3 November 2026 Puerto Inca, Huanuco, Peru

ABOUT SEMILLAS LIFE

Who We Are:

Semillas Life is a non-profit organization dedicated to driving sustainable economic and social development across rural communities in the Peruvian Amazon. Our work focuses on five core pillars: education, public health, environmental conservation, ecotourism, and cultural exchange.

Mission & Impact:

Approximately 75% of the population in the province of Puerto Inca lives without basic infrastructure, such as running water, adequate sanitation, or paved roads. We believe sustainable tourism and community education offer a powerful alternative to environmentally damaging activities like illegal logging and chemical-heavy gold mining. By equipping community members with new skills and creating eco-friendly economic opportunities, we protect the biological value of the rainforest while helping families thrive.

Project Locations: Codo del Pozuzo & Puerto Inca

Our field bases are in the **Codo del Pozuzo** and **Puerto Inca** districts, both within the province of Puerto Inca (Huánuco Region, Peru). Situated in the central Peruvian Amazon at an altitude of 330 meters above sea level, Puerto Inca is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world. Both locations offer peaceful, safe, and welcoming communities where visitors can walk around freely at any time.The province comprises five main districts:

- Codo del Pozuzo
- Honoria
- Puerto Inca
- Tournavista
- Yuyapichis

The area is culturally rich and diverse, home to indigenous groups including the Asháninka, Yanesha, Shipibo, and Kakataibo, as well as a historical Austrian-German settlement. While Spanish is spoken by the majority of the population, several native languages are actively spoken across the region.

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are seeking motivated, proactive individuals who are excited to teach, collaborate, and exchange ideas.

- **Leadership & Proactivity:** We encourage volunteers in our *Kids Explorer* and *Teaching English* programs to design and lead short, hands-on workshops in areas like arts and crafts, music, drama, environmental awareness, or DIY skills.
- **Positive Role Models:** Volunteers serve as leaders and mentors for local youth. We value open-mindedness, problem-solving, and cross-cultural respect over judgment.

WHY VOLUNTEER WITH US?

By joining Semillas Life, you experience the authentic Amazonian culture and biodiversity far beyond standard tourism. Because we operate transparently and directly alongside residents, any local excursion fees or personal purchases go straight to local farmers, drivers, family-run hostels, guides, and artisans—directly boosting the economy of our host community.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering with **Semillas Life** in the Peruvian Amazon is an immersive, two-way cultural exchange. During your time with us, you will have the opportunity to:

- **Integrate into the Local Community:** Live and work alongside community members in **Codo del Pozuzo**. Experience local customs, build lasting friendships, learn to adapt to a unique jungle environment, and foster mutual respect across cultures.
- **Explore the Peruvian Amazon:** Join guided weekend excursions into the rainforest to discover the region's extraordinary biodiversity and learn about traditional Amazonian legends.
- **Learn Authentic Peruvian Cooking:** Join our project team in the kitchen and learn how to prepare traditional Peruvian dishes. *¡Buen provecho!*
- **Practice Your Spanish:** Enhance your language skills through daily, immersive interactions with community members and our staff.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM DETAILS

1. Teaching English & Youth Empowerment: We offer free English lessons to primary school children in Puerto Inca, Huanuco, Peru, giving young generations valuable tools for their future education and career opportunities.

- **Role & Activities:** Prepare and lead interactive classes using creative tools like games, songs, storytelling, and visual aids (posters, vocabulary cards) to make learning engaging and positive. You can also organize extracurricular workshops in sports, arts, drama, or environmental awareness.
- **Schedule:** Monday to Friday, between 7:45 and 12:45 (up to 15 hours per week, depending on school schedules) or afternoons 13:45 – 17:45.
- **Requirements:** High English proficiency and a creative, encouraging approach. A TEFL certificate is welcome but not required.
- **Desired Skills:** Teamwork, clear communication, creative problem-solving, self-confidence, positive attitude, and basic Microsoft Office skills.

2. Kids Explorer Program (Scouts) & Environmental Education This holistic initiative combines outdoor education, environmental protection, and youth leadership development. **Please note that the Kids Explorer Program acts as a practical complement to our English classes and Environmental Education workshops.**

- **Schedule & Availability:** Excursions and outdoor activities are usually organized **one day during a weekend or one day across two weekends per month, primarily during the dry season**. Execution strictly depends on favorable weather conditions and student availability.
- **Role & Activities:** Facilitate practical workshops on sustainability (e.g., paper making, upcycling art, composting, natural dyes) and lead discussions on environmental conservation. Assist staff on weekend rainforest excursions or camping trips by supervising children, leading team-building games, and guiding hands-on activities (sketching nature journals, tracking wildlife with camera traps, making water filters, creating herbariums).
- **Reforestation & Conservation:** Assist with field projects, including local reforestation initiatives in areas affected by deforestation and land degradation.
- **Equipment Provided:** Tents, camera traps, binoculars, walkie-talkies, and first-aid kits.
- **Desired Skills (Experience welcomed, not required):** Basic navigation/map reading, outdoor safety, pioneering, knot tying, fire lighting, tent setup, field hygiene, shelter building, and basic first aid.

3. Creative Arts & Media Help us document our impact and share our community and conservation work with the global community.

- **Role & Activities:** Take high-quality photos and videos, assist with editing, write content for our platform, and support website design updates.

- **Requirements:** Volunteers on this program must bring their own camera and photography/videography equipment. Drone experience is a plus.

4. Business Management, Marketing & Fair Trade Empower local entrepreneurs and support sustainable economic development in the region.

- **Role & Activities:** Collaborate with local producers (cacao, handicrafts, agricultural products) to develop business plans, implement fair-trade practices, design marketing strategies, and explore new sales channels.
- **Schedule:** Monday through Friday (up to 15 hours per week).

FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY & VOLUNTEER ROLE

Semillas Life is a non-profit organization dedicated entirely to our mission. To keep our initiatives accessible, **our volunteer program is completely free of charge**, we do not charge any placement or program fee.

While participation is 100% free, participants are responsible for their personal living expenses, specifically covering their own daily meals and personal items.

To keep our operations running and fund our projects in the Peruvian Amazon, we rely on fundraising campaigns, grants, and product sales. Therefore, we ask all volunteers to actively support our outreach and fundraising efforts during their program, including using their personal networks and social media to promote our ***Laly Llama*** **educational book series**, our ***Discovering Amazonas*** **science card game**, and our ongoing **fundraising campaigns.** This collective effort helps us secure the essential resources needed to sustain our conservation, healthcare, and educational initiatives.

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

What is Included:

- **Accommodation:** Stay in shared or private wooden cabins (depending on availability). Cabins include a bed, mattress, bedsheets, blanket, pillow, fan, and mosquito net. Access to a fully equipped shared kitchen (refrigerator, gas stove, cooking utensils) to prepare meals at any time. Shared bathroom and shower facilities are located on the property.
- **Amenities:** 24/7 Wi-Fi access in the cabins, relax areas with hammocks, and camping tents for outdoor trips.
- **Weekend Amazon Adventures:** Guided rainforest tours and local exploration (subject to weather conditions; a small local transport fee may apply).

- **Artisanal Chocolate Making Workshop:** Learn to craft Amazonian chocolate from scratch (a small fee may apply to cover raw ingredients and materials used).
- **Certificate of Participation:** Official document verifying your contribution and hours completed.

What is Not Included:

- Airfare, long-distance bus tickets, or airport transfers.
- Personal food and daily meal expenses.
- Personal spending money and leisure activities.

TRAVEL & LOGISTICS GUIDE

1. Our organization does not provide invitation letters or any type of documentation for visa processing. It is the volunteer's responsibility to handle these procedures.

2. How to Get to Puerto Inca

- **Flight/Bus to Pucallpa:** Flight takes ~50 mins; long-distance bus (Cruz del Sur, Movil Bus, Transmar, Estrella Polar) takes ~18 hours.
- **Ground Transfer:** From Pucallpa, take a tuk-tuk to the station and hop on a *colectivo* directly to Puerto Inca (~3 hours, S/35–50 / ~$10–$15 USD).
- **Direct Private Taxi Option:** Private taxi service from Pucallpa Airport directly to Puerto Inca can be organized through us for S/150 (~$45 USD / €39 / £33).

3. How to Get to Codo del Pozuzo Volunteers cover their own transportation costs. You can reach Codo del Pozuzo from Lima via two primary routes:

- **Route A: Via Pucallpa (Flight or Bus)**
  - **Flight:** Lima to Pucallpa (approx. 50 mins via LATAM or Star Perú). Cost: ~$60–$90 USD.
  - **Bus:** Lima to Pucallpa (approx. 18 horas). Long-distance bus (Cruz del Sur, Movil Bus, Transmar, Estrella Polar)
  - **Ground Transfer:** From Pucallpa airport/station, take a tuk-tuk to the *colectivo* (shared car/minibus) station. Take a *colectivo* to Puerto Sungaro (~2 hours, S/35–50 / ~$10–$15 USD), then another *colectivo* from Puerto Sungaro to Codo del Pozuzo (~2 hours, S/35–50 / ~$10–$15 USD).
  - **Direct Private Taxi Option:** We can coordinate a private taxi driver to pick you up directly at Pucallpa Airport and drive you to Codo del Pozuzo for S/300 (~$84 USD).

- **Route B: Via Oxapampa (Bus)**
    - **Bus:** Lima to Oxapampa (approx. 11 hours via Cruz del Sur, Movil Bus, Civa, or ExcluCiva). Cost: ~$25–$45 USD.
    - **Ground Transfer:** Take a *colectivo* from Oxapampa to Pozuzo (~2 hours, S/35–50 / ~$10–$15 USD), and then a second *colectivo* from Pozuzo to Codo del Pozuzo (~2 hours, S/35–50 / ~$10–$15 USD).

Useful Links:

- **Airlines:** LATAM Airlines | Star Perú
- **Buses:** Movil Bus | Cruz del Sur

PRACTICAL & ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

- **Schedule & Arrival:**
    - **Volunteer Commitment:** Up to 15 hours per week (you are welcome to contribute additional hours if you wish).
    - **Arrival Day:** Includes accommodation check-in and an orientation walk through the village. You will receive your weekly project schedule upon arrival.
- **Meals & Local Cost of Living:**
    - Food in the region is very affordable. A full set lunch (*menú del día*—includes soup/starter, main dish, and fresh fruit juice) at a local restaurant cost around S/10 (~$3.00 USD / €2.50).
    - Cooking in our shared kitchen is even cheaper. Fresh local fruits are abundant (and often free to pick), and local community members frequently share ingredients with volunteers out of hospitality.
- **Money & Banking (Important):**
    - **No ATMs:** There are **NO ATMs** in Codo del Pozuzo or Puerto Inca. The nearest ATM for Codo del Pozuzo is in Pozuzo; for Puerto Inca, it is in Pucallpa. Withdraw sufficient cash (Soles) in Lima or Pucallpa before arriving.
    - **Currency Exchange:** Exchange money at official exchange houses (*casas de cambio*) in Lima or Pucallpa (avoid airport counters due to poor exchange rates). Local banks only exchange US Dollars (bills must be crisp, unblemished, and in perfect condition). Euros are generally not accepted for direct exchange in local rural banks.
    - **Western Union:** Available in Codo del Pozuzo for sending or receiving money.
    - **Scam Prevention:** Always confirm prices with drivers or vendors before taking a taxi, tuk-tuk, or purchasing goods.
- **Internet & Connectivity:**
    - Free 24/7 Wi-Fi is provided at our project cabins (can occasionally slow down during peak usage).

    - For heavy internet users or digital nomads, we recommend purchasing a local SIM card (approx. $15 USD / €12.50 for 30 days of unlimited data). **Claro** offers the best coverage in Codo del Pozuzo. **Bitel** offers the best coverage in Puerto Inca.
- **Water & Health:**
    - **Running Water & Water Wells:** While 60% of the local region relies on water wells—including our base in Puerto Inca—our project base in Codo del Pozuzo has safe running tap water. However, we recommend all volunteers bring a portable water filter (ideal for jungle excursions). 20-liter bottled water jugs are also available locally for ~$3.00 USD.
    - **Medical Care:** Both Codo del Pozuzo and Puerto Inca have local health centers and small pharmacies for basic health issues and emergency ambulances. Major hospitals are in Oxapampa or Pucallpa (3–5 hours away). We maintain a complete first aid kit and emergency antivenom on site.
    - **Vaccinations:** A Yellow Fever vaccination is strongly recommended for travel in Amazonian regions.
- **Weather & Seasons:**
    - **Rainy Season:** Mid-December through mid-March (January is typically the wettest month).
    - **Dry Season:** May through September (July is typically the driest month).

PACKING LIST & CODE OF CONDUCT

- **Recommended Packing Items:** Fresh lightweight clothing (T-shirts, shorts, swimwear), raincoat/poncho, trekking boots, sandals/flip-flops, hat, sunglasses, flashlight/headlamp, pocket knife, sleeping bag, compass/GPS, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, water filter, and a personal medical kit (painkillers, cold/fever medication, rehydration salts, anti-diarrheal medicine).
- **House & Community Rules:**
    - **Inclusivity:** We welcome solo volunteers, couples, groups (up to 12 participants at a time), and pets.
    - **Smoking Policy:** Smoking is permitted in designated outdoor areas but strictly forbidden in front of students and children.
    - **Alcohol & Drugs:** Drinking alcohol in public streets is illegal in Peru. Due to our work with children, **we maintain a strict zero-tolerance policy regarding drug abuse.**
    - **Media Consent:** Photos and videos taken during activities may be used for Semillas Life's educational and promotional materials.
    - **Community Respect:** Volunteers are role models. Inappropriate behavior, disrespect toward local customs, or violations of project rules will result in immediate dismissal from the program and a requirement to leave the project facilities within 48 hours.

CONTACT & PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

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