

Access the indigenous Science, Art and Philosophy of Andean Civilizations



High Creativity at an Academic Level!

Learning by doing and understanding through lived experiences!

Apulaya – Center for Andean Culture is the first educational center where Andean indigenous culture is taught in an unprecedented and innovative way. Our success combines a high academic level with direct participatory experiences. Studying at Apulaya is a must for all students who are looking for the current information on Andean civilizations; and who want to be in real and direct contact with Andean culture, while learning from indigenous teachers and specialists who are majority in our team and faculty.

Practical Areas, permanently available:

Andean Textile Art and Weaving
Pre-Columbian Art and Painting
Andean Music
Traditional Agriculture

Integrated Modules

Traditional Fiestas and Celebrations
Tours and Excursions
Andean Rituals
Andean Movie Nights
Evening Events
Stay in an indigenous community

Language Courses

Quechua Language courses
Spanish language support and integrative Spanish

Seminars/ Courses

Indigenous Political and social systems
Inca Management and Government
Andean Philosophy, Religion, and Spirituality
Traditional Medicine and Diagnosis
History of the Incas
Peruvian History and Traditional Dances
Archaeo-Astronomy and Inca Architecture
Ritual Calendar and Ethno-Astronomy
Natural Dying Workshops

Research Projects

Participatory Research Methods and Ethics
Independent Study Project

Our program's unique goal is to prioritize students' individual interests and needs, which is gained through the flexible teaching model applied by Apulaya: The four practice oriented areas are always simultaneously available (See Permanently Available Practical Areas), with their respective teachers and specialists. Thus, students are free to design their own program according to their specific interests.

The individual design program is supplemented by theory-focused modules within a fixed schedule (See Seminars/Courses), during which indigenous Science, Religion and Philosophy are taught. After one semester, students will have gained an overview of endemic systems and cultural patterns, thereby sensitized to indigenous people's reality in globalization process. Students can then apply this newly-acquired knowledge in a practical way, capable of the design and focus of a specific Independent Study Project (ISP) that will be tutored by our experts.

A virtual library is permanently available for projects and research, which contains important documents such as the historical chronicles in digital version and an updated database that is specialized in Andean culture. Documentary movies, an extensive audio, textile and musical instrument collections are available and implemented by Apulaya. Our technical equipment also allows for individualized use of multi-media.

The Andean people's annual rhythm is defined by diverse celebrations and rituals. Apulaya includes the Cusco area's traditional events in its program as this is the best opportunity to directly experience the people's spirituality and religiosity. Students are previously introduced to and prepared for the respective celebration, and are then guided and informed throughout the events. Physically demanding pilgrimage celebrations, such as the "Señor de Quyllurit'i" or ritual battles can be considered in cases of special interest.

During the final month of the semester students apply their study experience and research skills to conduct an Independent Study Project, (ISP).

Through this modern didactic structure, students experience an intensive and customized education on Andean life and processes.

The Apulaya Center is located in Calca; a picturesque village situated in the Sacred Valley of the Incas, 50 minutes by car from Cusco City. From Calca, archaeological sites and traditional indigenous communities are close by and easy to visit.

Language requirement for this program: Intermediate to advanced Spanish. Students are expected to have the ability to follow the courses and communicate with local people in Spanish.

Spanish language support and integrative Spanish: Most of our lecturers and teachers also speak English, but in order to enhance the students' Spanish skills and success in their ISP courses are taught in Spanish. Students will receive constant Spanish language support.

Housing: Students live at our partner student home. Individual hosting with local families is available as well. In the Sacred Valley of the Incas, students are fully immersed within the local culture, and have the great opportunity to practice their Spanish, as well as that of improving their skills in Quechua, through interaction with local people.

Apulaya is known for its excellent food. Here, students enjoy Peru's culinary diversity.

Syllabus Overview:

Permanently available practical Areas:

Andean Textile and Weaving



The Andean textile tradition is based on thousands of years of development and intergenerational transmission of ancient knowledge. Traditional textiles are an open book of codes, symbols and information, since the art of weaving fabric in the Andes is a form of writing or language made-up of visual metaphors that convey values, cosmology and cultural patterns.

Students will learn different weaving techniques, such as twisting threads, using the traditional drop spindle, the action of warping, and how traditional looms are prepared. Step by step they will learn how to weave diverse icons, which, apart from the technical aspect, will introduce the Andean logic of art and aesthetics. Students will also discover the cultural context, cosmology, myths, and symbolism of the woven textiles.

Pre-Columbian Art and Painting



Pre-Columbian art impresses through the aesthetic beauty of its abstractions, and contemporaneity which stand out in elegance and pulsating vibration. In the course of our workshops, students will see that these artistic manifestations display a whole doctrine that was simultaneously an offering and appraisal, based on beauty. They will also be introduced to the religious beliefs, myths and philosophy that pre-Colombian human beings developed and used to explain the world. Students will paint with dyes or earth pigments.

Andean Music



The magic of indigenous music resides in the fact that it is performed within a cosmology. Music is an indispensable part of festivities and celebrations for the Andeans, as it is much more than just entertainment. Therefore, music is part of nature and of their lives that unifies and interrelates.

Students will get to know the cultural background of indigenous music, while experimenting with traditional grooves, songs and melodies. Our musical sessions are varied and professionally structured. We obtain the first sounds on the traditional flutes and then include percussions that allow participants of all musical levels. Singing, choreographic movement that corresponds to every genre are also part of our workshops.

Traditional Agriculture



Agriculture is one of the main activities in Andean civilizations. Therefore, they developed their own production systems, along with their vision and concept of ecology and the environment. Today, indigenous communities are self-sufficient, in great part, thanks to this ancestral knowledge. So, we'll explore systems and production modes, along with traditional ecological thought, as well as the indigenous concept and perception of work, considering ethno-astronomy and rites in relation with agricultural activities.

In this program, the students participate in a variety of agricultural activities performed by traditional farmers. In this lived experience we come to understand nature and its laws, and learn a completely different definition of work.

Seminars and Courses

Indigenous political and social systems



This seminar provides an understanding about the current situation of Andean indigenous people in Peru, in terms of politics and social realities. It will be analyzed how the survival of the original indigenous systems cohabit with the official government's system.

In order to achieve its goals, this program will focus on the following topics:

- Traditional communities within the context of a changing country
- Indigenous political structures and their electoral system
- The concept of Dual ruling

- Andean kinship structures
- Organizational principles between generations, sexes and ages and how they regulate the existence of each family nucleus and community as a whole.

Inca Management and Government



This course is designed to understand the Incan State's politics and administration system, since the Tawantinsuyu (Incan state) integrated numerous nations, across a vast territory.

For this purpose, principles and models of Incan Government will be covered, together with planning, organization and control of human resources, materials, production and technology, conceived and applied, to ensure the population's wellbeing, as well as the realization of megaprojects, along with an efficient educational system.

- Inca political system: Duality and four partition
- Andean Structures of Power: Religious and Political Ideology. Male and Female Power.
- System of *Seques* and its implications in Inca politics
- Inca Schools and their Educational System.
- New Insights on the Incan Government Model: Diarchy versus Monarchy.
- Inca Economy and its Management.

Andean Philosophy

Andean philosophy as such, is systemized on the basis of live thought lived in the present, and knowledge inherited from ancient Andean civilizations.

The program's goal is to introduce our students to the different parameters and principles that rule the Andean world.

In order to achieve this purpose, we will focus on the following topics: Andean rationality and its characteristics and derivations, the Andean vision of time and space, Andean theology with its implications, and the world's sacredness.

At the end of the seminar, students will have a panoramic insight on a set of knowledge based on holistic observation of nature and the cosmos, as well as on its application, in the Andean civilizations' social structures.

History of the Andes



This program focuses on Inca History from a critical and analytical perspective, covering the following topics:

- A history model from an indigenous perspective: Cyclical thinking; conceptions of past, present and future in the Andean mind.
- The Inca State Tawantinsuyu and its History: Its beginning, expansion and rupture caused by the Spaniards' arrival.
- The Incas as perceived by Spanish writers: Defects and sets of problems of Colonial chronicles and documents.
- Miccinelli's documents that escaped censure, and the latest revelations about Andean History: The new version of the conquest's events, the existence of Inca writing and other revelations that turn official Peruvian historical writings upside down.

Dancing History



The Andean people fuse historical facts with symbols and codes through complex choreographies, manifesting that history is part of the Cosmos, and that every deed and character has a place in it. History is not a transitory past, but rather, a fundamental part of the present, and the Andeans represent it through ritual enactments in their ornate celebrations. Through dance they enact the Incas under the Spanish Crown, the war between Peru and Chile, the black men and women's slavery, the abusive landowners' time period, diseases and death in the coca plantations, the lawyers and civil servants' corruption, mythical beings from the world beyond this one, and mythological events.

What can we learn from the way the Andeans handle their History, even when events were conflictive and traumatic?

It will be analyzed and decoded the clothing and choreography of different groups of dancers, and students will also learn some dances and choreography.

Andean Religion and Spirituality



"The mountains, earth and rivers are alive, and they are hungry and thirsty, as well..." This is how today's Andeans conceive Nature and the Cosmos.

The students will learn about:

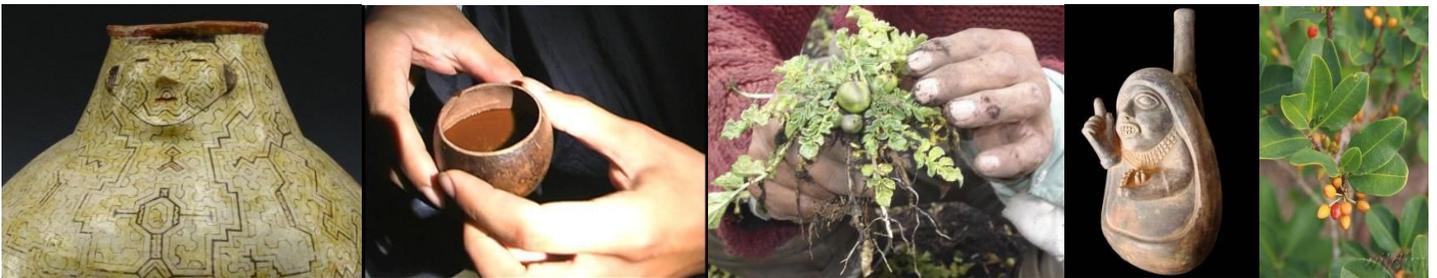
- Religious patterns and categories in Inca times: Major and minor divinities, and the cult to ancestors
- Today's religious system and thought: Men of this world and the other world's parallel society of *Apus* or the Ones who Order, the *Pachamama* or Mother Earth, the power of water springs, rivers, and other natural elements, and the universe of rites.

- Souls, ancestors and condemned ones: The world of death and the other life

As they witness a traditional ceremony, the students will be able to understand about:

- Decoding the ceremony's sequences
- The logics and function of the ceremony that is being performed
- Functions of the ritual utensils and ingredients used

Traditional Medicine and Diagnose



The indigenous conception regarding health and illness is related to a holistic perspective of the world, encompassing biological, psychological, social and spiritual well-being.

Students will learn classification, etiology and treatment of illnesses in the perception of indigenous logics (Natural and “supernatural” illnesses). They will also learn about traditional pharmacopoeia and specialized healers and their categories.

Seminars are given by traditional medicine experts.

Archaeo-Astronomy and Inca Architecture



Pre-Colombian cultures integrated cosmic laws within their architecture. For a farming-based society, such as that of the Incas, the sun, moon, stars and constellations were objects of central importance that played a preeminent role in religious practices. Decisions about the choice of places of worship and their locations were made on the basis of realities manifested by nature itself, in places where the landscape aligns perfectly with astronomical observations. This seminar shows how astronomical events influence the planning and execution of the architectural master works, providing the students with the architectural concept of how to integrate consciously time in space.

In this course students will learn about:

- Sacred landscape – Sacred place: Horizon calendars and election of proper building locations
- Solar observatories, sun dials, solar rooms, solstice Windows and solstice markers
- Lunar astronomy and moon temples
- Landscape architecture in Inca and pre-Inca time

Ritual Calendar and Etno-Astronomy



The cycle of the Pleiades, lunar seasons and constellations are determinants in the Andes, and particularly for agricultural activities. Through keen and precise observation, predictions were made of climatic behavior patterns that would influence the quality of future harvests. In traditional communities, the ritual calendar is still based on these celestial cycles.

Students will learn about Andean Cosmology, aspects of land structure and organization in native communities, as well as about celestial space organization and structure. Lectures will also include elements of Inca and pre-Inca astronomy and their ritual calendars, for a better understanding of contemporary practices.

At the end of the program, the students will be able to describe the main structure of the Andean ritual calendar, as well as festive cycles and their logics.

Language Courses

Quechua Language Courses - On the tracks of Andean thought



We offer two types of programs that may be combined or with one prioritized, in accordance with the participants' needs and desires.

Communication in Quechua

Oral proficiency, combined with grammar and writing, is the focus of this program directed towards those who wish to communicate and achieve a certain level of immersion in Andean Quechua speaking circles.

This course prepares the student for field studies and direct contact with indigenous people

Quechua, the Logos of the Andean Culture

Analysis of the structure of the Quechua language and its relation with the Andean conception of the world, combined with grammatical categories and semantic analysis of technical Quechua terminologies.

Students will gain a deeper sensibility of Andean cultural patterns.

Spanish Language Support and Integrative Spanish

Most of our lecturers and teachers also speak English, but, in order to enhance the students' Spanish skills, courses are taught in Spanish; especially in view that Spanish will be needed for the ISP. Students will receive constant Spanish language support.

Integrated modules

Stay in an Indigenous Community



High Andean communities hold much hidden knowledge. People are farmers, shepherds and weavers, therefore, the community members' lifestyle and activities are very traditional, and complemented by beautiful panoramic landscapes and absolute tranquility.

The communities' best and most famous weavers teach our students. In addition to sharing the community members' lifestyle and aspects such as weaving and farming techniques, it also is an unforgettable intercultural experience for our participants.

Apulaya – Tours: Archaeo-Astronomy and Landscape Architecture



A trip to Inca sanctuaries is a journey to the cosmos, nature and inside oneself. It will be explored archaeological complexes in and around Cusco as well as in the Sacred Valley of the Incas, the planning and construction based on astronomy combining data from historical chronicles with present-day indigenous cosmology. In this way harmony among the Cosmos, human beings and nature is visualized and experienced in a holistic way.

Festive Ceremonial Calendar of the Andes



