

Red Macaw,
animal conservation,
Taricaya Lodge

help...
learn...
explore!

PERUVIAN RAINFOREST



CONSERVATION

TARICAYA LODGE

The Teaching & Projects Abroad Taricaya Research Centre provides a unique opportunity to live and work in the most bio-diverse region on the planet. Whether you are climbing up into the canopy to record the calls of parrots, watching the sun set over the river or clearing trails through the jungle, there is never a dull moment!

Life at Taricaya Lodge

The newly-built lodge consists of two dormitory blocks, both two-storey's high, with the capacity to house 32 volunteers in total. There is also another building containing a fully-equipped kitchen, where your meals are prepared, a dining area, toilet and even a comfy "chill-out" area upstairs. You have the use of proper, western style toilets and showers but be warned, being in the middle of

the jungle, the water is quite often slightly 'cooler' than normal!

There is always a permanent team of Teaching & Projects Abroad staff at the lodge, who are there to organise all the projects, look after you and teach you about the jungle. Evenings are a time to relax around the complex and make the most of the electricity, which thanks to a generator is available

The Taricaya Research centre is located about 2 hours from Puerto Maldonado down the Madre de Dios river and is only accessible by boat. From the moment you step off the boat the adventure begins! Volunteers work on a variety of projects during their time at Taricaya. Learn how to distinguish the markings of the different birds, help look after the animals and build enclosures as part of the animal release programme and carry on the ground-breaking research started on our pilot farm project, to mention just a few.

Environmental issues in Peru

Some 84 of the world's 103 known ecological zones and 28 different climates occur in Peru. It is actually in the top 5 countries in the world for biological diversity. Despite this, there is still so much to learn about the wildlife in this area.

Working alongside the communities that inhabit the rainforest and using local knowledge, Teaching & Projects Abroad aims to develop awareness of conservation issues and find ways to improve the lives of the people in this region. Many of our projects are very much done on an experimental basis, pioneering new methods and ways of protecting the natural habitat of the area, as well as providing benefit and income to the local people.

Since our volunteers have been working at our lodge they have recorded the presence of numerous birds and mammals including capybara, deer, opossum, puma, giant otter, giant anteater, tapir, armadillo, amazon kingfishers, kites, black caiman and various monkeys, parrots and macaws. We can now proudly announce that thanks to 4 years of hard work by staff and volunteers in gathering the necessary data, the 450 hectares of rainforest that makes up Taricaya is now officially a protected private reserve 'La Reserva Ecologica Taricaya'. It is vital that we now continue the observation and recording of data as every year we have to provide a report to the Peruvian government justifying our involvement in the area. An increase in the sightings of fauna in the area will indicate that we are having a positive effect within the reserve.



Madre de Dios river



Teaching & Projects Abroad

for a few hours each day. Alternatively you can play with one of the 'resident' monkeys, brush up your knowledge of the plethora of plants and animals that exist in the rainforest or even go out on a night walk!



"Conservation in developing countries has to be developed with local communities, working with the people. Taricaya is the first project I have ever worked on that actually advances in those things successfully. You can be proud of having such a project running run by people with visions and realistic dreams as well as the knowledge of how to move things on in a country like Peru."

■ Lisa Schuler, Conservation in Peru

"Everything was perfect. The staff were incredibly knowledgeable and willing to teach this knowledge. The family atmosphere, the work, just being at Taricaya is like living the best dream you ever had."

■ Sam Blacker, Conservation in Peru

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"It was a wonderful trip that was probably the best thing I could have done in my year out. I was able to learn about so many new things – not just about the amazing range of plants and animals in the rainforest, but also about the people and culture of Peru. The trip has really made me appreciate how important the rainforest is and encouraged me to think about going travelling in the future"

■ Rachael Jamieson-Craig, Conservation in Peru

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Recent news and projects

There is always something new going on and a variety of projects to keep all volunteers and staff occupied. Alongside all the observation work, here are just some of the recent projects that volunteers have been working on:

• Animal Release Programme

This project is about rescuing animals that have been badly treated, injured and abandoned, then keeping them in enclosures until they are well enough to be released back into the wild. Current 'residents' include macaws, monkeys and a jaguar.

• Medicinal Plants

We are currently planting a medicinal plant garden with a newly-built information centre on site. We have a guide to sixty medicinal plants of the Peruvian Amazon. Around our trails we have identified over 45 of these plants and some that are not included in the book. The idea is to provide data on these plants and produce an information booklet.

• Bamboo Project

Much of the Taricaya Research Centre has been built using bamboo. Bamboo is a durable material with very fast regeneration rates and requires no maintenance for its cultivation. We intend to plant a very thick bamboo species very common in Ecuador again to reduce local impact on the forest.

• Mahogany Project

This is one of our most exciting and promising projects to date. We are currently investigating potential market value of wood from young mahogany trees as opposed to waiting until the normal 40 years to fell the trees. There is little or no mahogany left in the Amazon due to its high commercial value. Logging techniques involve huge destruction just to reach the trees of value and then the extraction is even worse. We are currently producing an information booklet on our investigations into the possibility of growing mahogany in small parcels of land with the idea of selective logging over in the same area over a total period of ten to twenty years.

• Nest Mapping

We are very interested in producing two distinct maps of our area with the location of bird and tarantula nests marked. The idea behind this project is to try and identify defined territories and/or forest types for each species. Their breeding seasons, number of offspring and number of broods per year. With this information collected we can start various monitoring programmes over the coming years to study individual species.



■ The Taricaya Lodge

For further details of our Conservation work in Peru,
please visit our specialist website:

www.projectsabroadperu.org



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Further information...

If you would like any information on this project, other conservation projects or other projects in Peru please do not hesitate to get in contact with us. Our staff are always happy to help!



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