

MUSUQ CHASKI - El Mensajero Nuevo



ProjectsAbroad



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The start of the new school year

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Peru: Inside Out

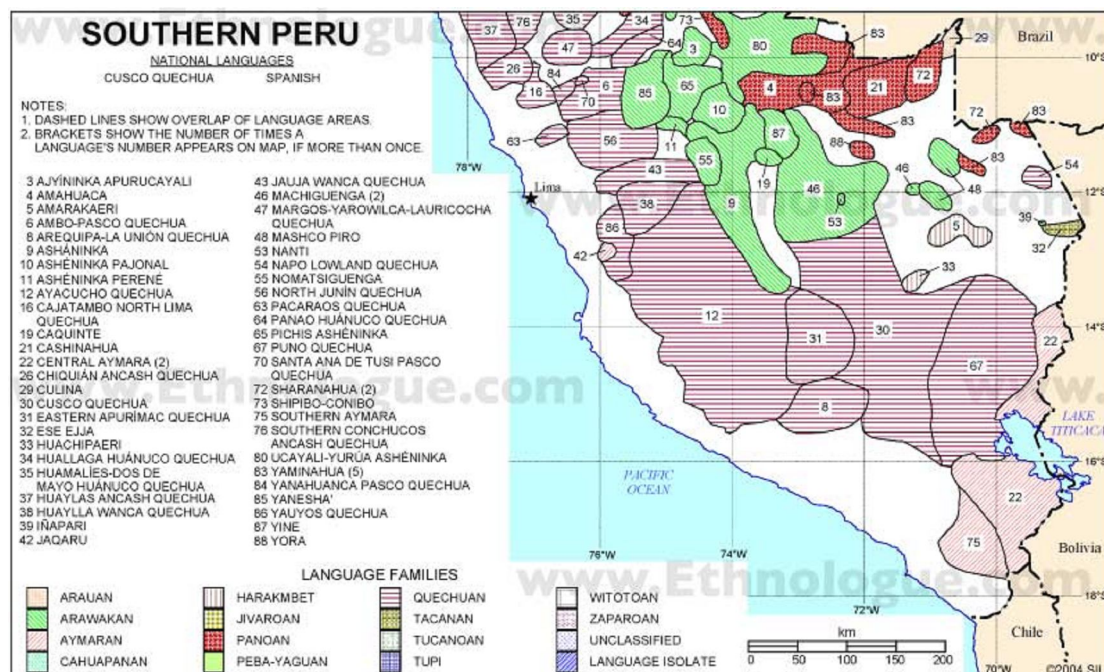
As if learning Spanish wasn't enough...

A few days after arriving into Cusco, volunteers realise pretty quickly the importance of learning Spanish. The majority of the local population do not speak English, in fact many find that their students in kindergarten and schools speak Spanish as a second language. In fact Peru is a multilingual nation. This is not to say that as you cross the Plaza de Armas the mixture of German, English and French, amongst many other languages, makes it this. There are currently 14 defined linguistic families in Peruvian territory, in addition to many more isolated and unclassified languages. It is thought that the number of languages that were used in Peru easily surpassed 300; some even speculate 700. Yet from the time of European conquest, epidemics and periods of forced work (in addition to the influence of the hegemonic Spanish language), approximately thirty languages can be counted today.

Quechua is the main local language in the area in Cusco, and volunteers pretty soon pick up a few words and phrases. Quechua is generally found throughout the highlands. Aymara is another indigenous language still in use in the highlands. The Amazon region, however, is home to a great variety of languages, the most commonly spoken of which are Ashaninka, Machiguenga and Aguaruna, not to mention lesser-known languages, such as Urarina. Up until the late nineteenth century Mochia was widely spoken on the north coast for at least 1500 years.

A large portion of the Peruvian population speak Quechua, the native tongue of the Inca people. In fact perhaps more than half of the population consider Spanish as their second language. Quechua was originally known as Runasimi, but was given the name Quechua, meaning high Andean Valleys by the Spanish. Aymara is also spoken by many people, especially in the department of Puno and around Lake Titicaca.

The map below attempts to highlight the various language families which exist in Southern Peru.



What's New?

In **Teaching** this month, we saw the end of the Teacher training programme with volunteers and their students enjoying the "clausura" on the 20th February. Teaching volunteers alongside Care volunteers carried out community work until the beginning of the school year at the start of March. We are pleased to tell you that Elizabeth Velasquez is our new Teaching supervisor. Elizabeth has worked with us for many years and we consider her a real asset to our team. Teaching volunteers are now working alongside their former students in local secondary schools throughout the Sacred Valley. A weekly Teaching workshop is being held in the office every Thursday.

The **Care & Community** Summer programmes finished between the 13th and 19th February. Volunteers then began doing community work throughout the valley. This included the painting of the Humanes school, not far from Chinchero, and dental campaigns in Humanes and Huayllabamba (for photos see below).

On the **Inca Project** last month volunteers visited the sites of Vitcos and Yurak Rumi, as well as Cochapata (though trips have been limited due to the rain), Alfamayo, Incatambo and Huamanmarca. Volunteers also got to visit a trout farm in Alfamayo, a project that we are looking to start up in Sicre, a small town close to Huyro. Volunteers have had the chance to work with the INC on a site in Amaybamba, work continues there to prepare the site for restoration. The corn harvest has started along with shucking and degrading. About 120 maracuya plants have been planted in Establo, as well as 100 holes dug for an avacado project – both being done in conjunction with local authorities. John's archeology lessons have included subjects such as *Cusco and related ruins, Machu Picchu, Preparation work for restoration work, Manco Inca and Lucumayu valley* and Tim gave the volunteers a lesson on *The Yupana and Quipus* on his last visit to Huyro. This gave the volunteers a challenge to make their own Quipus to record information on the project. Sports like Football, Volleyball and Ultimate Frizbee continue, as has the clearing on the Inca Trail. Finally, Happy Birthday to Alice Tudor who celebrated her birthday on 23rd March.



The **Sports** programme has seen the arrival of Korfbal to Peru. Sports volunteer, Saskia Nagtegaal, after introducing this new sport to children in Huyro, is now teaching in Agropecuario-Calca. Both students and teachers are keen to learn more of this new sport which Saskia plays and coaches back in Holland.

In March we welcomed 31 new volunteers to the Sacred Valley, Cusco and Huyro...

Ten new volunteers have joined the Inca project in Huyro in March. Arriving at the beginning of the month were **Caroline Vicq**, **Lucienne Moran** and **Elizabeth Wilson**. **Daneshwar Solanki** from the UK, **Annabell Mills-Baker** also from the UK, and **Annika Johanson**, from the US, also arrived this month. In the middle of the month **Lucy Cardwell** joined us from Projects Abroad Mexico for two weeks. Towards the end of the month we were joined by **Iris van Dortmont**, **Céline Beaubestre** and **Steffany Yasus**.

The Medicine programme in Cusco welcomed **Adrienne Estes** from the US, who is working in the Centro de Salud de Santa Rosa for two months. At the end of the month, **Julia Buxbaum** from Austria shall be working in Centro de Salud de Ttio.

Thirteen new Care arrivals joined the other volunteers for the start of the new school year this month. Joining early in the month was **Ruth Blagborough**, who arrived from the UK and is living and working in PISAQ. **Fe Wielemaker**, has joined her friend Annabel working in IEI Piste kindergarten and is living in Calca. **Shelby Campbell**, is also living in Calca and is working in IEI Lamay. **Maria Kjaer** from Denmark is living in PISAQ and working in the kindergarten in Coya. **Julie Trecan** from France is helping out in IEI 241 in Calca. Also from France, **Tom Cucel** and **Félix Hermance** are working in Lamay, before completing two months on our Sports programme. **Angela Luggen** is working in our Special Needs placement, Señor de la Vara in Calca. In the middle of the month **Bennett Charles**, joined Angela in Señor de la Vara. **Meg Henderson** and **Line Hansen** also joined in the middle of the month and are working in IEI Marquesado in Yucay. Both girls are living in Urubamba.

Joining the Sports programme this month is one new volunteer arriving at the beginning of the month. **Timo van Meyer** is working in the Apu Pituseray Sports School teaching Football. He is living in Calca.

Finally, there are eight new teaching volunteers who arrived for the start of the new school year this month, Joining our current volunteers are **David Granberg** from the United States who is working in IEMx Humberto Luna in Calca. In the middle of the month we were joined by **Alex van Millingen** who is working in Lamay and living in Písaq. **Annika Isfeldt** will be working in IEMx Inka Tupaq Yupanqui in Chinchero and living in Urubamba. **Catrine Peulecke** and **Kasper Nielsen** from Denmark are working in IEMx General Ollanta in Urubamba. **Signe Larsen** who joined us in the middle of the month is working in IEMx Señor de Torrechayoc in Yanahuara and living in Urubamba. **Dulcie Fforde** returned from a month of traveling to join the Teaching programme in IEMx Agropecuario – Urubamba. Finally **Garry Meginess** joined at the end of the month to work in Pongobamba. Garry is also living in Urubamba.

Hots Spots

Ayacucho

With Easter coming up next month, it is said that the best place in Peru to see the *Semana Santa* celebrations is in Ayacucho. The holy week, which begins the Friday before Easter, sees daily processions and pageants and nightly candlelit processions centred on the cathedral. The procession of Virgen Dolores (Our Lady of Sorrows) which takes place on the Friday before Palm Sunday, sees pebbles fired into the crowd (particularly at children and foreigners) so that onlookers take on the pain of la Madre de Dios, and so supposedly reduce her suffering.



Volunteer News & Events:



¡Salsa Social!

The first social of 2009 took place in Cusco on the 30th January with volunteers and staff gathering together for a salsa lesson with Profesors Cesar and Charlie in Cesar's Salsa school, Salseros Cusco, in

Cusco. Some volunteers have become quite taken with salsa and practice their new skills at the weekend in Cusco.

Community work

As schools and kindergartens closed for their summer holidays around the middle of December, Care volunteers have been taking part in Summer Schools organized by local authorities throughout the Sacred Valley. The end of summer programmes meant that volunteers took part in two weeks of community work...



¡CARNAVALES!

The celebration of Carnival occurs every year in the month of February, and last month was spent either running under cover to escape the water balloons that, undoubtedly, ended up being playfully aimed at you, or joining in the water fights and hence spending most of the day soaking wet and covered in all sorts of liquids and

powders that were used as weapons! Either way, all can agree that the month of February is a time of fun and laughter. People play with water, flour, coloured powders even shoe polish and mud. People from Cusco come to the Sacred Valley to take part in the Carnival celebrations. In all the towns in the Sacred Valley, but especially Pisac and Coya, there were big festivals where people came down from the mountains, danced, played music and celebrated. Carnival celebrations on the Inca Project went on into March as expected ☺

February Social

Despite the strikes in the Sacred Valley in February, volunteers and staff still managed to get together for a typical dish of Pollo a la brasa in Los Toldos in Cusco. This month we shall be meeting in PISAQ for a late lunch and a quiz. Look out for photos of March's social in next month's newsletter.

Volunteer Stories



Teacher Training 2009

Alanna Brown, Basic group

"Sophia, Katherine, Alanna, Michelle, Julia, Jovana, Monty, Michael, and Sebastian; you came here from overseas to this wonderful country, leaving your families, your friends, and your culture behind to share with us your youthfulness, your knowledge, your lives, your best. Like buds, we've seen you bloom and like rain, you've helped us to grow.

Now you have new families, new friends who have received you warmly, and a new culture waiting to be explored.

You're taking home our hearts and we'll take home beautiful memories of you: your faces, your smiles, your glances, your jokes, your accents.

These words are to thank you on behalf of my classmates and teachers who took these lessons. I want to thank you deeply, thank you for your time, your effort, your enthusiasm, your patience, and your support.

You'll always be welcomed with open arms and hearts...this is your home and we are your family.

Thank you."

Tania, a student in the Advanced English class, spoke these gracious words during the Teacher



Training graduation ceremony. These words, her account of the preceding six weeks, made me cry. My own summary is not far off from hers.



On the very first day you feel small, faced with a classroom full of people whose native language is different from your own; who are looking at you as one might look at his life on a map—with great anticipation and predisposed exhaustion, wondering how it could be possible to get from here to there. They look to you like you are their guide on this journey. And, on that first day, you look back at them and try to smile, and try to mask your bewilderment and your own exhaustion

because you know you *are* their guide. You feel the great weight of this responsibility: it is your duty to find the way.

As time passes, the sea of blurred faces becomes a bouquet of individual personalities, each with a name and his or her own way of making you smile. The journey has begun. They are learning and you are learning with them. As you teach them uncharted vocabulary, new tenses, and original comprehension techniques, they teach you how capable you are.

Each day, after the 8:30am to 12:30pm lesson, you return to the Projects Abroad office alongside your fellow guides and map out the next day's work. A day at a time; slowly but surely, lesson by lesson, word by word, you and your students are getting there.

The sixth week springs on you like a jack in a box and you realize that your students are telling jokes in English. You reflect on the work you've done, on the trail you've blazed, and beam like a proud parent. You've not only successfully guided them from *there to here*, but made new friends in the process. You finish the program knowing that you've left an indelible imprint on your students, as they have on you, and it encompasses more than the pronunciation of words.

When you part ways, you find it's true what Tania said. "You're taking home [their] hearts..." and you're leaving a part of yours behind.



Morgan Virgilio - Care

Chincho Summer School

When I arrived in Peru in January, I had no idea what to expect. I had just spent 6 months with Projects Abroad in Costa Rica

and I loved every minute of it. The first thing that I noticed when I got here was that it was really cold, a lot colder than I thought it would be. When I arrived, they picked me up at the airport and took me to my host family. I wasn't feeling well and I was really nervous to meet them, but they were very nice. The first week here I was ill, but the people from Projects Abroad and my host family took very good care of me. My host family is quite large so there is always something going on or something to do. My host mom was very welcoming. She showed me around the house and we talked and got to know each other as I enjoyed my first "mate de coca". My Spanish isn't perfect but it is good enough to communicate. I also lived with another volunteer, a girl from France, which was very nice. As I settled in for my first night, I was exhausted, and at the same time I couldn't wait for the adventures to come. From my adventures my friends and I have decided to describe the indescribable experiences with the phrase, "only in Peru..."



Every day since I have been here has been an adventure and has been a learning experience. I have tried so many different foods, some of which I had no idea what they were (including guinea pig), I have learned to dance salsa, and I have learned useless but hilarious facts at the pub quizzes. I have also discovered that I love Inka Cola and mana (these things you must try if you come to Peru!) I love getting to know the other volunteers and I love travelling on the weekends seeing all of the different cultural aspects of Peru. I have only been here two months and already I have had so many incredible experiences and met so many amazing people. For



instance, the first time I tried to wash my clothes by hand I thought my entire family was going to die laughing. I had no idea what I was doing. My mom finally helped me and now I am a natural. I have also learned that if I walk around without socks or shoes on and if I don't drink my mate with every meal I am going to catch a cold. I love how my host family

always has interesting discussions over dinner. Sometimes we will talk for an hour or two. They are very caring and have made me feel right at home.

For my placement, I worked at a summer school in a small town near where I live and it was absolutely a blast. My kids were crazy but we had so much fun. We played games, did art projects, learned some English and went on a field trip to the local ruins. The kids in Peru have so much energy; I can definitely say there was never a dull moment during my classes. My project required a lot of planning but it was very gratifying when the kids loved an activity you planned.

My favorite memory in Peru though has definitely been carnival. It is this huge celebration where everyone is playing in the streets throwing water at each other, spraying each other with foam, and throwing this colored powder everywhere. There is a parade and music; it is absolute craziness. In the morning I ate breakfast with my host family and then I played with the young kids in my family. One of the kids and I filled water balloons and threw them at people walking by. By lunchtime I was soaked but it was a blast. I even soaked my host mom and dad with a bucket of water; we had so much fun! In the afternoon and the evening I went with my friends to the local park and we played more with water, foam, and flour. I was spraying anyone I could. By the end of the day, I was filthy but the celebration was amazing; something I have never experienced in the United States and a memory of Peru that I will have forever.



experiences to come.

Up to now, Peru has been an unforgettable experience and I have loved everything (well almost everything about it). I have made friends from all over the world, I have worked with kids, I have practised my Spanish, and have gotten to experience the Peruvian culture. I can't wait for my adventures and my



CEVICHE

A little bit of history...

Ceviche is a national dish of Peru, traditionally made with raw fish, lemon, chilli and onions. It is traditionally served with slices of cold potato or corn on the cob. Ceviche is so popular in Peru that there are special restaurants, *cevicherias*, which just serve varieties of the dish.

Ingredients:

For 8 portions

- 1 kg white fish
- a cup of lemon juice
- a garlic clove
- ground chilli pepper powder
- 2 chili peppers, deseeded and sliced
- 1 large red onion, sliced
- celery, sliced
- salt and pepper
- fresh coriander, chopped, to taste
- lettuce leaves and corn to serve

Preparation:

- Wash the fish and chop into pieces.
- Season with lemon juice, garlic, chilli powder, salt and pepper. Leave for approximately an hour to marinade.
- Add the onion, fresh chilli peppers, celery and coriander. Leave for another hour to marinade.
- Serve on the lettuce leaves and with corn.

What happens in April?

Festival	Description	Place	Date
Semana Santa	The biggest festival during April is that of Semana Santa, which is celebrated throughout Peru, though perhaps with the most fervour, in Ayacucho. Typically, on Domingo de Ramos (Easter Sunday) Jesús enters on a donkey with the devoted hundreds kneeling as he passes the palms and branches of olive trees. On the Wednesday a procession leaves the cathedral with images of the Virgin and Saint John to meet with the Nazarene in the Plaza de Armas. On Good Friday the Señor del Santo Sepulcro passes silently along the streets accompanied by the faithful dressed in black and carry large candles. On Sabado de Gloria (Easter Saturday) night many people fill the Plaza de Armas with the intention of seeing the dawn of Easter Sunday when the image of the resurrection of Christ leaves the cathedral and passes around the Plaza de Armas accompanied by colourful fireworks and the sound of bells.	Peru	April 5 – April 12
Señor de los Temblores	Adoration of the effigy of Taitacha, the Saint of Earthquakes. The Señor is led in procession from the Cathedral in Cusco to the streets while believers follow the Señor on his procession, throwing flowers in his path, symbolising the blood of Christ.	Cusco	6 April

Announcements

- There are some new visa regulations that have been passed by the Peruvian government. If your tourist visa is to expire it is no longer possible to extend this in Cusco. You will need to make arrangements to travel to Bolivia or Chile, for example, and re-enter the country, where the immigration official will give you another stamp for further days.
- Please can all new arrivals be aware that you need to pick up your luggage in Lima when arriving from an international flight as it is not forwarded directly onto Cusco. Lima is the first point of entry into the country and you need to pass customs with your luggage.
- Just another reminder to make sure that volunteers are aware that the police are making more identification checks here in Cusco. Please be aware that you need to **always** carry your passport or a legalised photocopy of your passport (which has been signed by a notary) with you, especially if you are traveling within Peru, whether that is to your placement, Cusco or a long weekend in Puno. You may be asked by a police officer for proof of identification and you should be able to present this to them. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask in the office.
- Thank you to everyone who has helped bring about this months issue of *Musuq Chaski*. If you would like to contribute your experiences, stories, photos or anything else to the next edition then please send them to: hannahpartis@projects-abroad.org