

# experience quest



## PERU ADVENTURE

### SHANTY TOWNS, AMAZON ADVENTURES AND THE INCA TRAIL TO MACHU PICCHU

*“Home to almost every climate zone possible, Peru is sure to be a place you will want to come back to. Deserts, jungles, mountains, and that’s before we even get started on its culture and history. Quest has been working in Peru since 1996 and is proud to have its longest standing project there, in the shanty town of Villa Maria. The great friends made and beautiful locations discovered are too numerous to mention here. We hope this holiday will give you a taster though!”*

Dr Kate Simpson, Quest’s first project manager in Peru

- ❖ Explore the ancient Inca capital of Cuzco and the nearby Sacred Valley
- ❖ Stretch your legs along the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu
- ❖ Spend an unforgettable 4 days exploring the Manu National Park in the Amazon jungle
- ❖ Experience a truly unique few days working on our children’s project in the shanty town of Villa Maria on the outskirts of Lima – a genuine chance to give back

Dates: **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2011** – Two weeks

Cost: **£3,350** – Includes all costs on the ground (except evening drinks, souvenirs and a few lunches), travel insurance and a £250 donation to our charity Quest4Change. International flights are separate.

Find out more or make a booking. Contact us on 01273 777206 or email [info@experiencequest.com](mailto:info@experiencequest.com)

## Your Quest

If you're bored of hearing all those wonderful anecdotes from your friends, and green with envy after yet another set of mind blowing photos from their latest travels, here's your chance to surpass all their experiences, and with that little extra bit of luxury. This is an active adventure, trekking through the mountains and valleys of the Andes to the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu. Our jungle adventure is a little more relaxed, with a lot of the time spent on motorized dugout canoe – there may be the odd early morning walk to see the forest waking up though... Finally, your time spent helping at our social project in the shanty town of Villa Maria is sure to make this a holiday to remember forever!

### What's Included?

**Food & drink** Included in the cost of the trip are meals in some fantastic restaurants, sampling some of the best food South America has to offer. While we will cover drinks during meals, we may ask you to chip in if it turns out to be a particularly thirsty night.. Also, there will be a couple of occasions while in towns when the group will be free to explore and as such we will leave lunches to your own discretion. This will be only 2 or 3 occasions though.

**Accommodation** We have carefully picked some real characterful hotels whenever we are in towns and cities, with all the comforts you would normally expect, but not in the cold characterless style of a high rise hotel block. When out in the wilderness, the lodges and cabins awaiting you are something pretty special!

**Weather** November is the end of the dry season, so the weather should still be stable and dry on the whole. As we are travelling from jungles to mountains deserts though, you should be prepared for a whole range of temperatures.

**Leaders** You will be accompanied by only our best and most experienced staff. We have always said that our leaders bring the trip to life for you –you will not be disappointed here! Their knowledge, professionalism and enthusiasm are unparalleled.

**Preparation** Once you have booked onto the trip, we will be with you every step of the way in the build up for departure, helping to sort flights, insurance, providing recommendations on kit, anything you should need.

**Travelling alone?** Not a problem. Our price is based on two people sharing, and if you are joining this trip on your own, you will be sharing a room or a tent with someone of the same sex. If you would prefer to have your own room and tent, you can pay our single supplement of £200. Please note, this does not include having an individual cabin at the Galapagos, please contact us if you would like to ask about supplements for this.

**What to do next?** If you'd like to find out more, just give us a call and we can fill you in with some more information. To book a place on this trip, get in touch and we will send you a booking form together with a copy of our terms and conditions. Any questions just give us a call on 01273 777206.

## Giving Back

Situated on the outskirts of Lima, The shanty town of Villa Maria is a marvel of adversity in the face of uncertainty. With parents working long hours to support their families, children are often left to their own devices. Life is hard however the people are warm, kind and welcoming. It's amazing how those with so little are often the most generous. This is an opportunity to give something back, constructing a simple home for a family in the community or giving a child the attention that they crave. You will be making an important contribution to the project, but the impact it will have on you is sure to be equally dramatic, if not more so.



## Adventure Itinerary

### Days1–3: Lima and the Villa Maria Project

Our flight across the ocean takes us to Peru's capital. Lima was once a Spanish colonial hub, and many of the buildings are still standing, albeit a little worn. After a good night's sleep to recover from the long flight, we then have the unique opportunity to experience two extremes of reality of South American life. First, we will visit some of the areas once populated by the Spanish aristocracy, with architecture, wealth and extravagance to prove it. Then, just 30 minutes down the road, we have an opportunity to be part of the shanty town of Villa Maria, where Quest has been working since 1998. Conditions are harsh but the project is thriving and we are delighted to be able to harness energy together with the community to ensure that our work is completed.

### Days4-5: Cuzco and the Sacred Valley of the Incas

Flying into Cuzco is a fascinating experience. Surrounded by mountains, it takes some intelligent flying to negotiate the valleys and touch down at the airport – these pilots are a dab hand though. Then we have a couple of days acclimatising to the altitude and enjoying some of the incredible sights this city has to offer. A mixture of Inca and Spanish construction, you could literally walk around this town for weeks and not get bored. However, an even more impressive sight awaits us, and this time we have to earn it.

### Days 6-10: The Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

During the next four days, we will be putting as many luxuries as we possibly can your way – good food, porters at your beck and call, morning, afternoon AND evening tea! We will however be under canvas, and have some pretty tall hills to 'stroll' over. Every corner you turn though will treat us to beautiful view after beautiful view, and the Inca constructions also become progressively more impressive, until finally on the fourth day, Machu Picchu appears out of the swirling mist. Was it worth it? we think so! We give ourselves a day's rest in Cuzco after this impressive feat.

### Days 11-14: The Manu National Park

Much of the Amazon basin has little to no protection, Manu is one of the few exceptions to this. Its relative inaccessibility has been a huge contributing factor to its pristine state, and also means very few people have the privilege to see this magnificent forest. A flight into the jungle, followed by a 4 hour dugout canoe ride up the Manu River takes us to a very special lodge, and the perfect base to learn more about the real value of the biodiversity of this fragile habitat. Monkeys, birds, plant life, and if we're very very lucky, the elusive jaguar!

### Days 15-16 Return to Lima and back home

We will have the chance to stop by and say some final farewells to our new found friends in Villa Maria, before hopping aboard the long flight home. What an adventure!

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