



# YASC in Peru: Along the Marañon

Newsletter 2  
February 12, 2020

## Hola participante en YASC en Perú:

We are very excited that the trip is full and has a waitlist. So what's next? From now on, we will use this space for What You Have to Do Next. Here goes:

- Submit the Release Forms that Joao sent you about two weeks ago.
- Send your photo to Joao.
- Pay for the trip by March 1 through your [existing reservation](#). All payments including deposits are non-refundable at that point. We will be firm about the payment deadline so that we can confirm travelers from the waitlist on a timely basis.
- Email Kathy if you are interested in being a project leader.
- Put the April 2 Orientation call in your calendar.

Meanwhile, the preparations for our visit to Nauta and the communities have begun and will intensify in March. The logistics are complex as we expect to bring together our group of 80, a team of 5 from Minga, and around 20 translators, most likely university students from Iquitos, for the entire program. Danielle has been working with Henry, the local restaurant owner "hosting" our meals in Nauta, and Minga to plan breakfasts, lunches, and dinners for the 105 of us. It is a complicated project in itself.

In March, we will finalize project assignments based on your preferences and the projects requested by the communities. While it is still too early to make detailed project plans, Minga has confirmed that we will work on murals.

As always, feel free to email us if you have any questions .Happy travels!

Kathy, Danielle, and João

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Reminder: Join us on April 2 at 7 pm (east coast) for the first orientation video call. Details to follow...



Volunteer leaders Kathy and Danielle



## Peruvian culture

By Alonso Quiroz Yi Choy at Minga Peru

Peru is a diverse country whose cultures vary according to the region. There are three distinct geographical areas, each with its own culture. Iquitos is one of the most important cities in the jungle, just like Cusco in the highlands and Lima on the coast.

Although the customs and cultures are diverse, one thing all Peruvians share is their passion for food. There is no city in Peru that does not have a street food stand or a market with dishes with a lot of flavor at a comfortable price putting it within reach of many people.



Peruvians enjoy eating a lot and this is reflected in the great variety of dishes. This

variety has allowed Peruvian chefs to innovate by joining different cuisines and flavors and making Lima one of the best gastronomic cities in the world.

Disclaimer: The food during the trip is likely to be basic cooking that is typical of the region. If you have dietary restrictions, bring supplies.

## Health Prep Reminder

We suggest that you consult your doctor regarding immunizations as early as possible, since some vaccinations are administered in installments and some medications may take time to order. The Yellow Fever vaccine is in limited supply in the U.S. This area of Peru is considered a malarial area. For general info about immunizations and health issues, visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website [Peru information page](#).

## Kukama culture

By Alonso Quiroz Yi Choy

The Kukama people live in the Peruvian Amazon near the Marañón, Ucayali, and Huallaga rivers and their tributaries. They are estimated to number over 20,000 inhabitants who live in approximately 120 communities. The Kukama people have a special set of technical knowledge and skills for producing agricultural products because the majority of the communities remain flooded for approximately half the year.



The Kukama people come from the original Tupí people who much preferred to be more nomadic and move around very frequently. Today the Kukama rely on fisheries, fruit production, and agriculture to sustain their lifestyle and maintain their sometimes very isolated communities. Many communities have also incorporated artisanal production into their day to day lives as a way to provide income to the community and also share their culture with the world.



## Weather in Nauta



The best time to visit Iquitos for "ideal weather" is late July based on average temperature and humidity from NOAA (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

Daily high temperatures are around 86°F, rarely falling below 80°F or exceeding 91°F. Daily low temperatures are around 71°F, rarely falling below 67°F or exceeding 74°F. The lowest daily average low temperature is 71°F on July 22. There is a chance of rain throughout the year.

That said, the UV Index, is 10 in July and you should take precautions: Use SPF 30+ lotion with ultraviolet filter, a shirt, sun glasses that protect from the UV, and a baseball cap or similar. Do not stay in the sun too long!

Average temperatures in Iquitos vary barely at all. Considering humidity, temperatures feel hot all year with

## ...and on the Extension

July 26 – 30



About 60 people are going on the extension to Cusco so we will include information about it in the Newsletter.

Daytime temperatures are mild year-round. May–Sep is dry, chilly at night and peak travel time. The average high-temperature, in July, in Machu Picchu is 25°C (77°F), while the average low-temperature is 9°C (48.2°F).



## Arrival and Departure

Yes, we provided flight info in the January Newsletter however it bears repeating and there are a few more details:

The group will meet at the Lima, Peru airport slightly **earlier** than originally announced: **8:15 a.m.** on July 18. Consider **booking your flight** to (and from) **Lima** after paying for the trip. There are non-stop flights from many cities. If you are flying in on July 18, we recommend that your flight arrive at the airport no later than 6:15 a.m. to enter through immigration, etc. Your passport must be valid for 6 months after entry and you need proof of a departure flight. A free tourist visa is issued on entry.

We are all on the same flight to Iquitos. The luggage allowance for the flight is one piece up to 23kg (50 lbs) and a piece up to 8kg (17 lbs.) We might ask you to include some project supplies in your luggage though we will be able to source materials in Iquitos and Nauta as well.

The program finishes in **Lima** on July 26 around 10:30 am (flight from Iquitos arrival) or July 30 at 6 pm (flight from Cuzco arrival) if you are on the extension. Note that all flights are subject to delay especially the one from Cuzco (due to fog.) Plan accordingly. If you need a place to stay, there is a Wyndham hotel at the airport as well as many hotels in the city.

Where do we meet? In LIMA!  
YASC is taking care of your flight to Iquitos.

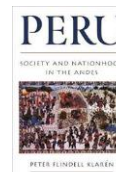


### THINGS TO DO NOW:

- Submit the Release Forms
- Send your photo to Joao.
- [Pay for the trip by March 1.](#)
- Email Kathy if you are interested in being a project leader.

## Recommended Reading

We asked Yale Professor [Richard L. Burger](#) for book recommendations for you. Here are his suggestions:



[Peru](#) by Peter Klaren for a book about Peruvian history and society.

[Ancient Andes](#) by Jeffrey Quilter (published by Cambridge) for a general book on Peruvian archaeology

[Conquest of the Incas](#) by John Hemming.

[Pataleon and the Visitors](#), [The Green House](#) or other novels by Vargas Llosa to get a sense of Peruvian culture.

[Machu Picchu: Unveiling the Mystery of the Incas](#) by Lucy Salazar and Richard Burger. It is still the best on the subject.

