

STUDY & VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

CUZCO, PERU

PROGRAMS START EVERY MONDAY



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This Study & Volunteer program combines a minimum 1 week Standard Group Spanish program with volunteer placement in the community. All opportunities will work in partnership with local people in a variety of community-based projects. This unique program offers exciting hands-on volunteering opportunities, meaningful cultural immersion, and an enriching language program.

CITY AND COUNTRY INFO

The city of Cuzco is located in the Valley of the Huatanay River in Peru's southeastern Andes, in the province and department of Cuzco. It is located 3,360 meters above sea level. The legendary Huatanay Valley was populated by human settlements since early times and later housed the pre-Hispanic urban population of Q'osqo.

Many international tourists are drawn to Cuzco for its proximity to the famous Machu Picchu ruins and the Inca Trail. Due to the high elevation, it is cool at night and sunny but cool during the day year-round. Day temperatures range from high 60s to 70s Fahrenheit. April to September is the coldest time, with high 60s during the day and 30s at night. Rainy season is from October to April.

Everyone who visits Peru inevitably comes to Cuzco, one of the most fascinating cities in the world. The city was founded around 1100 AD. According to the Inca creation myth, the sun sent his son, Manco Capac, and the Moon her daughter, Mama Occlo, to spread culture through the barbaric lands. They emerged from the waters of Lake Titicaca and began their journey in search of the place where they would found their kingdom. When they reached the site of present-day Cuzco, Manco plunged his golden staff into the ground in order to test its suitability and it sank deep into the fertile soil. This was the sign they were looking for. They named this place Cuzco, meaning "the navel of the world".

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAM

After participating in this Study & Volunteer Program in Cuzco, students will gain experience in foreign poverty and need first hand while helping others in severe need, greatly improve foreign language abilities, gain personal growth and confidence both nationally and internationally through service, and combine travel, academics, and community service into one incredible life-changing experience.



What's Included

- **Tuition and Class Materials:** 1 week minimum-group 20 Spanish 50 minute lessons per week in group of 2-5 students per class.
- **Volunteer Placement:** in local youth home called Azul Wasi
- **Lodging:** In a Homestay or Shared Apartment
- **Placement Testing**
- **1-2 Organized Activities Weekly***
* Entrance fees, transportation, etc. may be at additional cost.
- **Access to E-mail**
- **Access to Multimedia Learning Center**
- **Certificate of Completion**
- **Pre-Departure Information**
- **Planning Guide**
- **Medical, Accident and Sickness Coverage ****
** See policy for definitions and exclusions.
- **Medivac Coverage**
- **Other Travel Coverage:** repatriation, baggage, personal effects, accidental death and dismemberment, etc.
- **24 Hour Emergency Multilingual Hotline:** call collect from anywhere in the world

FULL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

STUDY PROGRAM

The Study Program includes 20 hours per week of Group Spanish classes. Maximum number of students per class is 5, with the average being 2 students. Groups are organized in a way that each will always consist of students possessing the same level of Spanish.

The method is based on the 4 language skills: listening, grammar, oral and written comprehension. No English will be used in class.

Classes are 55 minutes in length. Students may enroll for as many weeks as desired. In order to make sufficient progress and gain the maximum benefit from the course, the following program duration ranges are recommended: Beginner (4-12 weeks), Intermediate (2-12 weeks) and advanced (2-12 weeks).

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

After the 1 week minimum Study Program, volunteers assist the youth home called Azul Wasi in a small rural town outside of Oropesa for a minimum of 1 week. The home consists of a few buildings in which there are bedrooms, a library, a dining hall, and flush toilets. The greenhouse contains many of the vegetables used to cook meals, and a soccer field and basketball hoop provide recreation opportunities to children.

Possible volunteer tasks may include:

- Homework help with mathematics, communications, and/or English
- Playing sports and games with children
- Constructing and/or remodeling buildings or other structures
- Organizing field trips and further projects for children
- Helping with meal preparation and/or cleaning

LODGING OPTIONS

HOMESTAY

We recommend students take advantage of staying in a homestay to practice their Spanish and be exposed to local culture. Middle class families are carefully selected and provide each student with a private room. Do not assume that you are too old for a homestay as many of our students are older than their host "parents". For many of our students, their homestay is one of the most rewarding experience.

The host families are carefully selected, Do not forget to specify on the registration form any dietary requirements, allergies, smoker / nonsmoker, etc., as well as any other preferences. The accommodations coordinator of each school, always at the students' disposal, can change your family accommodation if the need arises. Most families are within 20-25 minutes walking distance to school. In the event that the homestay is farther away, students can use public transportation (subway or bus), the ride being approximately 12-15 minutes. Laundry is not included in family accommodations.

SHARED APARTMENTS

One of the most popular housing option is the shared apartment, where you will live with other students. No meal plan is available with the shared apartments, however you have kitchen access to prepare your own meals. The rooms are furnished with bedding provided. The bathroom and kitchen are communal. Students should bring their own towels. Furthermore, cooperation with other students is necessary as the common areas are maintained only once per week. Most of the apartments are 20-25 minutes away by public transportation. Keys will be given to the student upon arrival on the Sunday afternoon before classes begin

PRICE RANGE

Cost of minimum 1 week of classes, minimum of 1 week of volunteer placement, and minimum of 2 weeks total of housing ranges between:

\$883 → \$923**

**Cost ranges according to lodging options.

ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES

U.S. citizens traveling on regular passports for tourism or business do not need a visa for a stay of 90 days or less. Those planning a longer visit must obtain a visa in advance.

Minimum age of 18 unless accompanied by an adult. Volunteer positions on a space available basis. These are unpaid positions and there is a limited number of positions every month.

ACTIVITIES AND EXCURSIONS

- Free activities included in all programs:
 - City Tour (transport and guide; entrance fees not included).
 - Welcome Dinner for all new students
 - Peruvian Cooking Class
 - Game Night (in Spanish)
 - Salsa Class
 - Farewell Dinner
- Excursions at an additional cost:
- Cultural Workshops (some at an additional cost):
 - Peruvian Music
 - Peruvian Cooking
 - Pottery
 - Peruvian Dance
 - Cultural Exchange Program

HOW TO REGISTER

To register for the STUDY & VOLUNTEER PROGRAM in Cuzco, either follow the link below or call 1-888-678-6211.

<http://www.nrcsa.com/reg/online/regform.html>

When you register, \$140 USD is due to secure your place in the program.