

quest overseas

6 WEEK ANDEAN EXPEDITION

- Kayak across sparkling waters of Lake Titicaca
- Explore the colonial splendour of Cusco, and discover The Sacred Valley of the Incas.
- Trek the world famous Inca Trail to Machu Picchu
- Try your hand at ice climbing and scale an Andean peak
- Discover Amazon wildlife from a dug-out canoe
- Marvel at the surreal landscapes of the world's largest salt flats

Travel into the Andean world of the Incas, reach new heights, let your eyes play tricks with you in the Bolivian Salt Flats and then head down into the fascinating world of the Amazon Rainforest. South America offers a variety of landscapes, people and wildlife like no other and this is your chance to make it from the Andes to the Amazon. Our route will take you from snow-capped mountains to pristine white beaches. It will combine vibrant, bustling cities and remote, indigenous communities.

Sights: Lima, Amazon Jungle, Bolivian Salt Flats, La Paz, Lake Titicaca, Arequipa, Colca Canyon, , Islas Ballestas, Cusco, Andean Mountains, Machu Picchu and The Sacred Valley

Activities: Visit to Quest's children project in the shanty town of Villa Maria, wildlife spotting, trekking, horse riding, mountain biking, ice climbing, sand boarding & white water rafting, visits to indigenous markets, Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.

Team size: 8-12 people

For: Gap Year students, University students and anyone between 18-24

Duration: 6 weeks

Departs: Late June and early July – [see our website for exact dates](#)

Cost: £2775+ £75 donation to [Villa Maria Children's Project](#)
Includes all accommodation, food, activities, in-country travel, local tipping, airport transfers, Quest leaders personal travel insurance and £75 project donation. Excludes international flights. [More information on costs can be found on our website](#)



Expedition Itinerary

Days 1-3: Lima, Wildlife, SANDBOARDING

Orientation & expedition preparation day. Spend a day in the shanty town of Villa Maria, visiting the Quest project there and experiencing another side to South American cities. Departing from Lima the first stop is to the Ballestas Islands, which are rightly nicknamed the 'Mini Galapagos' for their abundance of marine and bird life. Then head along the Peruvian coast to sandboard down some of the world's highest sand dunes.

Days 4-11: Pacific Beach, Colca Canyon TREK, and Arequipa.

Relax in the sun and sleep out under the desert stars on the beach of Puerto Inca before heading up to Arequipa, a beautiful city with magnificent colonial architecture nestling between smoking volcanoes. Trek down into the second deepest canyon in the world, the Colca Canyon, which is twice the depth of the Grand Canyon.

Days 12-17: Chilean Desert and The Bolivian Salt Flats.

Travel through the Chilean altiplano into Bolivia to discover one of the most inspiring sights of the whole of South America, The Uyuni Salt Flats. 4 days exploring bright green and red lakes filled with hundreds of flamingos, surreal desert landscapes, bubbling geysers, thermal waters, and volcanoes in 4x4 Land Cruisers.

Days 18-25: La Paz, ICE CLIMBING & Apolobamba TREK

La Paz is one of the most lively, colourful and spectacular cities in South America. You will get the chance to go ice climbing, and experience the hustle and bustle of the many local markets within La Paz before heading off to trek through the mountains to the Apolobamba Range. The trek is challenging but stunning and there is the possibility your team could summit a snow-covered peak.

Days 26-30: The Bolivian Pampas, Wildlife Safari

2 days exploring the Amazon Rainforest and 3 days exploring the Pampas, which are flooded forests home to a plethora of wildlife. Traveling by motorised dug out canoe we hope to get close up viewings of monkeys, armadillos, river turtles, capybara, and macaws, as well as the chance to go swimming with pink river dolphins. You may also have the chance to visit our Animal Sanctuary project at Parque Jacq Cuisi to see the work being done. Transfer to La Paz by plane.

Days 31-35: KAYAK Lake Titicaca & Islands, Bolivia and Peru

4 days relaxing on the beautiful shores of Lake Titicaca. Cross the border to Peru where we circle the floating reed islands and visit the local indigenous Aymara communities. Head across the Lake in kayaks to spend the night with local families.

Days 36-41: Cusco & INCA TRAIL to Machu Picchu.

The final leg of your journey sees you visiting the archaeological capital of South America. Cusco is a magical and picture book example of many of the highlights of the continent. After exploring The Sacred Valley you trek the world famous Inca Trail to Machu Picchu to see the sunrise and the ancient city appear through the swirling mist. A magical and spectacular way to finish your experience with Quest.

Day 42: Cusco, Peru, END OF EXPEDITION

Team members are free to go travelling onwards or fly home from Lima.

Food & drink

In general you will be eating at your hostel for breakfast, out and about for lunch and in a local restaurant in the evening. Team members will mainly eat together, but you will also have the opportunity to go out in smaller groups as well. Whilst on treks you will take it in turn to cook simple meals on camping stoves.

Accommodation

On the expedition accommodation will range from tented accommodation on treks to hotels and jungle camps depending on the location and activity. Rather than choose accommodation for its level of comfort, we choose it because of the friendly reliable locals who run these places, and because of the great locations, and atmosphere.

Weather

On expedition you will experience a variety of climatic zones from the depths of the Amazon rainforest to the heights of the Andes. You will therefore need a range of clothing suitable for all conditions. You are provided with a detailed kit list to ensure that you are suitably prepared.

Leaders

Depending on the size of the group, you will have one or two leaders with you for the entire 6 weeks. 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 provides Pre-Departure Training in the UK for all team members joining expeditions of over 3 weeks. This is in addition to in-country Orientation Days. 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.

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 Phrasebook-Latin American Spanish

Inca Cola by Matthew Parris

A Journey Beyond Imagination by Brian Keenan & John McCarthy

Lost City of the Incas by Hiram Bingham



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