



ORIENTATION PREPARATION

PACKING LIST FOR YOUR TERM OF SERVICE TACNA, PERU 2019

Are you excited to head to your city of service? Are you looking forward to forming relationships while living in community? Fantastic. By entering the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, you are committing to a simple lifestyle and to being present for others. Material things can sometimes cloud that commitment. We invite you to use our resource “Packing Intentionally for JVC” to help with your decision-making while packing for your term of service. Below you can find a list of recommended items to pack compiled by years of Tacna JVs.

Note: Items marked with an * are considered helpful, but not necessary.

CLIMATE

Summer (January - March) is hot and dry, though it does get cool at night. Winter (May - September) is quite cold and damp, though it can be warm when the sun is out. The temperature is never below 40-45o in the winter, but it is definitely winter-jacket cold. So, take into consideration a dry desert winter and life without indoor heat. Though it rarely rains here, it does get misty, and it rains a lot in other parts of Peru. Spring and Fall are warm during the day once the fog burns off mid-morning and pretty chilly at night. No matter the season, you will want layers!

THE BASICS

Make sure to bring sturdy clothing. Hand washing wears out the fabric quicker (lace does not hold up well!) and sun-drying tends to fade colors. Tacna is dusty and, even with bleach, white clothes will never be the same. Outside of work and Mes de Misión, you’ll want both casual and semi-formal attire for spending time with host families and friends, attending events for work, birthday parties, baptisms, and weddings. Tacna is more or less like the United States, i.e. you can show shoulders, knees, and toes.

- Warm winter coat (i.e. peacoat)
- Fleece / sweatshirts / sweaters, sweatpants
- Casual jeans and shorts
- Athletic gear (If you’re a runner, it is not advised to run in running shorts.)
- Swimsuit (Women can bring both a 1-piece and 2-piece. For beach trips with students, in place of a 1-piece, a 2-piece covered by shorts and a tank top/shirt also works.)
- Lots of underwear and socks!!!
- Sturdy flip-flops and/or sandals (Cheap flip flops can easily be bought here, but durable ones for outside and lots of walking should be brought.)
- Warm boots and slippers
- * Rain jacket (good for travel)
- * Gloves / hat / scarf (can easily be bought in Tacna)

WORK

In Peru, the schools have somewhat formal atmospheres. Be practical but professional. It is very

important to look presentable. During most of the school year, you'll want a dress shirt, a sweater, and a jacket.

Colegio Cristo Rey: (most formal worksite) dress pants, paired with modest/professional blouse, and flats, comfortable heels, or business-like sandals

Fe y Alegria: khakis/dress pants, paired with a blouse and comfortable flats, boots, or business-like sandals, depending on the season

Centro Cristo Rey: for office work and site visits: jeans and professional shirt/blouse; in the field: clothes you can move in and get dirty in (jeans with a polo/shirt, and tennis shoes)

Miguel Pro: khakis/dress pants, paired with a blouse and comfortable flats, boots, or business-like sandals, depending on the season

Centro Loyola: Clothes you can move and get dirty in (jeans with a polo/shirt, tennis shoes)

Men: Men wear nice slacks/khakis to work every day, with a belt, and a button-up shirt or polo. Sweaters are often worn in the winter over dress shirts. Men also wear comfortable, durable shoes that can be shined and that you can stand in all day. Men should bring one dark suit (or at least a sport coat that you could wear with slacks) and at least one tie for more formal occasions. **Wrinkle-free items are strongly recommended! But the house does have an iron if you need it.

- Slacks / Khakis
- Button-up shirts / Polos
- Sweaters
- Professional shoes
- Dark suit (or sports coat)
- Belt, Tie

Women: Women should wear nice slacks or work pants for school. (Peruvian teachers almost never wear skirts, but skirts are acceptable too as long as they fall below the knee and are formal looking.) Nothing should be tight, especially for teaching in the high school. A cardigan can often be worn over work blouses. You will need good work shoes for both warm and cold seasons. Thermal leggings come in handy for exercise and travel in the mountain regions and can be worn under slacks during the winter.

- Slacks / work pants
- Button-up shirts / blouses / polos
- Sweaters / cardigans
- Flats (close-toed)
- Work sandals
- Thermal leggings
- Semi-formal dress
- Pair of dress shoes
- *Basic heels (can also be bought in Tacna)

SCHOOL / WORK SUPPLIES

Most school and art supplies can be found here pretty cheaply, but it's not a bad idea to bring a few basics to get you started. If you need American items like a college ruled spiral notebook or mechanical pencils or sharpies, you won't be able to find those in Tacna... Ask if you have specific questions.

- Agenda / Day-planner
- * Pens (colored are helpful for grading), pencils, notebook

TOILETRIES

Almost all toiletries can be bought in Tacna if you are not brand picky, but it's a good idea to bring enough to get you through the first couple weeks.

- Travel-sized toiletries (in reusable bottles for later retreat and travel use!)
- * Tampons (expensive here - So stock up at Orientation! / Consider a menstrual cup?)
- Sunscreen, Chapstick and Lotion

- * Contact Solution (expensive and difficult to find)

MEDICINE

If you take an prescription medications, it's difficult to ship medicine to Peru, so it's a good idea to bring a large supply. Contact GeoBlue if you have questions about getting specific medications in-country.

- Basic medications and vitamins (Pepto Bismol, Ibuprofen, etc.)
- Prescription medications
- * Allergy medicine (if you have bad allergies, especially to dust)
- * A few prescriptions of Cipro (if prone to stomach problems)

ELECTRONICS

There is no wi-fi in the house. We have regular computer/Internet access at all the schools where we teach plus two Internet cafés (not with wi-fi, just desktop computers) across the street from our house that are open late. We also have a community laptop, webcam and headphones/microphone that are for community use. Bringing a computer is a personal choice. Personal computers can be very helpful for lesson planning. They also could cause a distraction at home if some community members have computers and others don't. Be aware that dust is everywhere here all the time and computer viruses are prevalent in Peru. Also ask yourself what you would do with a laptop if you plan to travel before leaving Peru. In keeping with simple living, the decision of whether or not to bring a laptop should be well-discerned. Feel free to ask the community during your discernment process.

- Converter
- Camera
- Small travel alarm clock / watch with alarm
- USB Flash drive (more than one is recommended – viruses are easy to catch here)
- * Portable speaker (especially useful for primary teachers, also great for community time)
- * Personal music devices
- * Extra batteries, if necessary (can be bought easily here, rechargeable batteries recommended)

MES DE MISIÓN

**The clothing items on this list can be found easily and cheaply here in Tacna. The house also has two suitcases full of mostly women's clothing specifically for Mes de Misión (mostly just shirts for men). For Mes de Misión, you'll need things that can get dirty! And can protect you from the sun.

- Hiking pants/track pants
- 1 pair of shorts (basketball type/long shorts)
- Old T-shirts and long sleeve shirts
- A fleece or sweatshirt
- Tennis shoes / hiking shoes (in addition to the tennis shoes you plan on using regularly)
- Steripen (with rechargeable batteries or Steripen that can be plugged directly into outlet to recharge)
- Hat and/or bandana
- Hat / headband / beanie for warmth
- Gloves for warmth
- Work gloves – MUST HAVE!

- Sleeping bag – small, portable and warm! (**very important, and you might not have enough time to find this in-country before leaving for Mes de Misión)
- Small day backpack or drawstring backpack
- 1-liter reusable water bottle
- *Hand sanitizer and face wipes

MISCELLANEOUS

- Baseball hat, Sunglasses with UV protection
- Two sturdy water bottles
- Headlamp (strongly recommended)
- US stamps, envelopes, and addresses of friends and family (to send mail back with US visitors)
- Watch (durable and waterproof)
- School backpack (~30-40 liters)
- Large quick-drying travel towel
- *Backpacking backpack (very convenient for Mes de Mision and other travel, ~65 liters)
- * Bug repellent (currently there is an overstock in the house ☺)
- * Pictures of family/friends to share with community and friends and/or for room decoration.
- * Small/light room decor
- * Journal(s) (not an easy thing to find here if you're specific)
- * Small musical instrument/sheet music if you're a musician
- * Items for any other hobbies/interests you have
- * Prayer / community resources you think might be helpful for community/spirituality nights (although there are a lot of resources at the house)
- * Hypoallergenic pillow cover (if allergic to dust)
- * Books (We have an extensive library of all genres, so check with us first!)

MONEY / CARDS

Things are very cheap in Tacna, and the monthly stipend is usually sufficient for personal expenses. Some volunteers feel more secure traveling with ATM/credit cards, but they are not necessary and should be left at home if they'll be a temptation for you.

MAIL

Sending packages to Peru is expensive and you can't receive used clothes (clothing must have a tag), so don't count on getting clothes shipped to you from home. You can buy inexpensive clothes and jackets at the markets here if you forget something or don't have space.

DON'T FORGET!!

- PASSPORT and extra copies
- Prescription medications