

quest overseas

PERU CHILDREN'S PROJECT & ANDEAN EXPEDITION

- Learn Spanish in the beautiful city of Quito
- Volunteer with energetic children in Peru.
- Experience ice climbing, sandboarding, and white water rafting
- Trek the legendary Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

Study Spanish in Quito, and explore the vibrant indigenous market towns, beaches, and cloud forests of Ecuador, before heading off to Peru to put your new skills into practice volunteering in the shanty-town of Villa Maria in Lima. Villa Maria is Quest Overseas' longest running project with over ten years under its belt. During term time we offer educational support to build bonds within communities whilst helping to prevent children from becoming victims of poverty and drug abuse. Villa Maria is a project about children who have nothing and have nothing to do, especially during their summer holidays in January, February and March. Come and give them something - your time, your friendship, above all, come and prove to them that someone cares.

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!

Sights: Bolivian Salt Flats, Amazon Jungle, Andes, Lake Titicaca, Colca Canyon, Cusco, and Machu Picchu.

Activities: Organising games and activities, Dancing, Dressing Up, Becoming a human climbing frame, Basic maintenance work, Giving hundreds of children the best summer of their lives, Trekking, Ice Climbing, Sand Boarding, Wildlife Spotting, White Water Rafting, culminating in the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.

Team size: 10 -16 people

For: Gap Year and University students

Duration: 13 weeks total: 3 weeks Spanish, 4 weeks project work + 6 weeks expedition.

Departs: Early January: Please contact the office for more details.

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

Includes all accommodation, food, activities, in-country travel, local tipping, airport transfers, two 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

Immerse yourself in Ecuadorian culture whilst learning Spanish. Discover the beautiful city of Quito, and spend weekends exploring vibrant indigenous market towns, waterfalls, volcanic lakes, cloud forests and beaches.

Project

Experience the realities of life in the shanty-town of Villa Maria where people scrape a living by any means possible, and where children are often neglected and are left to look after themselves. Since 1998 Quest volunteers have provided sports and creative activities for these children during their school holidays, to give them the focus and attention that they both need and deserve. Volunteers organise the children's time into a wide range of activities from football and swimming to art and crafts, water fights and theatre. It's exhausting work, but is well worth it when you see their beaming smiles!

Expedition Itinerary

Days 1-3: Lima, Wildlife, SANDBOARDING

Orientation & expedition preparation day. Departing from Lima the first stop is to the Ballestas Islands which are rightly nicknamed the 'Mini Galapagos' for their abundance of marine and bird life. Then head along the Peruvian coast to sandboard down some of the World's highest dunes.

Days 4-11: Pacific Beach, Colca Canyon TREK, and Arequipa.

Relax in the sun and sleep out under the desert stars on the beach of Puerto Inca before heading up to 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.

Days 12-17: Chilean Desert and The Bolivian Salt Flats.

Travel through the Chilean altiplano into Bolivia to discover one of the most inspiring sights of the whole of South America, The Uyuni Salt Flats. 4 days exploring bright green and red lakes filled with hundreds of flamingos, surreal desert landscapes, bubbling geysers, thermal waters, and volcanoes in 4x4 Land Cruisers.

Days 18-25: La Paz, ICE CLIMBING and Apolobamba TREK

La Paz is one of the most lively, colourful and spectacular cities in South America. You will get the chance to go ice climbing, and experience the hustle and bustle of the many local markets within La Paz before heading off to the Apolobamba mountain range. The trek here is challenging but stunning and includes the possibility of summiting a snow covered peak.

Days 26-30: The Bolivian Pampas, Wildlife Safari

2 days exploring the Amazon Rainforest and 3 days exploring the Pampas, which are flooded forests home to a plethora of wildlife. Traveling by motorised dug out canoe we hope to get close up viewings of monkeys, armadillos, river turtles, capybara, and macaws, as well as the chance to go swimming with pink river dolphins. There is also the possibility of visiting our Animal Sanctuary Project at Parque Jacq Cuisi. Transfer to La Paz by plane.

Days 31-35: Lake Titicaca & Islands, Bolivia and Peru

Relax on the beautiful shores of Lake Titicaca and discover indigenous communities on islands on both the Bolivian and Peruvian side of the lake.

Days 36-41: 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.

Day 22: Cusco, Peru, END OF EXPEDITION

Team members are free to go travelling onwards or fly home from Lima.

Food & drink

Whilst on the Language and Project phase, you will get the chance to sample the colourful markets and cook for yourselves, and will also eat at local restaurants. 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 learning Spanish the team will be based at Hostal Tutamanda, whereas during the project phase you will live in a simple shared rooms right within the sports complex. 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 rainforests to sunny skies and cold nights of the mountains, you will experience a variety of weather depending on the altitude and environment.

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 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



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