

crees volunteer programme



Overview

Have you ever wondered how carbon is really calculated, how big a wild orchid is, or why macaws eat clay? Imagine being in the heart of the Amazon, waking up before sunrise to watch the mist rise off the forest canopy as the sound of howler monkeys reminds you its breakfast. Living in rustic, beautiful surroundings, away from the hustle and bustle of city life, volunteers get to immerse themselves in the rainforest.

Get unique access to work alongside development and conservation experts in their daily activities, as the answers questions about climate change, human impact and the value of the rainforest. Over a 10-day training period volunteers learn how the creation of great questions and accurate information provide the essential tools for conservation and development to be successful.

Learning to place traps to catch falling seeds, twigs and leaves can help determine carbon values, then can increase local income and provide a larger incentive to conserve the rainforest. Experiencing how human activities are impacting this region provides a great opportunity to reflect on our needs and behaviors and how we impact the planet. Volunteers are challenged to get involved physically, mentally and emotionally, as they connect with the people and realities that they will play a part in changing.

The Journey



Fly in to the ancient Inca capital, Cusco, Peru and spend a day exploring the city with your guide and team members before starting your journey to the Amazon. Leave the bustling cities behind embark upon a journey over the Andes mountains and through the cloud forest, emerging into the lowland rainforest valleys and arriving at our research station and eco-lodge, the Manu Learning Centre (MLC).

Have more questions? Want to apply?

Email volunteer@crees-manu.org or visit www.crees-volunteer.org

Volunteer Training

At the Manu Learning Centre, our team of experts and local guides train all volunteers to become important and active members of the ongoing projects. A full week of training combines theory with overviews in tropical ecology, climate change, sustainable agriculture, forest composition, and species recognition, before ultimately introducing volunteers to hands-on training in the field.

Volunteer Projects

Since establishing the Manu Learning Centre in 2004, **crees** has worked with over 200 volunteers from around the globe, creating a positive and lasting impact on Manu's forests, its local communities, and volunteers themselves. Volunteers work in three project areas:

- Conservation Research
- Sustainable Community Initiatives
- Community Capacity Building

1. Conservation Research



Scientists estimate that only 10% of the species in the rainforest are known. In order to preserve the Amazon it is vital that we first understand it, so you will actively enable this process by monitoring the flora and fauna of the area. By studying flagship species such as the endangered Blue Headed Macaw, you will explore how humans impact biodiversity and crucial conservation issues and contribute to data that helps ensure these species remained protected and informing government decisions.

Your key roles will be:

- Collect data on the species' behavior and distribution by monitoring the activity at the Collpa (clay lick) from the river bank.
- Take daily hikes to find and identify Species nesting and feeding sites.
- Monitoring and registering trail biodiversity (jaguars, tapirs, deer, birds and monkeys).
- Process and upload data into forms that are used by international conservation projects to determine wider conservation strategies.
- Measure forest recovery and calculating its carbon.

The scientific work undertaken by **crees** is done in collaboration with University of Oxford, University of Glasgow, University of Aberdeen and the University of Oregon amongst others.

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2. Sustainable Community Initiatives



One of the keys to avoid the self-perpetuating cycle of poverty and poor resource management is to actively engage with local people and communities in finding real solutions. You will support essential projects designed to increase the income and nutritional levels of local people through sustainable land management. Most people living in Manu survive on less than \$2 USD a day through subsistence agriculture and timber extraction. These activities are disastrous for the survival of the rainforests and biodiversity. However, using techniques to improve efficiencies, we help local people reduce deforestation and protect virgin areas.

The volunteers' mission here is to:

- Build bio-gardens for local families with the community members. The bio-gardens help increase the nutritional values and income for the poorest families in Manu.
- Plant trees and check on growth rates part of a Reforestation Project that supports the local farmers to benefit from carbon offsetting.
- Collect data on mortality and disease rates, species and distribution information from reforestation plots.
- Help calculate and determine Carbon values and sequestration rates per plot.

Volunteers work directly with the project coordinator, staying in the community, helping each family with their project. This project provides the most direct way of changing lives: the local communities can see the difference in their lives in a matter of weeks.

3. Capacity Building and Education



You will get involved in improving the opportunities that local people have to access a good education. With very poor education levels, locals have no means to develop their life options and they become trapped in the cycle of poverty. To help them break free from this cycle, this project provides practical

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training, basic skills and the inspiration of cultural exchange. Your key roles will be:

- Assist local teachers prepare and develop material for educational visits in English.
- Spend active time with local children, playing football, volleyball and creating theater shows.
- Talk about your culture and what inspires you, providing an intercultural exchange and a wider global perspective.
- Work with the children of the Ecology Club of Salvacion on their visits to the MLC helping them on the Education Trail, where they train their guiding skills.
- Teach English to the Manu Learning Centre staff, so they can improve the work they do.

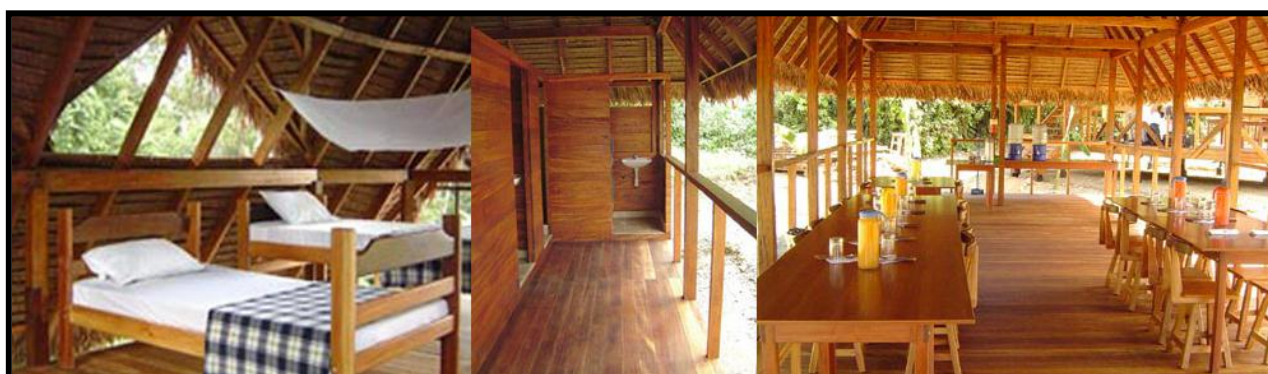
Volunteer Expedition*



Volunteers take a break and experience 4 days of trekking through the forest, visiting the indigenous community of Queros, exploring virgin forests and discovering hot springs in the Amazon. The expedition connects volunteers deeply into local communities, breathtaking biodiversity, and challenging physical activities.

(*) Available for programmes of 4 weeks or longer

Volunteer Facilities



The MLC provides comfortable, airy accommodation and top level research facilities, making it a great base for both hard work and relaxation. The centre has a solar powered Internet connection, environmentally sound septic system, and gravity fed water pumps, all helping to minimise the MLC's impact on the environment and reduce its carbon footprint.

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What's Included in the Programme

- Pre Departure Pack and support by our UK office
- Airport Collection and Drop-off in Cusco, Peru
- Lodging in Cusco, the Manu Cloud Forest & Manu Learning Centre
- 3 delicious meals a day with water, juice, tea or coffee
- All transport from Cusco to and within Manu
- Supervised Training and Project participation
- Plus, a 4 day expedition: trek to hot springs, river rafting and visit native communities to try your hand at skills like weaving, cooking and archery.

What's NOT Included

- Airfares (international or domestic)
- Yellow Fever Vaccine (Required, please consult a travel clinic)
- Comprehensive Insurance (Required)
- Alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, snacks

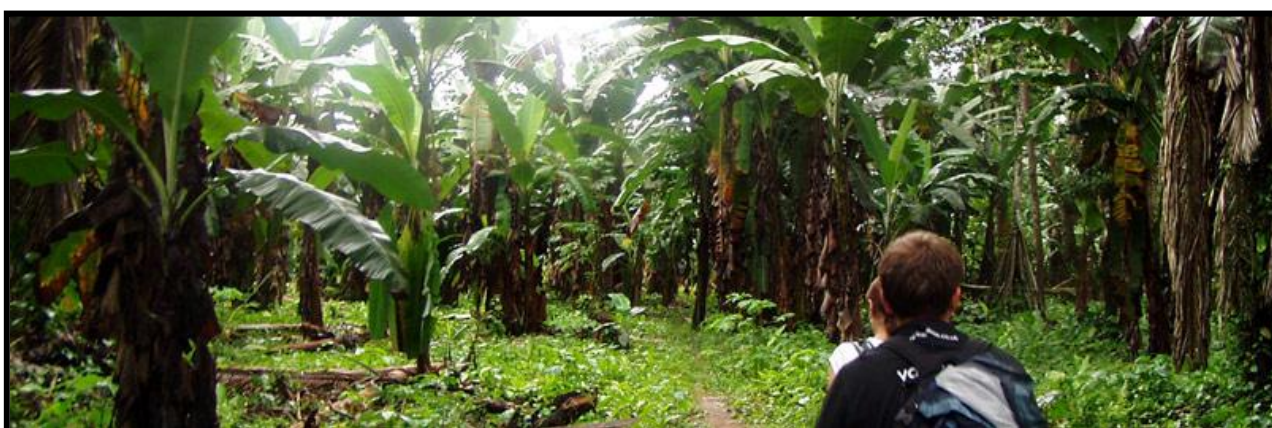
What Makes Us Different

We are a small but dedicated team of professionals who are focused on one project, in one area. We firmly believe that everyone, provided the right tools, is capable of making a positive impact. Our programme gives you real skills and understanding of conservation and community issues whilst providing an unforgettable experience. However, most important is knowing that you leave behind a real positive impact on the lives of others.

Where Your Money Goes

crees Volunteer works non-for-profit and your involvement supports the projects. Please take a look at where your money goes: (*based on a 4 week programme)

Administration	5.95%
Accommodation & Food	32.14%
Training & Orientation	11.90%
Project Contribution	23.81%
Expedition	9.52%
Transport	16.67%



See for Yourself

Check out project photos and our volunteer blog:

www.facebook.com/ManuLearningCentre

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