



JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS

2016 PACKING LIST ANDAHUAYLILLAS, PERU

In the spirit of living counter-culturally in JVC and with the goal of living simply in solidarity, we invite you to consider the packing list here (compiled with the input of JVs in the field), through the lens of the following questions:

- How is what I am bringing demonstrative of my intention to immerse fully into the local culture and live as they live?
- How is my approach to packing reflective of a commitment to being dependent on the resources locally available to purchase?
- How might what I bring debunk or reify negative stereotypes about U.S. Americans living, traveling, or working abroad? How can I learn what those are, generally, and in my particular host country?
- How might what I bring into the JV house affect security/perceptions of security, especially knowing that it is easy to observe when new, “green” JVs are arriving, how much luggage they are bringing, etc.?
**Also please note the baggage policy on page 18 of your handbook*
- What items may be more advisable to purchase in-country, after receiving local perspectives on what is most culturally appropriate? *e.g. volunteers in the past who have chosen to not purchase work clothes in the U.S., rather put their stipends towards having clothes or uniforms locally made or bought, have tended to be perceived as dressing more appropriately in the local culture, often find they receive more respect (from local students, co-workers, supervisors, etc.) initially from the local community by seeking out advice and reflecting this sensitivity to culture*
- What items may I perceive as necessary, though would be a privilege to have (not because of cost but because of access)?
- How might I consider adapting certain habits rather than looking to continue them? *e.g. bringing a 2-yr supply of contact lenses and solution to circumvent that they are not available; consider adjusting to glasses all or most of the time*
- How might the choices I make in items I bring have the potential to hinder (intentionally or not) my ability to bridge the gap of power and privilege between my co-workers, local neighbors, etc. and me? *To reinforce perceptions that foreigners think local resources and resourcefulness are ‘substandard’? e.g. bringing a year’s worth of teaching supplies to be able to carry out my job well – well intentioned and a positive effort towards a strong work ethic, though also begs the question of what does that mean for co-workers who rely on what the school can provide or not provide? Their perceptions of your resources? How they might perceive your openness (or lack thereof) to learn from their resourcefulness, accept their conditions as is, be willing to sacrifice to learn new approaches to teaching and/or understand their educational systems?*

We also encourage utilizing the Handbook as a tool for reflection, here are a few sections that could be helpful in framing how you approach packing:

- Pg. 24-25 (Appendix A, section B. Simple Living)
- Pg. 16-17 (5.G. Living Simply with Technology)



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Packing List with JV input

In Andahuaylillas, the weather in the summer alternates between intense rain and intense sun (December - March) During the winter months, it is colder but dry (June-August). Because of microclimates, the intense cold felt often in the city of Cusco does not reach the valley of Quispicanchi. But it should be noted that without central heating, homes and buildings are colder than we're used to.

Make sure to bring sturdy clothing. There is a washing machine at the parish, although we also hand wash sometimes. Hand washing wears out the fabric more quickly and sun drying tends to fade colors -- so don't bring your nicest outfits. Be sure to bring a lot of underwear and socks in particular because those are always the first to go. JVs have found that bringing enough underwear for 2-3 weeks is sufficient.

Important: Because every road in town is paved with river-rock, practical footwear is a must. Shoes should have thick soles and good support-think practical and functional. We suggest shoes such as: hiking boots (both for in town and excursions in nature), sturdy sneakers (really though, make sure they're sturdy!), athletic sandals such as chacos (for hotter days), and a durable pair of everyday boots (for teaching, going into Cusco, etc). Consider at least one pair of water resistant shoes for the rainy season (water resistant hiking boots are great, for example).

In the sierra, people are more conservative and therefore there are certain things that we discourage wearing around town. Although it can get hot in the middle of the day, we tend to wear jeans year round, and recommend more modest cut shirts (no plunging V-necks) with some sort of sleeves. Tank tops and shorts are okay for travel outside of Andahuaylillas (ie the coast, jungle, or Lima in the summer months), but not something for wearing around Anda. Also, while it isn't uncommon to see women in leggings around town, it is not always an appropriate choice for female volunteers.

In terms of staying warm, we recommend fleeces and lots of layers. A rain jacket and a winter jacket are also good to bring. While it doesn't snow here, it can feel very cold once the sun goes down. Thermal leggings/long underwear/under armor-like material are all the rage in the Anda JV house and actually help A LOT! Scarves, gloves, house slippers, and hats are also nice for the colder months.

Swimwear should also be brought not only for our visits to the beach in Tacna but also for the thermal baths that are around Cusco – you never know when we'll get a chance to go! In the same vein, you should also bring a HAT, sunglasses, sunscreen and aloe for sun protection (seriously! we're like a mile from the sun here – you will need more sun protection than you may realize).

If you have any particular sports/exercising habits that require special attire, bring that too. In the house we have a yoga mat, homemade weights, and a few fitness DVDs, but you might want to bring your favorite workout material and gear for indoor activities too.

For travel and retreats, we use our sleeping bags, travel towels, and headlamps regularly.

Highly Recommended Personal Items:

- For clothing in general, think layers (long-sleeve shirts, T-shirts, light jackets, fleeces, etc)
- Lots of underwear and socks!
- **Sleeping bag** (we have the opportunity to go camping or on local pilgrimages where you sleep outside, so we suggest something durable and warm)
- **Sturdy water bottle** and **Lifestraw/Steripen** (not necessary but nice for travel)
- **Sunscreen** (it's expensive here and you will use it every day) **and Aloe**



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- **USB (this is INVALUABLE)**
- **Flashlight** (headlamps are also very popular)
- Bug repellent (for travel because we don't have bugs really)
- **Contact solution** (very expensive and hard to find—we do have some in the house, so let us know if you plan on using it and we can let you know what we have) and **second pair of glasses** if you are glasses dependent
- **US stamps** (we often send mail back with people traveling to the States), stationery, and **addresses of friends and family**
- Watch
- Sunglasses and HAT
- Flip flops for the shower
- Slippers/house shoes
- **Tampons** (very expensive and hard to find here) or **reusable menstrual cup** (recommended!)
- Vitamins, Probiotics, Pepto Bismol, Ibuprofen, Cortisone cream, Band-Aids, Neosporin, etc.
- Face wash, lotion, toothpaste, deodorant, razors, and mouthwash are expensive here, so bring some to get yourself started especially if you're particular about the kind
- Camera and charger
- Backpack (for smaller trips and weekly trips to the market) and bag for work/Cusco
- Adapters for your electronics if they don't run on 220V
- Travel mug if you're a regular coffee/tea drinker
- **Quick-drying travel towels** (sold at REI or similar outdoor stores)
- Hand sanitizer (helpful for work sites)
- Extra copies of your passport
- Small alarm clock or watch alarm
- Pictures of family/friends
- **Extra Batteries** for headlamp, alarm clock, light rain jacket
- Hiking boots (waterproof highly recommended!)
- **Warm jacket**, scarf, hat, and gloves for the colder months
- personal Bible if you wish
- Favorite books and games (we have quite a few, so check with us before you bring something!)
- swimsuit
- Small musical instrument/sheet music if you're a musician (we have guitars)
- Any prayer/community resources you think might be helpful for community/spirituality nights
- **Simple self-care items** like your favorite tea (we can get chamomile, green tea, and plain black tea easily here), a scented candle, art supplies, journal, etc.

Things we currently have in the house (check with us before you decide to bring):

- Extra travel mug, contact solution, hair ties, many unopened chapsticks, hairdryer

Clothing (Work site specific): In Andahuaylillas, we have two different work sites and types of attire you should bring, depending on where you are placed.

Fe y Alegria: At **primaria**, the JV is permitted to dress in a casual albeit professional manner. Jeans (no rips), button downs, sweaters, cardigans and a practical pair of shoes (we suggest boots) are the recommended items for both male and female volunteers. On Mondays, there is an all-school assembly, and the teachers wear suits. It is suggested, although by no means obligatory, that the JVs dress-up a bit too. A pair of chinos and a nicer top, for example, easily fit the bill. The most important thing for the primaria JV to think about when packing, is that you will



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be working with elementary school kids ranging from first to sixth grade. You want to be able to move around the classroom easily and unrestricted, and unconcerned if you get covered in glue or dirt. Tight fitting or super dressy clothes would be impractical to bring for this job.

At **secundaria**, the JV is expected to dress in a more professional manner than at primaria. While you still don't need to bring a suit or other business professional clothing, you should be a bit more conscious about how you dress each day. Darker wash jeans, "nicer" tops (this simply means something a bit snazzier than just a t-shirt), button downs, and sweaters, for instance, are all recommended. You can still plan to wear practical shoes though (don't worry ladies, you won't need flats or heels!). Just like at primaria, there are Monday formations, and once again, a pair of chinos and a nicer top would be appropriate to wear to school.

The Parish: The parish dress code is more relaxed than the school. Be sure to bring clothes you're ok getting dirty in and plenty of t-shirts, and save your nice shirts for outside of work – aim for comfort but not sloppiness (for example: Jeans and t-shirts are fine, but not leggings or ripped pants). Keep in mind that especially in the comedor, it's not uncommon to end the day with oil spills and potato dirt on your clothes.

Toiletries: Almost all basic toiletry items can be found in Cusco, but if you prefer any specific brands of shampoo, face wash, etc you might want to bring some with you. Tampons are difficult to find, so stock up or consider other options such as reusable menstrual cups or pads (e.g. Diva Cup). Sunscreen is expensive and we use a lot of it when traveling, so bring a good supply. Make sure to bring as much of your prescription medicine as possible. We have not found options for getting prescriptions filled.

Computers/electronics: We have regular computer/email access at the parish and school, and there is a camera with a microphone available for Skype. That being said, we suggest that you consider bringing your own personal laptop. The computers can get viruses and go down, so having your own device to connect through an Ethernet cord can be helpful. Laptops are also great for working on things at home, such as lesson plans. In that vein, we can't stress enough how important a USB with anti-virus software is for transferring documents around. The decision of whether or not to bring iPods, speakers, external hard drives or other electronics is a personal choice, and we encourage the careful discernment of the use of them. Some volunteers bring all of those mentioned and some volunteers bring none. They can be useful tools for service, telling one's story, self-care, or personal relaxation and entertainment, and can also be a crutch, distraction, and privilege which may alienate a volunteer from the local culture and experience.

Linens: The volunteer house in Andahuaylillas already has sheets and pillows for all the beds. If you are particular about that sort of thing, you can bring your own. The parish also has towels for JVs to use while here.

School/work supplies: All essential school supplies can be found here. That being said, the JVs who teach, all have their own systems for organizing grades, lesson plans, etc, so you might want to think about what system will work best for you and bring any necessary materials (e.g. official grade book or planner) from home. As for the JVs working in the parish, the most helpful tool you could (and should) bring from home is a USB drive. Most other supplies are available to us in the parish.

Money/credit cards: In general things are very cheap here in Peru, and we have found our monthly stipends to be more than sufficient for our personal expenses. Some volunteers feel more secure traveling with ATM/credit cards, but they are definitely not necessary and should be left at home if they'll be a temptation for you.



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Sending packages to Perú: Anything weighing less than **3 pounds** can be sent through the mail with an official slip (green) that you get at the post office. Packages with this slip will arrive in a short period of time (1-3 weeks) without going through customs. Tell whoever might be sending you packages to value the package **UNDER \$100** otherwise you will have to pay some major taxes. We highly recommend the under 3 pound rule as it prevents you from having to go alllllll the way to Cusco to pick it up in person.

DON'T FORGET: PASSPORT, prescription medicine.

A LITTLE ADVICE ON PACKING: Try to pack light. Don't bring your entire medicine chest (we have a sufficient supply of things other than already mentioned) or wardrobe. The idea is simple lifestyle! Also don't worry about bringing too many books down. We have stolen much of Tacna's library and currently have a nice selection of books from a variety of genres (same with games and movies). Don't stress about packing for two years. If you forget something, it is relatively easy to find all of our needs here!