

# MUSUQ CHASKI - El Mensajero Nuevo



ProjectsAbroad



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### Celebrating Peruvian Independence

Peruvians celebrate their Fiestas Patrias or Independence Day on the 28th July, the date when Independence was declared in 1821, though was not really considered consolidated until three years later.



Peru's movement toward independence was launched by an uprising of Spanish landowners and their forces, led by José San Martín of Argentina and Simón Bolívar of Venezuela. San Martín, who had been involved in the overturning of the royalists in Chile, proclaimed the independence of Peru in Lima on July 28, 1821:

*"... From this moment on, Peru is free and independent, by the general will of the people and the justice of its cause that God defends. Long live the homeland! Long live freedom! Long live our independence!"*

Still, the situation remained changing and emancipation was only completed by December 1824, when General Antonio José de Sucre defeated Spanish troops at the Battle of Ayacucho. Spain made futile attempts to regain its former colonies, such as at the Battle of Callao, and only in 1879 finally recognized Peruvian independence.

As with many countries, after gaining independence the adaption from colonialism to independence was difficult. After the war of independence the conflict of interests that faced different sectors of the Creole society and the particular ambitions of the caudillos, made the organization of the country excessively difficult. Only three civilians: Manuel Pardo, Nicolás de Pierola and Francisco García Calderón managed to accede to the presidency in the first seventy-five years of independence.

Today, independence is celebrated throughout Peru on both the 28th and 29th of July. The 28th is in commemoration of the Independence of Peru and of San Martín, while the 29th is in honour of the armed forces and the Peruvian National Police. Next to Christmas, Fiestas Patrias are the principal celebration of the year. The morning of the 28th is welcomed by the sound of 21 canonfires in the Plaza de Armas in Lima, with similar ceremonies in other Department Capitals. This precedes the ceremony of

the raising of the Peruvian flag. Throughout the month of July you will see the flag flying proudly outside of houses, schools, private and public institutions, restaurants and many other buildings.



The President also has important obligations on these days. As head of state, he should present a report of the country's expenditures during the past year. That morning representatives of the congress of Peru go to the Palacio del Gobierno to invite the President to give his traditional "Mensaje a la Nacion". Once invited, the President makes his way to the seat of Congress, usually accompanied by his supporters. The Message to the nation is a tradition from San Martín. Once he has delivered his message, he returns to the Casa de Pizarro for more official ceremonies. If a new President has been elected, the 28th July is the day which they take power.

On the morning of the 29th the Archbishop of Lima celebrates the Te Deum mass, which is attended by important officials, such as the President. However perhaps the most important event of the day is the Gran Parada Militar del Perú with the participation of the Peruvian Armed Forces and the National Police. During this ceremony, representatives of the three branches of the Armed Forces and the National Police parade alongside other invited groups, such as local governmental officials. Each are accompanied by their own marching band.



In many schools these holidays coincide with a 2 week school holiday, so some volunteers will find that there are no lessons during this time in their placement school. Parading of the police, schools and many other institutions occurs in plazas throughout the country. To begin these celebrations a spectacular musical show occurs on the evening of the 27th in the Plaza de Armas in Cusco.

## Project Updates:

### What's New?

The **Teaching** programme continues to support Cusco's Tourism Police project in coordination with COPESCO. The launch of the newly expanded Library project took place at the beginning of June in our main partner schools, allowing students the choice of reading a wider variety of reading materials. This library is part of a national initiative to improve and promote reading among young people. The majority of books that we currently have are in Spanish and we are looking to extend the range of English books that we have. So if you wish to donate to this project please bring a very simple English children's book to add to our growing collection. We would be very grateful if you wish to help us expand our small library.

In **Care** this month we have also seen the further expansion of our collection of educational story books which are a part of the rotating library in our six partner kindergartens. Care & Medicine volunteers also had the chance to help out in this year's CIRPLAST campaign, for more see below.

The **Inca Project** saw the celebration of two volunteers' birthdays last month: a late happy birthday to both Lily and Susanna, as well as a farewell to Jacob. A party took place in Establo with locals from Huyro invited. The cleaning and mapping of the Cochapata ruins with Jhon has continued this month as well as the clearing of the Inca trail in Sicre. Volunteers were invited on a tour of the Te Huyro factory and attended the Huamanmarca Raymi on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>. The reforestation project has continued and the planting of more trees in the Establo grounds has taken place. Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June was Huyro's 151st anniversary and volunteers and staff took part in the parade and also cooked and sold food to help raise money for the community. Supervisors Dan and Jhon were invited to take part in a football competition in Huyro with the local teachers, and football matches continue on Wednesday afternoons with the locals in Huyro and on Tuesdays in Amaybamba. Finally, archaeology lessons have been continuing with Archeologist, Jhon.

The **Medicine** Programme has seen an influx of volunteers over the past two months and this continues into the month of July. As a result we would like to welcome two new families who have recently welcomed medicine volunteers into their homes: the Mosqueira and Miranda families.

## Introducing...

### ...New Volunteers

**In July we shall be welcoming 28 new volunteers in the Sacred Valley, Cusco and Huyro...**

Joining the Inca project are nine new volunteers, including **Elisa-Maria Suhm**, **Marie-Noëlle Gudin**, **Braeden Cowborough**, **Jordan Gouriellec**, **Owain Donnelly** and **Cecilia Deacon**. Also joining us from Puerto Maldonado is Canadian volunteer, **Chantal Vallis**. Coming as part of the 2 week Inca Special programme are **Jennifer Awford**, **Deborah Marx** and **Maya Barfield-Marks**.

The teaching programme will be welcoming **Timothy Powers** who will be teaching in IEMX Ollantay in Ollantaytambo. **Rachel Crerar** will be helping out Prof. Cesar in IEMx Bernardo Tambohuacso. Also coming to Písaq will be **Sheng-Cho Chang** who shall be teaching in Coya. Finally, coming from France is **Jean-Noel Thomas** who will be working in Chinchero.

The Care programme will be welcoming seven new volunteers including, **Kathryn Turton** who will be working in Señor de la Vara in Calca, which she will be combining with her Spanish project. Joining us all the way from Australia are friends **Nick Lopez** and **Lauren Mann** who shall be working in IEI Lamay. **Jessica Gagne** shall be working in IEI Písaq for 2 months, while **Leslie Huey** from the USA shall be carrying out her 3 month placement in IEI Media Luna. Arriving from the Conservation project we have **Fleur Shakespear** who shall be working in Calca's 241 kindergarten. Finally, **Jessica Dart** shall be joining us from the UK to help out in Piste kindergarten.

Joining the Medicine programme will be friends **Stephen Speicher & Vanessa Stubbs** from the USA who will be working in Santa Rosa. **Martha Ha** will be joining us for a month working in Belempampa. Also joining the programme is **Maria Diebold** who shall be working in San Sebastian and **Elisabeth Dias** who shall also be working in Belempampa.

We have two new sports volunteers this month. **Erika Høglund** shall be helping out the Apu Pitusiray football lessons with Profe Jaime, while **Anna-Sophie Hippke** shall be helping with the volleyball training.

## Volunteer News & Events:

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### The June Inti Raymi Social

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On June 24<sup>th</sup> Projects Abroad staff and volunteers met up in Cusco to take part in the celebrations of the Incan festival of the Sun, Inti Raymi. We met in Cusco Plaza de Armas at both 7am and 9am in order to get good spaces to see the reenactments in Sacsayhuaman. Other volunteers decided to follow the procession from Coricancha. Coricancha was once an important Sun Temple for the Incas before the Spanish came and looted and destroyed it, placing a Convent upon the Incan foundations. Following the show at Coricancha the procession went onto the Plaza de Armas and on up to the Sacsayhuaman ruins, where we saw the reenactment of the ceremony where the high priest cuts out the heart of a llama in order to predict the future of the year for the Incan Empire.



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### Cusco Tourism Police Update

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As of Monday 12th May, some of our teaching volunteers embarked on a new and slightly different extra-curricular project. Two evenings a week they have been working alongside the Cusco police department and in coordination with COPESCO (a governmental agency promoting the development of tourism) to provide English classes to the department of Tourism Police in Cusco. We currently have two volunteers helping out with our two classes: Caitlin McGee and Caleb McCall.



#### **Caleb McCall tells us more about what is going on this extra-curricular project...**

*Although preparing and teaching four, two-hour English lessons to a group of Tourism Police officers in Cusco made my one-month teaching placement in Peru very hectic, it was an opportunity for which I could not be more thankful. The classes were organized by COPESCO, in conjunction with Projects Abroad, in an effort to further develop tourism in Cusco. While the classes were mandatory, the perseverance of my approximately ten students – many of whom came to our evening classes immediately after work – quickly made a lasting impression on me. During our time together we covered a variety of topics, ranging from those that even I was initially confused about despite being a native speaker to those that I was also teaching to students in a secondary school in Ollantaytambo. Even when the lesson topics were the same as those I also taught in the secondary school, the fact that the officers are frequently in contact with*

*English speakers from around the world as part of their jobs and thus exposed to variety of accents, pronunciations, novel expressions and phrases required that the lessons be tailored specifically for them. Working to overcome this and many other challenges was educational not only for the officers, but for me as well, and the experience has definitely become a beautiful facet of my placement in Peru.*

The tourism police programme is currently on a holiday period but will be starting up again in the beginning of August. We shall be looking for volunteers who would like to participate in this extra-curricular project closer to the time.



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### **CIRPLAST Campaign 2008**

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Projects Abroad volunteers helped out with the annual CIRPLAST campaign which carries out harelip and cleft palate surgeries for poor children in the region. On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June volunteers helped out with the Pre-operation preparations, cleaning the house where the children were staying during the operations. On the 19<sup>th</sup> some of our Cusco Medicine volunteers had the opportunity

to enter the operation room. Our care volunteers helped look after and play with the children both prior to and after their operations. Volunteers Caitlin McGee, Pete Morrow and Hannah Burd spent the night in the house with the children.



Thank you to everyone who helped in this worthwhile campaign. This is the fourth year running that Projects Abroad has helped out in this campaign.



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### **Inca visit to local Cusco ruins**

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The Inca volunteers and staff spent a few days in Cusco in time for the Inti Raymi social and took advantage to take a trip on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June to the ruins in Limatambo, Quillarumiyoc and Zurite. They were led by Tim and joined by Cliona. After taking a combi from Cusco to Limatambo the volunteers visited the ruins of Tarawasi, a resting place for travelling Incas. From Tarawasi they traveled onto the ruins of Quillarumiyoc, which means moonstone. Here there is an image of the moon carved into the rock hence its name. After stopping off for lunch, they went onto Zurite, where the Inca project was previously based. Here, volunteers climbed terraces which are in the form of a humming bird and were able to have a good view of the extensive *pampa* below.

## Volunteer Stories

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**Caitlin McGee - Teaching & Care**  
***IEMx Maras, IEMx Pongobamba & IEI Media Luna***

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After one year of saving, four days of travelling and many months of anticipation, I finally arrived in Urubamba. And could do the only thing that felt natural...I began to cry.

Despite the warm welcome from my host family, a tasty Peruvian meal and being introduced to my room, the tears didn't stop and my rudimentary Spanish and my host family's non-existent English, left no room for adequate explanation as a feeling I had never felt before took over - culture shock.

Luckily, it wasn't a feeling that lasted long. After a sluggish two weeks settling in, I found some buddies, found some pancakes and life was back on the up. My first hurdle teaching in the far away schools of Pongobamba and Maras proved to be the biggest challenge.

The kids were energetic, wild and fun, the scenery gorgeous and pristine. But the commute... a nightmare.

My day started at 6.30 at the Urubamba bus station, and so began my hour plus journey in the bus to a turn-off near Chinchero. Depending on the time of day and my luck there could be some colectivos to take me to school. But pigs would fly before I could find one to take me from Pongobamba college back to the main road. I enjoyed the 40 minute walk along the country roads back to the main road. Except for the downside of some angry dogs who would chase me for a good 20 metres before giving up.

After one month of the commute to Pongobamba and Maras, and teaching the tourism police. I began the care project at the delightful kindergarten near Ollantaytambo.

Media Luna is a little persons haven nestled in the sacred valley. A strict, super efficient teacher and a classroom of happy children have been the right ingredients for a happy placement.

Colouring, cutting, gluing and singing nursery rhymes is a far cry from my life as a journalist and I can't believe that nine weeks have past, where I have been living and breathing Peruvian life. It is hard to believe I only have another two weeks before I say farewell to the mountains that have been my home... and head for the jungle.

## Cocina Peruana: Cooking with the staff

This month's choice is a favourite of Teaching Supervisor, Percy Serrano...

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### Anticuchos

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Four portions



#### A little bit of history...

*Anticuchos* (Quechua for Cut Stew Meat) are popular, inexpensive dishes in Andean countries which consist of small pieces of grilled skewered meat. *Anticuchos* can be found sold on street carts and food stalls throughout Peru. While they can be made of any type of meat, the most popular type are of cow heart (*anticuchos de corazon*), and they often come with a boiled potato on the end of the skewer. *Anticucho* was a popular dish amongst the Incas and continues to be a popular dish through most of modern South America. It's greatest popularity however is here in Peru.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 kg cow heart
- 2 tablespoons of red dried chilli powder
- ½ cup of vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons of crushed garlic
- ½ cup of vinegar
- salt, pepper & cumin
- ½ teaspoon of achiote seeds
- 1 teaspoon of dried yellow chilli powder
- ¼ cup of dark beer
- wooden skewers
- portion of boiled potatoes

#### Preparation:

- Chop the heart meat into small pieces. In a bowl mix half of the oil with dried yellow chilli pepper powder, 1 teaspoon of crushed garlic, vinegar, salt, pepper and cumin. Leave the meat in this marinade overnight.
- Place three pieces of meat onto each wooden skewer.
- Fry the achiote seeds in a frying pan with the rest of the oil for a few seconds and then drain. Using the same oil fry the dried chilli powders and the rest of the garlic. Remove from the heat and add the beer and the marinade mix prepared earlier.
- Barbeque the *anticuchos* using the marinade to add flavour.
- Serve with a portion of boiled potatoes and aji.

### What's happening in July?

Festival	Description	Place	Date
Virgen del Carmen	The festival of "Mamacha Carmen" is in honour of the patron saint of the mestizos. The effigy of the virgin is carried in a procession to bless those who participate, singing in quechua to expel any demons. The participants are dressed in traditional colonial dress. At the end of the procession a war is waged against the demons, where the believers emerge triumphant.	Paucartambo	16 <sup>th</sup> July
Festival del Café	Jubilee week of the province of La Convención	Province of La Convención	20 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup> July
Fiestas Patrias	Commemoration of the Independence of Peru. Parades and ceremonies take place.	All Peru	28 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> July

## Announcements

- Just another reminder to make sure that volunteers are aware that the police are making more identification checks here in Cusco. Please be aware that you need to **always** carry your passport or a legalised photocopy of your passport (which has been signed by a notary) with you, especially if you are traveling within Peru, whether that be to your placement, Cusco or a long weekend in Puno. You may be asked by a police officer for proof of identification and you should be able to present this to them. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask in the office.
- Thank you to everyone who has helped bring about this months issue of *Musug Chaski*. If you would like to contribute your experiences, stories, photos or anything else to the next edition then please send them to:  
[hannahpartis@projects-abroad.org](mailto:hannahpartis@projects-abroad.org)