



GAP SEMESTER



**pacific
discovery**
inspiring educational adventures

South America Gap Semester Program

PERU, ECUADOR &
THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

www.pacificdiscovery.org

Overview

Challenge yourself on this South America gap year program journeying through the incredible cultural and natural diversity of Peru, Ecuador, and the Galapagos Islands!

Join us to gain insight into the lives of indigenous Andean and Amazon communities while significantly improving your conversational Spanish ability. Participate in worthwhile community-initiated volunteer projects, wander the ancient streets of Quito and Cuzco, and be astounded by Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca, and the Galapagos Islands. You will trek, kayak, cycle, and snorkel through a range of environments from Andean peaks to an Amazon rainforest to the Galapagos beaches.

Students on this gap year program will develop meaningful connections with local people through homestays, gain knowledge of South America's history, push personal boundaries, and develop their leadership skills. You will truly make a difference while you're here by volunteering with an indigenous community in the Andes, learning about sustainable living from social enterprises, and helping on issues of plastic pollution and reforestation of endemic plant species in the Galapagos Islands.





Safety

With our 20 years of operation and more than 100,000 student days in the field, we have an excellent safety record.

We even got voted as one of the Top Gap Year Providers for Safety by students on Go Overseas! Safety is something we pride ourselves on at Pacific Discovery, so it feels amazing to be recognized for the efforts we go through.



Accreditations

We have had our safety management systems assessed and accredited by the Gap Year Association (USA), Year Out Group (UK), and OutdoorsMark (New Zealand). Assessors have commented that our systems are among the best they have observed.



Who We Are

We are an accredited gap year provider that offers experiential gap semester and summer programs to some of the most amazing places on earth. Our programs are deliberate overland journeys, blending authentic immersion in diverse cultures, meaningful service-learning projects, rewarding adventures, wilderness exploration, and personal development.



Our Programs

Our programs are more than simply a travel, time-out or study abroad experience. Each is instead an overland journey of discovery, where students are immersed in a facilitated learning environment, designed to maximize the educational and life-skills potential.



Our Philosophy

We want to make the world a better place by providing extraordinary learning adventures that assist students in gaining the skills, confidence and insight to realize their potential in an increasingly global society; developing empathy for other cultures; furthering understanding of international issues; and heightening appreciation for the earth's wilderness and diversity.

Core Educational Components

Our programs are as much a journey of personal development as they are a physical journey, and participants are supported in reflecting together and thinking about their values, goals and what they wish to gain from the program experience.

PRE-PROGRAM

Prior to program start, participants are asked to create some goals for the program – this is personal and unique to each individual group member. Participants are given a suggested outline of skills and competencies that they can choose to focus upon.

DURING PROGRAM

At program orientation, goals participants have identified are discussed in a meeting with the program leaders. Throughout the program, ideas, tools and strategies are discussed that can be useful to help participants achieve their goals both on the program and for the rest of their lives. Participants are encouraged to journal during the program to assist them in clarifying their thoughts and define what they are learning.

TRANSFER AND FOLLOW UP

At the conclusion of the program, participants give a presentation to their group and leaders, summarizing how they've been challenged, what they've learned, how they've grown and how they intend to apply what they've learned to their lives after the program.

Towards the end of the program participants are also asked to write a letter to themselves imagining where they want to be in 6 months' time and identifying behaviors, habits and changes they wish to put in place. These letters are sent to them 6 months after program conclusion, helping reinforce the learning that has occurred.



Program Design

Each of our programs incorporate the following six core program components. These six interdependent components, provide immense opportunity for students to learn about themselves, to push their boundaries, question their assumptions, to stimulate problem solving and inquiry skills.



EDUCATIONAL FOCUS

Our programs are experiential education programs, meaning that learning is hands-on and tangible. For example, students will learn about a country's history and culture by immersing themselves in it, meeting local people and hearing life stories.



ETHICAL TRAVEL & SUSTAINABILITY

Students show respect for local customs, develop meaningful cross-cultural relationships, learn minimum-impact grassroots travel techniques and come to understand social and ecological issues on a deeper level.



OUTDOOR EXPLORATION

Immersion in the wilderness is an opportunity for students to become grounded, teaches appreciation for wild places and provides us the opportunity to explore local environmental issues and relate these issues to global environmental themes



SERVICE LEARNING

Volunteer elements built into our programs allow students to really immerse themselves in a place and share an experience with local people, bridging the gap that often exists between visitor and host.



CULTURAL IMMERSION

We immerse students in the local culture, through homestays, volunteer projects and language study. Students learn empathy for other cultures and build bridges of shared understanding.



PERSONAL & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Throughout the program, students are given leadership opportunities from facilitating reflection to coordinating the daily schedule.



Sample Itinerary

***This is a guide to what you can expect to do on program.
The order in which the activities occur might vary***

WEEK 1 | **COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING AND SPANISH IMMERSION**

Get ready for the adventure of a lifetime! You'll land in Lima, Peru, where you'll meet your awesome Program Instructors and then head straight to Cusco—the heart of the ancient Incan Empire. After soaking in the city's vibrant energy, we'll make our way to Urubamba, right in the Sacred Valley, to kick things off with an epic orientation. We'll get to know each other, set the vibe for an unforgettable week, and dive deep into the Peruvian way of life.

In our first week, we'll be exploring mind-blowing Incan ruins like Písaq, Ollantaytambo, and Moray—places that are as cool as they sound and packed with history. These ancient sites will give you a whole new perspective on Peru and the incredible culture here.

But it's not all sightseeing! You'll also get the chance to dive into a local service project, where you'll work side by side with the community. Learn about their traditions, contribute to something meaningful, and make real connections.

On top of that, we'll be taking Spanish lessons at two levels, so whether you're just starting or looking to level up, you'll have the skills to immerse yourself even more into the culture. It's a perfect balance of exploration, service, and learning. Are you ready to jump in? Let's go!

WEEK 2 | **BIKING, ZIP-LINING, AND EXPLORING MACHU PICCHU**

Okay, we're about to kick off a 4-day journey to Machu Picchu along the legendary Inca Jungle Trail! Think epic biking through Andean roads, optional zip-lining for that adrenaline rush, natural hot springs to relax in, and crossing rivers like true explorers. Each day is packed with action and jaw-dropping views, all leading to Aguas Calientes—the town that marks the beginning of your Machu Picchu adventure.

Once we hit Aguas Calientes, we'll make our way up to Machu Picchu—your choice of hiking it for that extra thrill, or taking the bus if you're feeling chill. After an awesome guided tour of the ancient ruins, you'll have loads of free time to wander around, snap some epic pics, and just soak in the sheer magic of this incredible place.





WEEK 3 |

CULTURE, CUISINE, AND LLAMAS IN THE SACRED VALLEY

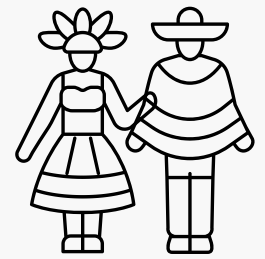
Nestled in the heart of the Sacred Valley, Cusco feels like a magical blend of old-world charm and Andean culture, with its cobbled streets, warm orange-tiled adobe homes, and the towering, majestic cathedral. We'll kick off the week with a Cusco Legend and Culture Tour, where you'll uncover the city's rich history and hear the captivating myths that have shaped its unique culture.

Next, we'll hit the vibrant Farmers Market, where you'll get a taste of the local life and the freshest ingredients before rolling up your sleeves for a hands-on Cooking Class. Learn how to whip up delicious, traditional Peruvian dishes that'll have you dreaming of the Andes long after the trip.

Then, we'll head to Urubamba for our second volunteer project with Alejandra, Jorge, and their resident llamas! This project is all about reviving the ancient traditions of llama breeding and usage, while also supporting local communities through environmental education and sustainable rural development. You'll be directly contributing to preserving the natural beauty of the Sacred Valley's highland ecosystems.

During the week, we'll also work with a social enterprise that brings a traditional Andean village to life, giving locals and visitors the chance to learn about Andean customs and ways of life. And to top it all off, we'll take a fun, immersive day-trek with llamas, connecting with the land and the communities that benefit from this amazing project. Ready for an adventure that combines culture, nature, and making a real impact?





WEEK 4 |

ADVENTURE, CULTURE, AND THE HIGHEST LAKE ON EARTH!

Get ready for an epic week at **Lake Titicaca**, one of the most unique and stunning places on Earth! Our journey takes us through breathtaking landscapes filled with mountains, crystal-clear lakes, clusters of earthen homes, and herds of llamas. We're heading to the **Capachica Peninsula**, where the vibe is chill and the culture is rich. Think Mediterranean-style tranquility meets traditional Peruvian life.

During our stay, you'll get hands-on with the local community. You'll hike the stunning terraced slopes, explore ancient hilltop ruins, and even take a refreshing swim in the world's highest navigable lake! But that's not all—we'll also take a boat ride to **Taquile Island**, where you'll get to experience more of the island's timeless traditions.

This is your chance to unplug from the usual tourist trail and dive into the heart of authentic Peruvian culture. You'll live alongside locals, learn their ways, and see a part of the world that's still largely untouched by modern tourism.

TO ECUADOR

WEEK 5 | A TRULY AUTHENTIC ECUADORIAN EXPERIENCE

Forget the typical tourist trail—this is your chance to go **off the beaten track** and dive deep into the heart of Ecuadorian culture. We're heading to the small, remote village of **Agato**, nestled high in the Andes, where the Kichwa people maintain a lifestyle that's as authentic as it gets. Here, there are no crowds, no touristy distractions—just real, raw culture.

During your homestay, you'll live alongside local families, contributing to community-driven development projects that focus on sustainable growth. This is your chance to experience daily life as the locals do—helping with food prep, harvesting quinoa and corn, and learning about the farming techniques that have been passed down through generations.



You'll also spend time with the kids, planning fun activities like arts, crafts, and sports, all while immersing yourself in a way of life that's deeply connected to the earth and nature. This isn't your typical South American tour—this is about **building real relationships** with a community that will open your eyes to a different world.

Living in Agato offers an experience unlike any other. It's about stepping away from the crowds, living with the people, and learning the rhythms of a culture that's stayed true to its roots.

WEEK 6 | HIGHLANDS, ADVENTURE, AND AMAZON EXPLORATION

Just over half way through the program, this week takes us deep into Ecuador's **Central Highlands**, starting with a visit to **Otavalo**, known for its famous **craft market**. You'll find everything from vibrant textiles and jewelry to unique art and leather goods—perfect for picking up authentic souvenirs. Then, we head to **Quilotoa**, a small artisan village with a breathtaking **crater lake**. We'll stay with a local artist couple and enjoy hiking around the crater, taking in stunning views of the lake and surrounding peaks (hot tip: google Lake Quilotoa, it's just incredible).

Next, we'll head to **Baños**, a paradise for thrill-seekers nestled at the foot of the active **Tungurahua Volcano**. After daily **Spanish lessons**, we'll dive into adventure activities like exploring waterfalls, canyoning, zip-lining, and hiking. Baños is the perfect mix of relaxation and excitement.

Finally, we'll journey into the **Amazon Basin**, starting with a thrilling **rafting expedition** down the Jatunyacu River in **Tena**. This is your chance to experience the raw beauty of the Amazon rainforest and learn about the indigenous communities who call it home. Week 6 is packed with adventure, culture, and nature at its best!



WEEK 7 | MAKING CHOCOLATE IN THE AMAZON



After camping on the edge of the mighty Amazon in **Tena**, we'll embark on one last thrilling **rafting expedition** down the Jatunyacu River, heading towards **Misuahilli**, a charming town on the edge of the jungle. Here, we'll spend time at the **Sinchi Warmi Center**, a truly unique and inspiring indigenous women's ecotourism initiative dedicated to **sustainability** and preserving the natural environment.

At Sinchi Warmi, sustainability isn't just a buzzword—it's woven into the fabric of daily life. This community-driven initiative empowers local women while promoting eco-friendly practices that benefit both the environment and their livelihoods. By visiting, you'll directly support their efforts and get a hands-on experience of their transformative work.

The women of Sinchi Warmi will share their rich knowledge of **traditional Amazonian life** and teach us how they use the land sustainably. One of the highlights will be learning how **artisanal** chocolate is made from scratch. From harvesting cacao beans to the final, melt-in-your-mouth product, we'll be involved in every step of the process—and, of course, indulging in the delicious results.

This is more than just a visit—it's a chance to connect with the community, immerse yourself in Amazonian culture, and support an important sustainability project that's making a real difference.

WEEK 8 | WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS AND JUNGLE ADVENTURES IN CUYABENO



Leaving **Misahualli**, we venture into the **Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve**, Ecuador's second-largest national park and one of the most biodiverse places on the planet. This vast expanse of lush rainforest, winding rivers, and tranquil lakes is the perfect setting for a deep dive into the Amazon.

Our journey takes us to a remote lodge nestled deep within the forest, where we'll set off on motor-canoe and paddle-canoe excursions, exploring the waters and spotting wildlife, including the rare **pink and grey freshwater dolphins**. The area's wildlife is as diverse as it is fascinating, offering us a true immersion into this magical environment.

With the help of our **native guide**, whose ancestral knowledge of the forest runs deep, we'll learn about the medicinal plants, wildlife, and practices that have sustained local communities for centuries. The Amazon isn't just about beauty—it's about survival, and our guide will help us understand the balance that has kept the rainforest alive for generations. As the sun sets, we'll head out on **night excursions** to search for caimans, nocturnal birds, and the eerie sounds of the jungle after dark. This is a chance to see the rainforest in a completely different light, where the mystery of the wild comes alive.

To wrap up our time in the Amazon, we'll visit a **bird-watching tower**, offering jaw-dropping panoramic views of the rainforest canopy—a perfect way to reflect on this unforgettable experience.





TO THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

WEEK 9 | SNORKEL WITH SHARKS, DIVE INTO REFORESTATION AND EXPLORE THE WILDEST ISLANDS

We kick off this epic adventure with a **morning flight** to **San Cristobal Island**, where Darwin first set foot in the **Galápagos Archipelago**. Over the next two weeks, you'll explore four **stunning islands**, each with its own jaw-dropping biodiversity and unforgettable wildlife. Get ready to **swim, snorkel**, and get up close with animals you've only seen in documentaries—this is nature like you've never experienced before.

We'll head to the highlands, where we'll dive straight into our first project: **reforestation**. You'll be rolling up your sleeves to **restore native forests** by removing invasive plants, giving the island's ecosystems a much-needed boost. While working, you'll gain a deeper understanding of the **balance of nature** and how vital these conservation efforts are for the island's future.

After our project, it's time for some **serious relaxation** and adventure. The Galápagos is a **snorkeler's paradise**—think **crystal-clear waters, vibrant marine life**, and a chance to get in the water with **sea turtles, rays**, and maybe even a **hammerhead shark**. One of the most epic spots is **Kicker Rock (Leon Dormido)**, a towering rock formation where you'll snorkel in the shadow of cliffs teeming with wildlife. Sea lions, **marine iguanas**, and **frigatebirds** are just the start.

This isn't your average vacation. It's the chance to live the adventure of a lifetime, discover new ecosystems, and connect with nature in one of the world's most magical places.

WEEK 10 | VOLCANOES, BEACHES, AND DREAMLIKE ADVENTURES

We've saved the best for last! You'll feel like you've stepped into a dream as we head to the stunning Isabela Island. We'll start with a scenic boat ride across the sparkling ocean, then embark on an invigorating bike ride to the Wetlands, where we'll immerse ourselves in the island's unique ecosystems and connect with nature in a truly unforgettable way.

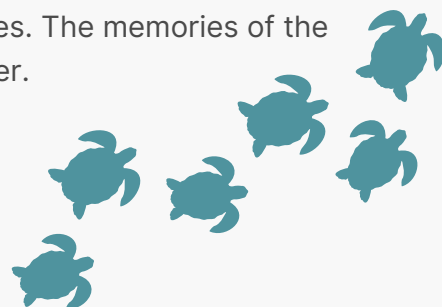
Next, we'll take on the challenge of hiking Sierra Negra and Chico volcanoes. This 16-kilometer trek through Isabela's highlands will leave you in awe of the sweeping landscapes and dramatic views, making every step worth it.

After our hike, we'll explore the magical underwater world with a boat tour to Cabo Rosa. The crystal-clear waters and mesmerizing marine life will transport you to a whole new world, making this a highlight of our Galápagos adventure.

Once we return to Santa Cruz Island, you'll have some free time to explore, shop for souvenirs, or relax on the sun-soaked beaches. This is your time to unwind and reflect on the incredible journey we've had.

We'll return to Santa Cruz Island for our program wrap. This is our time to reflect on all the incredible memories, adventures, and friendships we've made.

After 10 weeks of exploration, cultural immersion, and meaningful projects, we'll head back to Quito, Ecuador, where we'll connect with our international departures. The memories of the Galápagos will stay with you forever—an experience unlike any other.



**Each week there will be some designated free time so that you can catch up on email, do laundry, rest, and explore independently with others in the group.*

***Pacific Discovery reserves the right to alter and/or change the order of the itinerary, the focus of the projects, or the activities themselves due to dates, availability, and safety precautions.*



Program Highlights

- **Biking and trekking the Inca Jungle Trail** towards the spectacular Machu Picchu
- Spot turtles and other marine wildlife while snorkeling and kayaking in the **Galapagos Islands**
- **Canoe through the Amazon** jungle and keep your eyes open for pink and grey dolphins
- Hike to the summit of **Sierra Negra**, the oldest volcano in the Galapagos
- **Explore cloud forests**, hot springs, and waterfalls in Baños
- **Volunteer project with an indigenous community** in the Andes
- Learn about sustainable means of cacao (chocolate) production at an **indigenous women's ecotourism initiative**
- **Visit an indigenous community at Lake Titicaca** and gain insight into traditional Peruvian culture
- Take in the views of the **emerald-colored lagoon** at the Quilotoa Crater Lake
- Experience the history and culture of **Lima, Cusco, and Quito**





COUNTRY INFORMATION

Peru is the third largest country in South America and like Ecuador, is incredibly diverse. The capital of the former Incan empire, it has the fabulous ruins of Machu Picchu, as well as high Andean peaks, deserts, Amazon jungle, Lake Titicaca, a fascinating indigenous culture, and historic settlements. Eastern Peru consists mostly of the moist tropical jungles of the Amazon Rainforest, the largest on earth. In the southeast along the border with Bolivia lies Lake Titicaca — the highest navigable lake in the world. The Altiplano plateau is a dry basin located along the slopes of the Andes in southeastern Peru. Along the border with Chile, the Atacama Desert is the driest place on the planet.

Ecuador is one of only a few countries in the world that has a little of everything, which makes it so wonderful to explore – high Andean mountains, stunning beaches, jungle, fascinating indigenous culture, cosmopolitan Quito, amazing wildlife on the Galapagos Islands, volcanoes and hot springs.



CLIMATE

Peru and Ecuador are located on the equator, in the tropics, but a lot of our time is spent at higher elevation. You can expect daytime temperatures ranging from 50-70°F. Overnight temperatures may at times be 30°F or less. At lower altitudes, you will find it pleasantly warm. Expect some rainfall in all areas.

Highlands – Quito, Cuzco, Lake Titicaca, Andes, Volunteer Project.

Highs of 60°F and lows of 45°F

Amazon Basin – Humid and often wet. Highs of 70°F and lows of 60°F

Galapagos Islands – Highs of 75°F and lows of 65°F



MEALS

Meals are fresh, tasty, healthy and varied. Special dietary requirements and vegetarians are catered for. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included in the program cost. Any snacks are at an additional cost, which we recommend budgeting around \$10 per day for.

Meals are a mixture of eating out at restaurants and food preparation shared by students.

An average day on program would consist of the following:

- Breakfast: rice, beans, eggs, toast
- Lunch: sandwiches, wraps, rice, beans, protein and steamed vegetables, eggs
- Dinner: tacos, burrito, rice, beans, protein and steamed vegetables, eggs

Camping meals will be adjusted to the cooking equipment at hand.



TRANSPORT

The itinerary has been designed to maximize comfort and safety whilst also giving you the opportunity to experience local transport and take part in daily life. We utilize chartered vans, buses, various boats, bicycles, and take several flights within the program to avoid several long and arduous travel days.

SUITABILITY

Gap programs are intended for students aged 17 - 22. This program is suitable for anyone of average fitness with an enthusiasm for conservation and new experiences. There is always a volunteering component in our programs, so we can give back to the places that give so much to us. You need to be prepared for some physical work during this volunteering portion of the program; i.e. trail building, tree planting or painting. You don't need to have had previous experience with travel or any of the activities offered.

ATTITUDE

The program is a shared group experience. We would like you to join the program with an open mind and a willingness to work together with your group mates to make the program an amazing experience. The programs focus on group cohesion. We appreciate you for being open to learning and challenging your ideas and assumptions in order to get the most from this summer abroad experience.

GROUP SIZE

Group sizes vary per program and are generally 12-14 students, accompanied by two experienced and qualified Pacific Discovery program instructors. Local guides assist with interpretation of some historical sites, cultural experiences, and activities.

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

We have selected a dynamic team of inspiring, supportive, resourceful, and highly experienced instructors to lead our programs. Our program instructors are committed to putting your welfare and safety first. They are people in whom you can trust and confide, who remain objective whatever the circumstances, and who take a genuine interest in your well-being. They implicitly understand the importance of balancing the needs of individuals with group objectives, facilitating a high level of group cohesion, inspiring a genuine appreciation for the areas visited and an awareness of minimum impact travel ethics. All of our instructors have Wilderness First Responder (WFR) first aid certification, and extensive group leadership and risk assessment/management training.

ACCOMMODATION

Our accommodation will be a mixture of comfortable and clean hostels, lodges and campsites. Accommodation is diverse, comfortable and carefully chosen to fit our needs and varies per program.



FREE TIME

Programs are heavily scheduled so that we are always on the move and having lots of structured fun; but we highly value rest and reflection. There will be some designated free time in a town or city each week so that you can catch up on email and laundry and rest.



HEALTH

One component of all of our programs is outdoor adventures like hiking, biking and kayaking, so while you don't need to have done any of these before, you will need to be prepared and have the fitness level to give them a go. If you have any queries regarding health recommendations for travel, please contact your doctor, or a travel doctor, to discuss this. For further information refer to: [http:// wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/) We also recommend you be up to date on specific vaccinations that are required to travel in this region.

We recommend that you carry a personal first-aid kit as well as any personal medication. Please be aware that for legal reasons, our program instructors are prohibited from administering any type of drug. Please ensure that you are adequately prepared.



SPENDING MONEY

Spending money usually goes towards drinks and snacks, personal shopping, laundry, email, entertainment, and optional activities. We recommend you budget approximately \$100 a week for this, but this varies per student and per program. The amount of spending money you bring depends on your budget and shopping habits. You need to bring this money yourself.

Optional activities are available on many programs that can add to this cost, such as skydiving, bungee jumping, extra surfing lessons, etc.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

Our students value the opportunity to wind down, immerse in their surroundings and talk to each other. We encourage students to self manage their phone use, and we strongly encourage flight mode. This allows students to still take photos and send updates to family when in wifi, but allows them to be fully connected to the locals, service work and community when they're out and about. You are able to purchase a SIM or use international roaming plans if you wish. The easiest option is to use the WIFI available at places we stay in main cities and towns. Family and friends will also be able to keep in touch and follow your adventures through Pacific Discovery's social media pages, and through an online Facebook album for your group (which your instructors will upload photos to each week).



PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Travel abroad requires a passport. If you don't have one, you need to apply for one as soon as you apply for this program.

US Government Passport website: <http://travel.state.gov/passport/>

If you already have a passport, it must be valid for more than 6 months after program end, otherwise you need to get a new one issued before joining the program. Pacific Discovery will contact you regarding visa requirements and arrangements after you apply for the program.



TRAVEL INSURANCE

Pacific Discovery requires all students to purchase a comprehensive travel insurance policy for the duration of the program. Travel insurance provides cover in the event of medical expenses due to illness, injury, and emergency medical evacuation. Travel insurance may also include cover for loss of baggage or personal effects, and trip cancellation or trip curtailment.

To arrange your policy, [click here to go to our website](#).



COVID-19

COVID-19 has impacted all of our lives greatly, and Pacific Discovery has developed rigorous policies for safety based on professional advice and endorsement. The health of our students is of the utmost importance at all times. We are working closely and regularly with health professionals on our COVID-19 policy, as the situation continues to develop.

[Read our full COVID-19 policy here.](#)



PEACE OF MIND

Pacific Discovery is an educational travel organization accredited with American Gap Association (USA). Since its inception in 2001, Pacific Discovery has taken several thousand students, graduates, faculty, family and special interest groups, on experiential travel and volunteer programs, utilizing a staff of experienced and qualified program instructors. We have an exemplary safety record, comprehensive Risk Management Systems and a database of alumni, parents, advisors and faculty, who are happy to be contacted for feedback. The program carries public liability insurance, and student funds are held securely until disbursement.

Program Tuition & Costs

A \$500 application fee is due when you apply. Upon acceptance onto program, a deposit is due within 14 days. Balance of program cost to be paid 60 days prior to departure.

Please find the up to date program tuition cost on [our website](#).

Included in Program Tuition

- All in-country travel and transport
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All activities, excursions, entry fees and adventure travel as described in the itinerary
- Informal lectures from resident experts on conservation and sustainability, history, and culture.
- Experienced program Instructors and local guides.

Not Included in Program Tuition

- Travel (international flights) between your home and the program
- Internal flights
- Visas
- Spending money (we suggest allowing \$15 per day for drinks, snacks and personal expenses)
- Travel insurance
- Optional academic credit
- Optional activity costs ie skydiving, bungee jumping, and additional surf lessons.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

Students should not book their travel until after they have received the flight confirmation email from Pacific Discovery with the program flight requirements and travel agent details. This is sent out 2-3 months ahead of program departure. This information is also made available in the student portal login section of our website.

Our preferred groups travel agent, [The Travellist Co.](#), can assist you to arrange international flights from your nearest regional airport, and return home. We prefer you to arrange your flights through our group travel agent to simplify arrival logistics, and so that you are traveling to and from the program with others in your group.





College Credit

Our programs are a structured syllabus with clear learning outcomes that offer true personal growth and global awareness. As a reputable gap year provider since 2001, we have developed strong industry connections, including two educational institutions which we offer college credits through for our programs.

Pacific Discovery partners with Seattle Central College to offer college credit, a recognized educational provider who offers exceptional study options for students. We have been running college credit options for students for several years now with this provider, and as long as requirements are completed, the system has been an excellent option for students in regard to continuation of study, deferment and easy transfer to other institutions.

If you're keen to explore this option further, please reach out to us using the contact details provided at the end of this catalogue. We'd love to help you identify what options are available to you and support you throughout the process.

Scholarships & Financial Aid

We want to make our programs as accessible as possible. Although we charge the minimum we can for our programs, we recognize that they can still be difficult to fund for many families. Please note that these scholarships go directly towards the tuition costs for the program and do not include assistance towards the cost of international flights. We expect scholarship recipients to demonstrate their commitment to this opportunity by fundraising for their international flights, personal spending, and the balance of tuition.

Our students supplement the program costs in a variety of ways. We encourage you to get creative! Create a Kickstarter, find a part-time job, fundraise. Think big and small. Each dollar adds up to one amazing adventure abroad.

- Exploration Scholarship
- Diverse Voices Scholarship
- Financial Need Scholarship
- Gap Year Ambassador Fellowship

To apply, please go to pacificdiscovery.org/need-to-know/scholarships-financial-aid



**pacific
discovery**
inspiring educational adventures



CALL US Tel. 1 877 636 2603

EMAIL info@pacificdiscovery.org

www.pacificdiscovery.org

