

Wayqecha Biological Station At a Glance



Visitors Guide to Wayqecha

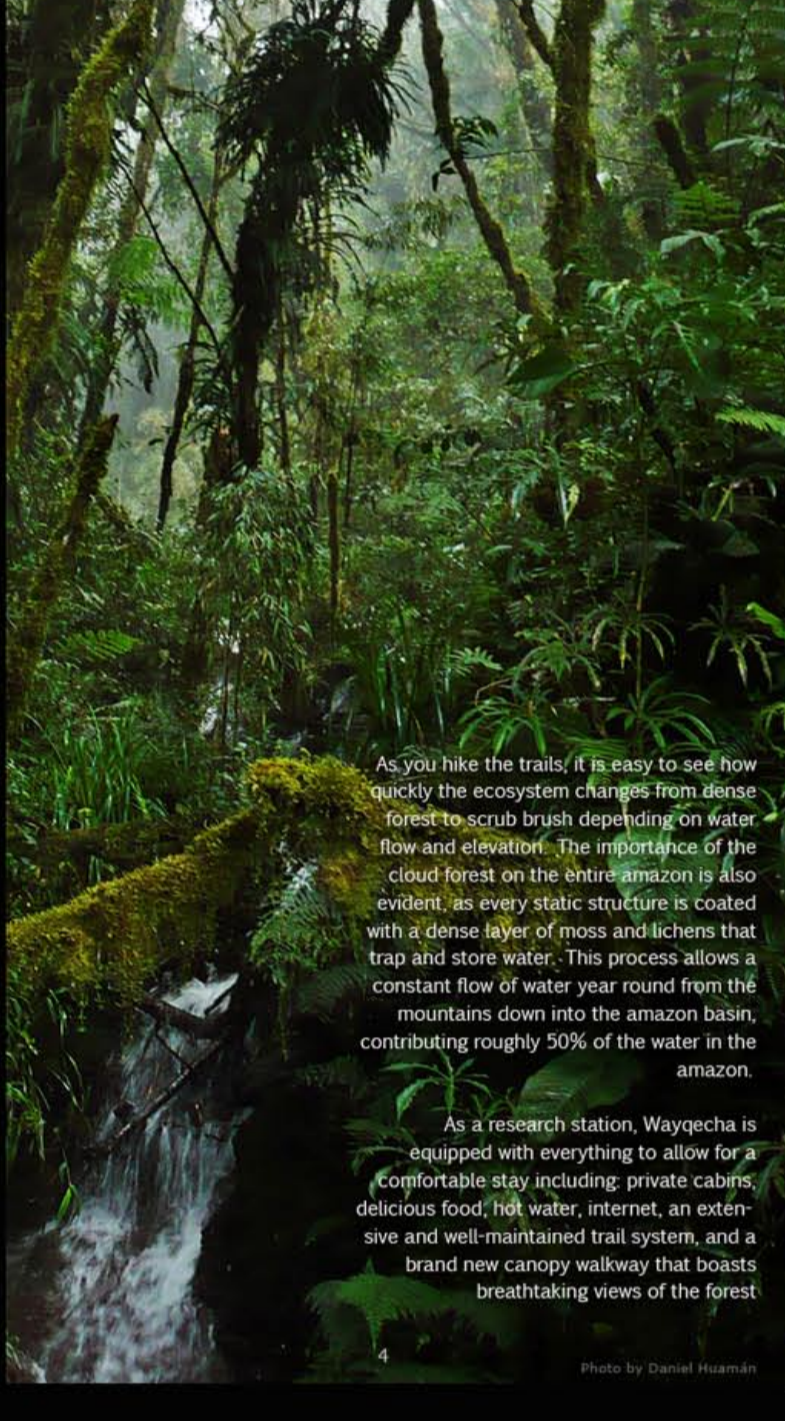
Wayqecha is a biological research station managed by the Amazon Conservation Association (ACCA), situated at 2950m above sea level. This is a transition zone between cloud forest and mountain grassland (commonly known as puna). Wayqecha is a unique experience of Andean Cloud Forest at its ecological extremes. Being one of the few research stations in the world at this altitude, Wayqecha is an ideal place for observing cloud forest ecology and catching views of several endemic birds, plants and insects.

Photo by Daniel Huamán

Any naturalist would enjoy the ease of finding animals from amazing view points on every trail and our canopy walkway. Incredible sightings of mixed species flocks of birds, including mountain tanager, warblers, and flycatchers, as well as the solitary toucans, trogons, and fruit eaters are common sights when hiking the trails. As for mammals, markings and tracks of Spectacled Bears and Puma are frequently found on the trails. The Kcosnipata valley and Manu is also the world's hot spot for most butterfly species in the world, with many species still not yet described and an even more abundant and unknown diversity of moths. Finally, the orchid abundance and diversity is unreal, with several species in bloom at any time of the year, and over 200 species described at the station, including several new species!



Photo by Francisco Llacma



As you hike the trails, it is easy to see how quickly the ecosystem changes from dense forest to scrub brush depending on water flow and elevation. The importance of the cloud forest on the entire amazon is also evident, as every static structure is coated with a dense layer of moss and lichens that trap and store water. This process allows a constant flow of water year round from the mountains down into the amazon basin, contributing roughly 50% of the water in the amazon.

As a research station, Wayqecha is equipped with everything to allow for a comfortable stay including: private cabins, delicious food, hot water, internet, an extensive and well-maintained trail system, and a brand new canopy walkway that boasts breathtaking views of the forest

Photo by Daniel Huamán



Photo by Francisco Llacma

Looking for Birders

to make a final check list version

15 Mammals

over 200 Birds



Photo by Francisco Llacma

over 200 Orchids

Photo by Daniel Huamán



Canopy Walkway Photo by Daniel Huamán

Suggestions and tips from our field team

Things to bring:
Warm clothes, rain proof clothes, hiking boots, Water bottle, ziplock bags, binoculars, digital camera, Birds of Peru Book, insect repellent in dry season, snacks, compass (sleeping bag and tent if you are planning stay in Camping platform).

Things we have:
Cabins, Camping platform, Hot water for showers, Internet Access and Electricity for 3 hours a day, Three meals a day, Maps of trails.

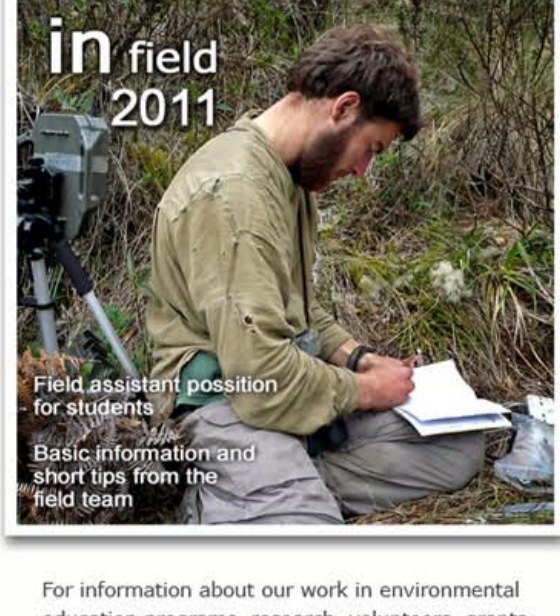
Things we don't have:
Laundry Service, Tents, Snacks, Malaria, Vipers, Shampoo.

How to get there:

Wayqecha is located near the head of the Andean face of Manu National Park in the Kcosnipata Valley. The closest site to Wayqecha is Acjanaco, the Manu guard station at the head of Manu park (500m in altitude higher than Wayqecha).

If you're interested in the cheapest way to get to Wayqecha, a public bus called "Gallito de las Rocas Bus" runs three days a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday), leaving from Cusco at 5:00 am and arriving at Wayqecha in 4 - 5 hours. This bus then makes the trip back the same night arriving back in Cusco around 5am. While the bus ride is long, there is always one scheduled stop at Paucartambo, a small Andean town, allowing passengers to purchase breakfast and use the restrooms. To get off at Wayqecha you must clearly state to the bus driver that you want to stop at Wayqecha. Also, to return back to Cusco on this bus you must stop it on the road as it is coming down to purchase a seat for the return, and then wait for the bus around 11pm to be picked up. While this bus is often packed, with uncomfortable seats, and an overwhelming smell of coca leaves, it is the cheapest option at \$/ 20 (\$ 8.00).

Other options for reaching the station include hiring a motorist or a tourist agency to take you. This might make the trip more comfortable and give you the option to stop for animal sightings and ruins, but we do highly recommend that you find a driver that knows the road well. We strongly recommend that you do not try driving down the road on your own as landslides are common in the rainy season and there are dangerous turns that can only be learned through years of experience with the road. A private truck, driver included, typically cost around \$ 250 (2 days / 1 night. And \$ 90 each extra day).



in field 2011

Field assistant position for students
Basic information and short tips from the field team

For information about our work in environmental education programs, research, volunteers, grants, art and conservation. Please contact the following organizations.



www.amazonconservation.org



www.acca.org.pe