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Peru – Conservation and Ecotourism

Peru continues to promote ecotourism by uniting conservation, communities, and sustainable practices. This commitment is evident in its efforts to protect and conserve iconic destinations, such as Machu Picchu and the Amazon rainforest, as well as the vast biodiversity of flora and fauna to be found across the country. By engaging local communities in tourism and providing economic opportunities for indigenous populations, Peru can pursue these goals in a sustainable way.

Peru is one of the most biodiverse countries on the planet with 84 of the 117 life zones that exist. Peru has 12 national parks, 11 national reserves, 7 national sanctuaries, 10 reserved areas, 6 protection forests and 7 communal reserves (areas destined for the conservation of wild fauna for the benefit of the surrounding populations). The following projects exemplify somewhat is being achieved:

Artificial Beaches for Turtles

The Taricaya turtle, also known as the yellow spotted Amazon River turtle, was on the brink of extinction 20 years ago when their eggs were poached illegally. In 2000, the Peruvian government, together with the leaders of the local communities, developed a plan to protect the turtle that consisted in building artificial beaches where the turtles laid their eggs during the breeding season. The plan has worked and in 2018, the Taricaya tortoise laid 2.3 million eggs, of which 1.7 million hatched. This raised more than \$1.3 million for 463 local families and the Taricaya population continues to grow year on year. Today the program is run entirely by local communities, who have now discovered ways to use the turtles for their economy, without endangering them. Many tour operators offer guests the opportunity to witness the conservation of the turtles.

A new home for spectacled bears

The Chaparri Reserve is an important center for conservation in the northwest of Peru where the many dry forests serve as a home for several species of wild animals threatened with extinction. One of those animals is the spectacled bear, which is the only bear found in South America that lives in the mountain forests of the Andes. The Spectacled Bear Rescue Center is now located in the Chaparri Reserve and seven bears rescued from illegal captivity are housed here in large semi-natural enclosures, designed in such a way that the bears have a stimulating natural environment to live in. Some of these residences can be visited by tourists with a local guide. They can observe the bears in their natural habitat and learn more about these endangered animals.

Tingana Ecological Reserve

The Tingana Ecological Reserve, in northeastern Peru, is the result of the work of seven local families that aim to develop ecotourism, with a focus on both preserving natural resources and generating a sustainable source of income for the local community. The reserve is a haven for wildlife, mostly monkeys and birds, some of which are in danger of extinction. The residents act as guides for tourists who want to visit the park, taking nature walks or canoe trips through the rivers of the park.

About PROMPERU

As an independent division of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism, PROMPERU is a government promotion agency, connecting both public and private initiatives, whose mission is to promote a competitive and diversified offer of products and services with the highest quality standards suitable for the international markets. PROMPERU carries out a wide range of activities related to trade, investment, and tourism promotion, focused on those linked with the expansion of businesses in foreign markets, the generation of job opportunities and spreading the image of Peru as an exporting country and an attractive investment and tourist destination <https://www.peru.travel/en>

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Notes to editors:

For hi-res images, more information, FAM trip applications or to arrange an interview please contact:

Wonderberry

Michèle Lucato

M: 0044 7771 862 008

E: m.lucato@wonderberry.co.uk