

Kindergarten Volunteers



Highlights

- Playing games and singing songs with the children – we bet you'll have as much fun as they do!
- Watching as the children's confidence and early development improves with your help – a very rewarding experience.
- Getting out and about around Cusco at weekends, or venturing further a field to explore other parts of Peru!

About The Project

We are working with a number of kindergartens in and around Cusco that provide care to children from disadvantaged and underprivileged families. In each centre there are around 35 children, between the ages of 3 and 5 years old. The centers provide a safe place for the children to go during the day, as their parents are usually working hard to scrape together a living. This is a wonderful opportunity to give something back to Peru during your visit, and to get off the tourist trail and come into contact with local people.

Volunteer Role

The first Monday at the Academia is an orientation day. All new students and volunteers go on a city tour of Cusco to get to know the city and learn how to get around and use the public transport system. In the afternoon there's an information session in which you will learn about the Academia, as well as about important issues such as security, do's and don'ts in Cusco, accommodation, volunteer work etc. Your volunteer placement commences on Tuesday of the first week.



Volunteers usually work in the mornings, Monday to Friday, with weekends free to spend as you wish. The kindergartens have very little resources, and as such, you will need to be creative in coming up with new activities that do not require too many materials! The children simply love the attention you can give – prepare to be patient, fun and busy! Your role as a volunteer will include some or all of the following:

- Playing games
- Singing songs
- Dancing and music
- Arts and crafts
- Sports
- Organizing parties

- Assisting with educational lessons
- Helping a meal times
- Teaching personal hygiene
- Supervising during breaks
- Helping with homework

Location



The kindergartens are located up to 45 minutes by bus from the Academia in Cusco.

The city of Cusco sits perched amidst the clouds and the lush Andean greenery at 3300 meters above sea level. Due to the high elevation, it is cool at night, and sunny but cool during the day all year-round - this can be a great excuse to seek out the many markets selling the beautiful wool sweaters and textiles for which the country is renowned!

It's undoubtedly the archaeological capital of the Americas, as the gateway to Machu Picchu, and as such, is an exciting place to spend an extended period of time. Not only is it surrounded by beautiful Incan ruins, but you will be living in the hustle and bustle of a tourist city that still manages to retain many of its traditional ways of life. The narrow cobblestoned streets are lined with imposing Inca-built walls, and the plazas are thronged with Quechua-speaking descendants of the Incas.

Since Cusco is such an important tourist destination, its no surprise to hear that there is a huge wealth of cafes, restaurants, bars and nightclubs to keep you entertained - a fun and varied social life is guaranteed in Cusco! Shopping is also another favorite past time amongst volunteers and students in Cusco, with some of the best places to pick up jewellery, leather crafts, textiles, woollen sweaters, musical instruments and other artesian products.

Accommodation

You will stay either at the student residence or with a host family. Host family accommodation includes a private room, breakfast, dinner and laundry service. Singles, married couples and parents with children can all be accommodated. It is also possible to stay in a student residence – one is located within the school grounds, and there are two very nearby. Here you will self cater - there are shops and markets very nearby and a fully equipped kitchen.

Requirements

Volunteers must be able to commit to at least 4 weeks at the project in order to build up a trusting relationship with the children and staff.

All volunteers must hold a high intermediate level of spoken Spanish. If your Spanish is at a lower level, you must join our Spanish language school prior to commencing your volunteer work.

When choosing to volunteer in a developing country such as Peru, it is important to remain flexible as the needs of the project are constantly evolving. This is what makes volunteering so rewarding – the fact that you are on hand to lend your support when

and where it is needed. By choosing Academia Latinoamericana de Español you will have a comprehensive safety network behind you as we are here to help throughout the duration of your entire stay!

Feedback

“Whilst volunteering on the project I learned to adapt to a different way of life to the one I was used to – it was an unforgettable experience. It’s important that volunteers are patient, creative and affectionate with the children. The volunteer coordinator was incredible too – she welcomed me with such an open heart and was always on hand when I had questions. “

Julia Grutzmacher, Germany

Programme Fee Includes

- Accommodation
- 2 meals per day if staying with a host family
- Project Support
- A donation that goes directly to your project
- Orientation and city tour
- Pre-departure information
- Laundry service if staying with a host family
- 24 hour emergency support

Programme Fee Does Not Include

- International flights
- Meals if staying at the student residence
- Laundry service if staying at the student residence
- Visas
- Travel Insurance
- Inoculations
- Excursions over and above the itinerary

Travel Ideas

At our office we are fully equipped to help you with making weekend travel arrangements, and onwards travel arrangements following your time in Cusco. We work with the best tour companies to offer safe, reliable and competitively priced trips. Some of the most popular excursions include:

- In and Around Cusco – at the weekends there are plenty of sights for you to explore in and around Cusco. There’s the beautiful Chinchero Plaza, possibly the original Incan marketplace. Ollantaytambo fortress, where the Inca fought their last battle with the Spanish invaders. Pisac Indian market – one of the most well-known markets in the country, selling everything from textiles and paintings to vegetables and animals!
- Machu Picchu – No visit to Cusco is complete without seeing the enchanting and dramatic Incan citadel of Machu Picchu. The most famous route is via the multi-day Inca Trail route, however, there are plenty of alternative routes that also culminate in Machu Picchu, including a scenic train journey!
- Nazca Lines – A great mystery of South America. Take a flight across the stony plains of Pampa de San Jose and see for yourself the incredible animal-shaped and geometric etchings.
- The Amazon – Swing in hammocks, swim with pink river dolphins, spot exotic wildlife and pretend to be Tarzan! The ultimate Peruvian adventure!
- Lake Titicaca – South America’s largest Lake which borders Peru and Bolivia. Stay on one of the floating islands for a true insight into the lifestyle and culture of the local communities.

Apply Now

If you have some further questions about this project, please feel free to contact us at sandra@latinoschools.ec

If you would like to book this programme, please [click here](#) to complete the booking form. We will be in touch within one week of application to confirm your booking!