000 people now reside there. On the edge of the favela is the Mangueira Social Project which has been successfully providing support to its residents for 17 years. Volunteers are welcomed into the community as the project has universal respect and support from the locals.

What?

One day you'll be working with mentally and physically handicapped adolescents, painting, playing games or taking them on excursions. On another you could be organising environmental activities with the children from the local infant school. You'll also have the unique experience of taking part in the Rio Carnival, attending rehearsals and dancing in the parade itself!

Expedition

Week One –The Serra dos Orgaos and Surf in Itacare

Head into the National Park of Serra dos Orgaos, for a 3 day trek through forested mountains and strangely shaped peaks. Then travel to surfer's paradise Itacare for a 4 day fully instructed surf course and explore nearby beaches and waterfalls.

Week Two – The Pantanal

The largest inland wetland on earth, the Pantanal, with its wide-open spaces, is the place to see wildlife in South America. This vast wetlands is home the elusive jaguar, howler and capuchin monkeys, capybara, sloth, giant and collared anteaters, iguanas, tapir and literally millions of caiman. You'll take night safaris and early morning nature walks, go horse riding and reach the outer limits of this unique ecosystem in 4x4s and by motorised canoe. You'll leave this vast open landscape on an epic train journey across the Brazilian/Bolivian border to the city of Santa Cruz.

Week Three – Santa Cruz, Sucre and Potosi

Inca Ruins of Samaipata and a restful break at the retreat of Hacienda La Siete Cascadas near the beautiful colonial city of Sucre. Following a relaxing few days we'll head to the City of Potosi to explore the strange mines and thermal baths of this unique city.

Week Four – Bolivian Salt Flats

4x4s will take us up over 4,000m across terrain unlike anything you have ever seen before. You'll travel through bright green and red lakes filled with thousands of flamingos, surreal desert landscapes looking like you have stepped into a Salvador Dali painting, bubbling geysers, thermal waters, and volcanoes before even reaching the actual salt flats themselves.

Week Five - La Paz, the Choro Trail & Lake Titicaca

You will have the chance to experience the hustle and bustle of the local markets in La Paz, one of the most lively, colourful and spectacular cities in South America before trying your hand at ice-climbing in the nearby peaks. Your team then embarks on the 'Choro Trail' - a stunning route traveling through a range of ecosystems, from the snowline and barren mountain valleys to humid forests and the sleepy town of Coroico before discovering some of the indigenous communities of magical Lake Titicaca.

Week Six – Cusco & The Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

Discover the beautiful 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 sun rise and the ancient city appear in through the mist. Then head back into Cusco for a farewell party.

Food & drink

During the language phase the team will mix between eating out at local restaurants and preparing locally bought food for themselves. For most of the time on project, volunteers eat food prepared staff at the Mangueira Social Project. On the explorer phase you'll generally be eating breakfast in your hostel, out and about in town (or wherever you may be) for lunch, and at a local restaurant for dinner. Whilst on treks you will cook over stoves and campfires.

Accommodation

In Rio you stay in a hostel in Ipanema, whilst on project you stay in a classroom within the Mangueira Social Project. During the explorer you will stay in a variety of accommodation, from hostels in cities to hammocks under star-lit skies in more remote locations.

Weather

You are in Rio during the warm and generally sunny summer months. Whilst travelling around Brazil you will experience a range of altitudes, climatic zones and environments, but in general temperatures will be warm.

Leaders

Depending on the size of your team you will have one or two leaders with you for the entire 3 months. 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. Leaders receive Quest training every year. All leaders are Wilderness First Aid trained and our Expedition Leaders having a minimum of Summer Mountain Leader training.

Preparation

Quest provides Pre-Departure Training in the UK for all team members joining expeditions of over 3 weeks. This is in addition to in-country Orientation Days. 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. Quest Overseas was Highly Commended in the 2008 Responsible Tourism Awards.

Recommended reading

Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands by Jorge Amado

In Trouble Again by Redmond O'Hanlon

Brazilian Adventure by Peter Fleming

Rebellion in the Backlands by Euclides da Cunha

Costs

Payment to Quest Overseas

£4,450

60% - payment for your trip, spent overseas during your trip.

25% - staff, both UK and overseas.

15% - office costs, project and expedition research, boring admin.

Project Donation:

£700

100% of this goes straight to the Quest4Change charity to be spent on your project. None is spent in the UK, or on admin, it all goes to where it is needed most, in the Mangueira Favela.



Quest Overseas

15A Cambridge Grove

Hove

East Sussex

BN3 3ED

01273 777206

Info@questoverseas.com