



Amazonas Explorer

A RESOURCE GUIDE

YOUR ONE STOP PERU DMC FROM
UNIQUE ADVENTURE TRAVEL TO YOUR
MACHU PICCHU TOURS

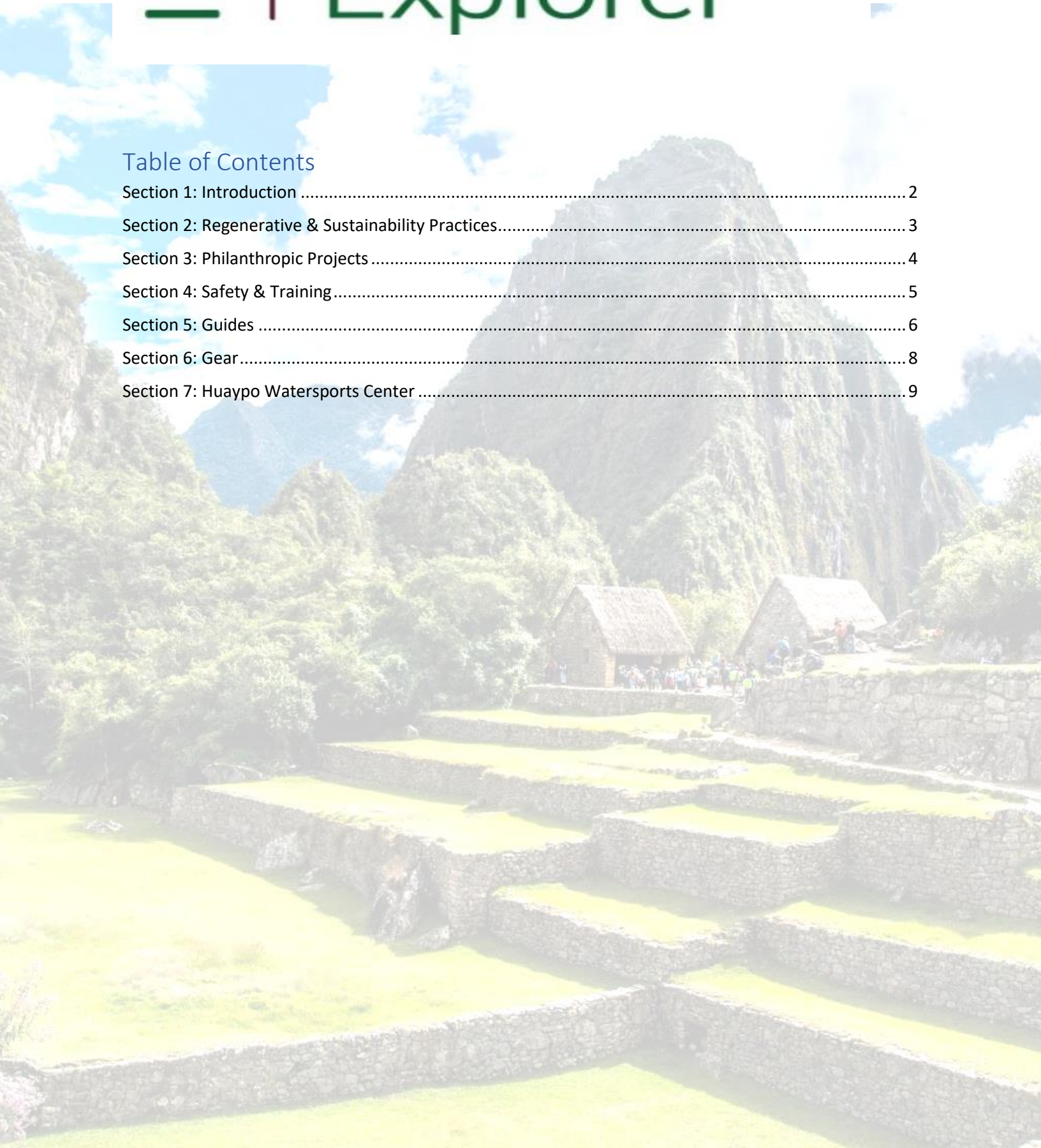
TOURISM WITH A CONSCIENCE



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Amazonas Explorer

Section 1: Introduction

Amazonas Explorer has been established leaders in the Peruvian Adventure Travel Industry since the 1980's. We started as a rafting company and evolved to a Peruvian DMC specializing in premier trekking and adventure activities with a focus on private highly-customizable tours. Running logistics for multi-day expeditions through some of the most isolated river canyons in South America, a seamless 7-Day Machu Picchu program comes organically to us.



Currently our main demographic are families, couples and small groups wanting the Classic Machu Picchu Tour in a more authentic manner, however, we are always ready for someone looking for a challenge via bike, boat or foot. Our passion is showing people the seldom explored side of Peru through adventure travel, while supporting the local communities and environment. Based out of Cusco we take you away from the crowds to help you experience the real Peru. We meet all international safety standards and hold all adventure licenses.

Owner Paul Cripps

English owner Paul Cripps is a graduate of South American Studies. Paul first travelled to Peru in 1988 on a university grant. He worked as a tour guide, rafter, safety kayaker and a trek leader which took him to Austria, Nepal, New Zealand, Zambia, Costa Rica, Panama and just about every country in South America, but his love for Peru remained and in 1996 he joined Amazonas Explorer. In 1998 he became a full partner and has been running the business since.



Behind the Scenes

A key component behind every seamless trip is a well-trained operations and sales team. Our sales and reservations team provide fast response times along with highly knowledgeable advice. Our Operations team have the foresight and experience to help your clients trip run smoothly and sort out any issues should they occur. All clients, before their arrival to Peru, will have an emergency number which can be used 24/7 for immediate support from our on the ground team in Peru.





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Section 2: Regenerative & Sustainability Practices

Almost 15 years ago we realized that sustainability wasn't enough for a travel company and in 2007 we started making moves to become regenerative, before it was trendy. We are happy to share any proof upon request. Our main certifications that guide our company's ethics are:

- **1% for the Planet**
 - In 2007 We became the first Peruvian member of 1% for the Planet, we are still the only Peruvian Tour Operator that's a member. We donate 1% of our turnover (not profit) each year to help reforest the Lares area with native trees. Since 2007, with other contributors in the project we have planted over 1 million trees with [ECOAN](#).
- **Certified B Corp**
 - In 2017 we became the first tour operator in Peru to pass the assessments to be a certified B Corps, putting people and planet before profit.
- **Carbon Neutral**
 - All our office and client trip emissions are offset with the Peruvian based company [Regenera](#) that locally offsets carbon to help preserve local ecosystems. Currently our carbon is offset in Manu National Park, one of the most biodiverse places in the world.
- **Carbon Positive**
 - In the beginning of 2020, we became Carbon Positive by planting two trees, for each traveler, for each day they travel with us in Peru. Read about some of our tree planting projects [here](#).
- **Travelers Against Plastic Member**
 - Peru struggles with plastic and almost anywhere you go you will find plastic discarded. We pledged to work to reduce the number of plastic water bottles being used by travelers. We ask travelers to bring their own bottles to refill. We also try to work with only hotels who offer free water refills rather than offering plastic disposable bottles.





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Section 3: Philanthropic Projects

Every year with the help of our guides we make considerable donations to projects we believe in. It's important for us to give back to the communities and country that we've called home for so many years. Some of our favorites are:

- **Bike Repairs in the Patacancha Valley**

This project is the “brainchild” of our Head Biking Guide Miguel Lozano. Every year Miguel (Miky), along with our core bike guides, go up to the Patacancha Valley with tools and boxes full of parts, tubes and tires, purchased by Amazonas Explorer, to help with bike maintenance for the children of the community. For most children who live in these communities a bike is the only way they travel to and from school.



- **Chicuchas Wasi School for Girls**

One of our core guides, Efrain Valles sits on the Board of Directors for this school and we love what they are doing. While public education is free in Peru, parents pay for books, pencils, uniforms, paper, transportation, even toilet paper and hand soap for the schools. For many Communities in the country-side that earn only a few dollars a day these expenses prohibit them from educating all their children and they tend to believe that girls are not considered worth educating. Boys of the communities are educated, if possible, and the domestic chores are left to the girls.

Young girls learn from their grandmothers and mothers that being born female means they are destined to suffer, and need a man to provide for them. Girls are often pregnant as early as 13, with no education or skills. Many times, the mothers abandon their babies in desperation when they are abandoned by their male provider. Chicuchas Wasi helps poor girls become future leaders for social change, to end gender inequality, female abuse and child abandonment.





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Section 4: Safety & Training

- Wilderness First Aid & CPR for all of our guides.



- Advanced Swift-Water training for all raft guides. We were the first company to fly an outside instructor to Peru to teach the course. We have continued to bring an instructor for training for new hires and for continuing education.

- Equipment training and maintenance to ensure guides can instruct how to use the equipment correctly and maintain all gear for future use.



- Amazonas Explorer is one of the few Adventure Tour Operators that has liability insurance up to 1 million USD.

- All of our employees have taken a gender orientation workshop.



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Section 5: Guides

A 3-5-year university degree is required to be a guide in Peru; however, we believe it takes more than a degree to make a great guide. It is an ever-evolving process that demands investment and commitment on both sides, [click here](#) to read about our methods. Below we've highlighted a sample of our guides that make up our diversity and are a big part of the spirit that defines us as a company.

- **Efrain Valles** voted as best guide in the world by Wanderlust magazine in 2014, ambassador for



Marca Peru (the Peruvian tourist board), and is on the board of directors for the Chicuchas Wasi school, a charity funded school set up to help poor girls in Cusco receive an education and escape the poverty cycle in which they would otherwise be trapped. He also volunteers his time with locals in the Totorá area of Lares, and together they are doing a great job in cleaning up the area of plastic and reducing drastically their plastic consumption. The photo pictured is Efrain dressed as a traditional Inca warrior for the London Marathon.

- **Miguel Lozano**, Miky is the only bike guide in Peru to have qualified under the IMBA scheme.



He had to go to the USA to do it. While he has always loved biking, he actually spent many years as a professional chef before turning his passion for biking into a career. He now designs our menus and trains our cooks as well as looking after and maintaining our fleet of bikes. You may even get him as a guide on your biking trip, where he is known for his professionalism and love of all things bike related. He has biked all over the United States as well as Peru, has organized the world's highest Enduro bike race in Patacancha above the Sacred Valley and also set up a charity to maintain bikes for the kids that live in the area where the enduro race passes each year.

- **Naty Amao** has worked as an adventure guide for more than 10 years. Passionate about flora



and photography through guiding, she helps clients relate to the life of her ancestors and experience a different side to Peru. Natty finds peace and tranquility in the mountains and feels she connects with her ancestors the most when she is out in nature sharing what she knows with our travelers.

- **Santiago Carlin**, Chief instructor, in charge of ensuring all staff understand and implement our risk and safety management procedures. He has worked for a long time as one of our river guides and he grew up on the banks of the Apurimac. After learning his trade on this fantastic river, he spent many seasons working on some of the rivers of the world in the USA, Iceland, Chile, Argentina and Brazil amongst others. Santiago is currently in the process of finishing his IRF (International Rafting Federation) instructors' qualification which has been put on hold for 2020.





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- **Shandira Arque** is Cusco born and bred. Having always loved sports and being outdoors so decided to pursue a career in tourism. After working with a variety of companies in different posts Shandira qualified as a guide. Shandira's diverse background and her roots allows her to show visitors her home town and teach them about her roots in an authentic and personal way.



- **Ruben Apaza**, the ever-smiling Ruben came from family who didn't have an education beyond elementary school. Being curious, intelligent and driven Ruben continued with his studies until he became a professor of history at a local university. Ruben long ago left the classroom to work for Amazonas Explorer, where he excels at playing professor in the field, educating our guests about all aspects of his country.



- **Jose Antonio** was born 41 years ago in the Peruvian rainforest near the City of Cusco in Perú where he grew up and qualified to become a guide, something he has worked in since 1998. He guides in both the Peruvian rainforest and the Andes with particular interest in combining flora, fauna and birdwatching into trekking, biking and traditional tours in order to give a little extra something to people's vacations. He is also a very keen mountain bike racer- fortunately being in the veteran's category avoids him constantly getting beaten by his son and our younger guides in the races.



- **Juan Carlos Salazar** or "JC" as he is known is probably the cheekiest of our guides. Having spent much of his early life being chased by park guards because the new mountain bike line he found just happened to go through some Inca ruins, he has mellowed with age. I even saw him get off his bike and walk it down some steps, something that ten years ago would have been unthinkable. Expert bike mechanic, great mountain biker and all-round fun guide to spend time with, JC will liven up any trip you share with him with his constant smile and infectious sense of fun.





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Section 6: Gear

Having state-of-the-art gear that functions correctly can make or break your trip abroad. Being lovers of adventure sports ourselves, we understand the importance of investing and maintaining gear so that each guest has the tools they need for an adventure of a lifetime.

Our gear list is as follows:

- Specialized Rockhopper and Camber Full Suspension Mountain Bikes
 - Bern helmets
 - Full-Finger gloves
 - Kids sizes
- HaiBike Full-Suspension Electric Assisted E-Bikes
 - Children's sizes available
- Red Paddle SUP Boards with paddle
- Feel Free sit-on-top kayaks
- NRS inflatable rafts 10-16 foot depending on water levels
- NRS inflatable duckies
- Palm rafting helmets
 - NRS Splash Jackets
 - NRS Wetsuits
 - NRS Booties
 - NRS life jackets
- Eureka tents
- Thermarests inflatable mats
- Dining tents
- Camping chairs
- Flushable toilet & privacy tent
- For hire we have
 - Thermarest 3 season sleeping bags with
 - Liners
 - Thermarest pillow
 - Black Diamond Trekking poles





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Section 7: Huaypo Watersports Center



Travel to Peru can be hectic. A visit to Lake Huaypo is the perfect opportunity to relax and remember you are on holiday. Just 45 minutes from Cusco or 30 minutes from the Sacred Valley, is the beautiful Lake Huaypo, in between Chinchero and the Inca ruins of Moray and salt-pans of Maras.

The Peruvian landscape is rarely mentioned in marketing campaigns, which instead concentrate on culture and food, but the scenery in Peru is mind-blowing and dictates the local's way of life. Spending time in Peru's unique environments creates a deeper understanding about the country and culture. A visit to Lake Huaypo provides this experience, without eating into the time you have planned for other activities.

We are the only outfitter licensed for adventure tours on Lake Huaypo where we have a custom-built storeroom with changing rooms, toilets, lockers and solar heated showers. We also have a scenic protected restaurant, with an open kitchen and BBQ pit.

What can I do here?

½ Day Activity + Lunch + Afternoon Cultural Visit

Morning: Sit on top kayak or stand up paddleboard or bike or E-bike

Lunch: Pachamanca or cooking class, or picnic

Afternoon: Chinchero church & Inca site/ or Maras saltpans & Moray Inca site

1-Day Sacred Valley Tour with lunch at Huaypo:

Pisac + Lake Huaypo lunch + Maras Moray

OR

Ollantaytambo + Lake Huaypo lunch + Maras Moray



Can I just do a ½ day activity, or just take lunch here?

Yes, we can do those too. Water activities are best in the morning because there is less wind. Sailing is available in the afternoon- we have one catamaran, takes two people.

What if some of the group want to do an activity but some do not?

Sitting looking out over the lake, drink in hand is perfect for those who prefer to relax.

What else can I do here? Night time kayaking under the stars? Sundowners and star gazing? Teambuilding? Triathlons? Shaman ceremonies? Overnight glamping? You name it, we can probably make it happen.

