

# THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Peru 



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ProjectsAbroad

# Editorial

## *New at Projects Abroad team*

My name is Ursula and I am the new Communications Officer for Peru.

On my first day of work at Projects Abroad, I had the chance to go to our Inca Project in Huyro, which has an archaeological focus and is a 3 hour drive from our office in Urubamba. Everyone felt that it was important for me to visit every project as soon as possible.

It is impossible not to enjoy the beauty of this route even though I had done it several times before. Unfortunately, this time I had a really bad cold, which didn't make it easy as the way to Huyro is full of curves and you even reach a point over 4,200m above sea level. After this point, the landscape gradually begins to change. Everything becomes greener and you can see tea and coffee plantations, and mango and banana trees.

We arrived in the mid-afternoon at "El Establo" where the volunteers and Projects-Abroad staff live. I met Dan, John, Isa, Americo and six volunteers who were there at the time. Isa showed me around and then returned to the kitchen, where she prepares delicious food for everyone.

It felt like one big, happy family. The atmosphere was as lovely as the beautiful weather and felt like warm sunshine enveloping you. The people who work there seemed to all know each other for a long time and you could immediately feel the special relationship that they extended to all the volunteers. I felt at home.

Later, we visited the village where two volunteers were helping in the stimulation centre for young children. The volunteers were not only helping the little ones but they were also exchanging vocabulary and laughing with their older brothers and sisters. It was wonderful to see the huge smiles on the volunteers' faces as I was leaving the stimulation centre. You could really see the satisfaction that they felt from sharing their time with the children.

Early the next day, we had to climb a mountain to reach the area where our volunteers are doing excavations as part of the archaeology project. I took some time to explore the place and take some pictures. We took a delicious lunch prepared by Isa along with us and walked to almost the top of the green mountain. What a beautiful place!

The volunteers and Projects Abroad staff started to work. The truth is that I had no idea how these things had to be done so I just watched and saw how much dedication and patience all of them had. John, one of the archaeologists who has been working for us for several years, told me that I was seeing only a small part of all the archaeological work that they do. Firstly, chronicles on the Inca Empire are studied and from the information garnered, they start to explore the mountains until they discover a site believed to be of archaeological significance. They are currently very excited because they have recently excavated mortar, which is completely intact along with a vessel that is about 95% intact.

It had been a hot day and I couldn't have imagined a better end than the dip we took in the swimming pool that Americo had built this year with the help of some volunteers. This pool really has a luxurious setting at the foothills of the Andes.

I definitely want to go back soon and this time with my husband and two children instead of an annoying cold.

And you, have you already had the chance to enjoy this beautiful place?

# Project update

## *Inca Project*

Excavations continue at Q'ochapata and we have been fortunate enough to find a ceramic vessel that is 95% intact and a 16cm piece of granite mortar that is completely intact.

We have also been working at the lower section of Inkatambo this month with our colleagues from the Ministry of Culture. Zeno-bio has held talks with both parties about the importance of site maintenance and preservation techniques.

We had our third group of Two Week Special volunteers in August and we took them on our monthly visit to the archaeological sites in the Lucumayu valley.

Establo was very busy at the beginning of August. Tim arrived with his wife and children, Dan's wife, children & in-laws also came to Establo, and Zenobio also came with his wife and children for a visit. So the place was buzzing!

We continue to go to the stimulation centre every Monday & Wednesday, while also visiting the local library every Thursday. With things returning to normal after the school holidays and the annual festivities, we can visit the kindergarten in Huyro every Friday morning again. We have also been to help some friends clear some land to plant bananas in Calquina.

At the end of the month, the volunteers took a care package to a physically disabled man in Yauillilyok and helped him around his house with some chores. All the children from the local kindergarten were invited to Establo for fun and games and the volunteers prepared jelly, popcorn and juice for them. Each child also received a small gift when the activities came to an end.

With the large number of volunteers, it was quite easy to organize football games between them and the staff at Establo. Isa and Americo continue to play volleyball in the evenings and, as always, the volunteers are free to join them whenever they wish.

The first lesson of the month consisted of watching the documentary, 'The Great Inca Rebellion.' Other topics that followed included Machu Picchu and the Lucumayu Valley.

## *Care Project*

We would like to thank our volunteers for the affection and patience with which they do their work, as well as for the valuable time they spend with the children while volunteering at the nursery schools. Mira and Cath are two volunteers who had both been working at Pachar Kindergarten. They helped to organise a great party for the children there and they prepared delicious meals! They also enjoyed finger painting with them.

Olivia, who is currently working at the nursery school in Calca, won the children's hearts with her charisma and she's like a big sister to them now. Carolanne, Marion, Kiva and Alisa are new at the care project but we are sure the children will love spending time with them too.



## *Teaching Project*

Many of our schools had their anniversary this month so September was a month of celebrations. One of our volunteers, Alyce Dowling, participated in one of the school's celebrations. She enthusiastically helped with the decoration of the classroom and supported the teacher in all the activities including the food fair and the dance competition. The teacher was excited to know that her class won first prize at the food fair and the dance competition, while they took second place in the classroom decoration contest.

## *Medical & Nutrition Projects*

Lorenzo de Jonge from the Netherlands came to volunteer on this project for 8 weeks. Straight away, he saw many kinds of diseases in patients of different ages at his work at Clinica Peruano Suiza. He even had the opportunity to enter the operation room to observe a leg amputation and he found this experience very interesting.

## *Sports Project*

This month, we have three new volunteers joining Tyler Stutzman at the football project - Lancelot Berlemont and Joseph Mosneron from Belgium, and Freddie Lassados from the UK. All of them are doing physical and athletic work with the children of Apu Pituisiray in Calca. We also welcome two new volunteers from Germany - Pascal Brunner and Till Scholich. Pascal is already teaching basketball to the children of Urubamba and Till is taking some Spanish lessons first so that he will be able to communicate well with his students!

All of them are getting really involved and it is nice to see how well they connect with the children.



# VOLUNTEER STORY

*Tyler Stutzman, USA, All American Athletics Star*



Tyler Stutzman is 23 years old and has travelled to Peru from the United States to do the sports project offered by Projects Abroad.

Tyler's background is firmly rooted in sport. He recently graduated from Stanford University where he studied Political Science but had a scholarship for athletics, which made him a perfect volunteer at the Apu Pitusiray Football Academy. *"Most of them are better footballers than I am but I was able to help with the fact that I am athletic in my own way; that's what I've been doing: running, stretching and hopefully working a little bit of aerobics fitness into them"*.



*Tyler sawing logs for a climbing frame*

Tyler is a three-time All American, which is one of the highest athletic honours that can be awarded in the States. However, in spite of his incredible achievements, including a personal best of 3 minutes 58.57 seconds for running a mile, Tyler prefers to talk about his passion for football, which he developed in 2010 while watching the World Cup at the beach over the summer. *"Since then, I haven't been able to stop watching it. Now I live and die by Liverpool."*

At his placement, Tyler has a great relationship with the children and his enthusiasm has definitely rubbed off on them. *"I've had a lot of fun here and the sports project is amazing. Some of the children and I have secret hand-shakes now"*.

Tyler lives with his lovely host family in Calca in the Sacred Valley, which is an hour from the ancient Inca capital of Cusco. Calca is a sleepy town but he has loved the experience of integrating in the local culture thanks to his host family and their friends. Tyler didn't waste any time in exploring his surroundings; he set out on mountain hikes on his first days in Peru and went to town with the host family's children to meet their friends. *"My experience in Peru could have been a lot more difficult but this family is extreme-ly easy to live with and the food here is amazing."* Calca had some incredible, colourful festivals during Tyler's stay and he saw them all; sampling local cuisine and taking photos with the local dancers. He hasn't wasted a second of his time.

During community work in Ollantaytambo, Tyler also showed his practical side by helping to build climbing frames and windows for a nursery school. This work was close to his heart as he often helped his father on building projects back home when he was younger, which was something that he really enjoyed. Tyler's range of experience but, more importantly, his ability to throw himself completely into any new task, has made him a fantastic volunteer.



Whilst he isn't considering athletics as a career, Tyler has certainly brought some inspiration to the students here in Calca and his contribution will be felt for many years to come.

# PERU IN PICTURES

*The beauty of this amazing country*

The photos below are a mixture of volunteer contributions for our monthly photo competition and snaps taken on visits to placements. Peru is a photographer's paradise and if you're interested in this field you will find inspiration around every corner.



**Top left:** Pork over hot coals, Calca **Top right:** Paracas, Ica,  
**Middle (left - right):** Coffee cherries; Main Square Cusco;  
 Bananas in Quellomayo; Uros welcome party, Lake Titicaca.  
**Bottom:** Dancer - important call, Urubamba; Llama wins  
 staring

To see our monthly photo competition winner's  
 check out the album on our Facebook page:



Don't forget to check out our Instagram account where you will find beautiful imagery from our other destinations. Follow our global account and get to know more about the way we see this wonderful world.



# SCENE / SEEN

## *Goings on around Peru with Projects Abroad*



On one of our recent socials we attended the celebrations of the 'Virgen Asunta' in Calca. This colourful and musical celebration is a wonderful mix of Spanish and Peruvian traditions, with incredible food, bright costumes and intricate dances around the main square. Our volunteers sampled local delicacies, witnessed the procession of the 'virgin' and watched the dancers.



Visit to our Inca Project at Huyro. We enjoyed the amazing surrounding.

At the top left: some members of Projects Abroad with volunteers at the new pool.

At the top right, Jhon, shows us the intact Inca mortar they have recently found at Qochapata.



Once a week we have a social meeting. It is a great opportunity to get to know each other better. Whichever activity we do, from making pottery, cooking, dancing, or doing some yoga, we always enjoy it.