



**BETTER WORLD**  
ADVENTURES



## AMAZON ADVENTURE



Join with other Year 12 & 13 students on an unforgettable adventure, volunteering on humanitarian and wildlife conservation projects in the Amazon Rainforest, and exploring one of the Seven Wonders of the World, Machu Picchu.



- Volunteer on a monkey conservation project deep in the Amazon rainforest
- Visit the wild and exotic Belen floating jungle market in Iquitos, Peru
- Discover how the Yagua tribespeople protect the Amazon from exploitation
- Learn the art of chocolate making and coffee processing from Peruvian villagers
- Experience colourful Peruvian culture in the high altitude city of Cusco
- Explore the ancient citadel of Machu Picchu on the world famous Inca Trail

**23 nights NZ\$6,990\***

\*Terms & Conditions apply  
Final itinerary, activities and price subject to change.

- All Inclusive fully escorted tour. As few additional costs as possible.
- Includes flights, transfers, insurance, accommodation, meals and listed activities\*

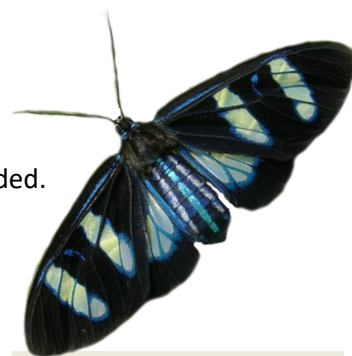
**ONLY 22 PLACES!** Email [info@betterworldadventures.com](mailto:info@betterworldadventures.com) for info



# NZ\$6,990 What's Included?

Wherever possible, known costs that will be incurred by all participants have been included. Additional costs are minimal, and mostly personal. No surprises, no significant extras!

- 22 night fully escorted tour
- 2 tour leaders, including a teacher from your high school
- Tour leaders available to students 24/7
- Economy-class return airfares to Peru ex Auckland
- Peruvian domestic air transfers: Lima, Iquitos, Cusco, Lima
- All airport transfers (including to and from Auckland)
- Peruvian entry visa (for New Zealand passport holders)
- Comprehensive Travel and Medical Insurance
- All volunteer registration fees
- All accommodation (single gender, twin or multi-share basis)
- 3 meals per day, excluding weekends when breakfast/lunch will be replaced with brunch.
- Tour tipping (drivers, guides, group waiters)
- Peruvian SIM card with data (for unlocked devices)
- ½ day escorted tour of Cusco, an ancient city central to the Incan empire
- Visit to Koricanha Temple, the most important Incan temple.
- Escorted tour of Iquitos City in the Amazon
- Visit to the Belen floating jungle market in Iquitos
- 1 week volunteering with Project Amazonas at the Santa Maria Conservation site on the upper reaches of the Amazon River
- Post-volunteering fiesta in Mazan
- 1 week volunteering at Los Isla de la Monos primate conservation centre
- 1 day hands-on activity learning traditional village enterprises in the Sacred Valley including beekeeping, chocolate making, fabric weaving, pottery, coffee production
- Exploration of Ollantaytambo, an historic hilltop Incan military, religious and agricultural centre
- Full day tour of Machu Picchu, world famous iconic "Lost City of the Incas"
- Exploration of Incan Sacred Valley
- Beautifully scenic train journey from Agua Calientes to Cusco
- Souvenir T-shirt
- Extensive pre-departure orientation



## Includes all meals



23 Breakfasts  
18 Lunches  
23 Dinners

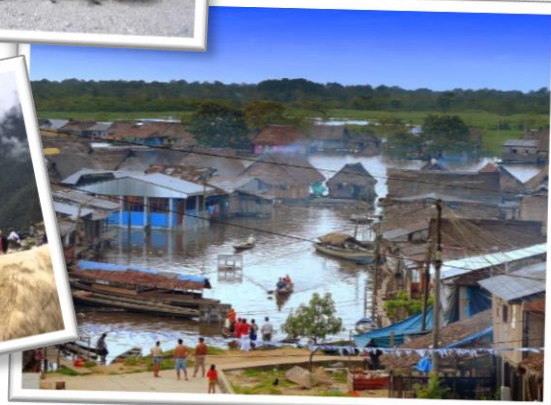


Hotel (x nights)  
Dormitory (x nts)  
Jungle Camp (x nts)  
Night flight (x nts)



## Exclusions

- Passport fee
- Vaccinations
- Public transport in Peru
- Personal spending
- Optional activities not included in itinerary



**SOMETIMES YOU FIND  
YOURSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF  
NOWHERE, AND SOMETIMES  
IN THE MIDDLE OF  
NOWHERE, YOU FIND  
YOURSELF**

\* Suggested itinerary only. Itinerary amendment and activity substitutions may be made at the discretion of the tour organisers. Supplier costs and currency fluctuations prior to departure may increase or decrease the total trip price by a marginal amount.

# Incas and Amazons

## Volunteer Adventure Itinerary\*

### Peru: The Birthplace of the Americas

Peru is arguably one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, ranging from arid sand deserts in the south west, to the headwaters of the immense Amazon river and rainforest in the north east. Peru is home to the oldest civilisations in the Americas, with the crown jewel being the ancient Incan citadel of **Machu Picchu**, hidden for years in the Andes Mountains and now acknowledged as one of the Seven Modern Wonders of the World – alongside famous human monuments such as the Taj Mahal and Great Wall of China.

The Amazon rainforest contains covers 60% of Peru, yet is home to only 5% of Peru's population. There are more than 400 species of mammals, with 32 different kinds of monkeys alone! Many rainforest communities are extremely isolated, with access only by boat. Villagers suffer from poor access to education and medical health care. They rely on the rainforest for their food, building materials, medicines, canoes, and trade or barter items, however their traditional lifestyles are constantly threatened by destructive and non-sustainable illegal industries including timber logging, gold mining, oil drilling and cattle ranching.

In contrast with the isolation of Peru's jungle, the high altitude city of Cusco in the Andean mountains in southern Peru receives more than 1.5 million tourists per year. Despite the huge number of tourists, almost 30% of Cusco's population lives in poverty, particularly the Quechuan people, many of whom lived in extreme poverty in rural villages in the mountains and moved into the city in search of work and income. Village children are often required to walk for several hours to the nearest elementary school, and high schools are too far from home for most rural village children to attend.

### Orientation and Familiarisation. *Look and Learn*

The first priority on our Peruvian adventure is to learn as much about our new home as possible. Throughout our travel our guides will introduce us to elements of Peru's long history, the early Incan culture, the critical importance of the Amazon rainforest, and the complex cultures of Peru's indigenous people. This knowledge will helping us to put what we experience into perspective and enable us to interact with the people we meet on a much more personal level.

### Peruvian Volunteering. *Change someone's life; possibly your own.*

One of the greatest catalysts to personal growth for young people is their participation in a charitable community service. For this reason the most significant part of our trip focuses on interaction with the Peruvian people through volunteering. Our hands-on volunteering will focus on the rainforests of the Peruvian Amazon where we will partner with an American humanitarian medical and conservation provider. **Project Amazonas** run a fleet of boats on the tributaries of the Amazon river, bringing medical assistance to isolated communities, and provide conservation assistance to protect the rainforest from illegal industries.

We will also learn about the impact on the rainforest wildlife by logging, farming and mining, by offering assistance at a primate centre **La Isla de la Monos** that cares for displaced and injured monkeys.

95% of volunteers say their experience challenged their view of the world, so it is not unreasonable to think that that your Peruvian experience has the potential to profoundly affect you for the rest of your life. Your volunteering will not only benefit the lives of other people and wildlife, but will also give you confidence, purpose, cultural sensitivity, communication skills, responsibility, and possibly develop life-long friendships.

### Uniquely exciting extras.

In addition to your volunteering, you'll have plenty of opportunities to discover what makes Peru such a bucket-list destination for so many travellers. You'll participate in exciting experiences that you will never get the opportunity to do at home in New Zealand!





## Day 1 - 2: "Bienvenida" Welcome to Peru

We fly trans-Pacific, arriving into the Peruvian capital of Lima.

## Day 3 - 4: Iquitos, Peruvian Amazon

We fly to the remote north-eastern corner of Peru, and into the heart of the Amazon rainforest where we will spend our first few days in the frontier city of Iquitos on the Amazon River. Iquitos is a major trading centre for communities located within the rainforest. It is also the largest city in the world with absolutely no road access. The only way to arrive is by plane or riverboat. While in Iquitos we will learn about the incredible biodiversity of the region, and of the indigenous communities that call the rainforest their home. We will also tour the eclectic Belen market, where boats come and go continuously and many of the residents' houses are on stilts or even floating on the river.

"You have never really lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."



## Day 5-10: Volunteering with Project Amazonas

We travel upriver to our base at the Santa Cruz Forest Reserve, run by Project Amazonas, a humanitarian medical and conservation foundation that provides medical assistance to remote communities and helps to protect the rainforest ecosystem. We will be involved in a variety of activities that may include assisting with trail and field station upkeep, school building projects, wildlife conservation, fisheries projects, botanical surveys, community development projects, or early childhood education. During our free time we will hike in the rainforest, and swim and fish. Keep an eye out for macaws, monkeys, peccaries, otters and any number of butterfly species. On our final evening we will celebrate at a fiesta at the field station or with the local community.

## Day 11-15: Volunteering in Wildlife Conservation on Monkey Island

We will then switch our focus to wildlife conservation, moving to La Isla de los Monos, also known as Monkey Island. This is a 450 hectare primate centre that rescues, rehabilitates and releases monkeys and sloths that are victims of illegal poaching, or have lost their habitat through deforestation. The monkeys roam free and will interact with you continually while you feed and care for them, or while you are busy with the upkeep of the facilities. We will be accommodated simply in a local riverside village, possibly without airconditioning or electricity!

## Day 16-17: The Incan city of Cusco

From the Amazon, we fly south to the historic city of Cusco, the oldest continually inhabited city in the Americas. Cusco is located in the Andean mountains in southern Peru at a height of 3,350 metres. We will spend a couple of days exploring Cusco's colourful markets and beautiful churches while our bodies acclimatise to the altitude.

## Day 18: Artisans and Archaeology of the Sacred Valley

Enroute to Machu Picchu we spend a day in the scenic and fertile Sacred Valley of the Incas. We will visit Chichubamba village, where we will learn traditional village trades of coffee production, beekeeping, fabric weaving, and chocolate making.

## Day 19-20: Machu Picchu – One of the Seven Wonders of the World

We end our exploration of Peru visiting the spectacular ruins of Machu Picchu. This dramatic 15<sup>th</sup> century mountaintop citadel remained unknown to Europeans for almost 500 years but is now one of the world's most iconic travel destinations. Catching your first glimpse of Machu Picchu through the morning mist is a memory that will remain with you for life!

## Day 21-23: Homeward Bound

We return to Cusco for a celebration dinner on our final night before departing for home, losing a day as we cross the International Dateline.



<https://betterworldadventures.com>