

# **Amazon Rainforest Adopt-A-School Conservation Expedition**

Conservation through Education

Thank you for your interest in this incredible Conservation Expedition to the jungles of the Amazon Rainforest!



The Detroit Zoological Society supports several global conservation efforts, including this Conservation Expedition to Peru. The goal of this Volunteer Conservation Expedition Program is to offer opportunities for volunteers to get involved in hands-on field conservation efforts. Your participation in this effort will have a significant and long lasting impact on the rainforest, its wildlife, its peoples – and on you.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you would like to receive the additional materials necessary for your planning and participation. The group is small (12-15 volunteers and a Detroit Zoo staff member), to ensure a rich, intimate experience, so spaces are limited for the expedition. At the end of this document is a reservation form, if you wish to request a space now. Please check for availability by contacting me, then fill in the information, include your deposit, and mail it to the address listed. Don't hesitate to contact me if I can assist in any way.

The Adopt-A-School Conservation Expedition is exciting, stimulating, and personally rewarding, and I promise you the experience will change the way you look at the world.



## ***An Experience of a Lifetime***

Most will only dream of traveling to the Rainforests of South America. But for a few, they will know the sound of a tropical rain as it falls upon the Amazon. They will feel the forest's floor under their feet, and breathe in the rich air of the jungle. They will share smiles and laughter with children they will meet for but a moment, but remember for a lifetime. They will live a dream.

As one of a small group of volunteers, you will spend time during the month of April or May delivering school supplies to rural communities along the Amazon and Napo Rivers. While in Peru, you will also have opportunities to discover the rainforest's vast diversity of wildlife.



Your days will begin with a boat ride along the river to the communities. You will visit a few communities each day, and each visit is a wonderful mix of ceremony, beautiful children, and incredible landscape. This is an important day in the community, and you will see this in their reception of your group. You will probably be asked to speak once in a while, but don't worry, experienced guides will translate! The deliveries will usually be done each day by the middle of the afternoon, leaving time to explore the culture and wildlife of the rainforest with the group. Each day will bring a unique experience, as you travel the river in search of dolphins, journey by foot to visit the local shaman, visit the medical clinic or library, or just relax in the hammock rooms. You will be staying at *Explorama's* unique lodges, including ExplorNapo, Explorama and Ceiba Tops (for a look, visit their website at [www.explorama.com](http://www.explorama.com)).



Although a good amount of time will be spent delivering school supplies to children or working in the communities, there will be several opportunities to see the rainforest up close. You'll spend a morning in the treetops of the rainforest, in the world's longest canopy walkway – several hundred yards of suspended rope bridge. To be over one hundred feet in the air, in a tree that still towers above you, is amazing. And to see the rainforest with your own eyes, to hear a gentle rain falling through thousands of leaves, is breathtaking. You'll have opportunities to see wildlife every day. Some of it will be close by, as local macaws awaken you in your room by squawking directly overhead in the rafters, bats capture bugs along the walkway as you stroll to dinner, a gecko crawls across your windowsill, or a friendly capybara at one of the lodges comes up to say hello. On various occasions you (and your guides) will journey out by foot and by boat in search of frogs, birds, owls, and more. It's incredible to photograph wild animals in their natural habitats. You'll likely have more than one blurry tamarin running down a tree, a few splashes where dolphins were, and

a small silhouette of a sloth taken up in a tree, looking just like a bunch of leaves to all you share the picture with.

### ***A Few Considerations***

The trip is not extremely physically strenuous, however you will need to be able to do a large amount of walking, including being able to get up, down, and across grass and muddy slopes and primitive steps and walkways (logs, dirt, boards), and in and out of boats on various docks or shore lines. You will not be required to do any heavy lifting, a few books here and there. The pace for this expedition is pretty relaxed, and requires a moderate level of fitness. You will want to be in good health. While you are on the expedition, you will be in the Amazon jungle, away from any modern medical facilities or available medicines or treatments.

You'll be spending some of the expedition in lodges that are open air, with no electricity, running water, or indoor plumbing. The experience is incredible, as the sounds of the jungle surround you all of the time. But you will be taking cold showers with water filtered out of the Amazon river (feels refreshing for most at the end of a day!), and you won't be able to plug in a battery charger or flip on a light (lots of kerosene lamps) or fan (you can sway back and forth in one of the hammocks in the hammock room). A few days we will stay in rooms with air conditioners and hot showers, and there's a pool in the courtyard.

### ***What To Do Next***

The Adopt-A-School Conservation Expedition will bring you into close contact with the people, culture, and wildlife of the rainforest, and provide an opportunity to help protect this fragile ecosystem. You will make a significant, hands-on impact on conservation and protection of the rainforest that will last lifetimes.

This expedition is for anyone with a passion for the rainforest and a desire to have a hand in its protection. Our participants have diverse backgrounds and come from around the world. The minimum age is thirteen years, and minors (under 18) must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Take a look through the information, and drop me a line or give me a call if I can answer any questions or provide you with more information. Or, send in the reservation form attached at the end!

I look forward to hearing from you!



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## ***April 17 ~ 26, 2010 or April 24- May 3, 2010 Adopt-A-School Conservation Expedition (AAS CE)***

### ***A Few Brief Notes***

As a participant, you will provide for your own travel and all related expenses to and from Iquitos, Peru, and must arrive at the Iquitos airport on the date and general time specified in the following information (or be in the city of Iquitos at the same time). Staff from the program in Peru will meet you at the airport or pick you up from your hotel, and from that point on **all** expenses (food, lodging, travel, everything except souvenirs) are included in the expedition fee until you depart from the Iquitos airport at the end of the week.

You need to be at the Airport (or be in Iquitos) on Saturday. Some members travel with Zoo staff, others fly with other airlines, sometimes using frequent flier miles or traveling at other dates.

Some members take advantage of being in South America, and travel to other locations before or after their expedition. Most past participants suggest traveling to other locations before the AAS CE. You can find a wealth of information online or through a travel agent. If you do arrange additional travel, let me know if we need to make other arrangements for your departure time from Iquitos, it is no problem.

As a rough estimate, the total out-of-pocket expense you will have for your week in the jungle of the Amazon Rainforest, including all expenses you might have, is around \$2000 ~ \$2500. I've broken down these expenses, and you may find that some of them are not applicable (you might have a passport already, you may already have or decide not to get vaccinations, or you may have frequent flier miles – all of which will lower your total cost).

### **Expedition Fee:**

Note – All dollar costs are in US dollars, and payment of the expedition fee must be in US dollars. Minimum age requirement for this expedition is 13 (thirteen) years old, and all minors (under 18 years of age) must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Fee for the expedition includes lodging, food, transportation, and all other costs incurred during your participation on the expedition. Your fee covers all expenses once you are met by the program staff at Iquitos until you depart at the end of the expedition. *Airfare to and from Iquitos, other lodging, or other travel expenses are not included.* The fee is: \$1,250.00.

A \$300.00 deposit (refundable until February 1, 2010) is required to reserve a space on the trip. Payment in full is required 30 days prior to departure. See details on the reservation form. Your expenses of this trip may be tax-deductible. Please save your receipts for tax purposes. Unfortunately, I can't hold a space for you temporarily without a deposit because of the increasing popularity of the program. Please contact me for more information; I'm very willing to work with you!

**Additional costs (*estimates*) incurred by the *participant* include (these are out of pocket expenses you may have outside of the AAS CE fee):**

- **Airfare, (\$1,000 to \$1,300)** – Airfare to and from your expedition location in Peru (Iquitos) is not included. Airfare will vary based on your departure location, your carrier, and how long you wait to book your flight. As an estimate, with departure from Detroit Metro Airport, an economy roundtrip ticket for the Adopt-A-School expedition is approximately \$800-1300. In Peru, you will also pay domestic and international flight tariffs, totaling about \$50.
- **Passport, (approx. \$100)** – Passports are available through most local post offices and a few other facilities. For more information, call your local post office, or visit [http://travel.state.gov/passport/fri\\_publications\\_easy.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/fri_publications_easy.html). There are a number of online sources for passports. You can type “passport” into your search engine and find many of them. They are quicker, but may cost around twice as much as the standard process. Your passport will cost around \$100 through the post office, more you wish to express process instead of allowing the normal 6-8 weeks for processing.
- **Preventive medicine, (\$250-450)** – You may wish to get a few shots before you go – ***these are not required for the expedition***, but your physician may recommend them. The cost will vary. Inoculations for Yellow Fever, Typhoid, Hepatitis A & B, Tuberculosis/Diphtheria, Flu, pills to prevent Malaria, and an office visit all together may cost about \$250-450. Your insurance may cover these expenses. Again, ***none of these are required by the DZS to participate in the Conservation Expedition, nor are they required for entry to the country of Peru***, but please consult a physician for advice and recommendations. You might also take a look at the website for the Center for Disease Control, at <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinationPeru.aspx>
- **Lodging or travel expenses, (\$100 with one night in a hotel, \$50 without)** – These are expenses while enroute to or from Iquitos, while ***not*** on expedition. Once you are picked up in Iquitos, and until you are dropped off at the airport on your flight out, your travel, lodging, food, and nearly everything else is taken care of. You will probably buy a little food in the airports along the way to and from Peru. Although airport food may be a little more expensive (you will probably spend about \$30-50 *total* while flying) your dollar will go a ways while in Peru. You may wish to overnight in Peru before or after your expedition, either to accommodate your flight schedule, or to conduct a little sightseeing. Luxury lodging is very luxurious and inexpensive. As an estimate, the 5-star hotels in Lima and Iquitos, used for participants of the Adopt-A-School expedition, are around \$85 per night, and are every bit as luxurious as our luxury hotels in the U.S. There are also several hotels that are very nice and in the \$20 - \$50 range. If you do stay overnight, plan on \$20 for the taxi from the airport to the hotel, and another \$20 for the taxi from the hotel to the airport. There are cheaper taxis, ***but don't take them***. If you stay over, arrange your taxi through your hotel. You also might end up buying dinner once if you stay, at about \$10-15. There are many tour agencies and cultural opportunities to participate in while in Peru, and our contacts in Peru will be very helpful in providing you recommendations of places to stay and sites to visit if you desire.
- **Incidentals, gifts, souvenirs, etc, (\$100 - ?!?!?)** – Although while on expedition you will not need to spend any money on food, transportation, etc, you will have opportunities to discover a rich and fascinating variety of cultural artwork in Peru, including pottery, bloodwood carvings, and jewelry. You can easily provide gifts for a dozen friends for well under \$50, and just as easily spend hundreds on beautiful handcrafted works! I'd recommend \$100, you can always ***not*** spend it ☺. There are also bars at the lodges, if you want a drink or two, they are about \$3 each or so.

## Dates for the Expedition:

- The dates for the 2010 AAS CE are **Saturday, April 17 through Monday, April 26, 2009**. Participants will need to schedule their flight plans to be in Iquitos by **Saturday, April 17, in the morning**. You will schedule your departure for the following **Monday, April 26**, on the **evening** flight. Depending on your flight schedule, you may arrive in Lima, Peru late Friday evening, stay one night in a hotel, and then fly to Iquitos early in the morning. Others plan their flights to arrive in Iquitos on Friday or Saturday morning – it's up to you. This trip focuses primarily on the delivery of school supplies to the communities along the Amazon and Napo River.
- The dates for the 2010 AAS CE second trip are **Saturday, April 24 through Monday, May 3, 2009**. Participants will need to schedule their flight plans to be in Iquitos by **Saturday, April 24, in the morning**. You will schedule your departure for the following **Monday, May 3**, on the **evening** flight. Depending on your flight schedule, you may arrive in Lima, Peru late Friday evening, stay one night in a hotel, and then fly to Iquitos early in the morning. This trip delivers to several schools but focuses on working in a community on projects to help the people who live there, such as building fences, repairing structures, painting schools or building simple structures. In 2009 we assisted the community of Irlanda in constructing a water purification tower and a bakery.
- Once you book your flight, please inform me of your plans, so that I can arrange for your pickup in Iquitos. Pam, our partner with CONAPAC in Peru can often get better rates on round trip flights from Lima to Iquitos, please contact me and I will assist with any flight plan questions!



# **AAS Conservation Expedition 2010 Reservation Form**

( ) Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space (s) for the Adopt-A-School Conservation Expedition 2010, Saturday April 17 through Monday, April 26, 2010.

( ) Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space (s) for the Adopt-A-School Conservation Expedition 2010, Saturday April 24 through Monday, May 3, 2010.

*Please enclose payment for **\$300.00** to hold **each** space, made payable to the **Detroit Zoological Society**. Your deposit is fully refundable until February 1, 2010. After February 1, your deposit will be refundable in full **only** if your held space is filled by another participant. Payment of the remaining balance (\$950.00 per participant) is required in full at least 30 days prior to departure.*

## **Please Print Clearly**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

### **Payment:**

( ) I have enclosed a check or money order, made payable to the Detroit Zoological Society, for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$300.00 per reserved space)

Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my: ( ) Visa ( ) MasterCard ( ) American Express

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **Mail this form and payment to:**

**Claire Lannoye**  
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