

# AMAZON RAINFOREST WORKSHOPS

## INTRODUCTION

Unique, active, and fun! Through field experiences at four rainforest lodge facilities in the Amazon River basin of Northern Peru, you are engaged in an immersion experience. This travel program is an eye-opening introduction to the environmental and cultural aspects of the Amazon Rainforest and river system. Each workshop is designed by Environmental Expeditions and hosted by EcoTeach to be an experience in a developing country that is safe, comfortable, and accessible. The program offers meaningful experiences with children and local people during the Amazon Library visit, Culture & Craft Fair, Service Project, and other village experiences.

## PROGRAM FEATURES

- ❖ Ascend over 115 feet on a 1/4-mile Rainforest Canopy Walkway, one of the few in the world.
- ❖ Visit local communities and contribute to the well being of people who live on the Amazon.
- ❖ Identify ecosystem partnerships in one of the most biologically diverse environments.
- ❖ Engage all of your senses to observe the unique flora and fauna of the Amazon Rainforest.
- ❖ Use hand lenses, binoculars, maps, taxonomic keys for identification, and other simple field equipment with the help of our experienced Naturalist Guides to learn about:

Insect Camouflage & Mimicry • Neotropical Butterflies • Rainforest Canopy Research  
Rainforest Conservation • Neotropical Birds & Migration • Reptiles and Amphibians  
Rainforest Ecosystem Comparisons • Amazon River System, Geology and Soils  
Medicinal Plants • Orchids & Bromeliads

### ***WHY CHOOSE TO TRAVEL TO THE PERUVIAN AMAZON?***

The Peruvian Amazon provides easy access to primary rainforest areas, has political stability and a friendly culture, and provides unparalleled learning opportunities. You'll experience life in a developing country firsthand and without the disruptive influence of major tourist development. Indigenous people here live a modest life in harmony with their rainforest environment. Also, our participants have the opportunity to see the canopy layer of the rainforest on the Canopy Walkway at the Amazon Conservatory of Tropical Studies. ACTS is a science, education, and tourism facility located on a wilderness area encompassing 250,000 acres of primary rainforest.

### ***WHY ARE THE STUDY AND PRESERVATION OF THE RAINFOREST WORTHY GOALS?***

Rainforests cover less than **8 percent of the Earth's land surface**, yet support more than **half of the known plant and animal species**. In a very real sense, they are the lungs of our planet. The Amazon rainforest alone produces about 20 percent of the Earth's oxygen.

One of the greatest needs for preserving the world's rainforests is a more pervasive understanding of these ecosystems and our interdependence with them. While the preservation of rainforests will require immediate and heroic efforts worldwide, our continuing **global health depends upon an educated, caring, and enlightened younger generation**. Those who have visited a rainforest develop an unmatched enthusiasm about their knowledge. The passionate stories about their personal experiences take on special meaning for family and friends at home, and promote a better understanding of the vital role of indigenous cultures and the importance of science in conserving the rainforest.

If there is any place to instill a perspective that recognizes the **integrity and interconnectedness of natural systems – it is the rainforest**. The creatures that have adapted and survived the test of the immense

competition of the forest floor are unusual, diverse, and fascinating. Their relationships with other creatures and elements of the environment form an intricate web. The biological value of the rainforest, as well as its spiritual and cultural importance, is too immense to quantify. It is the awareness of this priceless nature that makes **environmental stewardship** a natural outcome.

If there is any place to demonstrate the **interconnections between social studies, science, history, culture, and art – it is the rainforest**. The rainforest experience is inter-disciplinary. It encourages curiosity and inquiry as a basis for science, fosters a geographic perspective, inspires journaling and field sketching, and immerses one in a culture unlike our own. The intensely rich rainforest environment, the simple ways of its indigenous peoples, and their local economic challenges, are easily observable as part of one intact, interrelated system. You'll return home with a grasp of the many perspectives and considerations involved when addressing international environmental problems.

### ***WHAT DOES THE LOSS OF THE RAINFOREST MEAN TO THE WORLD?***

It would take the equivalent of many lifetimes to discover all the secrets of the rainforest, if that could ever be done. The indigenous people say that the spirits of the plants give them the power to heal, but this realm of knowledge is yet a mystery. And we have only begun to understand what role that science can play in identifying the benefits of the rainforest to man. Now the problem is that we are running out of time, as the forests are being cut down more rapidly than ever.

**Our global interdependence** with tropical rainforest regions is evident when you consider how rainforest regions impact **our overall health and life-quality through climate stability, plant and animal-derived pharmaceuticals, decorative tropical fish, natural pesticides, and crop alternatives**.