



experience quest

Bolivia Wild Animal Sanctuary Project



Where? The Inti Wara Yassi Animal Sanctuaries, Amazon Basin, Bolivia.

History: Experience Quest has been working at the Inti Wara Yassi Animal Sanctuaries since 2002. The sanctuaries were set up to provide a home for animals rescued from Bolivia's illegal, but rife, circus and pet trades. A team of permanent Bolivian staff work alongside international volunteers to rehabilitate and care for all types of native wildlife, with help constantly needed to help care for the animals as well as expand and improve the parks' facilities.

There are a wide range of animals in the sanctuaries; big cats; including jaguars, pumas and ocelots; spider monkeys; capuchin monkeys; howler monkeys; sloths; coatis; snakes; parrots; toucans; other birdlife and even a spectacled bear. Where possible these animals are re-released into the rainforest areas near the parks, however having spent most of their lives in captivity for some animals this is simply not an option. In such cases Inti Wara Yassi works to give these animals the best possible quality of life in their natural environment.

Sustainability: The local Bolivian team and international volunteers live and work in the sanctuaries year round, ensuring the long-term and ongoing care of the animals and upkeep of the parks. Along with their time and energy, Experience Quest teams also bring a financial commitment to Inti Wara Yassi in the form of volunteer donations to our UK registered charity Quest4Change, that provide short and long term resources (e.g. to buy building materials for new enclosures, food for the animals, veterinary medicines and to go towards the future purchase of new land). This makes your and Quest's involvement with Inti Wara Yassi a genuine and long term commitment. Quest4Change fundraises for the project year-round to ensure the project is ongoing at times volunteer teams are not in the country.



What will your students be doing? Constructing much needed infrastructure at the newest sanctuary, Parque Jacq Cuisi, usually in the form of a new and larger enclosure for one of the big cats currently living at one of the older sanctuaries. Your students will be mixing cement by hand, clearing the ground, digging, carrying materials through the jungle and erecting fencing. Enclosures are usually 40m x 40m in size.

Students will also be involved in the day to day care of the animals, usually at one of the two more established sanctuaries, Parque Machia or Parque Ambue Ari, be this working with a group of monkeys, animals in the clinic or quarantine or heading out to work with one of the big cats. Students will be responsible for assisting current volunteers with the everyday tasks; feeding the animals; cleaning enclosures; encouraging their animal to interact with its natural environment or perhaps accompanying their animal out into the jungle during the day.

Accommodation at all the sanctuaries is basic and work in the jungle environment is challenging, however this project gives your students a chance to work hands-on with a variety of animals while making a lasting and positive difference to their lives.

Other activity options: Following the project, there is the chance to explore the ancient city of Cusco and trek the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu; Trek in the Apolobamba Range; Kayak on Lake Titicaca and visit indigenous island communities; Learn to ice climb in the mountains around La Paz and summit an Andean peak, 4x4 across the Uyuni Salt Flats.

