

ACEER

FOUNDATION

In association with West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Environmental Education Workshop

From the Amazon Rainforest to the Andes Mountains

August 7th – 8th, 2010

Pre-Departure Workshop in West Chester, PA

August 9th – 19th, 2010

Peru

August 18th – 21st, 2010

Optional Extension to Machu Picchu

Cost: \$2,775 from Lima

(Includes airfare within Peru, lodging, food, transportation, and guide service)

Optional Machu Picchu Extension + **\$600** (double occupancy)

***Deadline for Registration & \$500 Deposit: April 30th, 2010**

Final Balance Due by June 1st, 2010

Send checks and make them payable to:

The ACEER Foundation

P. O. Box 2549 - WCU

West Chester, PA 19383

Academic Credit is available for this workshop through West Chester University. Register for *EDO420-41/EDO520-41 Outdoor and Place-Based Education* (Department of Professional & Secondary Education) in the 3rd Summer Session. Additional required dates for credit: August 2nd – 7th (9:00am - 5:00pm) in West Chester, PA. www.wcupa.edu Contact Dr. Paul Morgan for a syllabus.

Contacts

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Detailed Itinerary

Pre-Trip Meeting

June, 2010 – Date TBA

We will meet for introductions and a review of critical travel details: passports, health, travel insurance, departure times, etiquette, expectations, gear, etc.

Pre-Departure Workshop

August 7th & 8th, 2010 - Saturday & Sunday

We will gather on the West Chester University campus for a 2-day immersion workshop intended to provide context and a mindset for gaining the most from the travel experience.

Peru - Day One

August 9th - Monday USA TO LIMA

Flight from Philadelphia to Lima, Peru, arriving in Lima in the evening. Met at airport and transferred to Hotel Manhattan.

In-Flight Meals

Overnight Lima – Hotel Manhattan

Day Two

**August 10th – Tuesday LIMA TO PUERTO MALDONADO TO
POSADA AMAZONAS**

After breakfast, we are transferred to the Lima airport for an early two-hour **flight to Puerto Maldonado** via Cusco. Puerto Maldonado, with a population of approximately 60,000, is the capital of the Madre de Dios region and is located at the confluence of the Tambopata and Madre de Dios Rivers. This small frontier town has a history of resource extraction beginning with the rubber boom, logging and gold prospecting, and more recently oil exploration. Despite this activity, 98% of the region is composed of primary rainforest. There are three national parks and reserves in the area that together comprise more than 3.5 million hectares of protected forest ecosystems: the Manu Biosphere Reserve, the Tambopata-Candamo Reserve, and the Bahuaja Sonene National Park. We are met at the airport by Rainforest Expedition and taken to their headquarters. You will only take a small bag for the next two nights and leave behind the rest of your gear. Skirting Puerto Maldonado we will drive 20 km to the Tambopata River Port, entering the Native Community of Infierno. You will enjoy a boxed lunch and then learn about the community and meet with the leaders. Then we will board a boat for a 45 minute ride to Posada Amazonas. Upon arrival, the lodge manager will welcome you and brief you with important navigation and security tips. A twenty minute walk from Posada Amazonas takes us to the 30 meter scaffolding canopy tower. A bannistered staircase running through the middle provides safe access to the platforms above. From the top there are spectacular views of the vast expanses of standing forest. Now and then toucans, parrots or macaws are seen flying against the horizon, or mixed species canopy flocks land in the treetop next to you.

Breakfast at Hotel Manhattan

Lunch and Dinner at Posada Amazonas

Overnight at Posada Amazonas

Day Three

August 11th - Wednesday

POSADA AMAZONAS

After breakfast we depart for a 30 minute boat ride to Tres Chimbadas Oxbow Lake. Once there, we will board a catamaran for an exploration of the lake, searching for the resident family of nine giant river otters and other lakeside wildlife such as caiman, hoatzin and horned screamers. We will then visit the clay lick which is only a twenty minute walk from Posada. From a blind located about twenty meters away you will see dozens of parrots and parakeets descend on most clear mornings to ingest the clay on a river bank. Species such as Mealy and Yellow-headed Amazon, Blue-Headed Parrot and Dusky Headed Parakeet frequent this clay lick. After lunch you will take a twenty minute boat ride downriver to a trail designed by the staff of the Centro Nape, a communal organization that produces medicines out of forest plants and administers them to patients who choose their little clinic. They have produced a trail which explains the different medicinal uses of selected plants. After dinner you will have the option of hiking out at night.

**All meals at Posada Amazonas
Overnight at Posada Amazonas**

Day Four

August 12th - Thursday

POSADA AMAZONAS to LOS AMIGOS

After an early breakfast at Posada and departure back to Puerto Maldonado (by 7:30 am) we board a bus for a 1-hour journey along the new Trans-Oceanic Highway linking the Brazilian Atlantic with the Peruvian Pacific to the port town of Laberinto. There will be an opportunity along the road to see the impact of development and examples of slash and burn agriculture. In Laberinto, we transfer to boats for the approximately 4 hour trip up the Madre de Dios River. On the way there will be a visit to the native community of Vuelta Grande, where we will see the small school.

Arrival mid-afternoon at ACEER Los Amigos at the confluence of the Madre de Dios and Los Amigos rivers. Welcome and introduction to the Center by the station director of the Amazon Conservation Association (ACA). ACEER-Los Amigos is a joint project of the ACEER Foundation and ACA. The Center is located within the Los Amigos Biological Station (locally known as CICRA) which is owned and operated by ACA.

**Breakfast – Posada Amazonas
Lunch – Boxed Lunch on Boat
Dinner – Los Amigos
Overnight – Los Amigos**

Day Five

August 13th - Friday

LOS AMIGOS

After breakfast, we will hike along Trail 1 to Poso Don Pedro. This trail begins at the station and enters maturing secondary forest. A short spur will take us to the ACEER's Ethnobotanical Garden. The trail continues into older forest and a palm swamp, Poso Don Pedro. Here the group will explore the perimeter of the wetland habitat and venture onto the pond aboard a small catamaran. The trail will provide an opportunity to present basic ecological principles of

rainforests, and the changes that take place from human and natural influences. Poso Don Pedro will introduce concepts of aquatic ecology and the dynamic interface between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Upon return to CICRA, the group will stop at the Madre de Dios “Mirador” or overlook. This viewscape will provide the backdrop for a discussion on land protection in the Madre de Dios region. The forest and river system is undergoing changes from mining, timbering and colonizing. The area seen is fully within the Los Amigos conservation concession and protected from deforestation.

After lunch we will board the boats for a short ride across the river to visit the migrant village of Boca Amigos. The visit will include a tour of the village, a visit with the school children and their teacher, and a walk through the children’s gardens where each child cultivates different plants. We return to Los Amigos in time for the sunset.

After dinner, there will be an evening activity. This may be a guest lecture by a resident researcher at CICRA or a night hike.

All Meals and Lodging at Los Amigos

Day Six

August 14th - Saturday

LOS AMIGOS

Following breakfast, the group will hike to Cocha Lobos, a typical ox-bow lake with resident giant river otters. The trails will traverse mature secondary and primary forest, with examples of highland forest as well as very different floodplain forest. There will be excellent opportunities to view wildlife in intact rainforest habitat, and continue the evaluation of rainforest dynamics between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

After lunch, the human presence in the rainforest will be assessed with a visit along the Madre de Dios to a nearby gold mining camp. There will be a demonstration of mining techniques, the use of mercury in the process, and a discussion about mercury pollution and the impact on the food chain and health. After dinner there will be an evening guest lecture or night hike.

All Meals and Lodging at Los Amigos

Day Seven

August 15th - Sunday

LOS AMIGOS TO CUSCO

After a very early breakfast, we reverse the journey to Puerto Maldonado, where we transfer to the airport for our flight to Cusco back across the snow-capped Andes Mountains to the heart of the Inca Empire. Nestled in a high valley at nearly 13,000 feet, Cusco is surrounded by some of the highest peaks in the Andes. As we descend into Cusco, the oldest continuously inhabited city in the western hemisphere, we glimpse the red tiled roofs of this colonial capital that was built on the massive foundations created by the Inca Empire. We will be met at the airport and transferred to our hotel. We will have a tour of the city including the Squares, the Cathedral and the Inca walls. Dinner will be on your own.

Breakfast – Los Amigos

Lunch – On our own in the airport

Dinner – On our own in local restaurant in Cusco

Overnight – Hostal Corihuasi

Day Eight

August 16th – Monday

CUSCO TO WAYQECHA

After an early breakfast, we are met by staff from ACA (Amazon Conservation Association) and will make our way by bus out of the city and into the historic Urubamba Valley. A four to five hour journey takes us from Cusco through the Andes Mountains, to Wayqecha. On the way we will have the opportunity to see small local farms in the Andes and our guide will explain the agricultural methods used in this region and the different crops, including hundreds of varieties of potatoes, many different grains such as amaranth and quinoa. We will arrive at Wayqecha in the late afternoon.

Breakfast – Hostal Corihuasi

Lunch - Box lunch

Dinner - Wayqecha

Overnight – Wayqecha

Day Nine

August 17th - Tuesday

WAYQECHA

The day will be spent exploring the site and trails. This site, from top to bottom, straddles seven climate zones. Where the Andes meet the Amazon, an avalanche of biodiversity marks the birthplace of the world's greatest river. It starts as a trickle of snowmelt on the 20,000 foot peaks of southeastern Peru, swells into a mountain torrent through the Altiplano and cloud forests, and reaches the sweltering lowlands as a great, meandering tributary of the Amazon. The site provides an unparalleled opportunity to see a wide variety of orchids and rare indigenous plants and animals in this cloud forest environment. In the afternoon, the group will visit the canopy walkway, the first to be built in the Andes, and view the cloud forest from a high vantage point.

Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner – Wayqecha

Overnight - Wayqecha

Day Ten

August 18th - Wednesday

WAYQECHA/CUSCO/LIMA

After an early sunrise breakfast, we board the bus for the spectacular drive over the Andes to Cusco. We will have a boxed lunch and then transfer to the airport for our afternoon flight to Lima. We will be met at the airport and board a bus for a tour of Lima. We will have a farewell dinner and then transfer back to the airport for our overnight flight to the USA.

Breakfast at Wayqecha

Lunch – Boxed Lunch

Dinner – Restaurant in Lima

Overnight – Flight to USA

Day Eleven

August 19th - Thursday

ARRIVAL IN USA

Arrival in the US in the early morning. After clearing customs and immigration, we proceed to our return flight to Philadelphia, arriving late morning.

Optional Extension to Machu Picchu and Cusco

Day Ten

August 18th – Wednesday **WAYQUECHA/CUSCO**

After an early sunrise breakfast, we board the bus for the spectacular drive over the Andes to Cusco. We will have a boxed lunch on the way. We will check in to our hotel and then have an afternoon to explore Cusco on our own. Dinner is on our own and overnight at Hostal Corihuasi.

Breakfast – Wayqecha

Lunch – Boxed Lunch

Dinner – On own

Overnight – Hostal Corihuasi

Day Eleven

August 19th - Thursday **AGUAS CALIENTES/CUSCO**

After breakfast we board an early bus for our trip to Ollantaytambo where we will board the train for Aguas Calientes. Upon arrival we will board a bus for the trip up to Machu Picchu. The topography, geology and hydrology of Machu Picchu create nine life zones and contain a wide diversity of flora and fauna. There are more than 1000 species of orchids within the Sanctuary, as well as a wide variety of ferns, begonias, palms, and bromeliads. The Sanctuary has many species including the solitary eagle, the Andean condor, the ocelot, spectacled bear, and a great variety of birds including the Cock-of-the-Rock, Peru's national bird.

Exploration of the architectural remains of plazas, palaces, temples, homes, cemeteries and more than 100 irrigated terraces that formed the structure for the Incan agricultural system. The day will provide an ongoing opportunity for discussions of Incan cultural traditions including their agricultural and medicinal practices. After a two hour guided tour of the ruins, there will be opportunity to climb Huyana Picchu, or walk to the Sun Gate. Train to Ollantaytambo departs approximately 4:00 PM where we will transfer to a bus to Cusco.

Breakfast – Hostal Corihuasi

Lunch – Box Lunch

Dinner – Restaurant in Sacred Valley enroute to Cusco

Overnight – Cusco – Hostal Corihuasi

Day Twelve

August 20th - Friday **CUSCO/LIMA**

After breakfast, you will have some time to explore Cusco before our transfer to the airport for our flight to Lima. We will be met at the airport and board a bus for a tour of Lima. We will have a farewell dinner and then transfer back to the airport for our overnight flight to the USA.

Breakfast – Hostal Corihuasi

Lunch – On own

Dinner – Restaurant in Lima

Overnight – Flight to USA

Day Thirteen

August 21st - Saturday

ARRIVE IN USA

Included

- Local Guides
- Return airfare (Lima – Puerto Maldonado – Cusco – Lima)
- Airport and hotel transfers in Lima
- Land and fluvial transport as scheduled in the itinerary
- Accommodation as scheduled in the itinerary
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- Lima city tour
- Fees related to activities outlined in the itinerary
- Administrative and logistical services and support
- All local taxes
- All local tips & services

Not included

- International airfares
- Some meals, as indicated
- Snacks, alcoholic beverages & soft drinks
- Airport Taxes
- Travel Insurance (Required)