

World Tourism Day at Inkaterra

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) celebrates every September 27th the “World Tourism Day”. This year the celebration focused on “Tourism and Water – Protecting Our Common Future”, highlighting the responsibility of the tourism sector on managing and safeguarding water.

To celebrate this important date the Inkaterra Explorer Guides arranged a series of voluntary activities for the guests at the Inkaterra properties:

Inkaterra Hacienda Concepcion

During the morning all guests that visited Lake Sandoval, along with the Inkaterra Explorer Guides, were asked to pick up bottles, empty packages or any type of rubbish found during the trail to the lake; this activity also took place along the trails on the hotel grounds. In the afternoon, at the hotels Cocha (oxbow lake) visitors and Explorer guides did a cleaning activity, picking up any harmful residues that could affect the lakes ecosystem. Finally at night guests were invited to watch an environmental documentary at the Ecocentre.

Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica

Throughout the afternoon, volunteer guests and Inkaterra personnel went to Rolin island (located on the Madre de Dios river) and cleaned the surrounding beaches from any litter that the river brought to its shores. At night, a video about protecting the forests and carbon dioxide contamination and its impact on global warming was showed at the Ecocentre.

Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

Throughout the day a series of videos were showed for hotel guests and personnel, presenting various touristic attractions of Peru.



**Volunteer students of St. John's International School – Belgium
at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel**

Three students from St. Johns International School of Belgium made an internship on the Volunteer Program of Inkaterra Asociacion - ITA at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel. During their stay they helped monitoring the flowering orchids, bird watching activities, but most importantly monitoring the spectacle bears behavior. Additionally they participated on the awareness and outreach program called “Knowing the Andean Bear”, an event organized by ITA and the Inkaterra Explorer Guides for children between 5 to 12 years old. During this program the volunteers shared their knowledge with the children using presentations, videos, making crafts out of recycled materials and painting. Afterwards they visited the Andean Bear Rescue Centre, located on the hotel grounds, where they showed the children our resident specimens and taught them about their physical characteristics, diet, behavior and their role on the ecosystem.

Furthermore the volunteers visited the school for children with special needs, located on the premises of the “Inka Pachacutec” School at Machu Picchu Village, where they spent some time with the children and their teachers, giving out presents for the children, such as pencils, books, candy among others.



Commemorating 5 years of Research at Inkaterra Ecological Reserve

Commemorating 5 years of research at Inkaterra Ecological Reserve, students from the “Palma Real” community visited “Casa ITA” Biological Station. Doctor Varun Swami and engineer Juan Chillihuani gave a presentation about the importance of animals on the rainforest and their role for scattering seeds on the ecosystem. Afterwards the students practiced what they learned at the presentation and participated on a competition where they had to collect as many seeds as they could, and later with the help of Dr. Warun they would identify them. To conclude this entertaining day the students visited the Inkaterra Canopy Walkway, where they could learn about the forest canopy, and how the biodiversity differs from the emergent level.

