



Animal care projects in Peru



QUICK OVERVIEW

Animal care volunteering in Peru offers hands-on opportunities to support animal welfare, conservation, and ethical care while working closely with local organizations and communities. These projects focus on responsible, long-term impact rather than short-term or exploitative volunteering.

Our animal care volunteering program includes three distinct projects based in and around Cusco. Each project works with different animals and environments but shares a commitment to ethical treatment, proper care, and meaningful volunteer involvement.

Animal welfare challenges in Peru vary widely depending on location, resources, and environmental pressures. Community-based animal care projects play an important role in improving living conditions for domestic animals, supporting rescue and rehabilitation efforts, and promoting responsible animal care practices.

Animal care volunteers contribute through daily care tasks, maintenance, and support activities that help organisations operate sustainably. These placements are practical, immersive, and designed for volunteers who want to make a tangible contribution while learning about animal welfare in a Peruvian context.

Dog shelter project

The dog shelter in Cusco is run by a Peruvian couple. They have been rescuing dogs for a very long time and currently take care of more than 125 dogs, cats, and sometimes other animals as well. They rescue abused, mistreated, and injured dogs from the street and try to save as many as possible.

Unfortunately, in Peru not everyone takes care of their dogs, and mistreatment is common. Therefore, this dog shelter also focuses on educating people about health and sterilization. They organize campaigns and try to educate the local community about how to take care of their dogs.

Tasks:

- Taking care of the dogs
- Giving love and attention to the dogs
- Assist in cleaning the dog shelter
- Assist in feeding dogs
- Assist in training dogs (so they can be adopted long-term)

Wildlife rescue center project

The Wildlife Rescue Center is a family run private organization dedicated to rescuing animals which have suffered from mistreatment of any kind. These rescued animals are put under the care of the rescue center by the forest rangers, a branch of the National Police and National government. At this project, all animals have their vaccinations. The center takes care of all types of wildlife animals with the long-term objective to liberate them again into nature.

The programs running at the center at the moment include: educational programs, recovery programs for the sick and mistreated animals, and reproduction programs for endangered animal species.

Tasks:

- Taking care of animals
- Assist in cleaning
- Assist in feeding animals
- Assist in building new houses
- Provide tours to tourists (optional)

Horse ranch in the Sacred Valley

If a day at the barn sounds like a good time to you, the Horse Care volunteer program in nearby Urubamba is a great option for you. As a volunteer, you will spend each morning looking after the horses, feeding them, mucking their stalls and preparing saddles. If you are lucky, maybe the owners will let you do a bit of riding too. Though that isn't a guaranteed part of the volunteer program.

Please note that this project is based about an hour from Cusco in the beautiful Sacred Valley. Volunteers stay with a homestay family in the town of Urubamba.

Tasks:

- Feeding the horses
- Cleaning the stable, stalls or shelters
- Assisting with plowing the fields
- Prepare the saddles, reins and ropes
- Give tours with the horses (depending on the experience and level of the volunteer as well as season and availability)

In this program, you will stay with a host family in Urubamba. Away from the hustle and bustle of the city, you will have the opportunity to discover a small Peruvian town and the beautiful mountains that surround it. You will get an authentic Peruvian experience with three Peruvian meals a day and a friendly family to practice Spanish with and exchange your cultures.

What's included?

- All Meals
- 24/7 Emergency local numbers
- Airport Pick up
- Area Orientation on arrival
- Pre departure support

Not Included

- Flights to the program destination
- Medical and travel insurance
- Visa costs
- Vaccinations
- Airport Drop
- Transport to Project Sites
- Spanish Language Courses
- Excursions

Accommodation

You'll live in Cusco and stay at a homestay with a local Peruvian family. You will get a private room and an extremely friendly and welcoming family to live with. It's a truly immersive, life-changing travel experience and you'll make friends and connections for life.

All our volunteers will have access to western style bathrooms and home cooked meals will be organised on your behalf. Daily transport to your placement will be using public transport such as buses and auto rickshaws will be organised by us but you will have to pay extra for this. Don't worry its not too expensive in Peru and you can budget \$1-2 a day for this.

Please note that the majority of the houses in Cusco do not have central heating. Bedrooms can be very cold at night but blankets will be provided. Nonetheless, it can still be very cold at night. Therefore, please pack accordingly. Bring appropriate clothing for sleeping.

Laundry: On every street corner you will find a laundry. The price per kilo is S/. 3.00 to S/. 5.00 Nuevos Soles.

Internet: Not all guest families have internet. At the Project Peru school there is internet available with a Wi-Fi connection so you can always use the internet in the school. Also there are plenty of internet cafes throughout the city

Arrival and orientation

When you step out of the airport building you will see somebody waiting for you. Your host family member will have a sign with your name written on it.

You will be going to the volunteer house center for your orientation on Monday. Your orientation tour will begin at 1pm at on Monday and it is compulsory so please do not miss this. Your family will show you the way to our school.

On arrival weekend you are free to explore, relax or spend time getting to know your

host family. On your first day on the project (usually Monday) you will be taken to the project by the staff who will come and pick you up. Your exact placement details will be given to you before arrival.

Transport

You will find taxis everywhere in Cusco. A taxi costs S/. 3.00 Nuevos Soles within the city center or other short distances. At night or for larger distances, it will cost S/.4.00 Nuevos Soles or a little bit more. It is best to take official taxis and taxis with a sign at the top. The public bus is the most popular way of transportation in Cusco.

Money

The Peruvian currency is the "Nuevo Sol", however in some establishments prices are given in U.S. dollars. Local shops and markets only accept Soles. We recommend exchanging money in banks or in "casas de cambio", because they offer more security and guarantees. NOTE: If you plan to exchange U.S. dollars, try to bring the newest and cleanest bills possible. Most places (even banks!) will NOT accept dollars that look old, dirty or torn. Credit cards can be used in high category establishments. In case you need cash, use one of the numerous ATMs located mostly in the centre of the city.

Weather

In Cusco, between May and September, temperatures can drop to about 3o C or even colder at night. From December to March, there may be heavy rains. Generally speaking, Cusco's weather can be cold, but rarely freezing. The average annual temperature is 12o C, ranging from an average day temperature of 18o C and night time temperature around 6o C. There are no heating systems, so bring warm clothes. During the day it will be warm when walking in the sun. In Cusco the sun is very strong, so use sunscreen with a high factor.

Altitude

Cusco is situated at an altitude of 3360 meters, so altitude sickness can be a potential health risk. You must take care the first day: don't drink any alcohol and don't eat heavy meals. Take your time and take it easy when you arrive. You can buy pills in Cusco if you feel sick due to the altitude. At 3000 meters or higher, the air is dry and thin. This makes skin and especially lips dehydrated.

About Cusco

Cusco is a city with 420.000 people. Because of its location in a valley, the distances in Cusco are bigger. The school is located in the center of the city. The center is located in the north of the city. The center is very lively: there are lots of bars and restaurants. The majority of our home stays are located halfway the city, about 15-20 minutes by public bus to the center. The volunteer projects are located throughout the city.

In Cusco there are pickpockets active in crowded places, so always keep an eye on your belongings. During the day, it is safe to walk alone, just be careful with your valuables. Don't walk down the street at night, always take a taxi.