



Peru

Mosqoy Mamas and Inca Exploration

18 Days

This 18-day adventure shows us the very best that Peru has to offer, from the awe-inspiring sight of Machu Picchu after a spectacular trek through the Peruvian mountain tops, to white water rafting adventures and incredible Inca ruins. Amongst all of this we will have the opportunity to explore the life of Peruvian women as we join various discussions with locals from all walks of life, learn about traditional weaving techniques and join the Mosqoy community project in Parobamba an initiative which will bring long term benefit to their lives. This journey will be an unforgettable adventure for everyone!



[Learn more about our Carbon Labels](#)

Your Recommended Expedition Itinerary

Days 1 - 2

Depart UK & fly to Peru

LD

We will board an overnight flight and arrive in Cusco on day 2 of our trip. Upon arrival we will be met by our Trip Leader and transferred to the hotel where we have the chance to freshen up. We then enjoy a walking tour of the area which will not only allow us to get our bearings but also adjust to the altitude which is an impressive 3399m. The beautiful historic centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and offers many examples of Inca and colonial architecture.

Day 3

Cusco Ruins and City

BLD

Today we will explore more of what Cusco and the surrounding area has to offer. We start at the impressive site of Sacsayhuaman where huge stone ramparts surround a grass amphitheatre. Once, this was the scene of fierce battles, but it is now used for traditional Inca ceremonies. Next, we move on to the Tambo Machay water temple which features intricately carved water channels thought to have been used for ritual cleansing and water worship. From here we continue down to Cusco, stopping at the Temple of the Moon en route. Back in Cusco we stop at the Plaza de Armas to see its impressive cathedral and Qoricancha Temple, which was once home to life sized gold statues. Time permitting, we will visit one of the town's bustling markets and experience a taste of Peruvian life.

Day 4

Urubamba White Water Rafting and Meet with Local Women

BLD

We set off this morning on a white-water rafting adventure! Our route will be along a beautiful section of the Urubamba River. After a thorough safety briefing, we will begin making the most of the gentle start to practice our technique before the river flows through the canyon. We will experience the exhilaration of rapids, torrents and views of the stunning peaks. This afternoon we meet with local women to learn about their local way of life and what it means to be a woman in Peru. It will be an interesting insight into the local culture and attitude to the sexes.

Day 5

Pisac Ruins and Ollantaytambo

BLD

Our first stop today will be the extensive Inca ruins above Pisac. Here we will enjoy a circular hike along an Inca trail through royal buildings, lookouts, terraces, tunnels and irrigation channels. We will then visit Pisac market, the perfect opportunity to try a freshly baked empanada from the town oven. Afterwards, we drive along the Urubamba River to visit the Inca fortress town of Ollantayambo, the site of the final major battle between the Incas and the Spanish before the remaining Incas fled to the jungles. It is a superb place to see well preserved ruins and the hill-top Sun Temple which remains unfinished, proving clues to the building methods used.

Days 6 - 10

Mosqoy Project

BLD

We spend the next five days in the lofty heights of Parobamba village where we will be working alongside local people and the staff at Mosqoy in their social enterprise project. Depending upon the time of our visit, this could see us building anything from a water collection and storage system to maintaining the vegetable garden or digging eco loos! It will be an incredible opportunity to be involved firsthand in a project which brings long-term benefit to local people's lives.

Here we will be staying in remote accommodation with basic amenities and joining villagers in their day-to-day life, allowing us the opportunity to build a real connection with the people of Parobamba and to understand the life of rural women in Peru. We will also spend some time with local weavers, a job held by women to offer them some of their own financial independence. Weaving is a



traditional handicraft in Peru and creating beautiful hand-woven cloths and products is something which many local women depend upon. Mosqoy also works alongside local weavers to help them sell their products abroad at a significant premium and reinvest the profit into the community through development and educational programs. It will certainly be a rewarding few days, allowing us to gain a true understanding of the roles of women and rural life high in the hilltops of Peru.

Days 11 - 14

Salcantay Trek to Machu Picchu

BLD

We hope you are ready to stretch your legs! We will rise early on day 11 to begin our trek of the Salcantay Trail. During this four-day trek we will be rewarded with panoramic views of the snowcapped mountains and the valley of the Apurimac River. Over these days our surrounds will shift from dry scrub to snowy peaks to tropical jungle and we will see an endless array of waterfalls, fruit bearing trees, varied fauna and birds. Our days will start early, hopefully allowing us to see the spectacular sunrises and finish each day's trek with plenty of time to recover and relax in our camp for the night. On day 13 we can even visit the thermal hot springs in Santa Teresa, a much-needed reward for our tired muscles! The trail finishes on day 14 in the Urubamba Valley from which we will enjoy a short but spectacular train ride to the bustling town of Machu Picchu Pueblo and a well-deserved night in a local hotel.

Day 15

Machu Picchu Tour

BLD

Relaxed after a comfortable night, we head up to Machu Picchu for a full guided tour before the crowds arrive. We've all seen the photos but visiting Machu Picchu in person is a truly breath-taking experience. Perched high above the Urubamba River and surrounded by towering mountains and deep valleys, it is one of the Modern Wonders of the World and set in the most awe-inspiring location. Afterwards, there is time to hike to the Inca Bridge, Watchman's Hut or else just wander through the ruins soaking up the atmosphere. In the afternoon we descend to the waiting train to enjoy one of the great train journeys of the world back along the Sacred Valley to our hotel for the night.

Day 16

Cusco & Meet with Local Women

BLD

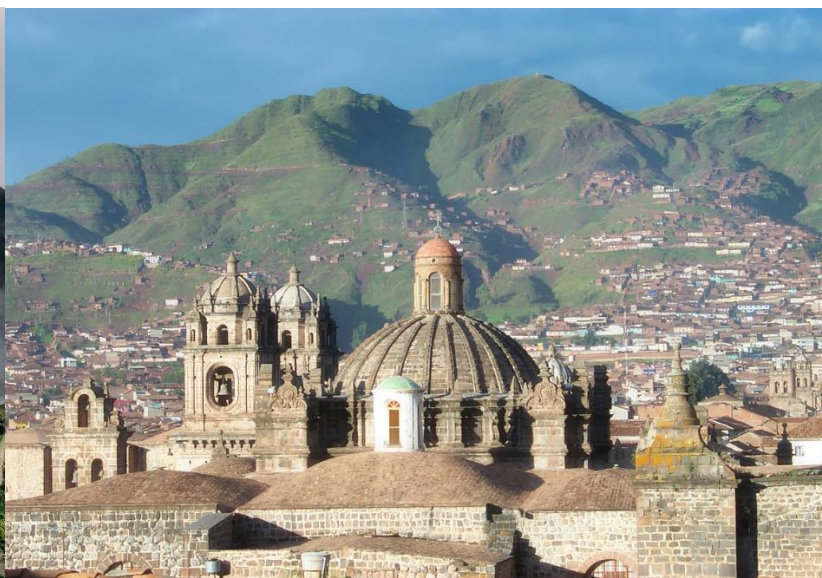
We will have this morning free for some rest and recuperation in Cusco and one last chance to explore the nearby Inca ruins, colonial churches, chocolate museum or hunt for some last-minute bargains in the market. This afternoon we have the opportunity to explore the darker side of life in Peru as we discuss with local women the effects of the forced sterilization programme which took place under President Alberto Fujimori. It will be a sobering discussion and will raise many questions as we discuss why, despite this, many women still fiercely support him as a leader.

Days 17 - 18

Depart Peru & arrive UK

BL

Today we will be transferred to the airport to wave a sad farewell to our Trip Leader and the wonders of Peru. We arrive back in the UK this morning after our overnight flight, full of incredible stories to tell!



Look what's included:

- International flights
- All accommodation, transportation and activities
- All food as described above
- Local, bi-lingual, first-aid qualified STC leader
- Parent and student trip launch presentation
- Pre-travel training programme
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for school staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Emergency Medical & Repatriation Insurance

- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Donations to two carbon & conservation charities
- Free Fairtrade t-shirt for every participant and teacher
- Free travel guide book to your destination

What's not included:

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations or Covid tests

- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters (ask for guidance)
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Personal effects and cancellation insurance



A word about Responsible Tourism

On our expeditions and educational journeys, we strive to connect teachers and students with the people they meet, nurture the cultures they experience and protect the beautiful environments they are lucky enough to explore.

Many companies talk the talk, few truly walk the walk. We are far from perfect, but we are leading the way in sustainability in the school travel sector. In 2018 we were the first UK travel company to become **Travelife Certified** – a verified sustainability certificate formally recognised by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council.



Trees for Life

This is our passion, and we'd love to tell you more about it in due course. In the meantime, for more information on some of the steps we take as a company to make our operations more sustainable, please visit:

<https://www.thestc.co.uk/travel/what-do-we-do/>

Physical Rating for this trip: Grade 4



Fitness is important at this grade, which compares to extended walking in mountainous terrain such as the Lakes or Snowdonia, for up to three to five days in a row. It is likely that significant sections of a trip will involve walking and trekking with some days up to eight hours. Some of the trip could be at altitudes of up to 4,500m, but the itinerary will be designed with appropriate acclimatisation in mind. Be prepared for significant possible variations in temperatures throughout the tour. There is not usually time to 'get fit' on these treks, so a two to four-month fitness improvement programme would ensure you get the most out of the trip.

Cultural Rating for this trip: Grade 4



Students joining trips at this level will find the comforts of home are more of a rarity – or viewed another way, a welcome luxury. English is unlikely to be widely spoken and the food will be quite different to home, perhaps for extended sections of the trip. You should observe local customs so not to cause offence. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty and accommodation in some locations is likely to be basic. Whilst a challenge, destinations and trips at cultural level 4 are also a fantastic opportunity to see a very different part of the world.



Travel Safety & Other Expedition Training

Preparing students and teachers for their upcoming adventure is an opportunity to teach important life skills and a vital part of our overall approach to safety management. Please ask for your quote for the training schedule specific to your expedition. Topics covered will include:

Responsible Tourism workshop

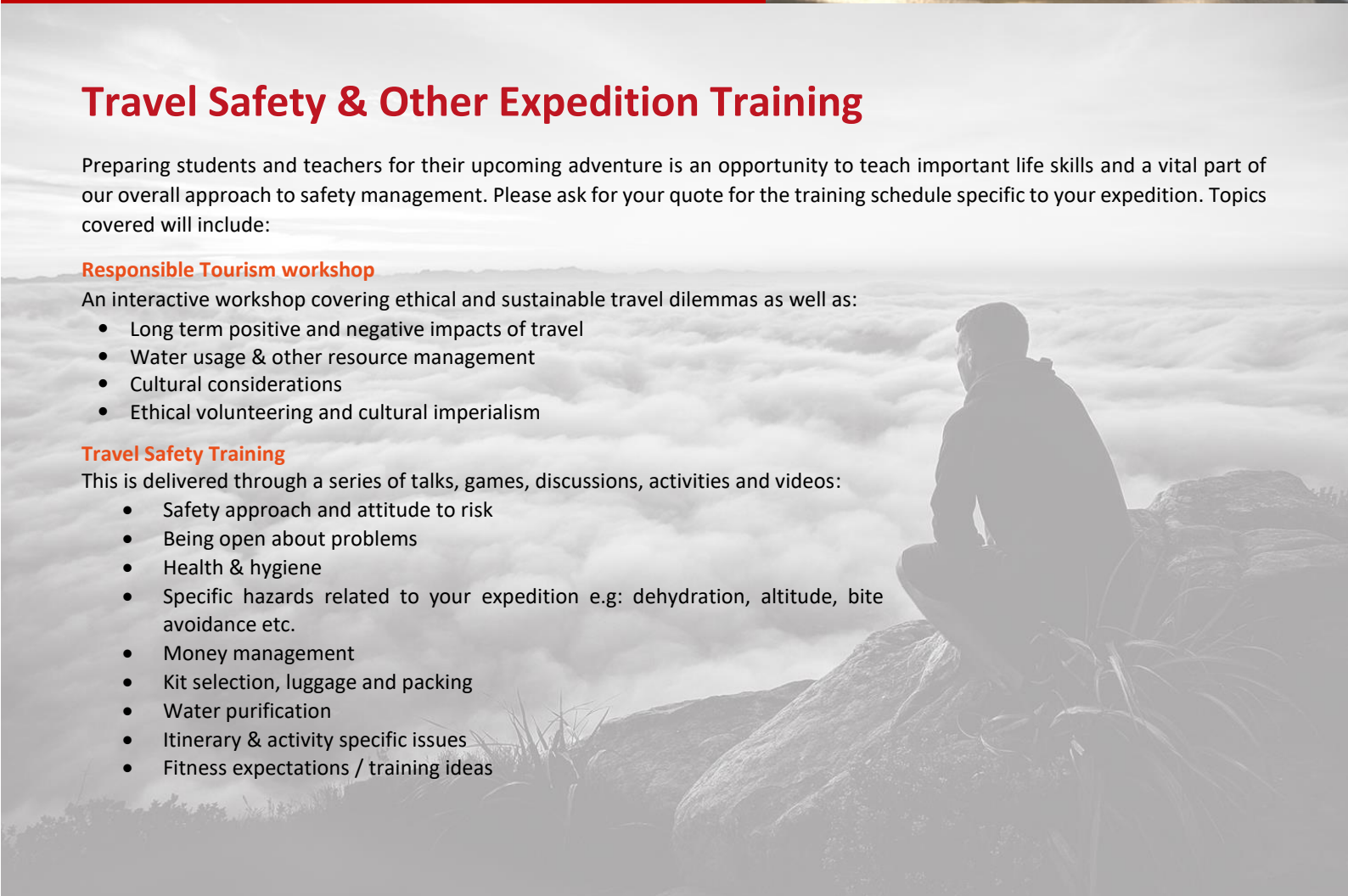
An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- Long term positive and negative impacts of travel
- Water usage & other resource management
- Cultural considerations
- Ethical volunteering and cultural imperialism

Travel Safety Training

This is delivered through a series of talks, games, discussions, activities and videos:

- Safety approach and attitude to risk
- Being open about problems
- Health & hygiene
- Specific hazards related to your expedition e.g: dehydration, altitude, bite avoidance etc.
- Money management
- Kit selection, luggage and packing
- Water purification
- Itinerary & activity specific issues
- Fitness expectations / training ideas





A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your expedition journey

1 Ask for your personalised quote & further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your expedition itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an adventure that's just right for you and your students. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk and threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your Pre-Booking Information Pack too.

3 Arrange an expedition launch evening

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the expedition with a comprehensive information evening covering the itinerary, safety management, the build-up to the trip and lots more. There is also plenty of opportunity for questions.



The home of the modern, innovative school expedition, where a sustainable, ethical approach guarantees unique experiences and a life enhancing adventure.



Our school trips and educational tours are all about maximising the learning opportunities of travel. It's all here, the humble school tour has just come of age.



Adventures, holidays and cultural journeys for teachers looking to 'Escape the Classroom' and discover more about our amazing world, its people and places.



"I am being completely serious when I say that I won't ever run a school trip without you guys. I trust you and your team completely - and the in-country staff that you carefully cultivate and train are a cut above the rest."

Teacher feedback, King's High Warwick

Contact Us:

STC Expeditions, 6b King Street, Exeter, EX1 1BH

t: 01392 660056 | e: schools@thestc.co.uk | w: www.thestc.co.uk

