

Peru FAQ

Where are we going?

We are going to Kusi, a boys' home run by Scripture Union Peru. It is located High up in the beautiful Andes at the foot of the Huascarán, the highest mountain in Peru. The town of Yungay is about 2km away and an hour's drive from Huaráz, the regional capital.

Who are we working with?

We are working with Scripture Union Peru, a ministry of Scripture Union international which began its work in Peru in 1927. They work with indigenous leadership and through local churches in five distinct ministries: Education through local schools, Bible studies, Medical care/relief, Ministry to the Deaf, Ministry to Abandoned Boys. Southwood has worked with Scripture Union for many years, particularly with the Abandoned Boys ministry, and there is a strong relationship between our church and the leadership of Scripture Union. Scripture Union has an impeccable reputation both in Peru and in the U.S.A, and their programs for short-term teams are safe, effective, and well structured.

How will we get there?

We will fly into Lima on May 29th and spend one night in a hotel, traveling by bus to Kusi the following day. We will stay and work in Kusi for 7 days, returning to Lima on June 7th and flying home to Huntsville on June 8th. Scripture Union arranges for transportation to and from the airport, hotels in Lima, and transportation to and from Kusi. We will fly on whichever major airline offers the most reasonable fares and realistic flight schedule.

What will we be doing while we are there?

We will be staying and working at the Girasoles home in Kusi, assisting with construction projects and developing relationships with the abandoned boys who live in this particular home.

Is Peru dangerous?

The greatest danger is primarily pickpocketing and petty theft, but as with anywhere else in the world we must be cautious. Students are advised not bring expensive items, and to be discreet when carrying cash, cameras, ipods, etc.

How will the altitude affect me?

Kusi is approximately 8700 feet above sea level, and we may travel to Huascarán National Park (close to 12,000 feet above sea level), so precautions for altitude sickness are important. This altitude is similar to Breckenridge, CO (9,600 feet above sea level), so if your student has been skiing or hiking in CO, their reactions will be similar. Rest and hydration are the best preventions, but the drug Diamox may also be taken to help the body acclimate more quickly. Please talk with your physician if you are interested in this medication (note that if you are allergic to sulfa medications, diabetic, or on an aspirin regimen taking Diamox is contraindicated) We do recommend that adults and students alike do some physical exercises for the months leading up to the trip, as the altitude exacerbates the physical challenges of walking to/from town and the manual labor.

Sunburn is also a potential "hazard" at high altitudes, so sunscreen, sunglasses, and broad brimmed hats are required.

What about immunizations?

Students need to be current on all of their vaccinations, especially Tetnus, but please note that preventative medicine for Malaria and Yellow Fever is NOT required for this region of Peru.

What will our accommodations/meals be like?

We will sleep, eat, and work at the Kusi sight. All meals will be prepared by the Scripture Union staff, and are safe for Americans to eat. They are also DELICIOUS! Scripture Union also provides filtered water for the the work teams, which is also safe for consumption. We will have access to cold showers. The weather will be warm and very sunny during the days, while the mornings and evenings will be cool. Dormitories are bunk room style and include mattresses, so sheets/blankets or a sleeping bag is recommended. A packing list with details will be provided later, but students should plan on rustic but comfortable accommodations.

Where do I get my passport?

If you do not have a valid, United States passport you will need to apply for one immediately as it can take up to 6 weeks or more to obtain. You can obtain a passport application online by visiting the U.S. Department of State website (<http://travel.state.gov/passport>) or you can visit the post offices listed below to obtain an application. If you have never had a passport before then you will need to present your application in person. All passports must be valid for 6 months past the trip dates, and contain at least a couple of empty pages.

Haysland Station Post Office

8401 Whitesburg Drive S.

256-882-7678

Appointment required

Huntsville, AL Post Office

645 Wynn Drive

256-722-4749

Walk-In

How much will this trip cost?

The total cost of the trip will be \$2,300 per student. This amount covers plane tickets and all transportation and lodging costs, as well as food, water, and construction material while on site. Students are asked to contribute 10% of the total cost (\$230) themselves, and are then encouraged to raise the remaining support from friends and family. Students are also encouraged to have between \$100-\$150 of spending money for souvenirs, airport food, etc.

Why do we ask students to contribute 10% of their own money?

We ask students to contribute 10% for two reasons. First, it gives them a greater personal investment; we usually value what we have purchased with our own money more than what someone else has given us. Second, it helps them better understand the sacrifices that others make to financially support their trip and reinforces that this is not a vacation with other people's money.