

Branch Overview on Sustainable Tourism in Peru.

sippo.ch



Welcome.

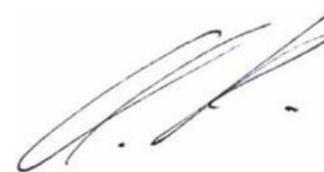
The Andes, which originate in Patagonia and extend over seven thousand kilometers in South America, have shaped a variety of landscapes, peoples and cultures.

Amidst the Andes, Peru is the repository of immeasurable wealth, both tangible and intangible. Icons and “Unique Selling Positions” are Machu Picchu and the mystical city of Cusco, the birthplace of the Inca Empire. But the country offers a lot more to visitors. Our vision is to expand tourism destinations in Peru beyond Machu Picchu to give greater value to the country’s rich cultural heritage, its abundant biodiversity and world-class gastronomy.

The State Secretary for Economic Affairs SECO has been supporting sustainable tourism in Peru since 2003, together with two strategic Swiss partners. In cooperation with Swisscontact, SECO promotes the concept of Destination Management Organisations (DMOs), which represents a dynamic platform where public and private actors jointly position their regional tourist destinations in the international market. This project has led to the establishment of six DMOs in Southern Peru as well as one covering the north of the country.

SECO is also financing the Swiss Import Promotion Programme SIPPO which assists leading SMEs with a clear focus on quality and sustainability in their efforts to market their touristic offers internationally. The Branch Overview on Sustainable Tourism in Peru is a useful milestone in these efforts, providing Swiss tourism business partners and consumers with suitable products in Peru.

I wish all readers of the Branch Overview a successful reading and can promise them that SECO will continue to work towards the growth of tourism in Peru for the benefit of both the Peruvian and the Swiss tourism sectors.



Christian Robin
Head of Economic Development Cooperation in Peru
State Secretary for Economic Affairs SECO

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About SIPPO.

SIPPO, the Swiss Import Promotion Programme, is a mandate of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, SECO, within the framework of its economic development cooperation. It is carried out by Osec, the official Swiss foreign trade promotion agency.

The programme helps SMEs in developing and transition countries to gain access to the Swiss and European markets by providing information, training courses and other matchmaking services. SIPPO also assists importers from Switzerland and the European Union with finding suitable partners and high-quality products from selected developing and transition countries.

The programme has five main goals:

- To inform the Swiss and European import economy about new market sources
- To strengthen trade institutions and business sector associations in the trade promotion process
- To increase the competitiveness of SMEs in selected partner countries
- To develop the manufacturing and exporting skills of SMEs in selected partner countries
- To establish qualified trade contacts between SMEs from emerging markets and markets in transition and the Swiss and European import economy

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About Swisscontact.

Swisscontact, the organization of the Swiss private sector for development cooperation, is a non-governmental, politically and denominationally neutral organization founded in 1959 by members of the Swiss private business and university sectors.

Swisscontact seeks to contribute to a better quality of life for people, and the reduction of poverty. To this end, our principles of involvement are: strengthening private businesses, generating support networks with local partners, encouraging opportunities for men and women, and advocating for the protection of the environment.

Applying the principle of “helping others to help themselves”, Swisscontact advocates sustainable development throughout the entire scope of the organization: management of small and mid-sized businesses, financial services, environment, and professional training.

Due to the fact that tourism has been growing in Peru during the last 10 years and that it is a highly decentralized and labor-intensive activity which generates many business opportunities, Swisscontact has increased the specialization of its interventions to promote sustainable tourism. One approach has been the development of a model to promote Destination Management Organizations (DMO), as public-private institutions that foster the development of tourist destinations in an inclusive and sustainable way with a clear market orientation. Another Swisscontact approach is to develop products to diversify tourist destinations and foster community-based tourism.

Swisscontact's support has led to the creation of seven DMOs, six of them in southern Peru, namely in Arequipa, Apurimac, Cusco, Puno, Moquegua and Tacna, and a macro-DMO in the northern Amazon region.

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About PromPeru.

Modern day tourists, in addition to wanting to learn more about their expected destinations and requiring quality services and infrastructure, also look for travel experiences that will challenge their senses, enrich their lives and foster personal growth.

Promperu's mandate includes preserving the identity of the nation and our surrounding environment. It therefore seeks to attract travellers who are rationally and emotionally involved with their travel destinations, thus also helping us improve the quality of living of our communities while they gain a deep understanding of our culture in a spirit of sharing.

Promperu seeks to enhance the incomparable wealth of our nation, a country that is a melting pot of ancestral civilizations, a celebration of life, a paradise of lush nature, magical Andean mountains and other attractions that travellers appreciate, while simultaneously preserving such unique heritage and its intimate intertwining with present day living culture. Peru is a country whose millenary civilizations have given the world the splendid heritage of Caral, the Royal Tombs of Sipan, South America's most sumptuous burial, the Lines of Nazca, the Kuelap Fortress and the Sanctuary of Machu Picchu, one of the seven wonders of the modern world. With 84 of the world's 117 life zones, Peru is one of the most biologically diverse countries on earth. Visitors can travel from one of the driest deserts in the world across the Andes to the lush Amazon rainforest.

A nation full of flavours whose cuisine already ranks among the world's most prestigious. A nation blessed with a vast range of sounds, flavours and colours.

Peru, a unique and diverse nation, opens itself to the world to welcome tourists seeking unforgettable life experiences.

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About APTAE.

The Peruvian Adventure Travel and Ecotourism Association (APTAE) is a non-profit organization created in 1983 to strengthen adventure travel and ecotourism in Peru, and comment industry regulations and promotional efforts.

Its main objective is to promote responsible and sustainable adventure travel and ecotourism. Its associates have signed and are committed to abide by a code of ethics that advocates the protection of natural, social, and cultural resources. Good service and safety are also very important organizational tenets. The Association seeks to ensure its members' highest standards through educational and certification programs, including “Safe Adventure”.

Although APTAE does not represent all the companies in the adventure travel and ecotourism industries in Peru, its associates and clients are leaders in these fields. APTAE is proud to bring together industry pioneers who project their clear understanding of quality service and social and environmental responsibility through their daily activities and innovative programs.

APATE promotes specialized travel and sustainable tourism, offers market information, coordinates with entities in the public and private sectors as well as the general public, and has a team of consultants who offer technical and financial support to initiatives that are aligned with our objectives.

APTAE works alongside the government to set and improve regulations that will ensure safety and quality, and to set the criteria for research into the industry's economic impacts, safety, infrastructure, market requirements, route coordination and improvements in products and services.

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Loreto.

Loreto is the largest yet least populated department in Peru. It is covered by dense vegetation and by primary and secondary jungle with low hills and slightly rolling landscape, crisscrossed by the many rivers of the Amazon River basin. Linked to the outside world by air and by river, the capital city Iquitos is the world's largest city that cannot be reached by road. It has a unique personality: friendly, noisy, sassy and slightly manic. Travelers come here for an excursion into the rainforest or to cruise down the Amazon Rivera, but they often stay a few days to relish this remote jungle capital.



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Paseos Amazonicos Jungle Lodges.



Introduction

Paseos Amazónicos Jungle Lodges, one of Peru's leading jungle tour operators, has over 35 years of experience in ecotourism.

Site & Surrounding

Their three jungle lodges are located on the banks of Amazon river tributaries:

- Amazonas Sinchicuy (Sinchicuy Creek): 30 km from Iquitos; near an ancient tribal Yagua group settlement.
- Tambo Yanayacu (Lake Falcon): 60 km from Iquitos; flood jungle area.
- Tambo Amazónico (Yarapa River): 100 km from Iquitos; in the buffer zone of the Pacaya Samiria Reserve.

Sustainability Aspects

Paseos Amazónicos is committed to limiting the negative impact in the natural environment, supporting conservation and providing benefits for local communities:

- Lighting by kerosene lamps. Electricity is generated to refrigerate food and recharge batteries.
- Solid waste and waste water disposal procedures are in place.
- Most staff is recruited from neighboring communities.
- Food and other goods are purchased from local suppliers.
- Local communities receive assistance for their projects (e.g. potable water, medicine donations).
- The local population, staff and guests are trained in sustainability practices.

Accommodation

The Amazonas Sinchicuy can accommodate 60 guests. Natural materials were used in building the local-style, thatched roof facility. The Tambo Yanayacu has been designed to accommodate 20 guests. The Tambo Amazónico stands out for its setting in the midst of pristine natural surroundings. It's simple shared rooms can accommodate 16 guests. All three lodges have spacious dining areas.

Excursions & Activities

- Visits to riverside and tribal group communities, jungle trail hikes and canoe rides for wildlife spotting
- Piranha fishing, birding, pink dolphin, caiman spotting
- Shamanic rituals, medicinal plant reconnaissance
- Reforestation and wildlife preservation projects
- Deep forest expeditions with overnight camping



Loreto.

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Amazon River Expeditions.

Introduction

Amazon River Expeditions is the Amazon jungle's tour operator with the widest and most varied quality tourism programs for individual and organized groups who are looking for an authentic tourism experience. The company offers hotels in Iquitos, programs in Heliconia Lodge as well as tours on tourist class and luxury Amazon cruises.

Site & Surrounding

Iquitos city is the gateway to the incomparable and unique Amazon river rainforest, a paradise of biodiversity offering visitors exciting opportunities to enjoy beautiful and rare wildlife.

Sustainability Aspects

Amazon River Expeditions' operations adhere to strict sustainable tourism guidelines to minimize their impact on jungle forests, rivers and creeks. Their company operates in close cooperation with riverside communities, and contributes to reforestation and conservation efforts, including rescuing manatee and other endangered species.

Accommodation

- Heliconia Amazon River Lodge (the company's ecolodge) is located on the shores of the Amazon river at 80 km from the city of Iquitos. The lodge is surrounded by a population of fine exotic heliconia, bromeliae, orchids and other native species, and is located close to river islands, streams and oxbow lagoons teeming with wildlife. The facilities offer visitors a wonderful place to rest after a day full of exciting activities.
- Victoria Regia Hotel and Acosta Hotel are located in Iquitos city.
- Amazon River Cruises are organized aboard the M/F Arapaima, Flotel Jungle Discovery, M/F AQUA, M/F ARIA, M/F DELFIN I and II, and others. Cruise programs last from 4 to 8 days.

Excursions & Activities

Amazon River Expeditions offers programs from 3 days and 2 nights and longer, featuring activities such as birding, pink dolphin and alligator watching, and forest walks to watch monkeys, sloths, birds and insects in their natural environment. Other activities include sport fishing and esoteric sessions, and cruises down the Amazon river to the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, Peru's second largest protected natural reserve, as well as trips to the Colombian and Brazilian border areas.



Loreto.

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UPC Yarina.



Loreto.

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Introduction

UPC Yarina – Corredor Rumbo al Dorado was born from Rumbo al Dorado, a community ecotourism venture created upon a conservation project in the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve. The key aspect of this initiative was ensuring the involvement of local communities in protection and control activities inside the reserve, which enabled the recuperation of populations of the most endangered fauna and flora species and transformed the area into a potential ecotourism site.

Site & Surrounding

Pacaya Samiria is a wetland located in the north-eastern Amazon region. It is a Ramsar site of international importance, Peru's second biggest natural protected area. It shows the most severe history of natural resources' exploitation, which to date has been significantly addressed thanks to the organization of local people and the increased efforts of national and international institutions.

Sustainability Aspects

Local populations carry out their traditional economic activities like palm harvesting or fishing, while providing tourism services as an additional source of income. This has been complemented with the production and selling of handicrafts made of ivory palm and native plants.

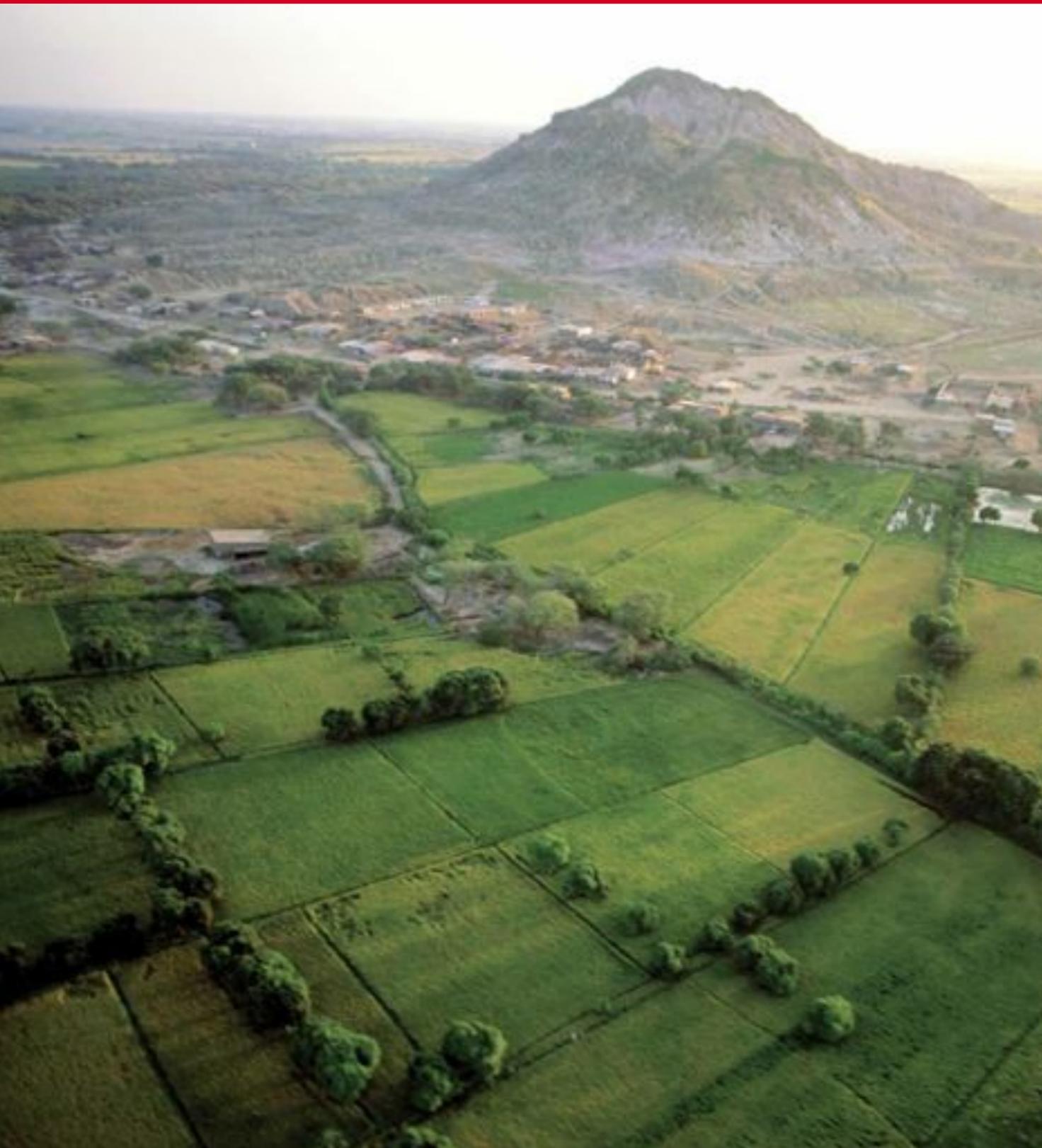
Accommodation

There is a community guesthouse (8 guests) and two bungalows (4 guests each) with surrounding camping areas, located a few minutes' walk from the community of Yarina. Solar power is used in the kitchen, dining facilities, toilets and showers.

Excursions & Activities

- Boat expedition along the Yanayacu - Pucate River;
- Fishing trips and observation of pink river dolphins
- Wildlife viewing, bird watching, guided tours to the primary forests
- Night walks or night canoe trips in search of caimans
- Visit and interaction with local communities
- Participation in community activities for the sustainable management of natural resources: management of river turtles, sustainable harvesting of palm trees, fishing





Lambayeque.

The department of Lambayeque is located on the coastal plain and combines arid zones, rich valleys, and dry forests. The capital city Chiclayo is bordered by fertile valleys and is very close to the ocean.

Besides the famous royal tombs of Sipán, you can visit the modern Royal Tombs of Sipán Museum that contains the most extraordinary gold pieces found in the excavations.

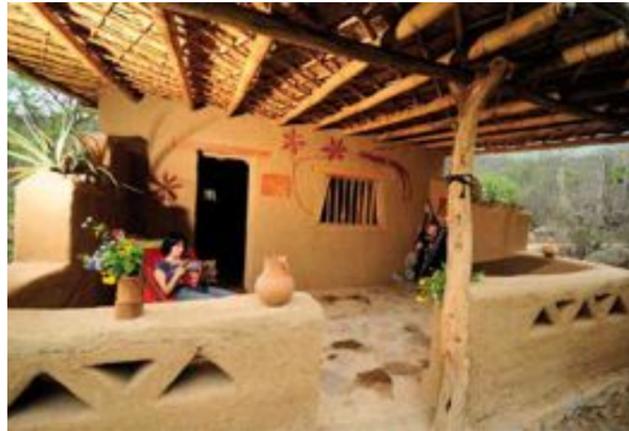
Túcume is another archeological site of unique beauty. There, you will see more than twenty adobe pyramids, all approximately forty meters high, which are nestled in an area full of wildlife and abundant vegetation.



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Chaparrí Lodge.



Introduction

Chaparrí Eco Lodge is located in the dry forests of north-western Peru. The eco lodge provides a peaceful refuge in the spectacular landscape of the Andean foothills, with excellent wildlife viewing opportunities, including emblematic Andean species such as the spectacled bear and the white-winged guan.

Site & Surrounding

The lodge is located near the principal archaeological sites and museums of Lambayeque, providing a good opportunity to combine a cultural and nature-based tourism experience.

Chaparrí Eco Lodge has been built in the Huerta Encantada within the Chaparrí Private Conservation Area, a 34,000 hectares community-owned (Muchik Community of Santa Catalina de Chongoyape) and private reserve within the local dry forest ecosystem. The surrounding dry forest is home to more than 200 species of birds and mammals.

Sustainability Aspects

Chaparrí Eco Lodge is socially and economically responsible by sourcing with staff and as many services as possible from the local community. A percentage of the profits are donated to the community for social projects and to support conservation work in the area.

The lodge strives to minimize environmental impacts: electrical power and hot water are generated from solar systems, and waste water is treated through a horizontal flow reed-bed treatment system and then used for irrigation.

Accommodation

The lodge features 12 suite-size double-bed cabins. All buildings are constructed in traditional styles using local materials (adobe mud brick and stone). An open air dining area provides visitors a splendid view of the surrounding natural environment.

Excursions & Activities

Chaparrí is a fantastic place to watch wildlife and birds, or just to relax. The lodge also organizes activities to suit the visitors' preferences. Some of the more popular activities are:

- Guided walks along the trails
- Visits to the Spectacled Bear Rescue Centre
- Visits to the mini zoo focused on reptiles and amphibians of the dry forests



Lambayeque.

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Horcones de Túcume Rural Lodge.

Introduction

Los Horcones de Túcume is a rural lodge, located on the Moche Route in the north coast of Peru, offering contact with culture and nature in a peaceful setting. The lodge is owned and managed by a renowned Peruvian architect, who led its construction. Its design has twice won Peru's National Prize of Architecture.

Site & Surrounding

The lodge is located 30 km from the city of Chiclayo. It is close to the emblematic archaeological site Pyramids of Túcume, and surrounded by fields of beans, rice and maize, and small forests of algarrobo (carob) trees.

Sustainability Aspects

The construction has been carefully monitored to minimize environmental impacts and ensure the conservation of native and emblematic species of the local dry forests like the traditional algarrobo. Construction elements like adobe mud-bricks have been used to create a balance between the artificial and natural environments. Water is heated using solar panels.

Accommodation

The lodge has 12 rooms (for a total 40-bed capacity) with terraces and hammocks, where visitors can relax with the superb scenic backdrop provided by the Pyramids of Túcume. It is surrounded by peaceful green areas for rest and recreation where native birds can be heard singing. A pool is also available for guests. In the cozy dining room decorated in a colorful rural style, the local staff assures visitors an exclusive meal service featuring succulent breakfasts, and suppers by the fireplace.

Excursions & Activities

- Museums and Pyramids of Túcume: To start the day, visitors may walk a few meters from the lodge to find within easy reach a world of history in the Pyramids of Túcume, a compound of 26 constructed pyramidal structures built with adobe bricks and algarrobo tree beams.
- Sessions of blossoming and shamanism: Visitors can join these healing sessions guided by experienced healers whose age-old knowledge has been transmitted and preserved from one generation to another of initiated wise men.
- Horseback riding: The lodge organizes horseback riding excursions conducted by local guides along a beautiful circuit to visit the surrounding dry forest's archaeological sites.



Lambayeque.

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Cajamarca.

The department of Cajamarca is characterized by slight slopes and highlands relatively low in comparison to the rest of the Peruvian Andes. The territory is made up of numerous valleys and gorges.

There are many excursion possibilities: the Inca Baths, the Ventanillas de Otuzco, a cemetery carved into a wall of volcanic rock, Cumbemayo, a demonstration of pre-Incan hydraulic engineering still functioning, the old hacienda La Colpa, where the cattle go to be milked at the sound of their name, Kuntur Wasi, a commercial center that dates to the year 1100 b.C. and its site museum with the many examples of the oldest objects of gold in the Americas.



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Hotel & Spa Laguna Seca.



Introduction

The Hotel & Spa Laguna Seca, located in the green Andean valley of Cajamarca, provides guests the comfort of the traditional hacienda atmosphere. The hotel facilities offer the opportunity to enjoy rejuvenating baths in the geo-thermal water that flows from its own springs.

Site & Surrounding

The hotel is placed in the green valley of Baños del Inca, only 15 minutes from Cajamarca airport served by direct flights to Lima. Major archaeological monuments are located along the Inca Trail of Cajamarca, such as Ventanillas de Otuzco and Cumbemayo. Additionally, visitors can appreciate the local art, music and clothes that have remained mostly unchanged over centuries.

Sustainability Aspects

The hotel supports local projects to conserve ecological resources. The surrounding small farms supply fresh and organic vegetables and meat.

Accommodation

Hotel & Spa Laguna Seca is an oasis where visitors find a comfortable, relaxing place to stay. The hotel offers the experience of bathing in hot water flowing directly from geo-thermal springs to each room's spacious thermal bathtub. The facilities also include outdoor swimming pools and Turkish steam baths.

- 41 rooms: suites, junior suites, single and double rooms with TV, radio, phone, Wi-Fi, mini-bar, private bathroom including a geo-thermal bathtub
- Restaurant, cafe, bar, room service
- Spa and therapeutic treatments
- Hot spring water swimming pools
- Park, gardens, children playgrounds and mini-zoo
- Phone and fax
- Tour agency

Excursions & Activities

Enjoy the Andean climate, eat healthy food, learn the secrets of the local cuisine or just enjoy the massages and treatments offered in the hotel's own spa. For all who like to walk and experience other countries' living culture, the various trekking tours introduce visitors first-hand to the ancient local lifestyles. Horseback and bicycle riding, shopping tours or visits to local craftsmen's workshops are other interesting available options that can be arranged on site.



Cajamarca.

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Cajamarca Travel.

Introduction

Cajamarca Travel, founded in 1996, is a member of the major local travel guilds including the Peruvian Association of Tour Operators (APOTUR), Peruvian Association of Travel and Tourism (APAVIT), Chamber of Commerce, and Tourism Chamber of Cajamarca (CARETUR), presently chaired by the agency's managing director.

Site & Surrounding

The company's operations started in Cajamarca, and today the agency still operates principally Peru's northern travel circuit including sites in the departments of Tumbes, Piura, Lambayeque, La Libertad, Amazonas, San Martín and Loreto. The company's head office is in Cajamarca, with branches in Lima and Chachapoyas (San Martín) from where they provide outstanding services to their customers.

Sustainability Aspects

Cajamarca Travel complies and even exceeds Peruvian regulations aimed at reducing their environmental impact. Whenever possible, they will purchase and use biodegradable, reusable, recycled or recyclable products to minimize waste from their operations. They are likewise committed to support rural communities within their field of operation through training, donation of medicines, and coordination of development projects, among others.

Their sustainable development plan includes services provided by rural communities that foster inclusive tourism. Recently Cajamarca Travel obtained the Certificate of Good Practices in Sustainable Tourism and Quality of Service.

Accommodation

In every location where they operate, Cajamarca Travel offers luxury and tourist class hotel accommodation meeting the most exacting standards.

Excursions & Activities

Cajamarca Travel operates in the northern Peru travel circuit that features sites of great natural diversity and wildlife rich areas where numerous endemic species of birds, orchids and others are observed. Further highlights are sites of archaeological evidence of more than 6,000 years of history, many of which have not been exposed to the media. To this purpose, they organize tours in fully equipped 4WD vehicles to make each route a pleasant and memorable experience.



Cajamarca.

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Introduction

Rutas del Perú organizes innovative tours to provide travelers an unforgettable experience during their visit to Peru. Their offerings include traditional, adventure, mystic, cultural, customized and ecological tours as well as bird watching and “Golden Years” travel arrangements for senior travelers. Rutas del Perú is a tour operator aware of environmental and social aspects.

Site & Surrounding

Rutas del Perú operates in all of Peru’s geographic coastal, Andes and jungle regions, with offices in Lima, Cusco, Arequipa, Cajamarca, Trujillo, and Chiclayo. They also arrange travel around South America. Their overland travel system links Lima with Quito in Ecuador, La Paz in Bolivia and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

Sustainability Aspects

Rutas del Perú sources goods and services from local communities to enhance and diversify local revenues. Purchases span a wide range of local foodstuffs and crafts, as well as services, including food preparation, hiring of local travel guides and mule-teers, and renting pack animals for adventure travel.

In coordination with the local authorities, they have launched a community-based reforestation initiative that will contribute to reduce their carbon footprint.

In 2010, Rutas del Perú started a project to protect totora reed. Ancient Peruvians used totora for thatching their houses and building fishing boats. Fishermen from northern Peru still use it to build their light boats (caballitos de totora), while the Uro people from Lake Titicaca use it to build the floating islets where they live.

Excursions & Activities

For those who crave something different, Rutas del Perú offers amazing overlanding tours away from the beaten path to sites rarely visited with conventional tourist packages. Activities such as camping, sand boarding, trekking, rafting, horseback riding, sports, games, always in small groups, are regularly featured in these travel arrangements, sports, games, always in small groups, are regularly featured in these travel arrangements.





Amazonas.

The department of Amazonas is famous for its cloud forests, areas with stunning microclimates and whose intense humidity favors the exuberant growth of plants like orchids and bromeliads and animals like the spectacled bear and the Andean cock of the rock.

Located at the top of rocky cliffs and guarded by a gigantic defensive wall, Kuélap contains in its interior circular compartments with decorative friezes. There are other places in the area you can visit like the Lake of the Condors, also known as Lake of the Mummies, the Chinata Falls, and the Karajía Sarcophagi, amazing two-meter high clay tombs placed on the side of a rocky mountain.



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Gocta Lodge.



Introduction

Gocta Lodge is a charming hotel in the northern Peruvian Andes. Together with Pumarinri Lodge and Kuelap Lodge, it is a member of the Peru Tres Nortes lodge chain.

Site & Surrounding

Gocta Lodge is located in the village of Cocachimba, 22 km from Pedro Ruiz (a major crossroad and bus terminal) and 42 km from the colonial capital city of Chachapoyas. It sits just in front of Gocta waterfalls, which at 771 meters are the world's 3rd highest waterfall. At an altitude of 1800 m.a.s.l., this wonderful site enjoys spring-like climate all year around.

Sustainability Aspects

Gocta Lodge has contributed to the local farmers' awareness to prevent forest logging and burning, and persuaded them that the environment is a resource for eco-tourism. While bringing visitors to the area, they have also assisted in organizing and training local tourist guides so they will get fair compensation for their services. Peru Tres Nortes also has launched reforestation and carbon capture initiatives in several locations of northern Peru.

Accommodation

Gocta Lodge is designed in a way that the visitors can enjoy the view of the Gocta falls from each of the lodge's spacious and comfortable eight rooms and two suites.

Excursions & Activities

Gocta Lodge is the perfect base camp to explore the Andes mountains of Chachapoyas. There are several hikes and routes to the waterfalls, along trails surrounded by orchids, bromeliads and ferns in an interesting gallery forest. Birdwatchers will also find this an interesting birding location. Kuelap fortress is the most popular visit in the Chachapoyas region. Kuelap can be reached in two hours by car from the lodge, through a lovely mountain road crossing traditional Andean villages.

Other fascinating destinations in the area, offering a combination of nature, scenic landscapes, archeology, history and living cultures, are Leymebamba town, the Mummies Museum, the Lake of Condors, the Karajia Sarcophaguses, Pomacochas Lake, La Jalca and Levanto traditional villages, Huaylla Belen valley and the Gran Vilaya ruins.



Amazonas.

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InkaNatura Travel.

Introduction

InkaNatura offers a once in a lifetime experience with a personal touch. They have spearheaded tourism into many rural areas, though respecting the traditional ways of life and archeological past of the people through whose territory they pass, and involving and working with them as suppliers of services.

Site & Surrounding

InkaNatura offers cultural and interactive activities in Cusco, northern Peru and the Amazon basin.

Sustainability Aspects

The tour operator has helped local communities to get involved in tourism, offering them an alternative source of sustainable incomes to help them preserve their traditions and remain in their local area, rather than migrating to the cities to search for opportunities. InkaNatura organizes homestays that provide an outstanding opportunity to experience Andean lifestyles. Guests spend time with local families, enjoy their food, participate in their daily activities and even take part in their ancestral ceremonies.

Accommodation

InkaNatura provides accommodation in five-, four- and three-star hotels, jungle lodges and two-person tents on all of their treks.

Excursions & Activities

InkaNatura is deeply committed to preserving the environment, and preventing any negative impacts to the places and communities where they operate. Their offering includes archeological tours, and trekking along the Inca Trail trek with visits to the rich Peruvian Amazon rainforest. They also offer rich experiences in cities like Lima, Arequipa, Cusco, Trujillo, Chiclayo and Chachapoyas. The interpretation of the historical sites and museums as well as the modern side of these cities provides visitors a panorama of the social history of the cities.



Amazonas.

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Carit as del Per .



Amazonas.

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Introduction

Carit as is an agency of the Catholic Church focused on promoting and encouraging programs and projects for the poor and facilitating human development. The Program for Responsible Tourism seeks to boost economic activities in local communities to enhance their sources of income.

Site & Surrounding

Carit as tourism projects are based in the jungle, coast and the Andes of Peru, in Amazonas, Lambayeque and in Puno.

Sustainability Aspects

Carit as projects contribute to sustainable tourism by:

- Identifying and strengthening leadership, through training and empowerment of local people.
- Developing in each area tourism and crafts associations and micro-enterprises that generate revenue and new jobs to the communities.
- Involving government and private institutions in the projects' activities to ensure the projects' continuity.

Excursions & Activities

Amazonas:

- Gocta waterfall: Visits to this impressive waterfall, the world's third highest, where visitors can appreciate diverse flora and fauna.
- Huancas: Community specialized in pottery, located 25 minutes from Chachapoyas.
- Maria: Textile workshops, archaeological sites, community-based tourism and homestays.

Lambayeque:

- Huaca Rajada / Sip n: Is where the tomb of Lord of Sip n was found. Carit as contributed to the construction of the Site Museum at Huaca Rajada. Visits include the archaeological site and museum. At the exit, visitors can buy crafts and taste the regional cuisine.

Puno:

- Capachica Peninsula (Titicaca Lake): Communities like Amantani, Ticonata, P ramis, Chifr n, Llach n offer community-based tourism and homestays. The communities provide food and guides, as well as organize a number of activities for visitors, including adventure and sports, boating, trekking, mystical tourism, etc.
- Lampa – Pucará: In Lampa visitors can appreciate intact colonial homes and temples, and in Pucará, a potters' town, they can visit many workshops and craft shops.



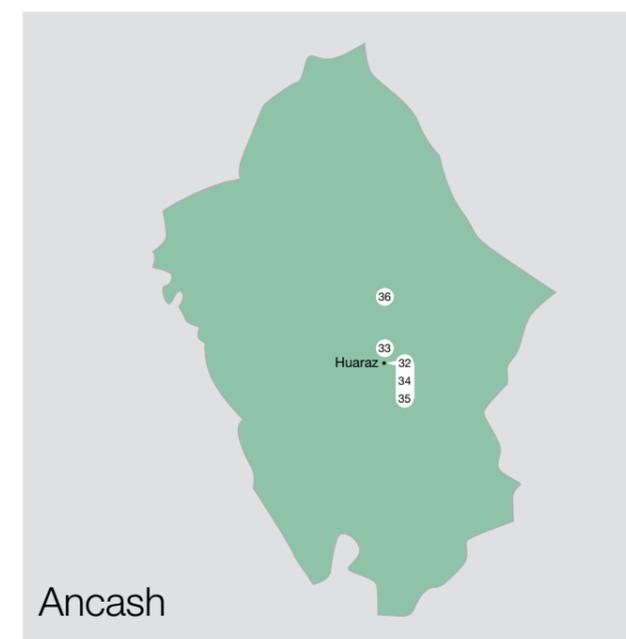


Ancash.

The department of Ancash starts on a slightly hilly coastal strip and climbs up to the highest snow-capped mountains in Peru, an area famous for adventure sports, hot springs and spectacular lakes.

Spread out along the Callejon de Huaylas, a dazzling valley stuck between two mountain ranges, the Blanca and Negra Cordilleras, you will find picturesque and pleasant cities like Recuay, Carhuas, Yungay, and Caras, while the urban and commercial center is the energetic city of Huaraz.

Throughout the entire department, you can see the most spectacular snow covered mountains, among them Mount Huascarán the tallest peak in Peru.



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Andino Club Hotel & Turismo Andino Tour Operator.



Ancash.

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Introduction

The Andino Club Hotel is an outstanding three-star hotel offering double rooms, suites and junior suites, the latter two boasting spectacular views of the Cordillera Blanca (White Mountain Range), the Callejón de Huaylas and the city of Huaraz.

Site & Surrounding

The hotel is located in Huaraz at an altitude of 3,100 m.a.s.l. Huaraz is located below the Cordillera Blanca, the world's highest and most accessible tropical mountain range.

Sustainability Aspects

The hotel places great emphasis on the quality of the materials and fittings used in building the facilities and the efficient use of energy and water. Gardens are watered with recycled water. All labor regulations are strictly adhered to, and personnel is treated with respect and paid official rates. The hotel supports regional social institutions and conducts annual employee and field staff trainings.

As a special contribution to sustainable tourism in the region, the hotel owners have established Turismo Andino tour operator, the hotel's agency for adventure and culture tourism and eco-tourism. This travel operator was the first agency in the region awarded ISO 9001-2008 certification. Their high standards for environmental protection and social responsibility set them apart from other tour operators in this region.

Accommodation

The Andino Club Hotel features 54 single and double rooms with views of interior and terrace gardens, and suites and junior suites with terraces providing superb scenic views of the Cordillera Blanca, including nine mountains higher than 6,000 meters. The regular rooms feature a fireplace and whirlpool, while the suites and junior suites also include a sauna. Decoration is principally pinewood. An elevator offers access to all floors. Typical local dishes, as well as international and Swiss cuisine are served in the Chalet Suisse Restaurant.

Excursions & Activities

Huaraz is the starting point for visiting most of the region's tourist attractions, including the Llanganuco lakes, the Chavín de Huántar archaeological site, the groves of the giant Puya Raimondi bromeliad, as well for the multitude of trekking and climbing routes in the Cordillera Blanca and Cordillera Huayhuash.

The Lazy Dog Inn.

Introduction

The Lazy Dog Inn is a sustainable lodge located in the Peruvian Andes at 3,650 m.a.s.l. This beautiful mountain lodge is uniquely situated in the Cordillera Blanca mountain range bordering on Huascarán National Park and just 30 minutes from the city of Huaraz, in northern Peru.

Site & Surrounding

The Cordillera Blanca is the world's largest tropical mountain range. More than 20 mountain peaks over 6,000 meters rise close to the inn.

Sustainability Aspects

The Lazy Dog Inn's adobe buildings were constructed with up to 90% of local materials. Up to 95% of all solid wastes are recycled. The inn uses a dry, urine-diverted composting toilet. Replanting of native trees continues on a yearly basis while a year-round greenhouse and outdoor gardens provide most vegetables for the year. Local community residents provided 100% of labor for all phases of construction and are presently engaged in running the inn's day-to-day operations. Local residents host traditional regular meals for guests and volunteer groups.

Accommodation

The cozy inn is comprised of a main lodge where guests gather in front of the large fireplace to share their meals. The lodge has three guestrooms in addition to two family-size cabins. Most rooms have their own fireplace and an outside sitting area. All meals are prepared on site. There is an on-site dry sauna as well as an outdoor fire pit. The inn has its own horses for guided trips into the mountains behind. In addition, the inn also has internet and Wi-Fi connection for guest use.

Excursions & Activities

World-class mountain climbing is very popular in addition to the numerous trails used for hiking to lakes, horseback riding, bird watching and mountain biking. The area hosts archeological ruins dating back to before the Incas.



Ancash.

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RESPONS.



Introduction

RESPONS is an inbound tour operator that works hand in hand with local communities and other reliable local partners throughout Peru to offer unique, authentic travel experiences. RESPONS calls this RESPONSible Travel: trips that enhance intercultural contacts, local development and environmental conservation, whilst ensuring the satisfaction of great travel through the spectacular country of Peru.

Site & Surrounding

RESPONS operates throughout Peru, making RESPONSible Travel more accessible to mainstream travelers. One can now travel RESPONSibly to Machu Picchu as well as to remote Amazon jungle or Andean communities.

Sustainability Aspects

RESPONS searches for maximum sustainability on four angles, namely environmental, cultural, social and economic. RESPONSible Travel goes much further than “leave no trace”; they actively contribute to the conservation of natural and cultural resources. They strive to take on social issues and ensure a distribution of tourism income at all levels. Donations to local development funds, and to social and environmental projects are standard practice. Currently they are working on a local CO₂ compensation scheme, testing biodigestors for CBT lodges and finishing their RESPONSibility criteria for tourism accommodations.

Accommodation

RESPONS strives to only use accommodations that enforce clear and innovative sustainability practices, and that aim for maximum sustainability at four angles.

Excursions & Activities

RESPONS is now mainstreaming its RESPONSible Travel philosophy. Under the umbrella of RESPONSible Travel Peru, several categories are presented, like:

- RESPONSible Highlights: where trips to Peru’s favorite destinations are organized within RESPONS’s philosophy
- RESPONSible Adventure: for adventurous travel experiences that give something back to the destination
- RESPONSible Nature Expeditions: the most rewarding way to visit Peru’s most extraordinary natural areas
- RESPONSible community tourism, gastronomic trips, study trips, and more.



Ancash.

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The Mountain Institute.

Introduction

The Mountain Institute (TMI) is an international scientific and educational nonprofit organization committed to exploring, promoting and sustaining mountain ecosystems and communities. TMI helps mountain villages, and through them, the general public, to understand and solve problems involving the interrelationship between livelihoods, culture and mountain environments. The vision that guides their actions is: “The mountains: sustenance of mankind.”

Site & Surrounding

The Mountain Institute’s Andean Program has been implementing projects of conservation and sustainable use of pastures and native forests as well as community-based tourism initiatives in mountain areas in the departments of Ancash, Huánuco, Lima and Piura in Peru.

Sustainability Aspects

The organization encourages the empowerment of tourism committees and other local organizations to recover mountain knowledge and ancient practices in each of the communities where they develop their projects.

Accommodation

The community-based tourism facilities for travelers are family stays, community places and outdoor camping sites.

Excursions & Activities

- Vicos and Humacchuco: Sharing with local people, staying in their cottages and walking the trails of these communities provide a unique living experience in these most symbolic communities in Ancash department, in the Peruvian central Andes.
- Inka Naani: This 5-day walk between Ancash and Huánuco departments, along one of the most beautiful and less known segments of the Great Inca Road, is an extraordinary way to feel the ancient Inca history. Arrangements include visits to the local community tourist committees and sharing the local people’s way of living.
- Las Huarinas Inca Road: A 5- or 8-day walking tour in Piura department, in northern Peru, this expedition is a matchless combination of esoteric, nature, history and community-based tourism. This initiative aims to conserve the páramo, or high plateau, one of the most important ecosystems for the regulation of water resources and preservation of the endemic genetic material in northern Peru.



Ancash.

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CBT Cuyaqui Wayi Vicos.



Introduction

The Cuyaqui Wayi CBT (community-based tourism) committee of Vicos has recently been commended by the jury of the Responsible Tourism Awards 2010 for its outstanding results in cultural conservation. The Lonely Planet travel guide likewise recommends its readers to visit Vicos. This indigenous community is regarded as a unique destination in Peru, offering visitors an authentic, intercultural travel experience.

Site & Surrounding

Vicos is situated on the flanks of the famous Cordillera Blanca or White Mountain Range, 45 minutes from Huaraz. Probably among the most authentic communities in the whole region, Vicos resembles an open-air museum due to the traditional lifestyles practiced by the local population. Snowcapped mountains rising 6,000 m.a.s.l describe a scenic view from the lodge.

Sustainability Aspects

The tourism project is owned and managed by the local committee, consisting of eight families. In the past years, the committee has improved education, environmental awareness and use of traditional language and clothing. They have reforested the foothills, reinvigorated local traditions, and provided guidance to their community leaders in development initiatives and improving food production and conservation. Community members have multiplied their sources of income as craftsmen, musicians, transporters or suppliers of food and services to travelers.

Accommodation

In Vicos, travelers stay in small bungalows with private bathrooms that host 4 to 5 guests. Amenities are basic: cold water, good beds, a fireplace for warmth. In 2011, Vicos will build a few bungalows to a higher standard of service, including illumination and hot water.

Excursions & Activities

Whilst staying in Vicos, visitors share the daily life of the Vicosinos, bake bread in their clay ovens, search for medicinal plants, visit farms and learn about local farming practices, visit the local ancient ruins, glacial lakes and viewpoints, learn to cook traditional dishes or to speak Quechua.

Ancash.

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Lima.

In the historic center of Lima you can visit splendid samples of Colonial architecture like the Cathedral, the Convent of Santo Domingo, and the Convent of San Francisco as well as fantastically wood carven balconies.

On the outskirts of Lima facing the ocean is Pachacamac, the most important pre-Incan sanctuary on the coast, built in the third century A.D. Some of the other great attractions are the beaches where you can do all types of aquatic sports, enjoy the sun, or simply gaze at the mesmerizing beauty of the Pacific Ocean.



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Kolibri Expeditions.



Introduction

Kolibri Expeditions runs responsible nature and bird-watching tours all over Peru. All their activities are characterized by a strong concern for the environment, the conservation of endangered species and the involvement of the local communities in their activities.

Site & Surrounding

Kolibri Expeditions is headquartered in Lima. However, the company arranges trips all over the country. The tour operator is proud of having pioneered tours to many areas where currently there is little infrastructure, seeking to involve local communities in providing services that their clients need.

Sustainability Aspects

Bird watching is at the cutting edge of eco-tourism. Kolibri Expeditions goes to places where regular tourists do not go. This also makes eco-dollars reach more remote areas and make a very important contribution to local livelihoods. A project has been initiated through which the local communities can charge visitors directly for the services they provide. In this way, the communities can obtain income which can be used for community projects. The initiatives of Kolibri Expeditions have been imitated by other tour operators. The company shuns disposable plastic, serves meals on hard plastic re-usable plates and uses aluminum and hard plastic mugs. Additionally, they have installed environmentally-friendly air conditioning in their vehicles and micropore treated water is provided for free.

Accommodation

They provide accommodation in hotels, lodges and camps.

Excursions & Activities

Most circuits are nature-related, but many include cultural as well as archeological sites. The tour operator arranges customized tours meeting the travelers' needs and requests. Kolibri Expeditions runs a bird watching portal in Peru at www.birdingperu.com and has initiated and financed an interactive bird data base on this web site, which has tremendous potential to become a tool for bird conservation projects in the future. This has resulted in recognition from BirdLife International. Kolibri Expeditions also runs the Birding Peru and Incaspiza list servers on birds and their conservation in Peru.

Lima.

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Small Group Adventures.

Introduction

Small Group Adventures is a family run business based in Lima that is now in its sixth year of operation. The tour operator currently runs classic and adventure tours throughout Peru. The team in the field and behind the scenes has been brought together over a period of some eight years and continues to grow. It is only with this closely knit team that the company is able to push the boundaries, not only in a geographical sense, but also in their ability to deliver an unparalleled level of service with determined attention.

Site & Surrounding

Small Group Adventures is specialized in running tours all over Peru and to the southeast of Patagonia on expedition vehicles that take travelers along superb scenic roads. Customized and a-la-carte tours are available.

Sustainability Aspects

Tourism is a great and in many locations the only source of income for the local communities which are visited. Also having in mind the potential negative impacts that tourism can bring, Small Group Adventures encourages their guides to look behind the scenes for a more realistic appreciation of how they are being received. They also endeavor to provide their passengers with up to date cultural insights and encourage travelers to use local services.

Accommodation

The tour operator places a priority on using the services of local family-run hotels and guest houses, especially in Titicaca Lake, where travelers can feel comfortable and are in contact with the local people. For those who demand a higher level of comfort, they offer a wide range of accommodation.

Excursions & Activities

They offer a wide range of tours in Peru and Patagonia (Chile & Argentina) from short discovery holidays in the Inca heartland, walking and trekking in the highlands, through expedition tours on their specially-built overland truck for long trips that bring travelers into permanent contact with nature and local communities. Tailor-made itineraries are likewise available to suit the travelers' special interests.



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Tucano Reps. Perú.



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Introduction

Tucano Reps. Perú - Top Quality Travel Designers - is a premier destination management company and tour operator in Peru, and has more than 10 years' experience delivering memorable vacations. They stand out for their quality and attentive service. Authentic travel experiences for individual or small groups appeal to the most sophisticated travelers exploring multi-faceted aspects of Peru.

Site & Surrounding

Tucano Reps. Perú connects travelers to the best spots along the coastal band, the Andes mountains and the Amazon rainforest of Peru.

Sustainability Aspects

- All customized tours are guided by the principles of sustainable tourism.
- All print and electronic material is EcoLabel accredited.
- A written Responsible Ecotravellers Guidance policy document specifies the company's commitment towards the environment.
- Environmental activities are organized with corporate staff volunteers.
- For three years they have operated "voluntourism" projects in remote areas.
- Local community residents are assisted in devising enterprise solutions.
- New line of "Peru Eco Trek Adventure"
- Individual carbon footprints compensate traveler's carbon emissions.
- Part of the company's financial resources is devoted to finance sustainable projects and "voluntourism".

Accommodation

Tucano Reps. Perú exceeds travelers' expectations when choosing the type of accommodation for each traveler looking for an authentic experience.

Excursions & Activities

- Tucano Reps. Perú offers original tours during which travelers share unforgettable experiences:
- Excursions and "Voluntourism": Discovering native communities and meeting with local residents.
 - Learning ancient traditions: Cooking, music, dancing, farming, medicinal plants and native languages like Quechua.
 - Activities: Agriculture, farming, fishing, weaving.

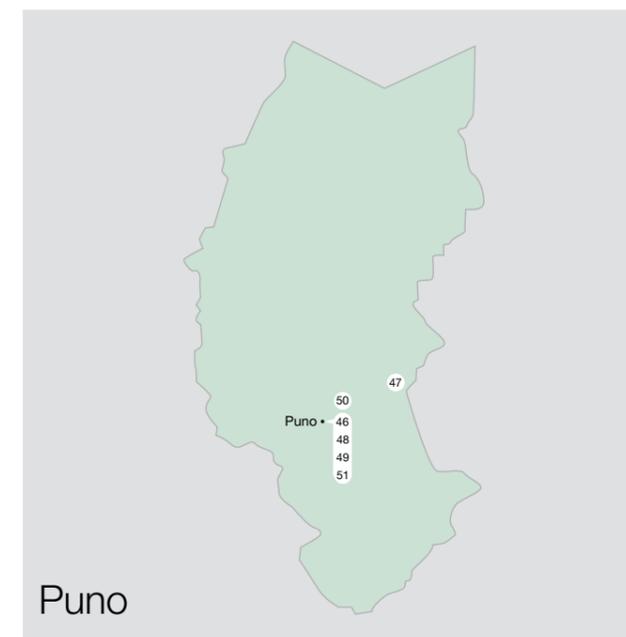




Puno.

The city of Puno which lies on the shores of Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world, is the folklore capital of Peru. In the outskirts, you can visit the spectacular Chullpas de Sillustani, a complex of impressive burial towers.

The lake contains numerous islands like Taquile, Suasi and Amantaní whose inhabitants continue to live as their ancestors have in custom and tradition. The Uros is another example of this; this people group lives on “floating islands” that they have artificially made entirely of totora reeds, and they navigate in their traditional boats also made out of the same material.



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DMO Puno.



Puno.

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Introduction

Established in 2005, the Puno DMO (Destination Management Organisation) gathers over 70 associates, including private institutions (50), public institutions such as the Regional Government and municipalities (3), guilds (18), the Hotel Industry Chamber, a rural tourism association, among others.

Site & Surrounding

The city of Puno (3,827 m.a.s.l.), lies on the shores of Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world. It is the folklore capital of Peru and the site of the Feast of the Virgen de la Candelaria. Nearby sites include the spectacular Chullpas de Sillustani, a compound of impressive burial towers built by the Kollas people; Llachón, a community still preserving old customs and culture, and Pucará, known for its pre-Inca pottery and the “toritos de Pucará”, traditional clay figurines representing cattle.

The inhabitants of the lake’s numerous islands still live as their ancestors. The Uros, for instance, live on “floating islands” that they have artificially made entirely of totora reeds, and they sail the lake on rafts also made out of totora reeds. Taquile, Suasi, and Amantani are known for hospitality of their residents, their ancestral weaving skills, their pre-Columbian constructions, and lovely countryside. The Titicaca National Reserve (36,180 hectares) protects extensive stretches of totora reeds and various species of plants and animals.

Sustainability Aspects

The Puno DMO has organized cleanups campaigns to improve waste management conditions in the communities and the travelers’ experience.

Services

The Puno DMO organizes business fairs, trade workshops and training seminars. As well they actively promote community-based tourism experiences by organizing visits to villages around the Lake Titicaca to share the people’s daily activities. They also promote the destination on their web page.

Casa Andina Private Collection – Isla Suasi.

Introduction

A solar-powered ecolodge on remote and uniquely beautiful Isla Suasi — the only private island in massive Lake Titicaca, the world’s highest navigable body of water. Featuring panoramic lake views from every room, surrounded by terraced gardens, the lodge has been designed with native materials to blend into the island.

Site & Surrounding

Suasi is a magical, and for many mystical, place to disconnect from the world. Guests can spot rare vicuñas, hike to Itapilluni Hill to contemplate colorful sunsets, paddle a canoe around the island, go on nature walks, or enjoy the massage room and steam saunas. With 24 well-appointed but appealingly rustic rooms and the Andean Cottage, a candlelit gourmet restaurant, bar and game room, the lodge is the perfect place to relax.

Sustainability Aspects

Suasi’s ecolodge is all about being green. Committed to conserving the island’s precious natural resources and not interfering with Suasi’s natural beauty their operation is solar-powered. Fireplaces in each room, hot water bottles and thick down comforters keep guests warm in their cozy rooms.

Accommodation

Their superior rooms are spacious and well-appointed, with large bathrooms, peaked ceilings with wood beams, and fireplaces. All rooms feature picture windows framing great views of the bay and Lake Titicaca. The Andean Cottage is a large and extremely private 2-bedroom lakefront suite with a private beach.

Excursions & Activities

While Suasi is a perfect place to relax and to enjoy the splendid vistas of the pristine blue expanse of Titicaca, it’s also a place to explore cultural traditions and the indigenous altiplano flora and fauna. Casa Andina Private Collection offers a multitude of activities on the island such as nature walks, canoeing or boating on Lake Titicaca, sunset viewing on Cerro Itapilluni, visits to the Cultural Hut, stargazing & nightly bonfires, bird watching, treks to Mulluni Hill and also a sauna & massage spa.



Puno.

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Titilaka – Andean Experience.



Introduction

Titilaka is a contemporary experience lodge offering an artful blend of exquisite design, intuitive service and personal comfort. Titilaka is the perfect lakeside hub to experience the nature and culture that characterizes the Andean region.

Site & Surrounding

Positioned on the shores of Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake, Titilaka is surrounded by the scenic Andean altiplateau and seemingly endless deep blue waters of the mystical lake.

Sustainability Aspects

At Titilaka the vision is to protect the environment and to give back to the communities. Communication with local people is encouraged in order to minimize the cultural impact and to improve their lives.

- 96% of their employees are hired locally.
- Lake Titicaca fish and local produce are used.
- Every possible effort is made to reduce detergent and water use.

Accommodation

All 18 rooms in Titilaka offer lake views, in a minimalist design that reflects Andean heritage. All rooms feature heated floors and the 14 suites feature spa bathrooms, with free standing tubs and rain shower heads.

Stays at Titilaka include all meals, which have been carefully crafted and prepared. Meals are light, use local ingredients and have Peruvian or international flair. Their meals are complemented by a choice of domestic wines. Guests can enjoy their food and drink in the cozy dining room with the impressive 270 degree view of the lake.

Excursions & Activities

The Titilaka offers an array of natural and cultural excursions from which the guests may choose to compose their day. Guides work to make sure that each day features activities that most interest the guests. Excursions can often be done by hiking, biking, rowing, and kayaking or by boat. Some activities, such as nature walks and boat rowing through the Lake's reed mangroves, last just a few hours. Half-day tours are available for bird lovers and guests interested in learning about local lifestyles. Full-day tours take travelers to Inca Anatawi, Aramu Muro, Juli and Pomata, and Isla del Sol. Guests wishing to "sail on top of the world" may charter a private sail excursion boat.



Puno.

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All Ways Travel Titicaca Peru.

Introduction

All Ways Travel Titicaca Peru was created in 1996. As a progressive local tour operator in the southern region of Puno the company contributes to the regional sustainable development. The sustainable tourism experience of All Ways Travel Titicaca Peru with the community of Anapia – near the border with Bolivia – has been repeatedly recognized in Peru and abroad.

Site & Surrounding

All Ways Travel Titicaca Peru specializes in the Andean high plateau and Lake Titicaca region. They offer a wide range of cultural tours, including to Lake Titicaca and the surrounding communities.

Sustainability Aspects

Their offerings combine a strong respect for Lake Titicaca's rich culture with the awareness of the deep poverty of its people. With the help of a number of dedicated travelers, they are building and furnishing libraries, supporting rural schools, and distributing children's books in many villages. Their educational tours offer a genuine discovery of indigenous peoples' lifestyles, dreams, expectations and challenges.

Accommodation

All Ways Travel Titicaca Peru works with several communities (e.g. Amantani, Hatuncolla, Llachon) and their local tourism associations. Families provide accommodation and meals for visitors in their houses. These homestays provide a unique experience for cultural exchange and foster relationships among people from different cultures. In addition, they offer accommodation in a variety of hotels.

Excursions & Activities

All Ways Travel Titicaca Peru has designed several alternatives to the traditional tourism experience in the Puno area. These include 2-day or longer tour programs combining culture and nature-based experiences with cultural exchange. Examples of these tours include:

- Cultural Anapia Island
- Cultural Amantani, Uros and Taquile Islands
- Cultural Sillustani tour
- Combined Classic and remote Taquile
- Cultural Llachon and Kayak
- Cultural Luquina homestay experience



Puno.

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Turismo Vivencial “Uros Q’Hantati”.



Introduction

Uros Q’Hantati is the name of the island owned and managed by community leader Cristina Suaña and her family in Lake Titicaca. Uros Q’Hantati is a family company (comprised of five families) organized to develop sustainable tourism and an unforgettable experience for tourists. Uros Q’Hantati is listed in the Lonely Planet and other important travel guides.

Site & Surrounding

The Uros’ islands are located in Lake Titicaca about 7 km west from Puno city (30 min. by boat), at 3,810 m.a.s.l. It is a group of 42 floating man-made islets made of bundled totora reeds. The Uro people use the totora plants that grow naturally on the banks of Lake Titicaca as a source of food as well as to build the islands, their houses, furniture and boats.

Sustainability Aspects

The families have been trained by international cooperation institutions and reputed national 4-star hotels to provide high quality and sustainable services that take account of their ecosystem, and their commitment to develop a rural community tourism experience in harmony with the environment, including solar power, environmentally-friendly portable toilets and solar showers.

Accommodation

Uros Q’Hantati offers accommodation in 11 rooms (9 double and 2 single rooms) with comfortable wide “floating beds”. All the rooms, furniture and decoration are made of totora.

Excursions & Activities

Uros Q’Hantati invites visitors to share the Uros’ lifestyle with:

- Accommodation in houses and rooms made up of totora
- Traditional food and new Andean cuisine
- Harvesting of totora, fishing, learning craftwork using totora
- Donning typical Uro clothes
- Storytelling, music and dance in Quechua and Aymara languages
- Sailing across the Titicaca Lake
- Bird watching
- Mystical tourism



Puno.

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CEDESOS – Centro para el Desarrollo Sostenible.

Introduction

CEDESOS is a nonprofit institution devoted to promoting sustainable development with a social commitment to training, technical assistance, and research through which they propose strategies for natural and environmental resource husbandry and the reevaluation of cultural traditions in view of the harmonious development and strengthening of the Andean region and the nation at large.

Site & Surrounding

Chucuito Peninsula is located one and a half hours south east of the city of Puno. It is a site of great potential for rural tourism due to its scenic natural landscapes, its people’s ancient customs, and the surviving traditional local agricultural, livestock and fisheries practices. Today, the communities of Karina, Luquina Chico and Churo additionally provide a number of tourism-related services, including lodging, traditional food and local culture-centered activities.

Sustainability Aspects

Rural tourism encouraged by CEDESOS is respectful of nature. They promote conservation of soils and Andean crops, flora and fauna, and thus contribute to preserving the ancestral knowledge for better management of natural resources and the environment. They are careful to properly manage and treat both solid and water wastes to prevent environmental degradation, while they help local households to enhance their sources of income, resulting from improved tourism services and the higher value of well-preserved natural landscapes and environments.

Accommodation

Tourists are hosted by local families in their improved traditional-style houses. CEDESOS arranges contacts with community associations while payments are made directly to the communities’ families that provide services to and organize activities for visitors.

Excursions & Activities

Excursions to Arku Punku (Arch Door) and the natural formation of Ventilla Lupaca and several natural lookouts from where visitors can see the horizon of Lake Titicaca. Activities include cooking local foods, traditional loom weaving, indigenous music and dance, rituals, customs, boating, sailing, bird and wildlife watching, fishing, taking part in farming chores, reed handicrafts making, and traditional storytelling.



Puno.

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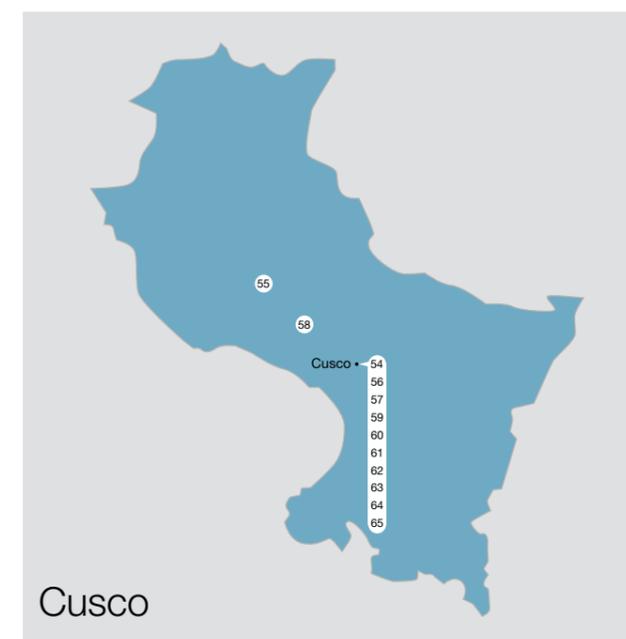


CUSCO.

The city of Cusco, the ancient capital of the Incan Empire, is one of the most important destinations in Peru. There are Incan buildings waiting for you to discover them among its cobble-stoned streets. Not far from the city, there are the massive walls of the Sacsayhuamán fortress and the archeological sites of Qenko, Pukapukara, and Tambomachay, Incan buildings constructed completely with stone.

There are also the towns of Písac, Chinchero, and Ollantaytambo, which are spread throughout the Sacred Valley of the Incas.

The enigmatic complex of Machu Picchu, the lost Inca city, is the most important and beautiful legacy of the ancient Peruvian.



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DMO Cusco.



Cusco.

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Introduction

Established in 2007, the DMO (Destination Management Organisation) of Cusco has 63 associates, between 14 public institutions such as the Regional Government, the Culture Institute and 49 private organizations including Libertador Hotel (a national chain hotel), ISUR, tourist associations, NGO's, the municipal government, craftsmen guilds, and the Andean University of Cusco.

Site & Surrounding

The city of Cusco, the ancient capital of the Incan Empire, was placed on the World Cultural Heritage List by UNESCO in 1983. Cusco's cobbled streets treasure Incan buildings, like the Koricancha Temple and the palace of Inca Roca, as well as Andean Baroque constructions from the Colonial Period. Renowned handicraftsmen have set their shops in traditional neighborhoods like San Blas. Cusco is also known for its nightlife, cafes, restaurants, and bars to suit all tastes.

Machu Picchu, the most important and beautiful legacy of the ancient Peruvians, is one of the few places in the Americas placed on both the World Cultural and Natural Heritage Lists by UNESCO.

Sustainability Aspects

The Cusco DMO is strongly committed to developing rural tourism for the benefit of the communities offering tourist services. The Cusco DMO permanently promotes industry best practices and quality improvement, based on manuals developed by the Regional Government with the technical assistance of the World Tourism Organization and SGS. Other activities include international and national seminars for small and medium business owners, and promoting the Cusco destination through a web page and social networks.

Excursions & Activities

A trail that links Cusco to the small uphill town of Quincemil, offering nature and adventure activities is being developed.

Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel.

Introduction

Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, in the heart of the Machu Picchu Historical Sanctuary, occupies a private five-hectare mountainside refuge in the lush Andean cloud forest. This calm and quiet hotel in the Vilcanota Valley has the look and feel of a rustic Andean village. It has been built from local stone, adobe, stucco, and eucalyptus beams, with full respect for the traditional construction techniques of the region.

Site & Surrounding

The Machu Picchu Historical Sanctuary is 2,450 m.a.s.l., 112 km from the city of Cusco. Rising between the Andean highland and the Amazon rainforest, it is a magical area that fascinates visitors with its vast archaeological remains, geography, unique flora and fauna, and exuberant cloud forest. The most remarkable part of the reserve is the historical sanctuary of Machu Picchu, one of the seven marvels of the modern world.

Sustainability Aspects

Inkaterra is a 100% carbon-neutral and wholly Peruvian tourism organization and boutique hotel developer. Since 1975, it has been devoted to conserving the country's natural and cultural heritage through various social projects in their exclusive properties near and in Cusco.

Accommodation

Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel's 85 bungalows and villas are scattered on five hectares of tropical gardens in the cloud forest of the Machu Picchu Historical Sanctuary. Member of Virtuoso, this hotel, is regularly listed among the best hotels in the world by Travel + Leisure. Spa Magazine has listed the Hotel's Unu Spa among the best in South America.

Excursions & Activities

Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel offers a choice of guided nature excursions:

- Nature walk
- Twilight walk
- Orchid trail
- Bird watching
- Organic tea plantation
- Spectacled bear rescue project
- Specialized walk



Cusco.

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La Casa de Fray Bartolomé Hotel.



Introduction

La Casa de Fray Bartolomé is housed in a building from the colonial and republic periods in downtown Cusco. Visitors find a cozy ambiance, and friendly service.

Site & Surrounding

The hotel is located four blocks from Cusco's main square, and just two blocks from the Koricancha temple. A brief stroll to visit either will allow visitors to enjoy the splendor of the city. Cusco is also the gateway to Urubamba, the Sacred Valley, and to Machu Picchu, two of the main attractions in south Peru.

Sustainability Aspects

La Casa de Fray Bartolomé is strongly committed to responsible tourism: natural resources preservation, as well as social integration, sustainability and social participation, in special regards the development of indigenous communities, in line with Hoteles CBC's social engagement in south Peru. Action is taken to save water and energy, trash is sorted out to be recycled, and guests are encouraged to reuse towels and bed sheets to reduce detergent and water consumption. Adherence to the principles of sustainable tourism requires their encouraging responsible behavior from service providers and guests that come into contact with local communities.

Accommodation

La Casa de Fray Bartolomé hotel has 21 comfortable and well equipped 1, 2, 3 and 4-bed rooms. Guests can also enjoy the large common areas and a beautiful court and garden from the late 1800s republican period, planted to native flowers and trees. The hotel restaurant specializes in regional, international, and gourmet dishes. Meals are prepared with selected ingredients from the region. Last but not least, the hotel has also five equipped comfortable conference and meeting rooms of different sizes for private events.

Excursions & Activities

Excursions to the main local highlights include visits to local indigenous communities and treks to little explored sites of great interest. Meetings with specialists can be arranged to discuss relevant aspects of Andean life, civilization, culture, religion, agriculture, politics and economics, among others. Access to the library and the photography archive of Hoteles CBC can be arranged.



Cusco.

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Hotel & Mirador Los Apus.

Introduction

The hotel is an elegantly restored colonial style building. Opened in December 1999, the cozy and charming hotel features 20 exquisitely decorated rooms equipped with a unique central heating system. It is Swiss-owned and managed, and offers visitors an honest, committed and reliable service.

Site & Surrounding

Located in the historical center of Cusco, the hotel is nestled in the foothills of the historical site of San Blas, three blocks away from the Plaza de Armas, its restaurants and souvenir shops.

Sustainability Aspects

Since 1999 the company has been contributing donations in cash and goods to the surrounding communities. The hotel has decided to replace its oil burner by a low-emission gas burner to reduce emissions and uses devices fitted to reduce water consumption as well as low energy lighting bulbs. It encourages its guests to reuse towels as well as bed linen.

The hotel staff is on work contracts and receives the full benefits of Peruvian labor regulations (minimum wage, night salary, child benefits, health insurance, etc.). The hotel pays its employees a monthly 10% share in total hotel sales.

Accommodation

Twenty tastefully decorated rooms, some with balconies, wooden floors, Germa-built soundproof windows to the exteriors, extra-long beds (205 cm), 40-channel cable TV, central heating, in-room safe boxes, free Wi-Fi, smoke detectors, direct dial telephone, private bath with tub or shower.

Excursions & Activities

- City tour: Qenqo, Tambo Machay, Puka Pukara
- Sacred Valley of the Incas: Pisac, Yucay, Ollantaytambo and Chinchero.
- Inka Trail to Machu Picchu (4 days/3 nights)
- Alternative Inka Trail (Salkantay)
- Maras, Moray
- South of Cusco: Pikillacta, Tipon and Andahuaylillas
- Manu



Cusco.

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Urubamba Villas.



Introduction

Located in the Sacred Valley of the Incas, between Cusco and Machu Picchu, Urubamba Villas offers privacy, flexibility and a highly personalized service. The housekeeper will cook and light the fireplace in the private houses, a lodging concept that creates a uniquely authentic experience.

Site & Surrounding

Urubamba Villas are located at a lower altitude than Cusco. The beautiful and lush valley where the houses are located features numerous sites of archaeological interest, Andean villages and local markets.

Sustainability Aspects

Urubamba Villas is committed to preserve the destination's cultural and natural heritage. Local hiring of 95% of the employees generates economic and social development. The hotel's activities showcase the region's heritage and highlight the importance of conservation. Conservation policies guide the hotel's operations, including waste sorting and composting for fertilizing their orchard, and using energy saving bulbs and environmentally-friendly toilets.

Accommodation

Independent, private, modern Andean-style houses built of adobe, furnished and decorated using local crafts. Each villa has a fireplace, terrace, halls, rooms and toilets, and housekeeper service. Meals are cooked in the villa's kitchen, using local ingredients. Lunch and dinner choices include three gourmet options consisting of three courses and wine.

Excursions & Activities

- Reforestation program
- Archaeological sites, typical villages, picturesque markets, beautiful churches: The most popular sites are Chinchero, Pisac market, Ollantaytambo, Maras & Moray
- Coca leaves reading with local shaman
- Spanish language coaching
- Yoga sessions
- River rafting, hiking, horseback rides and biking: Half and full day excursions



Cusco.

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Apumayo Expediciones.

Introduction

Apumayo Expediciones is a Peruvian tour operator established in 1995 in Cusco. Specialized in small group adventures and active tours in some of the most fantastic and varied natural landscapes, to provide visitors unforgettable experiences in the most popular destination in Peru, it remains deeply committed to preserving the environment and ancient local traditions.

Site & Surrounding

The company strives to offer high quality tours and adventures and to focus its efforts in providing lifetime experiences with top quality services that exceed the travelers' expectations. Apumayo Expediciones offers a great variety of activities in different areas, constantly searching for new routes away from crowds and human activity. The company is active all over Peru and able to customize any kind of tours, whether in Peru's desert coastal band, the high Andes or the Amazon jungle.

Sustainability Aspects

Apumayo Expediciones places a high priority on sustainable tourism and is committed to sustainable development. They minimize all negative environmental and social impact at all stages of their business including their field and office operations, rationally utilizing tourist areas and natural resources. They contribute to the wellbeing of local communities by providing opportunities for personal development and partnering with local villagers to create satellite businesses that complement their operations. Their assistance includes health assessment, education, training and environmental protection issues.

Accommodation

They can provide accommodation in hotels, hostels, camping sites, family houses and homestays.

Excursions & Activities

Apumayo Expediciones offers traditional & cultural tours, trekking, river rafting, horseback riding, mountain biking, "voluntourism", tours and expeditions to some of the most remote areas in the country. To make sure that all travelers have the most enjoyable excursion possible the company provides top of the line safety equipment, guides and field staff training courses during the year that guarantee a professional service with international safety standards. The equipment supplied for outdoor activities meets with international standards, helping to provide travelers a comfortable and safe experience away from the beaten path.



Cusco.

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Explorandes.



Introduction

Explorandes is one of Peru's leading adventure travel companies, providing since 1975 unforgettable experiences for visitors. They have pioneered exploring ancient ruins, hidden trails and uncharted rivers in some of the most fantastic and varied natural landscapes in the Andes. They operate small groups for adventure travel, as well as cultural and special interest tours. Their carefully planned itineraries and quality ground services have earned Explorandes wide recognition while their responsible tourism initiatives contribute to improve the living conditions in the communities where they work.

Site & Surrounding

Explorandes is a tour operator that has grown into a regional operation with offices in Lima, Cusco, Puno, Huaraz and Quito and operates elsewhere through sub-contractors in Peru and Ecuador. They provide tailor made itineraries according to available budgets, specializing in protected areas and cultural heritage sites.

Sustainability Aspects

Explorandes is an organization dedicated to experiential tourism, recognizing their responsibility to preserve the environment and to minimize negative impacts in field operations, and promote positive influences, both environmental and social, in order to avoid negative effects. Their Environmental Management System includes social responsibility and sustainable practices and has been certified as an ISO 14001 process.

Accommodation

Explorandes works with accommodation providers that take reservations in advance, including from communities with homestays to three star hotels and luxury all-inclusive facilities.

Excursions & Activities

Specialized in making trips an authentic experience with a service that surpasses expectations Explorandes offers different trekking, white-water rafting, sea kayaking, mountain biking, surfing and multi-activity tour programs including interactive and cultural visits, as well as gastronomic and culinary experiences. Explorandes offers guests the flexibility of planning their own travel schedule and the freedom of traveling on their own with a local guide with years of experience and first-hand knowledge. Group prices are elaborated in tiers, so that the larger the group, the greater the savings. Fixed departures have only one rate. These include the same level of service and the convenience and safety of a small miscellaneous group.



Cusco.

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Aracari Travel Consulting.

Introduction

Aracari Travel Consulting, the leading high-end destination management company, is dedicated to designing itineraries that are hand-tailored to the specific profile of each individual client, whether they are travelling alone or within a group. Their team of consultants achieves this by thoroughly researching and visiting the destinations and places of interest and through the continuous support of specialists.

Site & Surrounding

Focusing on Peru, Aracari affords guests a unique insight into this spectacular destination and its highlights, which include cultural and natural attractions such as the historical city of Cusco and surrounding Inca ruins, the Andes mountains, Lake Titicaca and the Amazon rainforest. Aracari is not only present in Peru but also in Bolivia, Ecuador and Galapagos.

Sustainability Aspects

Aracari contributes to the regions where their clients travel by choosing suppliers who respect the environment, local communities and their culture and heritage. The objective is to allow guests to experience Peru's natural and cultural attractions sustainably, through low-impact, high-quality tourism, as well as to promote projects that share these values. In rural and mountain areas, Aracari favors suppliers that include indigenous people within their staff and that hire directly or through local operators. This is in order to have responsible guides, drivers and facilitators who come from local communities. It is not enough for operators to solely employ locals as cooks and boatmen; it is important that they are moreover trained as guides and managers.

Accommodation

Specializing in selecting such accommodation as renovated historical sites, ecologically-friendly lodges and owner-run country homes, Aracari strives to ensure that guests are offered lodgings with a high level of comfort along with ample facilities and services.

Excursions & Activities

Whether one is looking for a single or multi-country trip, an unforgettable trek, a big adventure or a general overview, Aracari will provide an authentic, high-quality and unique experience in accordance with the pace of travel preferred by the guest. This can be based on such specific interests as archaeology, culture, nature, history and cuisine, amongst others.



Cusco.

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Wayki Trek – Under Indigenous Management.



Cusco.

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Introduction

Wayki Trek was created by a team of native professional guides with many years of experience guiding in Cusco, Peru's main tourism destination. Since its founding the company has been committed to sustainable tourism, making an extremely low impact on the environment, while helping local communities. Wayki Trek is specialized in trips for small groups, offering professional and friendly services. The company is highly recommended by the South American Explorers Club and Footprints South American handbook, amongst others.

Site & Surrounding

Operations are based in Cusco and focused in popular tourism areas like the Sacred Valley, and Macchu Picchu, including tours and trek programs in the Inca trail, Lares Trek, Salkantay Trek routes, among others. Wayki Trek also runs tour programs in Arequipa – Colca Canyon, Puno – Lake Titicaca, Ica – Nazca Lines, the Amazon rainforest and other destinations in southern Peru.

Sustainability Aspects

All staff (owner, associate, guides, and support staff such as porters) is native from Cusco. Wayki Trek understands the importance of the indigenous communities and works hard to assist and involve them in the regional and national tourism industry. The company invites visitors to participate in projects at rural communities in need. The projects are designed to provide a great environmental and social benefit and improve the standard of living of the communities.

Accommodation

On all treks visitors may camp, and also have the chance to visit communities, where they may spend the night in basic shared accommodation (homestays). This service gives trekkers a unique alternative to camping. However, nightly hostel accommodation is also available during the trekking expedition.

Excursions & Activities

- Sacred Valley & Community: An innovative alternative to visit the Sacred Valley of the Incas and to interact with the communities. Visiting of the wetlands of the south and the Inca cities of Pisac, Ollantaytambo and Chinchero.
- Wayki Experiences & Inka Trail: 4 or 5 days Inca Trail program, where visitors may interact with and spend the night at the home of one of the porters assisting the trek.

Enigma Adventure Tour Operator.

Introduction

Enigma Adventure is a tour operator located in Cusco which is specialized in adventure travel and customized programs since 2002.

Site & Surrounding

The company operates tours in Cusco, in Lares Valley, and the Inca, Choquequirao, Salkantay, Ausangate and Ancascocha trails, and trips in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Ecuador.

Sustainability Aspects

Responsible tourism is about “giving something back” and therefore a key point in the philosophy of Enigma Adventure. The company has developed a responsible tourism policy to provide a sustained commitment to communities and environment and to ensure a lasting positive effect. Responsible tourism is practiced on three levels: 1) responsible operation, 2) social commitment and 3) environmental respect.

Accommodation

Enigma Adventure arranges hotel bookings or recommends a hotel that suits the visitors' needs, based on good reports and tourists' proven satisfaction.

Excursions & Activities

As trekking specialists, Enigma Adventure offers the most outstanding treks in Cusco. The offers range from the traditional Inca Trail to Machu Picchu to the less known Ausangate or Lares treks, the impressive Salkantay trek or any customized hike that their client may dream to do. The trekking programs are available in two types of services:

- Standard Pool Service: Where visitors will join a group of other trekkers.
- Private Service: Arranged just for individuals or a group offering the possibility to choose the departure date, the group size and the duration of the trek.
- Additional services: Extra porters/horsemen to carry personal gear, among others.
- The company also offers a variety of products including mountain climbing, jungle trips, mounting biking, traditional tours and local festivities.



Cusco.

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Ecoinka.



Cusco.

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Introduction

Ecoinka is a tour operator in Peru with its main activities in the Cusco area. Established in 2000, Ecoinka focuses on developing tours based on ecotourism and sustainability. They also run a camp called “Km 82 Apu Veronica Camp”, located at km 82 on the railroad from Cusco to Machu Picchu in the buffer zone of the Machu Picchu Historical Sanctuary.

Site & Surrounding

Even though Ecoinka operates in many parts of Peru, its main area of influence is Cusco. Ecoinka operates trekking routes in the Buffer Zone of the Machu Picchu Sanctuary that provide an alternative to the classic Inca trail to Machu Picchu. The Vilcabamba Mountain Range also partially covers the Buffer Zone of the Machu Picchu Sanctuary. The Ausangate Sacred Mountain trek is regarded as one of the most rewarding experiences in Andean travel.

Sustainability Aspects

The work of Ecoinka is based on the following principles:

- Minimal environmental impact: Respect for nature motivates the organization to operate trying to minimize its impact by means of constant training of its employees in passing through visit places without leaving a trace.
- Minimal cultural impact: The organization encourages respect for traditions and cultural aspects of the places and communities that are visited.
- Sustainability: Local residents are hired in the persuasion that local communities' perception of the benefits of tourism in their area will lead to lasting environmental conservation and enhanced economies.

Accommodation

Ecoinka places emphasis on choosing beautiful campsites with the best views. Accommodation is provided in double occupancy top quality tents, with two travelers in each 4-person tent.

Excursions & Activities

Ecoinka's main activity is providing trekking tours in the areas where they operate. The focus is to offer a highly cultural experience. Meanwhile trekking is always organized with ecotourism and sustainability in mind. In recent years, Ecoinka has developed several new routes that involve hiring local people to maintain the route.

Asociación Andes.

Introduction

The “Potato Park” is an indigenous biocultural territory established by Asociación Andes – IIED and the six Quechua communities in Písaq, Cusco, Peru, in 1998, to celebrate and protect a unique traditional mountain agroecosystem, its indigenous culture, a centre of origin of the potato and one of the richest native potato diversity areas in the world.

Site & Surrounding

Situated 45 kilometers from Cusco, the capital of the Incan empire, and located between 3,600–5,000 m.a.s.l., the Potato Park encompasses 15,000 hectares of mountainous terrain, boasting snow-covered peaks, lakes, gorges, rivers, forests and agricultural lands.

Sustainability Aspects

The Potato Park is an area rich in agro-biodiversity, which is the basis of the livelihoods, and spiritual, cultural and social identity of the Quechua communities that live there. The Association of Communities of the Potato Park work together towards conserving and sustainably using their indigenous bio-cultural heritage in order to promote a local creative and solidarity economy for the reduction of poverty, *sumaq causay* (holistic living), and self-determined development. The Potato Park maintains a collection of 1,345 varieties of native potatoes, which are cultivated in a diversified landscape of communal and individual agricultural fields that also host many cultivated and wild varieties that provide food, medicine and habitat to humans and numerous species of native birds, Andean camelids and other fauna.

Accommodation

Homestay is available with local families, with a total of approximately 70 beds.

Excursions & Activities

The Biocultural Tourism Program of the Potato Park celebrates the rich natural and cultural heritage of the communities through visits, which offer homestay opportunities, trekking and mountain landscape enjoyment, interpretation of traditional agricultural systems, observation of wild flora and fauna, a culinary sanctuary featuring local traditional and novo-Andean foods, handicrafts, and natural health products.



Cusco.

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Arequipa.

Arequipa, known as the White City for its beautiful white walls of sillar, a volcanic stone, lies at the feet of the mighty Misti Volcano and the snow covered peak of Mount Pichu Pichu.

Just a few hours from the capital is the Colca River canyon, one of the most extraordinary destinations in the country. Throughout the region, you can see colorful pre-Incan agricultural terraces still used today for growing quinoa, corn, barley, and wheat. And, at the Cross of the Condor, you can view the majestic flight of the condors.



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DMO Arequipa.



Arequipa.

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Introduction

The Arequipa DMO (Destination Management Organisation) has 37 associates which include 35 private and two public organizations such as the regional government, regional institutions in charge of the natural protected areas, private associations such as AVIT, ASGUIPA, Chamber of Commerce, and universities.

Arequipa provides all the services and attractions needed to be promoted as a meeting and convention city. The Arequipa DMO supports the local Convention Bureau through several virtual information modules and organizes trainings and seminars to improve the quality of services provided locally.

Site & Surrounding

Arequipa is known as the White City for its beautiful white walls of ashlar volcanic stone. It lies at the foot of the mighty Chachani and Misti volcanoes, and the Pichu Pichu glacier. The city is a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. Its churches and mansions include the Monastery of Santa Catalina, a miniature Spanish town of cobbled streets, beautiful courtyards, and plazas. The irresistible Arequipa cuisine is the perfect complement to the visit.

Just around 4 hours from the capital is the Colca River valley and canyon. Colca is the perfect site to watch the majestic flight of the condor. Colorful pre-Incan agricultural terraces still used for growing quinoa, corn, barley, and wheat, dot the entire region. During the pre-Hispanic era, the department was inhabited by the Collaguas and the Cabanas. Today, these people have learned to conserve their Colonial heritage, as may be seen in the churches in Yanque, Lari, and Madrigal.

Sustainability Aspects

The DMO has been working eagerly to improve solid waste management at the main tourist attractions organizing cleanups in different seasons. They have also organized gastronomic fairs to foster fair business relations between communities and hotels and restaurants from Arequipa and the Colca Canyon. During the last three years they have been running an awareness campaign on sustainable tourism for school children in rural areas.

Services

A new destination offering an interesting walking tour through the Yanque terraces is being developed in the Colca Canyon.

Giardino Tour Operator.

Introduction

Giardino is a Peruvian tour operator with more than 15 years of experience. The agency was established imbued with clear principles and faith in Peru's people and resources to support communities in different forms. Giardino' understands tourism goes hand in hand with sustainability and offering a truly Peruvian experience by sharing traditions and daily life with local people. By continuously training the staff, engaging in environmental and educational activities and fairly interacting with their partners, they aim at enhancing the positive contribution of tourism to the region. Their service is characterized by individual attention to the travelers' needs.

Site & Surrounding

The company cooperates with selected partners in every main destination in Peru.

Sustainability Aspects

Giardino is committed to sustainable tourism. Their business has contributed to accomplish various activities, such as:

- Cleaning and reforestation campaigns in the countryside
- Educational and Christmas campaigns for local population
- Providing recycling bags and containers in buses, hotels, and at visited places
- Public health and eye health care campaigns
- Restoring the library in Coporaque

Accommodation

- Arequipa: "La Casa de mi Abuela" with 55 rooms, private bathroom, hot water, restaurant, internet, mail and fax service, pool, library.
- Colca Canyon: "La casa de Mamayacchi" in Coporaque with 28 rooms, private bathroom, hot water, heating, restaurant, games area, bike rental.

Both accommodations are ISO 14001 certified.

Excursions & Activities

- Arequipa city and countryside tour
- Reality tour: Visit to Arequipa's popular market
- Colca Canyon excursions, also in combination with the transfer to Puno
- Cotahuasi Canyon, also in combination with short and long hiking tours
- Giardino offers excursions and programs for all destinations in Peru



Arequipa.

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Grupo GEA – Mundo Colca.



Arequipa.

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Introduction

Grupo GEA is a nonprofit organization that promotes rural community tourism and ecotourism in rural areas of Peru to enhance the wellbeing of local enterprising families and their guests.

Site & Surrounding

The Mundo Colca project benefits 14 communities in the province of Caylloma, along the Valley and Canyon of Colca. It takes advantage of the sustainable environmental, cultural and socioeconomic assets of the territory, and contributes to expand and diversify the potential of the Colca Valley as a tourist destination.

Sustainability Aspects

This project generates jobs in the tourist sector. It improves family incomes, treasures individual and social cultural knowledge, incorporates environmental, socioeconomic and productive good practices, and promotes the implementation of new initiatives of touristic microenterprises.

Accommodation

30 settlers of rural communities offer their houses with rooms and beds provided with the necessary services and amenities to receive visitors. Homestays are arranged to last at least one day and a half.

Excursions & Activities

- Route “Collagua of Colca”, Callali, Sibayo, Tuti, and Canocota (1.5 days)
- Circuit “Uyo Uyo and Yanque by Night”. Yanque, Achoma and Maca (6h – 1.5 days)
- Circuit “Bird watching and Andean Biodiversity”. Tocra and Salinas y Aguada Blanca National Reserve
- Circuit “Around the Land of Inca’s Wife”. Coporaque, Ichupampa, Lari, Madrigal (1-2 days)
- Circuit “Trekking around the depths of the Canyon”. Cabanaconde-Tapay (1.5 days)
- Tours to agricultural sites, participating of agro-touristic and ecological tasks
- Tours to temples and compounds with colonial architecture along the valley
- Participating in a vicuña chaku (shearing)
- Presentation of local art at the Center of Native Art (dances, music, handicrafts)
- Adventure sports
- Typical and novo-Andean food

DESCO Sur – Colca Valley Project.

Introduction

DESCO Sur, the regional program from DESCO (Center for Studies and Promotion of Development), is active in six provinces in the regions of Arequipa, Ayacucho and Puno. Since 2009, DESCO Sur has been carrying out the Project “Improvement of Agricultural and Livestock Production and Services Articulated for Rural Tourism in the Colca Valley”, aimed at improving the quality of living of Colca residents by assisting them in diversifying their economies and enhancing sustainable rural tourism.

Site & Surrounding

Project activities take place in 13 districts in the Colca Valley, in the Province of Caylloma. Most of the activities take place in the districts of Cabanaconde, Achoma, Yanque, Madrigal, Lari, Ichupampa, Coporaque, Chivay, Tuti, and Callalli.

Sustainability Aspects

The project seeks to add value to and ensure the rational use of natural resources and local products, guided by the principles of environmental conservation and healthy, optimizing and improving production processes, strengthening of the processes to add value to local products, promote rural businesses, products and services for the tourist industry, and access to new markets. DESCO Sur also carries out campaigns to raise public awareness for recycling and re-use of solid wastes, and environmental education programs in schools, local organizations, and among the population at large.

Accommodation

There is a variety of rural lodging services within the Colca Canyon and the local communities. Several tourism entrepreneurs assisted by DESCO Sur offer accommodation at their family houses (lodging, food and guiding services). Homestays provide unique opportunities for intercultural exchange in groups of four to six guests.

Excursions & Activities

- Excursions consider tourist routes, historic routes, ancestral economic corridors, and even footpaths in daily use. In addition, the routes highlight local festivals, agricultural activities, and social events. Two thematic routes are proposed so far:
- The Colca Highlands route (Districts of Sibayo and Callalli) offers the visitors an opportunity to get to know Colca’s ancient cultures.
 - Yanque, one of the best-known places in the Colca valley.



Arequipa.

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ASETUR Rumillacta – Sibayo.



Arequipa.

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Introduction

ASETUR was created in 2006 to develop an alternative to the traditional Colca Canyon tourism experience. It gave rise to rural community based tourism (TRC) in Sibayo, an experiential tourism product involving local families and homestays.

Site & Surrounding

Sibayo can be reached by car in two hours from the city of Arequipa, and one hour from Chivay, the entry gate to the Colca Canyon. Sibayo is located between 3,810 and 4,500 m.a.s.l.

Sustainability Aspects

ASETUR has been created with the common vision to develop a tourism activity that benefits the local families, enhancing their cultural and natural assets, and contributing to the valuation of their traditional lifestyles while improving the families' wellbeing. The tourism activity is planned and managed as a community venture, in coordination and with the support of the Municipality of Sibayo, and on-line with its Strategic Development Plan.

Accommodation

ASETUR members are local families, especially women, trained to provide lodging and food. They have become an interesting example of local women's empowerment. To date in Sibayo there are 32 families offering homestays for visitors (2 to 4 persons in each household).

Excursions & Activities

- Trekking to nearby archaeological sites and nature-based attractions
- Visiting Sibayo's fish farm (one of the largest in Arequipa)
- Assisting locals in alpaca wool production (depending on the season)
- Taking part in the ceremony of Tinkachi, paying homage to Mother Earth
- Interacting with locals and tasting traditional foods
- Other mystical rituals for visitors interested in a more spiritual experience

An innovative program consists of trekking tours with llamas (up to 8 days) passing by archaeological sites, community lands and marvelous natural surroundings.





Madre de Dios.

Exuberant is the word that describes Madre de Dios with its infinite forests, sinuous rivers that rush towards the ocean, and life abounding in all its corners.

At only ten kilometers from Puerto Maldonado, the capital city, you find Lake Sandoval, bordered by aguajales (swampy areas full of palm trees), orchids, kapok trees, caoba trees, and Mauritanian palm trees that grow up to thirty meters tall.

The Manu National Park, located in the departments of Cusco and Madre de Dios, protects more than 800 bird species, 200 species of mammals, gigantic trees, as well as being home to indigenous communities.



Madre de Dios

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Estancia Bello Horizonte.



Introduction

Estancia Bello Horizonte Lodge was created on behalf of the Association for the protection of the children and adolescents APRONIA. The lodge generates work for the youth of the region and supports the children's homes of "San Vicente" and "El Principito", in the jungle region of Puerto Maldonado. In 1997 and the following years, a Swiss priest founded two "San Vicente" children's homes in Puerto Maldonado, to care for children and teenagers, orphans or victims of abuse or abandonment by their families. To make both institutions economically independent, several businesses were set up to provide funding to the children's homes, including "Estancia Bello Horizonte Lodge", carpentry, sewing and stationery shops, and an ice cream parlor.

Site & Surrounding

Located in the community of Bello Horizonte, the lodge is the ideal place for those who want to relax and discover the biodiversity of the Peruvian tropical rain forest. In the surroundings, tourists will be amazed by the natural diversity and beauty of the impressive forests of aguaje palm trees, over a thousand species of tropical plants, and innumerable monkeys, capybaras, peccaries, river otters, caimans and macaws.

Sustainability Aspects

This lodge is a place far removed from child exploitation and social injustice. Sustainable tourism principles are enforced, fair wages paid, gender equality is ensured, and natural resources are used in a sustainable way.

Accommodation

Built in a traditional Amazon style, each bungalow consists of a bedroom with double or twin beds, mosquito netting, a bathroom (private or shared), a closet and a balcony with hammocks or chaise lounges.

Excursions & Activities

Activities include visits to the surrounding areas and the Tambopata region. Excursion options are available, such as a boat trip on the Loboyoc River, visit to a community farm, city tour or visit to the San Vicente Children's Home and craft workshops.



Madre de Dios.

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Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica.

Introduction

A welcoming haven situated at the heart of a 12,000 hectares private ecological reserve, this simple yet gracious, limited-electricity lodge has been an ecotourism pioneer for over 35 years, promoting innovative sustainable use of the southern Peruvian rainforest, and supporting important scientific investigations since its opening in 1975.

Site & Surrounding

Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica is a gracious rainforest lodge, adjacent to the lush Tambopata National Reserve. The area known as the biodiversity capital of Peru awaits the opportunity for discovering an incredible variety of species — birds, mammals, reptiles, insects and trees. A visit to the tropical rainforest is like entering another world.

Sustainability Aspects

Inkaterra is one of the first organizations to be carbon neutral in Peru and focuses on preserving and rescuing Peru's geography, nature, customs and cultures, and sharing them with the world. It hosts over 46,000 visitors per year. Inkaterra hotels have been awarded and recognized worldwide by several international organizations as well as by the environment and tourism media.

Accommodation

35 solidly constructed thatched-roof cabanas (2 suites and 33 superior), built on raised platforms in the indigenous style, surround an architecturally stunning main building and dining room, built of native materials that blend almost seamlessly into the jungle. Special furnishings and delectable food offer a congenial complement to the simplicity of lantern-light and the rich sounds of the jungle.

Excursions & Activities

Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica offers a range of land and river excursions that introduce guests to the magic of the rainforest:

- Daily excursions (e.g. Gamitana Creek, Tambopata)
- Native experience by visiting an indigenous southeastern Amazon family
- Trail systems and rainforest garden
- Twilight river, a guided afternoon boat ride
- Butterfly house
- Inkaterra canopy walkway and anaconda walk; rainforest by night
- Lake Sandoval



Madre de Dios.

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Explorer's Inn – Peruvian Safaris.



Introduction

The Explorer's Inn Eco Lodge is located in the Peruvian Amazon 30 minutes flight from Cusco. Since their pioneering initiative in 1975, they have offered the chance to experience the rainforest with outstanding opportunities to see wildlife in its undisturbed habitat in the Tambopata National Reserve.

Site & Surrounding

The forest and lakes around the lodge are regarded by scientists as one of the most biodiverse places left on earth. In 1977, a 5,500 hectare reserved zone was created by the government of Peru and given in custody to the lodge.

Six hundred species of birds have been recorded including the harpy eagle, hoatzin, tiger and agami heron, and 1,232 butterfly species, the largest numbers for any single locality of this size on earth. Cocococha Lake shelters families of giant otters and black and spectacle caimans. Most rare and endangered mammal species are present including jaguars, giant anteaters, bush-dogs and eight species of monkeys. Close-by is a small clay-lick with hundreds of parrots and macaws. A 50m-high canopy tower will open in mid-2011.

Sustainability Aspects

Explorer's Inn Eco-lodge uses solar panels for lighting in the common areas. They provide satellite internet connection. They buy much of their food and building materials and hire most of their staff from local communities.

Accommodation

The lodge has 30 twin-bed rooms with private bathroom, lit with candles. There is a research laboratory, a natural history museum and library, and a medicinal plant garden.

Excursions & Activities

Explorer's Inn Eco Lodge offers 3-5 day programmed excursions on our 50-km trail network covering the major nature-based attractions. An excursion to a large clay-lick includes an overnight tented camp out. The lodge also arranges tours for birdwatchers and a mystic Ayahuasca experience with a local shaman. All programmes include full board and lodging, land and river transportation and English-speaking guides.



Madre de Dios.

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Rainforest Expeditions.

Introduction

Rainforest Expeditions is a Peruvian ecotourism company founded in 1992 with the purpose of providing authentic educational experiences that support the conservation of the areas where they operate.

Site & Surrounding

Rainforest Expeditions operates three eco-lodges located within or directly adjacent to the Tambopata National Reserve. Several daily flights from Lima or Cusco bring tourists to Puerto Maldonado.

Posada Amazonas combines natural activities in a cultural context. The lodge is co-managed in partnership with the native community of Infierno.

Refugio Amazonas presents an ideal balance for naturalist exploration and observations of sustainable forest use by local populations.

The Tambopata Research Center shows the world's largest macaw clay-lick.

Sustainability Aspects

Posada Amazonas has produced sufficient economic and social impacts on the Community of Infierno to become an effective incentive for the community to manage their forest in a sustainable manner.

Rainforest Expeditions has since 2008 been implementing at its three lodges the recommendations of Rainforest Alliance and is close to be in a position to apply for certification.

Accommodation

Posada Amazonas is a 30-bedroom lodge owned by the Community of Infierno and co-managed with Rainforest Expeditions. The 32-bedroom Refugio Amazonas lodge was opened in 2005. The Tambopata Research Center is an austere, yet comfortable, 18-bedroom lodge which was built more than 20 years ago with the object of lodging both tourists and researchers.

Excursions & Activities

- Posada and Refugio Amazonas: Canopy tower, oxbow lake, parrot and mammal clay-lick, ethno-botanical center, local farm, Brazil nut camp handicraft workshop, community visit, parakeet clay-lick, ceiba trail, kayaking, fishing, canopy climbing, jungle mountain biking
- Tambopata Research Center: Macaw clay-lick, pond, overlook trail, floodplain trail, terra firme trail, canopy tower in palm swamp, creeks trail, riparian habitat.



Madre de Dios.

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Useful Links.

arbeitskreis tourismus & entwicklung (akte):

www.akte.ch

Ashoka:

www.ashoka.org

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation:

www.civicus.org

Tour Cert:

www.tourcert.org

Ecoimagination:

www.ecoimagination.com/challenge

Eldis – Gateway to Development Information:

www.eldis.org

Erenovable (Blog on Renewable Energies):

www.erenovable.com

Fair Trade Resource Network:

www.fairtraderesource.org

Green Travel Bridge:

www.greentravelbridge.de

Green Travel Market:

www.greentravelmarket.info

International Institute for Sustainable Development:

www.iisd.org

International Institute for Peace through Tourism:

www.iipt.org

International Tourism Partnership:

www.internationaltourismpartnership.org

IUCN – The World Conservation Union:

www.iucn.org

MINCETUR – Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism:

www.mincetur.gob.pe

National Program of Rural Community Tourism:

www.turismoruralperu.org

PromPeru:

www.peru.info/en/

Pro-Poor Tourism:

www.propoortourism.org.uk

Rainforest Alliance:

www.rainforest-alliance.org

ResponsibleTravel.com:

www.responsibletravel.com

Responsible Tourism Awards:

www.responsibletourismawards.com

Sustainable Travel International (STI):

www.sustainabletravelinternational.org

Tearfund:

www.tearfund.org

The International Centre for Responsible Tourism:

www.icrtourism.org

The International Ecotourism Society – TIES:

www.ecotourism.org

The United Nations Environment Programme – UNEP:

www.unep.fr/scp/tourism

The Responsible Tourism Partnership:

www.responsibletourismpartnership.org

The Travel Foundation:

www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk

TO DO Awards:

www.todo-contest.org

Tourism Concern:

www.tourismconcern.org.uk

Tourism For Tomorrow:

www.tourismfortomorrow.com

Tour Operators Initiative for Sustainable Tourism Development:

www.toinitiative.org

Travelife:

www.travelife.eu

United Students for Fair Trade:

www.usft.org

Worldwatch Institute

www.worldwatch.org

World Tourism Organization (WTO):

www.world-tourism.org

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