



**Kawsay Center – Educación, Investigación y Conservación**

Av.26 de Diciembre 472 – Puerto Maldonado

Madre de Dios -Perú

Cel: +51 966381468

Email: [info@kawaycenterperu.org](mailto:info@kawaycenterperu.org)

Web: [www.kawsaycenterperu.org](http://www.kawsaycenterperu.org)

---

## **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

Kawsay Center is based deep in the heart of the Amazon Rainforest. Volunteers stay in the reserve and take part in important volunteer projects in the Amazon, helping to preserve one of the most diverse ecosystems on the planet.

The aim for environmental volunteers is to assist in the project's long-term scientific research in the Peruvian Amazon:

- To better measure the effects of human activities on wildlife, including endangered species.
- To collect valuable information for people who can make decisions and act on creating solutions that help conserve the rainforest.
- To make a clear and positive impact on the Amazon ecosystem in this part of Peru.

The program offers volunteers an opportunity to get directly involved in rainforest conservation efforts. You will work alongside and learn from the rest of the field team and you will play a vital role in maintaining a presence on our reserve and part of the Tambopata National Reserve, in the remote Peruvian Amazon. Our staff provide an on-going supply of research data which helps us identify where threats may occur and what activities are being carried out on the land. In addition, this contributes to the long-term collection of core data sets and helps to maintain an extensive trail network.

### **About the program**

- You will be helping with scientific research and monitoring, you may use this opportunity to learn valuable research and identification skills which can be used for your studies or careers.
- Throughout your stay volunteering you will get involved with exciting research and conservation work, supported by our team. You can also work on biodiversity studies in all types of flora and fauna.
- We provide patient and thorough teaching through training sessions with our experienced team. Volunteers can expect to learn about local wildlife, rainforest threats/impacts, deforestation, conservation solutions, climate change, outdoor orienteering, survival tips in the rainforest and much more.
- As a non-profit program, all volunteer fees are put straight back into vital research, the monitoring of wildlife and various conservation projects.

### **This is what we cover for you, with your fee:**

- Transfers on arrival and departure at Puerto Maldonado (airport, bus station)
- Scheduled transport to and from field sites during the placement
- Shared accommodation from start to end of the period (in the field only)
- Three substantial and healthy meals each day
- Clean drinking water, tea, coffee and fruit juice at all times
- Limited use of electricity generator each day
- Support and training which may include: Health & Safety; trail use and orienteering, basic jungle survival, basic ecology, impacts and challenges affecting the forests in Madre de Dios; research and conservation solutions for the rainforests in the area.
- Specialized training: Species identification, conservation research, wildlife monitoring, forest conservation, wildlife management
- 24 hour support and guidance

**This is what is not included:**

- Travel insurance (compulsory for all participants)
- Flights and/or bus tickets to and from Puerto Maldonado
- Spending money for snacks, drinks and souvenirs
- Personal equipment (headlamp, bug repellent, binoculars, etc.)
- Weekends or days in the city of Puerto Maldonado (accommodation, meals etc.)

**Typical duties include:**

The area of the project includes the conservation concession of Kawsay Center and part of the Tambopata National Reserve, we have an agreement with them and work together in research and monitoring programs. You will participate directly in all the projects that we carry and are in the process of developing, including the following activities:

- Patrolling the perimeter and trails of the conservation area
- Recording the status and health of the lands surrounding the reserve
- Recording any evidence of illegal activities
- Taking part in biodiversity studies and wildlife monitoring
- Assisting in the maintenance and development of the field station
- You can accompany and help interns and researchers in their work
- Propose and implement your creative ideas to help us be eco-efficient
- In addition, biologists often come to study: bats, rodents, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, etc.

Volunteers follow a daily schedule and normally work an average of 6 hours in the field each day, some days more depending on the activities, there will also be time to process the information and data collected. Some of the work is seasonal and as a volunteer you will work on a variety of tasks during your time at the reserve. While some morning tasks start early, there is plenty of time in the evening to relax after work. You will also normally rest during the middle of the day to avoid the midday heat.

## **The Camp**

The Camp at Kawsay Center is designed for expedition-style research and learning programs. It has a rustic style; for those who love nature and raw wilderness, this is the perfect place for immersion into the wild. The camp is located near to the Madre de Dios River.

Meals are served in the common areas. The kitchen at the camp may also be used by those who prefer to prepare their own meals.

The camp has 2 expedition-style areas for living, dining and work. This is where, among other activities, you can interact and play games, meals are served and data is downloaded and entered. We also have a number of hammocks dotted around the camp.

Electricity is provided from solar panels and generators which are only active during some parts of the day. You will have opportunities to recharge electronic items and use electronic equipment in the early mornings, midday and evenings after dark. At 9pm the lights go out. You will be with provided candles and are encouraged to bring personal battery powered lights/torches with enough power for your stay.

Due to the remoteness of the Center there is not a strong phone signal and no internet. But there are some areas where you can get a connection if you have a local number.

## **Scheduled times of the boat to and from the reserve**

Please consider that Sunday is the only day you may enter the reserve and that Saturday is the only day for departure to Puerto Maldonado. Book your transport accordingly.

- The boat departs the city of Puerto Maldonado for reserve every Sunday at 15:00. It is recommended to arrive in the city one day before or on Sunday before 14:30.
- The boats return and arrived to the city of Puerto Maldonado every Saturday 9:00 am. It is recommended to buy your flights or bus tickets after this time or days later.
- Extra boats will only be available in case of emergency or when needed.

During your time here you will have the option to visit the city every two weeks for one night over the weekend. Here you will find hotels, restaurants, shops and internet access. The river transportation will be free of cost if we have a boat already scheduled (e.g. someone is arriving or departing) or you can share the price of renting a boat.

### **Weather & visa information**

In terms of weather, the temperature is much the same throughout the year – with monthly temperatures ranging from 20° to 32° C. The year is divided into two seasons: rainy and dry. The rainy season runs from November to April. Although it rains most days, there are still plenty of sunny periods and it can get quite humid. The dry season runs from May until October, during which it rains infrequently (5-6 days a month), but as ever it is still humid.

Volunteers from around the world are able to arrive in Peru without a pre-arranged visa, and can pick up a free tourist visa on arrival which is valid for 3 to 6 months. Be sure to specify with immigration how much time you will need in Peru.

### **Medical information**

The Amazon rainforest in Peru is within a malaria zone, and although it is rare in Tambopata we still recommend to take malaria pills when in the jungle if you think that it is necessary. Yellow Fever and Typhoid injections are also required, as outbreaks of Dengue have been reported in the past. Rare cases of Leishmaniasis are also known. However, it is best to consult your own GP to find out about recommended vaccinations and treatments before travelling, allowing enough time to complete your course of vaccinations.

**P.S. Complementary information is available on the website (policies, safety, health, etc.)**

