

Gap Program in Cusco, Peru

Individually Customized Programs

What makes ANDEO's Gap programs stand out is that they are very flexible and can be customized to fit your goals and interests. The two core components are small-group language courses and a homestay with a local family. From there, you can choose your own path. For example, you can take courses in Indigenous Cultures, join a medical services program, or get involved with a volunteer project. Programs can be as short as four weeks or as long as a full year and start any Monday of the year. Academic credit is available.

2009 Cost Estimate: \$3,675 for a 12-week program
(airfare not included; 4-week to 12-month programs possible)

Cusco

Once the capital of the Inca empire, Cusco still invites you to dive into the rich history and culture of Peru. You will find traces of traditional Incan arts, as well as colonial architecture and indigenous culture. Of course, Cusco is also a great starting point for exploring Peru, including the magical Machu Picchu.

The Language Institute

The institute occupies a beautiful colonial home from the 19th century on one of Cusco's many small plazas. It offers an indoor patio, an auditorium, and a video room. If you are interested in combining Spanish language studies with university level content courses and earning college credits, this institute is a perfect choice for you.

The Classes

You can choose from pure Spanish language classes and content courses like Hispanic-American Culture and Civilization, Regional Literature, or Quechua. Your individual schedule will depend on your course selection. The basic language course includes 20 hours of classes per week, in small groups of only 5 students.

Cultural Activities

Yes, you can join an excursion to Machu Picchu - and a lot more! For example, visit the Pisac indigenous market in the Valley of Urubamba, discover the Ollantaytambo fortress where the Inca fought their last battle, or go horse-back riding in the hills around Cusco. If you just have an afternoon, you can deepen your understanding of Peruvian culture through cooking classes, lectures on current topics, or museum visits.

Special Option: Spanish and Community Service

Become part of the local community as a volunteer! We can arrange placements in a variety of fields, from health-care services to social work. All organizations are screened by our partners in Peru and selected to give you actual opportunities to benefit the population they serve, not just your own resume. Contact us for details!

Accommodations

A homestay with a local family is the best way to immerse yourself into the daily life in Cusco. Host families come in all shapes and sizes, but what they all have in common is a strong interest in sharing their culture. Three meals per day are included.



"The classes were excellent! All of the excursions taught us a lot about the Peruvian history and culture. Macchu Pichu was our favorite."

-Rebecca & Holly, 2009-



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ANDEO International Homestays - a nonprofit organization since 1981.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the cost estimate include? Tuition for the language course, study materials, homestay placement with three meals per day, some cultural activities, pre-departure orientation materials, and ongoing support in your preparations and during your stay in Cusco. If you want to add special options, please contact ANDEO for a cost estimate.

Can I study if I am a beginner? Yes, you can start as a complete beginner. Call for specific beginner start dates!

When will I receive my host family placement information? You will receive host family details and contact information in the week prior to your arrival date.

Will I receive any orientation materials? Yes. Once you are accepted into the program, we will send you comprehensive orientation materials that cover everything from packing suggestions to dealing with culture shock.

Will I have access to email? You can access the internet at one of Cusco's internet cafés.

Will the institute be closed for any holidays? Yes. The institute is closed for all national holidays in Peru.

Can I get credits for studying abroad? Yes! Whether you are a high school graduate, a university student working toward a degree, or a teacher looking for professional development, you can get credit for continuing your education abroad. Earn 5 to 10 credits by signing up for a variety of courses offered by *We Study Abroad*, an accredited college program linked with Seattle Central Community College. Please visit www.westudyabroad.com for details.

Do I need travel insurance? We strongly recommend that you get travel insurance that includes a medical plan. Prices depend upon trip length and participant age. You can compare different policies online or by contacting your local travel agent.

Will I need a visa? That depends on the length of your program, your citizenship, and other individual factors. Visa requirements change frequently, so we strongly recommend that you contact your nearest Peruvian consulate or embassy to make sure you have the most up-to-date information about all rules and regulations that apply to your stay. It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary travel documents for your program in Peru. If you need any documents from ANDEO or our partner organization abroad, we will do our best to provide them to you.

Can I speak to people who have participated in the program before? Definitely! Please contact our office and we can provide you with the emails of students who have participated in this program.

How do I apply? To apply, complete the initial Gap application and return it with a \$300 deposit. You can download an application at www.andeo.org. Your deposit will be applied to the total program price. Upon receipt of your program registration and deposit, we will send you a detailed orientation packet. The balance of your program fees will be due 30 days before your program start date.

What is your cancellation policy? If you cancel your program more than 45 days prior to your start date, we will refund the amount you have paid toward your program fee except for the \$100 non-refundable deposit as well as any cancellation fees charged by the language institute. The cancellation fees vary from program to program, so please feel free to ask us about the fees that apply to yours. For cancellations made less than 45 days prior to your program start date, your \$300 deposit will be forfeited, and you will also be responsible for the cancellation fees charged by the institute. If ANDEO cancels your program, you will receive a full refund.

If you have any further questions or would like to start planning your program in France, please contact ANDEO at info@andeo.org, 503.274.1776 or 800.274.6007. We look forward to working with you!



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Like having options? Take a look at our other Gap programs in Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, and Spain!

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