

## MANU AMAZON CONSERVATION PROJECT

- **Live & Work in one of the most pristine rainforests in the world – the Manu Biosphere Reserve in Peru.**
- **Understand the complex interaction between people and the rainforest.**
- **Take part in scientific wildlife surveys, reforestation work and community environmental education projects.**

Volunteer on a ground breaking conservation and community project in one of the most pristine and beautiful areas of the Peruvian Amazon.

Four weeks working on this project gives you a fascinating insight into the unique way of life of the communities of the Amazon rainforest. The project site itself is remote and absolutely stunning, located in the Manu Biosphere Reserve. This forest buffer zone protects the unique and ecologically significant Manu National Park, but is also home to indigenous and settler communities. Living and working deep in the Amazon you will have the chance to develop an understanding of the complex interactions between these people and the natural world.

Your project work will be helping to protect 1000s of acres of rainforest, living and working with those who rely most on its survival, and offering much needed support to settlers in the region.

**Activities:** Conservation work, Tree planting, Scientific flora and fauna surveys, Spotting wildlife, Community environmental education, Getting muddy, Construction work, Experiencing life in the Amazon Basin,

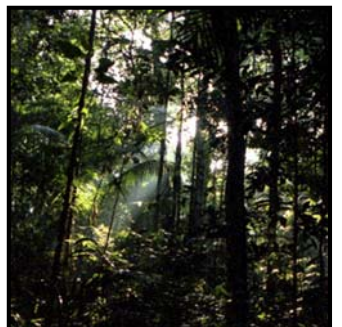
**Team size:** 8 -16 people

**For:** Gap Year and University students

**Duration:** 4 weeks

**Departs:** Mid July each year

**Cost:** £1100 + £750 project donation  
*Includes all accommodation, food, activities, in-country travel, local tipping, airport transfers, full time Quest leader and personal travel insurance, £750 contribution to your project to cover short and medium-term costs and long-term ongoing support. Excludes international flights.*



## Project details

The Project gives you a fascinating insight into the unique way of life of the communities of the Amazon rainforest. You will be helping to protect 1000s of acres of rainforest, living and working with those who rely most on its survival, whilst offering much needed support to tribes and settlers in the region.

## Project History

The Manu Biosphere Reserve is one of the most biodiverse areas of rainforest in Peru. Although remote is under real threat from all sides; immigrant communities, oil prospecting, tourist "eco-lodges" and agriculture. Through detailed scientific study and research our project partner, The CREES Foundation, aim to protect this incredible natural biodiversity, whilst working with local communities to generate sustainable development that creates decent livelihoods in harmony with the natural environment.

CREES works with communities who are actively seeking to change their futures by using sustainable initiatives, in particular sustainable agriculture projects. These include setting up bio-gardens which allow an area of degraded land to be used for a multiple of crops and trees and providing alternatives to timber and carbon for communities living on deforested land.

## What?

Working with CREES you will be reforesting areas of damaged jungle developing sustainable forestry practises and improving facilities for the communities so they don't have to move on elsewhere. Digging, planting, mixing cement by hand, trekking through the jungle; the work is hard and muddy at times but a unique opportunity to explore jungle life. You will also be contributing to the ongoing scientific research in Manu by undertaking flora and fauna surveys, looking at, observing and recording different wildlife activity in the area. There will also be opportunities for you to become involved in environmental education initiatives with local communities.

This intense involvement with the local community twinned with the chance to truly learn and understand the challenges faced by the rainforest environment provides an unrivalled cultural experience.

## Where?

The Manu Biosphere Reserve is located in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon, in the Eastern Madre de Dios Region.

## Spanish

Volunteers do not need to speak any Spanish, although learning some before you depart will certainly enhance your experience, especially when working with the local communities in the reserve.

## Food & drink

During the project, volunteers eat simple local food "al fresco" which is cooked by the lodge staff. Water purification will be provided by Quest Overseas during the project, however we recommend that volunteers bring their own as a back up.

## Accommodation

The Manu Learning Centre (MLC) will be home for you during the project. This is the CREES research lodge and be your base for some of the project work as well. You will stay in palm thatched huts in the middle of the rainforest. Accommodation is simple, but comfortable.

## Weather

The rainforest environment will be hot and humid, with a very good chance of heavy rain. You are provided with a detailed kit list to ensure that you are suitably prepared and have the correct kit with you.

## Leaders

You will have one leader with you for the Project. 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 Overseas provides all volunteers with a fully comprehensive pre-departure pack, which contains information on the countries to be visited, the project background, kit needed, cultural awareness etc. Quest also 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. You will be required to take malarial prophylaxis during the project and again information will be provided.

## 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

**Lonely Planet Peru**, by Sara Benson, Paul Hellander, and Rafael Wlodarski, 2007.

**Peru (Footprint Travel Guide)**, by Ben Box, 2005.

**Inca Kola: A Traveller's Tale of Peru**, by Matthew Parris, 1993.

**Touching the Void** by Joe Simpson, 1998.

**The Silver River** by Ben Richards, 1999.

**The Motorcycle Diaries** by Ernesto "Che" Guevara



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