

# Peru FAQ

## **Where are we going?**

We are going to Casa Girasoles-Ica, a boys' home run by Scripture Union Peru. It is located in the foothills of the beautiful Andes mountains, a few hours south of Lima.

## **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 June 1 and spend one night in a hotel, traveling by bus to Ica the following morning. We will stay and work in Ica, return to Lima and fly home to Huntsville to arrive home on the 11th. Scripture Union arranges for transportation to and from the airport, hotels in Lima, and transportation to and from Ica. 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 Ica, assisting with construction projects and developing relationships with the abandoned boys who live in this particular home.

## **Is Peru dangerous?**

Peru is not a distinctly dangerous place. 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.

## **What about immunizations and health hazards?**

Vaccinations: 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. The first shot of the Hepatitis A vaccination is needed at least two months in advance of the trip as well as the Typhoid Fever vaccination 1 month prior. It is recommended that your doctor issue you a prescription for Cipro, in case you accidentally consume something that you should not. This will be administered to you by the trip physician. Sunburn is also a potential hazard, so sunscreen, sunglasses, and hats are required.

## **What will our accommodations/meals be like?**

We will sleep, eat, and work at the Ica sight. All meals will be prepared by the Scripture Union staff, and are safe for Americans to eat. They are also DELICIOUS! We will also be able to bring peanut butter, jelly, Nutella, etc., to help supplement the food. Scripture Union also provides filtered water for the work teams, which is safe for consumption. We will have access to warm showers. The weather will be warm and very sunny during the days, while the mornings and evenings will be cooler. 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.

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**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 approximately \$2,350 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 (\$235) themselves, and are then encouraged to raise the remaining support from friends and family. Students are also encouraged to have between \$75-\$100 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 several reasons. First, it helps them to have some personal “skin in the game;” we usually value what we have purchased with our own money more than what someone else has given us. It also helps them to understand the sacrifices that others make to financially support their trip, and reinforces that this is not simply a vacation.