**SAMPLE ITINERARY FOR**

**San Mateo County Community College District**

**ENVS 115: Environmental Science in Peru Summer 2025**

**Sunday, July 20 – Monday, Aug 4, 2025**

 The following itinerary is a draft of likely events and their likely order. This draft has not yet been confirmed. Stay tuned for a more finalized itinerary.

**Sunday, July 20**

Optional flight departs US. Arrive in Lima, Peru. Check-in to accommodations. Group dinner.

**Monday, July 21**

Experience urban Lima! Breakfast together prior to AM city tour stops and discussion focused on water infrastructure, solid waste management, and/or climate change adaptation. Lunch as a group. PM guided tour of iconic sites (e.g. Huaca Pucillana pyramid, Miraflores, Larcomar). Dinner on own.

**Tuesday, July 22**

After breakfast together, we head to the rain forest! We embark on an approximately 90 minute flight to Puerto Maldonado in the Amazon Basin and then an approximately 30 minute boat trip up the Madre de Dios River to Tambopata. Check-in to accommodations at a jungle lodge and enjoy a group lunch. After lunch, we embark on a 2-hour guided hike, highlighting tropical trees, medicinal plants, and the rich and varied local flora and fauna. We will also be introduced to the local economic activities in the jungle, Brazil nut production and rubber collection. After dark, but prior to dinner, we leave for a nocturnal boat trip to observe caimans and other animals that visit the riverbanks at night. Dinner together as a group.

**Wednesday, July 23**

We set out early (5:30AM) toward Lake Sandoval, first by boat on the Madre de Dios River and then on foot as we hike 3 km though wild vegetation into the Tambopata National Reserve. We will see giant trees and hopefully several species of monkeys, snakes, and birds. In small boats on Lake Sandoval, we will seek out river otters, other mammals, reptiles, and birds. Breakfast will be a bag breakfast eaten together on our trek. We will return to the lodge for a late lunch prior to a guided tour of a Brazil nut camp (one of the most important economic activities in the Madre de Dios region) and then climb a lookout tower for bird watching and exploring the upper forest canopy… and the sunset. There will likely be some free time to relax in the lodge pool prior to our group dinner later in the evening.

**Thursday, July 24**

Another early morning (5:30 AM) outing… a 20 minute walk to a clay lick. The local clay is vital for birds’ metabolic regulation, so we are likely to see several varieties of parrots that frequent this site. Breakfast follow back at the lodge, followed by some free time before we return to the city of Puerto Maldonado by boat. In Puerto Maldonado you will have a short time to check out the local city market to appreciate the varied products of the region and get lunch on your own. Then we head to the airport to fly to the Andes! Upon arrival in Cusco, after check-in to our accommodations, you have the rest of the day free and dinner on your own.

**Friday, July 25**

Cusco is the heart of the Sacred Valley and the gateway to Machu Picchu ….ancient, colonial, and modern cultures are melded throughout this region. In our first full day is Cusco, we will enjoy breakfast at our accommodations and then a guided AM walking tour of the city…. taking in ancient Inca historical sites, such as Huacaypata (“Warriors Square”), as well as colonial sites, such as the Convent of Santo Domingo built on the amazing Inca sun temple “site of gold” Koricancha. Lunch will be on your own in the neighborhood before our afternoon guided tour of the Pre-Columbian Art Museum and the San Pedro Market. Post tour, you have some time to explore and take dinner on your own.

**Saturday, July 26**

On our second day in Cusco, we have a guided tour of the ancient Sacsayhuaman fortress and Inca aqueducts at Tambomachay (known as Inca’s Bath”). We will break for lunch on your own and a return to our accommodations for discussions, free time, and dinner on your own.

**Sunday, July 27**

Early to rise, we grab a hotel breakfast together and take a bus (approximately 90 minutes) to Ollantaytambo. En route we will visit Pisac, a popular market town with an archaeological site highlighting Incan cemeteries, agricultural terraces and ancient royal buildings. We will also visit beautiful Ollantaytambo, which was built to protect the Incans from invasion and guard the entrance to Machu Picchu. We break for lunch on your own, and then take an approximately 90 minute train rid to Aguas Calientes, the closet access point to the historical site of Machu Picchu. Our accommodations are walking distance from the train station. After check-in and a brief discussion, you have dinner and the evening on your own.

**Monday, July 28**

We check out of our accommodations… and today we visit Machu Picchu! … an ancient site of importance to the Incans… and one of the world’s modern wonders, declared a Cultural and Natural World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1983. After our guided tour, we break for lunch on own and take the train back to Ollyantambo and then a bus to our accommodations in Cusco. You have the evening to relax and take dinner on your own.

**Tuesday, July 29**

Early morning checkout. Next, with the rainforest and the Andes behind us, next we set off for the coastal desert. We take an approximately 4 hour and 20 minute flight to Talara and then s short drive to Lobitos. Upon arrival at EcoSwell, we will check in. Then, you have some time to get settled in prior to our group dinner.

**Wednesday, July 30 – Sunday, August 3**

Lobitos is a small, rural coastal fishing community, currently best known as a surfing town, but throughout much of the 20th century oil extraction by a British petroleum company created a boom-town atmosphere that largely excluded Peruvians. Oil extraction is still present today, though it is now managed by the state. In Lobitos, we are hosted by the non-profit EcoSwell. The core objective of EcoSwell is to restore the extremely degraded Tropical and Equatorial Dry Forest Ecosystem, though their projects are varied… and include projects focused on renewable energy, water and sanitation, scientific research and monitoring, and public health. All projects are community driven and aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Our time at EcoSwell will include a bit of classroom time, tours of important projects, and ample time with experiential learning as we participate (along with local community and EcoSwell staff) on existing projects. Our specific set of tours and projects is still evolving, but will likely include tours/projects related to nearby ecotourism trails, the vetiver pontoon wastewater treatment project, tree planting, and resilient medical centers photovoltaic power systems. Further, our time here will allow us time to unwind and unpack all that we have seen thus far on our trip and consider how things are different, the same, and/or inter-related to our lives in California. Also, we have time in Lobitos to engage more with Peruvian people… and to enjoy the beaches of the Pacific… similar, yet different to our Pacific beaches. Lodging in Lobitos is dormitory and/or hostel-style, and meals are included and often prepared together.

**Thursday, August 4**

Departure day. We fly back to Lima and then to the US.