

January



Peru

Ecology, Community, and Spirituality in the Indigenous Amazon

Study Abroad in Ecovillages

Journey to Peru's Andean-Amazon region to learn firsthand from local communities living lightly and in harmony with their local environment. Experience indigenous Quechua principles of cultural autonomy and respect of ancient practices that 'talk back' to global systems of capitalism and politics and assert the wisdom of a worldview that values the 'other-than-human' living world of plants, animals and spiritual energies. Build skills in working effectively with peers and contribute to the regeneration of local communities through service learning projects promoting agricultural biodiversity, sustainable environmental action, and right livelihood.



Program Highlights

- ☀ Live with families in Quechua villages and participate in native agriculture and daily rituals
- ☀ Work in the High Amazon forest on a cutting edge regeneration project that benefits local peoples and the environment
- ☀ Learn about native Shamanic belief systems and experience a 3-day guided Quechua contemplative retreat
- ☀ Visit indigenous sites of cultural and ecological importance
- ☀ Work with Center Sachamama, a local non-profit dedicated to regenerating the Peruvian Cloud Forest, local healing traditions, and organic, sustainable and fair justice food production
- ☀ Reflect on how post/colonialism has shaped the Amazon



Academic Credit and 2010 Program Dates

Earn 4 transferable credits through the University of Massachusetts Amherst

Course: Ecology, Community, and Spirituality (Anthropology 396P)

January Term 2010 12/27 - 1/17 (subject to change: see website)



Living Routes is an independent, non-profit educational organization whose academic programs are accredited by UMassAmherst.

Peru



Course Topics

- ☀ Indigenous Culture and Agriculture
- ☀ Shamanism
- ☀ Community Building
- ☀ Biodiversity Regeneration & Reforestation Efforts
- ☀ Spanish & Quechua (conversation skills)



Application Deadline

(Rolling admissions, contact us for late availability)

October 31

Costs (subject to change)

Tuition, room & board, travel insurance,
and in-country travel \$2,900
UMassAmherst credit included

Faculty

Frédérique Apffel-Marglin, Ph.D., Anthropology, Brandeis University

Emerita Professor of Anthropology at Smith College, Apffel-Marglin has done two decades of fieldwork in India, Bolivia, and in Peru, where she now directs an NGO. From 1985 - 91, she was co-director with the Harvard economist Stephen Marglin at the World Institute for Economics Research (WIDER), part of the UN University in Helsinki, Finland. Apffel-Marglin has authored some 50 published articles and authored and co-edited numerous books and chapters in her areas of specialization: religion, gender; critiques of development; science studies and indigenous traditions and ecology. She is director and founder of this program.

Gillian Goslinga, Ph.D.,

Ph.D., History of Consciousness, University of California, Santa Cruz;
M.A., Visual Anthropology, University of Southern California

Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Wesleyan University, Goslinga is interested in the poetics and politics of incommensurable knowledges and has worked in South India on so-called "virgin birth" beliefs (the attribution of reproductive agency to gods and goddesses) and in Peru and the U.S., on shamanic traditions of healing self and community. She has served as the Academic Director of the South Indian Term Abroad (SITA) in Madurai, India. Goslinga is also an ethnographic filmmaker (www.der.org) and an avid horsewoman.

From our Alumni

"Awesome! This program puts learning into context through experience. I feel conscious of the world around me in every sense, not just intellectually, but physically, spiritually, and culturally. This course makes you step back from egoism, anthropocentrism and humbles you... You cannot get this kind of experience anywhere else."

"My world view has been altered; shaken in a profound way that makes me consider the ideology underlying my perceptions, actions and decisions."



** Special Thanks to Living Routes alumnus Gabe Pollack, pictured above, for the use of his excellent photos **