

MUSUQ CHASKI - El Mensajero Nuevo



ProjectsAbroad



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Life in Huyro: A desk officer's perspective...

The Inca project is one of our most popular projects here in Peru, its mixture of archaeological and community work attract a number of volunteers throughout the year. Applications come to me from many volunteers from various nations and many different ages and backgrounds. When volunteers leave the project, the most common comment heard is "I want to come back in a year to see how the project has changed." But what is it about this project that makes it so popular?

The project is based near the small town of Huyro in the Lucumayo Valley, about an hour from Quillabamba and about five hours from Cusco. The journey to the project is at times quite an adventure in itself, if you have the bad luck to be caught out by landslides. The town is pretty basic compared to Western standards, and although there is access to the internet, it is frustratingly slow and limited websites can be accessed. The local shop is a favourite hang out for the volunteers, where they can get to know the locals. There is a bank, but no ATM machine, and public phones are available to contact families back home. It is definitely refreshingly different from the touristy city of Cusco.



When a new volunteer arrives they are introduced to the staff members and the community house and grounds, where volunteers will be living and working throughout their stay. El Establo is about a twenty minute walk from the town of Huyro and mountain bikes are available for volunteers to make the trip. The staff are always on hand to help out. Inca Supervisor Dan, was a past volunteer who took over the role from old hand Walter Duran in October. Americo is in charge of logistics and his inbuilt APS (Americo Positioning System) leads volunteers up the mountain to the newly found Inca ruins, where volunteers can work up to three times a week (weather permitting of course). Isa and Frida provide the meals to volunteers and staff. Jhon, the Archeologist, provides interesting information on the ruins and the findings, and also leads a weekly archaeology lesson. Shortly after my arrival to Huyro this March, Dan took me and newly arrived volunteer, Jill on a tour around the lands surrounding the community house and explaining to us about the advances & future projects that continue to enhance the programme. It's interesting to see the changes that have occurred since my first trip to Huyro in March of last year.



The project has advanced dramatically since the first volunteers camped in tents and washed themselves via a tap in the middle of the surrounding buildings of the old stable. Although, there are no warm showers (though these are unnecessary after a good mornings hard work), the house has advanced a great deal, there are four main bedrooms, two for the girls and two for the boys. An office and staff rooms have been developed and various advances are slowly being made. Weekly cleaning of the house is carried out by the volunteers, and a washing up rota is strictly followed.

Surrounding the house, there is now a nursery which is part of the reforestation project, corn fields, which need to be harvested with the aid of volunteers, banana trees, the vegetable patch, chickens, guinea pigs, amongst other highlights, all of which go towards making this project self-sufficient. If the corn isn't gathered in, there is no food for the chickens, and no chicken, nor eggs for the volunteers! Various other ideas are in the planning stages so El Establo and the Inca project will be developing with even more interesting projects to come in the future.



The most popular part of the project is by far the trips up the mountain, exploring for more ruins. Although, clearing work needs to be done as well. Carrying machetes, volunteers eagerly hike up the mountain after a forty minute combi ride to clean the grounds surrounding the ruins which were found by our director, Tim DeWinter. Work on other ruins have come about as a result of our relationship with

the INC. I was lucky enough to visit Incatambo, at a nearby village to Huyro. Here volunteers and staff worked alongside the INC staff cleaning away the large grass and trees, as well as carrying out some finer work on the walls themselves, clipping away with pruning shears to cut back the plants that are growing in the wall. The important thing is not to pull out these roots as they are helping hold the wall together.



Relations with the local community are important on all projects, but especially so here in Huyro. Football games with the local children and teachers help create good relations between volunteers and the community. Invites to local parties are also not



uncommon. Cuy (guinea pig) and other traditional Peruvian specialities are served, and dancing usually follows to *huayno* and *cumbia* hits. Community work in the town, also helps create a good relationship with locals. Volunteers have helped paint classroom furniture, a local shop and taken part in providing First Aid training to local school teachers.

So all in all, the Inca project is packed with variety, an insight into the "real" Peru and an on-going developing project which manages to capture many volunteers from many different walks of life. The tranquility of the place, (the odd tourist is seen passing on their mountain bikes in order to enter into the back way of Macchu Picchu), and the beauty of the surrounding mountains, which remain to be explored, create a longing for leaving visitors to keep coming back for more.

Hannah Partis – Peru Desk Officer

Project Updates:

What's New?

In **Teaching** this month we can now proudly announce that our library book project has increased to over 600 books. After the disorganised start of the school year, schools are starting to settle down and classes are well underway. The library project and the afternoon classes in General Ollanta will be starting in April and finally, the New Year starts with a new face for the Teaching programme. Percy Serrano started working with us last month, taking over from our leaving supervisor, Claire. Volunteers also took part in a recording session of dialogues, designed to get Peruvian students used to the variety of English speaking accents. These CDs will be distributed to all our partner schools next month.

In **Care** last month, supplies were donated to our partner kindergartens in order to help them get off to a good start in the new school year. We have a new partner kindergarten in the town of Pisac where we shall soon start working.

In **Sports** with the schools opening again, volunteers have had the chance to work in Physical Education lessons in IEMx Humberto Luna in the mornings.

The **Inca** project has been very busy, the harvesting of corn has continued throughout the past month alongside work up on the mountain. Volunteers visited the Cochapata ruins with representatives of the local authorities of Huyro and the INC in order to show what work is going on up the mountain. Volunteers were also invited to work alongside the INC on the ruins in Incatambo and work was also carried out on the Inca Trail. Archeology lessons with Jhon, our resident archeologist, continue. Last month also saw the volunteers travel to Cusco for the Inca Social, for more on this see below...

In **Medicine** last month, arriving volunteer Darcy Werner was able to start her placement in Bellempampa due to a new agreement with this health centre. In this hospital, volunteers will work almost exclusively with pregnant women and those who have just given birth. It is a maternity unit that also deals with infant therapy for children with mobility problems.

Introducing...

...New Volunteers

This month we will be welcoming 7 new volunteers in the Sacred Valley, Cusco and Huyro...

Joining the Care & Community programme this month will be **Helen Bodner** coming from two weeks in Mexico and then a month on the Conservation programme in Puerto Maldonado to work in our partner kindergarten in Coya.

The Inca project will be welcoming **Susanna Boyd** from the UK and **Matthew Stefanowski** who will also be arriving from the Conservation Project in Puerto.

Joining the Sports programme this month is **Christopher Staley**, who will be arriving from Argentina in order to help out Jaime and the other volunteers in Apu Pituisiray Sports School training football.

We have seven new Teaching volunteers starting this month. **Ruth Frost** and **Steeff Engels** came to Urubamba from the Inca Project to teach in IEMx Inka Tupaq Yupanqui in Chinchero and IEMx Agropecuario-Urubamba. **Kirsten Darragh** has joined us to help out in IEMx Eusebio Corazao in Lamay. **William Schmick** arrived from Argentina to teach in IEMx Agropecuario-Huarán. **Thomas Disley**, after completing his placement in Puerto Maldonado is now teaching in IEMx Ollantay. **Elise Snoddy** having finished her care placement in Media Luna will be teaching in IEMx Señor de Torrechayoc in Yanahuara. Finally, **Nienke Kleinrensink**, having finished a three month Care project will also be joining the teaching programme this month.

Volunteer News & Events:

Inca Social

This month Inca volunteers enjoyed a trip to Cusco in order to visit Incan sites in the region as part of March's Inca social. Leaving Huyro on Tuesday 18th March in the afternoon, volunteers stayed in a hostel in Central Cusco and rested up before visiting Raqchi and Andahuaylillas the following day. On Thursday, the volunteers spent the day visiting the Sacsayhuaman ruins. Volunteers were given the rest of the days free to do their own exploring of ruins in the Cusco region before heading back to Huyro on the Sunday.



The muse visits Huyro

Little did we know when she arrived, that volunteer Carol Lovelock was such an artist. She has now made her mark in el Establo by creating a mural which she has been painting throughout her stay with the help of her fellow Inca volunteers.

A warm welcome to new Projects Abroad-Peru staff

This month we would like to give a warm welcome to two new members of the Projects Abroad - Peru team. Percy Serrano has taken over from Claire Pegler as our new Teaching Supervisor and Cliona Stenton as our new Social Manager. Percy has worked alongside us before as an English teacher in our partner school in Cachimayo. His experience in the Peruvian education system means he will be able to guide and advise new teaching volunteers on their placements. Cliona was a volunteer with Projects Abroad in 2001 and worked in the Teaching programme. We wish them both a very warm welcome to the Projects Abroad-Peru team.

Here's a quick word from Cliona...

Hi everyone,

First of all let me introduce myself...my name is Cliona Stenton, and as of 10th April, I am working with Projects Abroad Peru as the new Social Manager.



Originally I came to Peru for four months in 2001 as a Projects Abroad teaching volunteer. For the first few days as a volunteer I remember feeling that everything was very strange and really quite overwhelming. However, I soon came to love Peru, and realized that my experience of living and volunteering in such a beautiful part of the world is truly a once in a lifetime experience.

Well, since my time as a volunteer, I studied for four years at the University of Manchester in the UK (whilst coming back to visit Peru as often as I could afford). Following university I worked for a year as Cabin Crew for a British airline. However, I still longed to be in Peru, and do a job that I felt was helping people, so when a vacancy arose with Projects abroad, I jumped at the chance!

So far I've met a couple of you who have popped into the Urubamba office, but for those of you I've not yet had the chance to meet, please say 'hello' and introduce yourselves, and let me know how everything's going.

Also, if anyone has any problems (big or small), any queries, or any suggestions that maybe useful for other volunteers please don't hesitate to talk to myself or anyone else in the office.

Finally, it's always great to hear about other peoples experiences, so if you've been anywhere interesting, had a fun event happening at your placement, or even just want to share your thoughts about arriving in Peru, why not write something for the monthly newsletter!

I hope everyone is well and enjoying their time in Peru.

See you soon,

Cliona

April Social

On Friday 4th April Projects Abroad volunteers and staff got together for the April social. This month we had a buffet lunch in Wilkamayo restaurant in Urubamba. After this we all played the traditional Peruvian game of Sapo. The afternoon was enjoyed by all.



Congratulations to ex-Projects Abroad Staff...



We would like to wish our friend, Frank Figueroa and his wife Julie, congratulations on their marriage which took place in Glasgow at the end of last month.

Frank worked with Projects Abroad as Desk Officer and Social Manager. At the ceremony he was joined by Walter Duran, who also worked with Projects Abroad Peru as the Inca Supervisor for many years before leaving us in October 2007 to move to England, and his wife Rachel. We wish both couples lots of luck in their new lives in the cold north.



Zach Desson - Sports *Apu Pituisiray*

It feels a little different being surrounded by mountains.

That was probably the first thing I noticed when I arrived here. It's a really big way of letting you know that you're a long way from home. Then again, Peru is full of those reminders. Seeing Inca ruins on a drive to Cusco, attempting vainly to find something familiar on restaurant menus, or even just trying to have a conversation with a cab driver. It all adds up to quite a different experience than anything I could have expected. But that's probably the best thing about it.



The girls volleyball team training in San Roman, where Zach works

Right after arriving, Peru hit me with something unexpected. My plane had landed in Cusco a couple of hours into a general strike (I later learnt that all flights after mine had been cancelled). In order to even leave the airport our vehicle had to pass through a mob of protestors. Streets everywhere were blocked and all roads out of Cusco had been shut down. Coincidentally, I was supposed to be using those roads to get to my home. However, I had to stay in Cusco until 7.30pm the next night when we heard that the roads were finally cleared for traffic.

But lying in the hotel room in Cusco that first night, I wasn't irritated at the confusion or upset by the setback. Instead I was revelling in the excitement and adventure of everything happening around me. I was thinking that if this was my first day, what would the next three months here be like? The only thing I knew for certain was that it would be unlike anything I had ever experienced before. But that's the best part.



Now I've been here almost two months and I know that everyday can't be as unpredictable as that first one, but I also know that any given day could still be impossible to predict and that there is always something new to see. So here's to a unique adventure awaiting everyone. Here's to Peru.

Roland de Bruijn - Spanish, Inca & Care

Media Luna

The 10th of January. This is the day my adventure began in Peru! It is hard to think back, because I already did so many things. You get so many new impressions, meet so many new people and get a lot of life experience down here. That's nice!!!!

The first month I had 60 hours of Spanish lessons in Urubamba. I think it is important that you can also talk with the locals. Especially when you have to spend some time in a host family. My Spanish teacher was Suzanna. She was really nice. I still meet her (and her family as well), but I finished my lessons a long time ago.

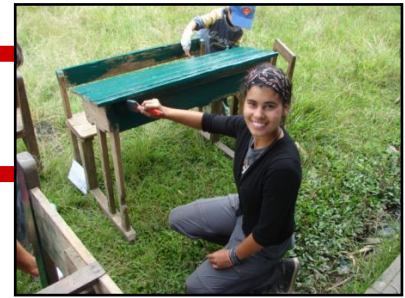
After spending the first month in Urubamba I went to Huyro for 5 weeks: Die hard-project!! In the morning we worked really hard. You go up the mountain with a machete to clear the ruins or to find new Inca ruins. Every time we had a match who can cut down the biggest tree. Mostly on Wednesday we did community work. Painting or play some football with the locals. Every Friday in the afternoon you had the time off to go to Cusco, Machu Picchu or whatever you want to do in the weekend. The people from the Inca project are one big family. In the Inca project you don't live with host families. You live in the Establo all together!! No electricity or hot water. It was fun too. After this project I can speak one word of Quechua: (Sven, especially for you) kalakunka!!!!

Now I'm back in Urubamba for the care project. Luckily I stay with the same family as before so I know my way around and what the family expects of me. I work in Media Luna with small children from 3, 4 and 5 years old. It is lots of fun, but at the end of the day you are tired I have to admit. In the school you hear the word "gringo" a lot from the children. In Holland I have a degree for teaching secondary school. Working with small children is different I have to say, but I like it.

Next week Copacabana is waiting for me because of my visa. I still have two more months to go and I'm looking forward to it! The time flies down here. I've done so many things already and I still want to do so many things. That is Peru in my opinion!!! Enjoy your time here because before you know it you will wake up in your own bed on the other side of the world!!!!

I hope that everybody has a nice time in Peru because I know that I will have an amazing time!!

**Ysanne Choksey - Inca
Huyro**



The Mountain

The Incas had their Apus (the Quechua name for the mountain gods) as we in the Inca Project have Cochapata – our mountain. During a volunteer's stay, this green patch of the Andean landscape that surrounds our humble Establo becomes more like a place of homage; a friend. I would like to take you on a journey up the mountain, a thrilling adventure, though perhaps not up to the standard of the emotional rollercoaster that any Inca volunteer experiences whilst "doing corn"!

Picture the day – the sun is shining, the birds are twittering; it is morning in Establo. Hark the sweet sounds of the Irish supervisor are heard in the form of the guitar or laughter at a crude joke that has been cracked (perhaps weeks ago!). Breakfast is eaten: sullen faces consume mountains of porridge. Then preparations begin for the day ahead, including countless reminders to bring the ever important CUTLERY. This reminder, however, sometimes overshadows the need for food, as one volunteer found last month – bearing a fork but no food at Cochapata summit!

Then comes the mountain itself – the first 15 minutes of the climb feeling like the longest. Mentally 1,000 meters has been achieved when the actual figure looks horribly more like 200m. A chorus of heaving and panting, heard for miles around will I think back me up on this.



Activities once at this point can range from 3 hour hikes to the infamous "Inca Carsel" – a name that strikes fear into the hearts of even the most hardened Inca volunteers – to clearing the established ruins a little closer by. Exploration can be, for many, the most exciting and rewarding experience up the mountain; as some (like myself) are lucky enough to find a ruin (like myself). Some volunteers (like myself) are even fortunate enough to stumble across hidden tombs in the forestation; invisible to the

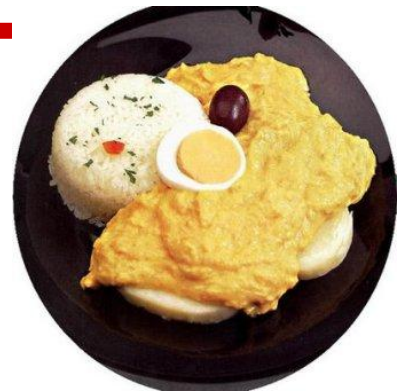
naked eye but plain and clear for a talented and budding archeologist (like myself). Exhausted from the days excursions, the group heads back to the comfort of Huyro, where fridges are stocked and turned on in honour of their arrival. A long evening of drinking and laughing about the days adventures usually follows until all scurry back to bed at the extremely late hours of 7.30 to 8pm, in preparation for the next day.

My three months at the Inca Project is nearly up but I have easily had some of the most rewarding and challenging experiences of my life. My advice to anyone thinking of joining the project – make sure you are "double hard"!

Cocina Peruana: Cooking with the staff

This month's choice is from Projects Abroad accountant, Luzmila...

Aji de Gallina



A little bit of history...

Ingredients:

- 1 chicken breast
- ½ cup of evaporated milk
- 4 pieces of bread (crumbled)
- 1 ½ cups of chicken stock
- ½ cup cheese
- 100g of walnuts
- 1 medium onion (chopped)
- 2 sticks of celery
- 2 tablespoons of oil
- 2 spoons of ground yellow chili pepper
- 1 garlic
- salt, pepper & oregano

To decorate:

- boiled eggs
- olive
- parsley
- 3 medium sized boiled potatoes

Preparation:

- Boil the chicken, celery, garlic (whole), and salt in a cup and a half of water.
- Take out the chicken and shred it. Soak the bread in the milk and chicken stock.
- In a saucepan add the oil, garlic, onion, aji, salt, pepper and oregano.
- Add the bread to the saucepan, followed by the shredded chicken pieces stirring smoothly. Add the left over chicken stock, cheese, grated walnuts and cook for three minutes or until the dressing has consistency.
- Serve the *Aji de Gallina* with boiled potatoes cut in spheres, decorated with half a boiled egg and an olive.