



Helping communities in Peru

The Selva Verde Project

General Information

The Selva Verde project is for those volunteers who want to live in the jungle and contribute towards a beautiful valley community near Cusco. This village once saw the Machu Picchu train make its final stopover there until the 1998 floods washed the whole village away. Santa Teresa is now re-establishing itself slowly above the river valley.

For the benefit of the volunteer this project has been divided in two levels:

Level 1

For those who are good communicators in Spanish, we recommend you stay a minimum of two months in this community; however the overall length of time is optional. The most important aspect of Selva Verde is that you will contribute in many ways towards the local village, as tourism is slowly developing once again.

Level 2

For those who need to improve their level of Spanish language and reinforce their basic knowledge. The project offers you Spanish tutorials in Cuzco city for the first month. During this month the volunteer will be hosted in an excellent family accommodation not far from Cuzco's main city square.

The Spanish tutorials will be delivered from our best qualified tutors who have years experience teaching bilingual people and they will provide you with a minimum of 8 hours of Spanish lessons per week.

We will be aiming to encourage your language development and skills during your 1st month in Cuzco by assisting a local school. It is very important for us that you can communicate with the local students and staff before embarking into your placement in Santa Teresa or other school within the region.

An interview and assessment of your language will take place prior to a placement at any level.

Please note: you can opt to travel to another project and stay with a local family as long you have volunteered for your 1st month within a specific location. We will be very pleased to organise this for you!

The Selva Verde Project

Aim of the project

Our aim is to promote and sustain environmental activities such as the cleaning of debris from the path ways, encouraging to the locals the benefits of recycling, and to create awareness of recycling activities in the local school as well as helping the running of additional subjects.

Main Core of the project

A local representative from Santa Teresa's local council will be able to coordinate your volunteer work and help you to get involved in activities which involve the local school children actively in environmental issues.

Your volunteering role will also see you taking part in local school life where you will help out with conversational English and other lessons at the local school from this village.

The director of the school will arrange your weekly schedule and coordinate suitable hours for you to assist the local teachers with their lessons at least 15 hours per week so you can organize your time effectively. However, any extra time you can provide is very welcomed.

Your role as volunteer in the school will give the opportunity to improve your Spanish language with the local teachers.

Promoting sustainable communities

The project management teams are local people who are active members of their local community; they ensure that the volunteering experience is good for the community and for their environment, as well as for the volunteers for who they provide a good level of care.

This particular community receives few foreign visitors and the locals will give you a warm welcome. Volunteers are appreciated, particularly those who stay longer term.

Inka Magik aims to coordinate actions with the local communities where we are working and helps to deliver any suggestions from the volunteers.

We welcome ideas from people who feel there is a room for improvement, whilst bearing in mind that our placements depend mostly on donations and run on tight budgets. We would like to hear from you about *your* project ideas. We could even support your own project, coordinating with the **Children's Horizon** fund. By encouraging self-sufficient programs where the schools or the local communities use their own resources, we will encourage them to become more independent.



Summary:

- Personal Development and support in the school
- The minimum time helping out in schools & the community is 15 hrs per week
- There is flexibility in times and dates working with the teachers/guide/children
- Dress code smart casual but not too informal at school
- Suggestions and ideas are very welcome
- Free leisure time
- Opportunity to develop your own project
- Optional extra to go on low-cost short trips

Project features

Accommodation

We coordinate your arrival with your host family or representative in Cuzco and accordingly to your level of Spanish you will be transported to your volunteer placement in Santa Teresa or staying in Cuzco for the first month.

The families will include you as a member of their family so you will have the opportunity to be introduced to their friends or to go to parties or local events - Peruvians in general are very lively! They will also tell you about the local area and things to do and see.

In Cuzco most our host families are living within the central city and will provide you with a comfortable clean private accommodation, and some times with access to internet connection. At your placement in Santa Teresa you will be staying also in a local family-run accommodation perhaps more simple than the one in Cuzco city.

Inka Magik ensures that certain standards have been met before sending any of our volunteers. Our families will provide you with your main meals and if you have any special requirements as for example you are vegetarian your host family will make an

effort to look after your diet.

Volunteers can choose to live in local hostel accommodation during your trip around the country; most of the hostels reserved by us offer you breakfast and easy access to communication, such as the Internet.

In Santa Teresa there is a special Inka lodge in the middle of the valleys which can enhance your experience living in the upper jungle. This is a made from rustic material and belongs to a local farm family and is located on the valley side, there are 12 adobe beds in the lodge, in a semi-open layout.

The family speaks Spanish and Quechua (the language of the Inkas) which will also add value to your placement because you will learn about the particular customs and traditions of the area and be provided with a unique welcome.

The Inka lodge and small holding overlooks a beautiful river valley, fresh papaya and pineapple are picked from the trees for breakfast. You can learn how to roast coffee, picked freshly from the family who owns the lodge.

From Santa Teresa village, you can get to this Inka lodge by walking for about 1 hour and from there, it is not too far to join the Inca trails into the mountains and valleys.

Should you wish to stay at the Inka lodge run by a local family, this can be arranged at your request to an extra cost of \$15 a night, including food, for a minimum of two nights.

Transport

Placements in Santa Teresa will not be located too far from where you will stay with your host family and you will be able to get there readily on foot.

However, to move outside the village you could chose from different types of public transport such as minibuses which are very cheap, otherwise there are other options such as motorcycle taxis or car taxis. Taxis are one of the easiest ways to travel around; taxi drivers also are very helpful about informing you about fares to other places of interest.

School Activities

You are likely to help out with a variety of school activities and assist the children in a positive learning environment and help them with their conversational English and other lessons. You will be briefed as to your responsibilities. We will assess your skills according to the information that you have provided about yourself in the registration form and consult our school director as to how your talents can be employed most usefully.

Environment

You will also help out in the local community with the removal of man-made and natural debris from the Inca trails, with our local guide and with some local children. The local councils often do not have the resources that we take for granted and the work you carry out will be appreciated. Please provide detailed information about any specific skills in your registration form so we can use them to good effect. You will involve the local children in your environmental projects inside and outside of school.

Additional Features on this programme

At the present moment Inka Magik organize a unique **adventure tour - *an Alternative Inka Trail to Machu Picchu*** 3 /4 days through the warm jungle as well the ***Adventure of taking part in 2 hours of Canopy from 6 different locations*** within this valley. This can be organized by us if you let us know in advance.

Inka Magik - Selva Verde Project Cost

We welcome you to join Inka Magik at any time of the year and there is no fee to pay for processing your registration form but there is a selection process before you can volunteer in the jungle.

Our volunteering projects have special rates for students as well as flexible payments. For example you can make an initial payment of 20% of total amount of the fee following confirmation of your placement and pay the remaining amount 8 weeks before travelling to your destination.

The costs for the **Selva Verde** Project covers:

- Your welcome on arrival at the airport in Cuzco
- Transfer by bus to your placement within the host country from Cuzco
- Induction and co-ordination of activities led by the school and local guide
- Your accommodation and meals for the **1st month only**
- Private activities that your host family will involve you in
- When required, Spanish Lessons at the necessary level at a minimum of 12 hours a week
- Access to special rates if you decide to take part in our unique tours

Level .1 cost without including Spanish lessons:

Type of Fee	Standard fee	Student fee**	
Other			Minimum Extra Cost
Project	Selva Verde	Selva Verde	
Length	1 month without Spanish lessons	1 month without Spanish lessons	Per additional month staying at a family accommodation in Santa Teresa recommended by us including food
Pounds Sterling*	£360	£340	Equivalent £135
US Dollars*	\$570	\$545	\$220
Euro*	€399	€377	€120

Level.2 cost including Spanish lessons:

Type of Fee	Standard fee	Student fee **	
Other			Minimum Extra Cost
Project	Selva Verde	Selva Verde	
Length	1 month Spanish lessons included	1 month Spanish lessons included	Per additional month staying at a family accommodation in Santa Teresa recommended by us including food.
Pounds Sterling*	£460	£475	Equivalent £135
US Dollars*	\$745	\$769	\$220
Euro*	€510	€527	€120

*Please note, these rates might change slightly accordingly to the exchange rate and it has to be taken as a reference. Thus, Inka Magik will let you know in time about the exchange rate fluctuations and what you should be paying to the host family if you decide over stay more than 1 month.

** Students must have a valid ISC card to access this price.

Your first instalment payment covers your placement, host family accommodation and main meals for the **first month only**.

Any additional month you want to stay within the host family is made payable in advance by you directly to them.

The **extra cost** is payable in **US dollars** and will include your meals too.

The approximate period of stay with a host family is up to a maximum of 3 months but this length can also be extended. There are no further costs involved in your placement.

Using another type of accommodation, such as a private hostel can be arranged but at different costs.

Inka Magik could negotiate a special rate for you but if you desire to stay longer than 3 months within your host family, you must check your visa conditions. Our website [visa section](#) provides more information about this, although it is advisable to check with your national authority for the most up to date visa information.

Also, if you wish to stay longer in Cusco city or any other part of the country, this will be at your sole discretion and your own expense. We will be pleased to offer you any further guidance and advice for independent travelling and for those who want to volunteer in more than one location only.

You need to consider that

Your placement fee does not include:

- Welcome at Lima's airport
- International single/return flights from any destination worldwide
- Local domestic flights
- Local transport to Cuzco
- Private insurance
- Spending money
- Extra over time

Please note that placements are unpaid.

Optional Tour: **Adventure - The Alternative Inca Trail to Machu Picchu**

We are pleased to invite you to join one of the alternatives routes to Machu Picchu and, one of the least visited.

Level 1 cost placement without Spanish lessons but including tour

	Standard fee	Student Fee*
Project	Selva Verde	Selva Verde
Length	1 month without Spanish Lessons but including Eco Tour only	1 month without Spanish Lessons but including Eco Tour only
Pounds Sterling*	£630	£595
US* Dollars*	\$1,020	\$964
Euro*	€699	€360

Level 2 cost including Spanish lessons and tour

	Standard fee	Student Fee**
Project	Selva Verde	Selva Verde
Length	1 month Spanish Lessons and Eco Tour included	1 month Spanish Lessons and Eco Tour included
Pounds Sterling *	£675	£635
US* Dollars*	\$1,080	\$1,025
Euro*	€749	€705

* Please note, these rates might slightly change accordingly to the exchange rate and it has to be taken as a reference only. Thus, Inka Magik will let you know in time at least 8 weeks before the cancellation of your fee placement about

the exchange rate fluctuations and what you should be paying to the host family if you decide over stay any other months only.

Our service for this unique eco-tour includes:

- Accommodation: 2 nights at family-run hostels, 1 night camping during travelling
- Bilingual guides
- Bicycles
- Entrance fees to national park & sanctuary of Machu Picchu
- Camping equipment (dining, tents, mats, etc.)
- Bus ticket from Aguas Calientes-Machu Picchu (roundtrip)
- Train ticket from Hydroelectric to Aguas Calientes
- Train ticket from Aguas Calientes-Cusco

INKA JUNGLE TRAIL: NEW ALTERNATIVE 4 days and 3 nights ROUTE TO MACHU PICCHU

DESCRIPTION

This is an alternative route that provides adventure for people who want to enjoy a journey filled with stunning landscapes, The Valley of the Convention (Quillabamba.) The day before your departure a guide will visit you at your accommodation and give you more details of your trip and discuss any questions you might have before travelling the next day.

On the day of your trip private transport will come to collect you at 7.00-7.30am and will aim to leave the city of Cusco at 08:00 am.

We will be travelling for about 1 hour to a location out of Cuzco called, Abra Malaga, which's highest point is 4,350 metres over sea level. From this location we will begin one of the wonderful hikes, alone in a world that has been compared to Coroico in Bolivia.

Supported by the local staff and guides we will be cycling downhill from the highest point using our mountain bikes for about 4 to 5 hours. During this journey you will see the vastness of the valley of the Convention and appreciate the diverse flora and fauna. Our journey will take you into the upper jungle area and visit the Wamanmarka Inca ruins.

We will continue the journey on our bicycles reaching an altitude of 1,430 metres and head towards the town of Santa Maria. You will spend this first day at a family lodge with basic services (accommodation will be shared with other travellers from our own group.) On this town we will have our dinner and a short summary of the day and comments on the trek.

The next day, after breakfast, we will start walking along the river bank, observing animals of the region, e.g. hummingbirds, parrots, other interesting birds, agile centipedes, lizards.

During our walk also we will identify medicinal plants and savour the fruit plantations, such as banana, mango, oranges, tangerines, cocoa, pacay and crops of cocoa and coffee, etc. Then we will go to a little village called Qellomayo, where we will have lunch, then continue on to the hot springs (hot water with healing properties are also called medicinal water because they cure body aches and are excellent for relaxation of the muscles after a walk like ours.)

After a relaxing bath we will head to the village of Santa Teresa (1,990 metres above sea level) and spend the night in more family-run accommodation within this local community. The walk from Santa Maria to Santa Teresa will take around 6-7 hours.

On the third day we will be walking from Santa Teresa to Aguas Calientes village taking us about 7 hours. During this journey you reach the train station called Hydroelectric, named so because you will see a waterfall which provides electricity to the surroundings villages. When reaching this point you will have the option to take the train you to the town of Aguas Calientes, or keep walking until we reach our final destination. Most part of our walking will be following the railroad tracks and enjoying the jungle, until we arrive in Aguas Calientes around 17:00 hours.

At our arrival we settled into our respective accommodation.

After a good rest, on the 4th day we will get up very early and walk the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu (2,438 metres over the sea level.) To get to see the first rays of the sun, and the impressive Inca construction. We will have approximately 2 hours of guided tour and after you will have a free time to visit other parts of the Inca citadel. We suggest you to climb to the summit of the Huaynapicchu (Young Mountain) at 2667 metres over the sea level, since there lies be an impressive view of Machu Picchu.

Finally after a pleasant adventure in the Peruvian jungle you will travel to Ollantaytambo by train and then transferred to a bus to Cusco city.

Please note that the itinerary is subject to change and if you make any additional plans yourself they will be are at your expense

Finally, where does your fee go?

At least 10% of your fees will be donated to Children's Horizon to help the local communities.

Charity Donation - Children's Horizon

Our aim is to increase the level of our charity donations by increasing the volunteer participation.



Thank you very much for spending time with us! Your help will be much appreciated and please feel free to pass on details about our projects to others!