MANU AMAZON CONSERVATION PROJECT
4 Weeks Volunteering + Optional 2 Week Mini Andean Expedition

Why Manu?
The biodiversity found in the Manu National Park exceeds that in any other place on Earth (UNESCO). Living off the equivalent of 75p per day, the majority of people in the Biosphere Reserve survive by deforesting areas of land for farming and pasture, eventually abandoned for more fertile virgin forest. The project site itself is remote and absolutely stunning, located in the Manu Biosphere Reserve. This forest buffer zone protects the unique and ecologically significant Manu National Park, but is also home to indigenous and settler communities.

Your Role
- Live & work in one of the most pristine rainforests in the world – the Manu Biosphere Reserve in Peru.
- Understand the complex interaction between people and the rainforest.
- Construct much needed community infrastructure.
- Take part in scientific wildlife surveys, reforestation work and community environmental education projects.

Explore the jungle and beyond
Visit indigenous tribes in the Manu National Park, explore Amazon tributaries, chill out in hammocks, spot some of the incredible wildlife in the area, birds, monkey and maybe even a jaguar if you’re very lucky – life in the jungle isn’t all hard work!

Optional Expedition
An optional 14 day expedition after the project gives you the chance to explore from Lake Titicaca to Machu Picchu, with visits to remote island communities, kayaking, white water rafting and a trek along the world-famous Inca Trail in between!

Activities: Construction work, mixing cement, sawing, digging, conservation work, tree planting, scientific flora and fauna surveys, spotting wildlife, community environmental education

Team size: 8 -16 people
For: Gap Year and University students
Duration: 4 weeks / 6 weeks with optional expedition
Departs: Mid July each year, contact the office for more details.

Cost:
GBP£1100 + £750 project donation to Quest4Change.
With optional exped: GBP£1795 + £750 project donation to Quest4Change

For costs in other currencies please visit our website www.questoverseas.com

Includes all accommodation, food, activities, in-country travel & support, local tipping, Quest Leaders, personal travel insurance, 24 hour UK support, medical back up, contribution to your project to cover short and medium-term costs and long-term ongoing support. Excludes international flights.
Project details
The Project gives you a fascinating insight into the unique way of life of the communities of the Amazon rainforest. You will be helping to protect 1000s of acres of rainforest, living and working with those who rely most on its survival, whilst offering much needed support to tribes and settlers in the region.

Project History
The Manu Biosphere Reserve, a buffer zone around the Manu National Park, is one of the most biodiverse areas of rainforest in Peru. Although remote it is under real threat from all sides; immigrant communities, oil prospecting, tourist “eco-lodges” and agriculture. Through detailed scientific study and research our project partner, The CREES Foundation, aim to protect this incredible natural biodiversity, whilst working with local communities to generate sustainable development that creates decent livelihoods in harmony with the natural environment.

CREES works with communities who are actively seeking to change their futures by using sustainable initiatives, in particular sustainable agriculture projects. These include setting up bio-gardens which allow an area of degraded land to be use for a multiple of crops and trees and providing alternatives to timber and carbon for communities living on deforested land.

What?
Working with CREES you will be reforesting areas of damaged jungle developing sustainable forestry practises and improving facilities for the communities so they don’t have to move on elsewhere. One future project will be the construction of a new technical college to provide communities with a relevant environmental & economic education. This will ensure sustainable future use of the areas resources while also generating opportunities to improve livelihoods and developing ecologically sound employment opportunities in the region. Digging, planting, mixing cement by hand, trekking through the jungle; the work is hard and muddy at times but a unique opportunity to explore jungle life. You will also be contributing to the ongoing scientific research in Manu by undertaking flora and fauna surveys, looking at, observing and recording different wildlife activity in the area. There may also be opportunities for you to become involved in environmental education initiatives with local communities.

This intense involvement with the local community twinned with the chance to truly learn and understand the challenges faced by the rainforest environment provides an unrivalled cultural experience.

Where?
The Manu Biosphere Reserve is located in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon, in the Eastern Madre de Dios Region.

Optional 2 Week Mini Andean Expedition
An action packed 14 day adventure lets you experience some of the best South America has to offer, including mountain biking and ice climbing around La Paz, kayaking across Lake Titicaca, white water rafting in the Sacred Valley of the Incas, trekking to Machu Picchu and exploring Cuzco.

Spanish
Volunteers do not need to speak any Spanish, although learning some before you depart will certainly enhance your experience, especially when working with the local communities in the reserve.

Food & drink
During the project, volunteers eat simple local food “al fresco” which is cooked by the lodge staff. You will also have the chance to sample local delicacies and eat in local restaurants. Water purification will be provided by Quest Overseas during the project, however we recommend that volunteers bring their own as a back up.

Accommodation
The Manu Learning Centre (MLC) will be home for you during the project. This is the CREES research lodge and be your base for some of the project work as well. You will stay in palm thatched huts in the middle of the rainforest. Accommodation is simple, but comfortable.

Weather
The rainforest environment will be hot and humid, with a very good chance of heavy rain. You are provided with a detailed kit list to ensure that you are suitably prepared and have the correct kit with you.

Leaders
You will have one leader with you for the Project. They are there to make sure everything runs smoothly, safely and to give maximum reward to all those involved. We are incredibly picky about selecting our leaders and you can guarantee that they will be some of the most experienced, passionate, enthusiastic and up for it people you will ever meet. They are also a really good laugh and have heaps of knowledge that you can tap into. Leaders receive Quest training every year. All leaders are Wilderness First Aid trained and our Expedition Leaders having a minimum of Summer Mountain Leader training.

Preparation
Quest Overseas provides all volunteers with a fully comprehensive pre-departure pack, which contains information on the countries to be visited, the project background, kit needed, cultural awareness etc. Quest also provides Pre-Departure Training in the UK for all team members. It covers Responsible Travel, Cultural Awareness, Health & Hygiene, Risk Assessment, Teamwork and Onward Travel. It also provides you with the opportunity to meet the rest of your team and your leaders before going overseas.

Vaccinations & Anti-malarials
Quest Overseas keeps up to date with the latest recommendations on all medical considerations relating to your time with us. We will provide you with a full list of the immunisations required and information on malarial prophylactics before you leave.

Responsible Travel
Responsible Travel is an ethos that should be at the heart of all travel. For all of us at Quest Overseas it is about making a tangible ‘positive impact’ on both man and the environment with everything that we and our volunteers do. Quest was highly commended in the 2008 Responsible Tourism Awards sponsored by Virgin. Quest also actively supports Fair Trade Volunteering.

Recommended reading
Peru (Footprint Travel Guide), by Ben Box, 2005.
The Silver River by Ben Richards, 1999.
The Motorcycle Diaries by Ernesto ‘Che’ Guevara

How much does it cost & where does my money go?
Project
£1,100
60% - payment for your trip, this is what gets spent overseas during your trip
25% - staff, both UK and overseas
15% - office costs, project and expedition research, boring admin

Project Donation: £750
This goes straight to Quest4Change to be spent on your project. None is spent in the UK, or on admin, it all goes to where it is needed most, in the Manu Biosphere Reserve.