

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Peru



September's Photo Competition Winner till Scholich, Germany
Titicaca Lake

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ProjectsAbroad

Editorial

The importance of continuity

Sometimes, the concept of help in our society is very basic.

In the Christmas period we give chocolate milk to poor children, we give away old books, toys and used clothes, or a beggar in the streets receives a few cents.

When you volunteer, however, you are taking a bigger step, and when you do this with all your heart and strength, you could be making a real difference. Every time I visit one of our projects, I realise that we still have a long way to go in order to reach some of our goals.

It doesn't matter if these goals don't appear to be the most ambitious ones. If each of us assumes one small task to contribute consciously step by step, we will provide continuity to our work and only then it will make sense and be worthwhile.

I must admit I am very proud to be a part of this unique team that cares about what it is doing and that are willing to learn every day.

Whether you have already worked with us, or you are still planning to come over, we hope that together, we can see that we are progressing and that all our work is worth the while.



PROJECT UPDATES

Inca Project

Due to a strike, which was caused because of a disagreement between the central and the local government, in the local district some of our regular activities were affected. The stimulation centre, library & educational institutions were closed for periods during the strike and transport was severely affected in the district with many routes blocked by protesters. This also made accessing the dig site at Q'ochapata difficult; needless to say, the volunteers had some problems with transport on weekends to Machu Picchu, Quillabamba and Cusco. We did everything we could to minimise the inconvenience caused by this strike to our volunteers based in that area, and fortunately after two weeks the strike was lifted. **ARCHAEOLOGY:** The month started with cleaning, classifying and drawing ceramic artefacts recovered from Q'ochapata Mountain earlier this year. The excavation at the ruins around Q'ochapata also continued in September, but the strike action made it difficult to access the site due to road closures. Thankfully, the archaeologists were able to complete their programmed excavations for September. The volunteers also prepared some of the ceramic artefacts for codification. This involved painting a small section of the ceramic with varnish and later a reference code was written in permanent ink on the item. During the month of September, Zenobio and John, our archaeologists, conducted their project inspection and evaluation. The Ministry of Culture visited the project in Huyro to assess the progress of the archaeology project as well. Once again, we have been helping our colleagues from the Ministry of Culture with maintenance and clearing at Q'ochapata & Inkatambo (Huyro district). **ESTABLO:** The renovation works at our volunteer house Establo continued this month. At the beginning of September we celebrated the inauguration of the swimming pool at Establo. Everyone took a dip and we had a barbecue afterwards. The volunteers continued to work hard, moving some building materials around Establo living quarters for improvement. Because of strong winds we have to move a lot of fallen branches around Establo to help Willy pass with his machine.

Care Project

Once a month, we organise workshops with the teachers of the centres we work with and develop educational material to use with the scholars. We are really happy to have built a solid group of teachers who genuinely understand the importance of improving their teaching methods. Our volunteers also attend these workshops and help us with the development of new educational material.

Teaching Project

On September the 23rd the 'Teaching project' celebrated students' day on which our volunteers went on a field trip with the students and teachers. They planned a picnic and played outdoors. This was a great opportunity for our volunteers to get to know the students outside the classroom. Alyce Dowling, one of our volunteers from Australia, celebrated student's day by giving out hot chocolate drinks in two classrooms at her school.

Volunteer Hendrick Townley prepared a presentation about his home country, the United States which he presented with a projector, something very special for the students. They showed great enthusiasm to learn about his country. They finished with a jeopardy game in which students tested their knowledge of the US in a fun way. Thanks Hendrick, for this creative exercise.

Medical & Nutrition Projects

Lorenzo De Jonge from the Netherlands volunteered at the Clinica Peruano Suiza for six weeks. He showed great interest in the day to day running of the clinic and after building up a good relationship with the medical staff, he could get involved in more practical work than just observation.

Megan Gruver, who works as nurse in the US has just joined the same clinic and is excited about what she is still to experience at her placement.

At Ttio Health Center, Rosa Maria Bilal is working together with a group of nurses at the Nutrition Project. They are going to different places to demonstrate how to cook in an economical and healthy way.

Sports Project

Our "two towers" Till Scholich and Pascal Brunner are still being admired by locals in Urubamba. They play in the local basketball team and thanks to them the team is now in the top of the ranking. They donated basketballs to Escuelas Deportivas Municipales to support their activities. Both, volunteers and students were really happy. See our volunteer story.

VOLUNTEER STORY

Pascal Brunner: Sports Project



Hi there! My name is Pascal Brunner and I'm currently volunteering as a basketball teacher in the local club, as well as at a public school in Urubamba. I will stay one more month in Peru and for the past two months that I have been here, I have enjoyed every bit of my time. The idea of volunteering with Projects Abroad is more than just teaching basketball. On the contrary, it's all about speaking the language, getting to know the culture and, more than any-thing else, being in contact with the local people.

First and foremost, I am in touch with the locals, because I live with host family who gives me a good insight of what typical Peruvian life is about. It also means washing your clothes on your own, voluntarily, or helping to wash the dishes; but what I like the most about it is chatting with my host parents while enjoying a traditional Peruvian meal, which you always get in big portions! Another aspect of being in contact with the people here is without question the daily work with children of all ages. I start my day with the youngest ones in the morning and coach the eight-year-olds in the afternoon at club practice. This is a lot of fun as they've probably never seen a guy who is 6 feet 6 inches (almost two metres) tall. Every time I step into the practice hall they already take my hand and tell me what happened to them in the last days, or ask me if we could play their favourite game.



I'm really blessed to be staying with the host family I live in, as my host father is a teacher for physical education at "Valle Sagrado" school. This means that every morning I join him in motivating school children to try to do a lay-up or dribble, the "pelota". Even though lessons at school are completely different to what I'm experiencing in the club, or maybe right because of it, it's a lot of fun and I couldn't have wished for any better schedule.

You might probably be quite interested in how my Spanish is progressing or if I have/had any problems with interacting with the people. First of all, I've had Spanish at school for about two and a half years, during which I learnt to speak quite well. However, I also forgot a lot of things after school, so basically I was very unsure about what to expect when I got here, especially since airport conversations with the staff didn't go well at all. Here is something that should take some fear away from you: Most of the people - except for the children, who really talk very fast - know that you are only a volunteer and try their best to speak in an adequate manner to make sure you understand them. Even still, after a certain amount of time, your Spanish will improve automatically. I have very few problems expressing myself right now, even if I need to describe my feelings or problems. Being in touch with the language leaves no chance not to learn anything about it. You will see it will happen faster and easier as you might have thought before!

To close this volunteer story, I want to talk about all the exciting things that we have been up to here. Peru is rich in culture and especially landscape; I would say it is impossible not to fall in love with the country and the Sacred Valley. We are surrounded by mountains where ever we go and we really enjoy hiking up many of them. A lot of ruins are very close, so buying the "boleto turistico" (tourist ticket) and visiting as many of these ancient places as possible is a total must-do! Of course, if you think about Peru, the one thing to see is Machu Picchu. While it is already impressive just on photos or descriptions, it's even more jaw-dropping once you stand up there during sunrise and get this one unforgettable shot of it. We actually took an alternative path to get there, which included mountain biking and two days of hiking through regions of changing vegetation. It was exhausting, but once we arrived, we were just unbelievably happy to be here and to have decided for Peru as our country to volunteer in.



PERU IN PICTURES

The beauty of this amazing country

The photos below are a mixture of volunteer contributions for our monthly photo competition and snaps taken on visits to placements. Peru is a photographer's paradise and if you're interested in this field you will find inspiration around every corner.



Top left: Titicaca lake

Top right: Sunset in the jungle

Bottom left: Mountains in the Sacred Valley

Middle: Sweet pineapple

Middle right: Tambopata river

Bottom right: Quechua child in Calca

To see our monthly photo competition winner's check out the album on our Facebook page:



Don't forget to check out our Instagram account where you will find beautiful imagery from our other destinations. Follow our global account and get to know more about the way we see this wonderful world.

Scene/Seen

Goings on around Peru with Projects



Carolanne, Olivia and Alisa at their Care Projects



As a reward for all their efforts in the interscholar English contest, together with volunteer Alyce Dowling, we prepared chocolate milk for the students in Ollantaytambo.



Social afternoons: Above: at the Choco Museum enjoying a cup of chocolate after a hard day's work. Below: Music workshop: getting to know all different types of Andean instruments.