HONORS INSTITUTE PERU TRIP
JUNE 04 – 12, 2015

June 04: Tampa / Lima
Depart Tampa to Lima. On arrival at Lima Airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Accommodations: Casa Andina Select Lima x 2 Nights

June 05: Lima – Full day City Tour
Peru’s capital is a rich kaleidoscope of colonial architectural jewels, revered pre-Columbian sites, charming residential areas, and vibrant shopping districts perched over the blue Pacific. Explore these many facets, including the 16th century Plaza Mayor (Main Square) – still graced by the Government Palace and the City Hall.

We’ll visit the Cathedral and the San Francisco Convent, built in the 17th century, and its “Catacombs” ancient underground cemetery of Lima. Afterwards, visit the Rafael Larco Herrera Museum: this fabulous museum includes the exquisite Collection of Peruvian Gold and Silver from the olden days, and the Pre-Hispanic Erotic Art Salon. Its pieces have toured major world museums. The Larco Museum exhibits the largest private collection of pre-Colombian Peruvian art in the world. Lunch at Café del Museo.

Our tour continues along the city’s lovely Pacific coast through the enchanting neighborhoods of San Isidro, Miraflores and we will visit the Gold Museum; visitors will appreciate a dazzling collection of gold artifacts from various pre-Colombian civilizations, some more than 3,000 years old. Metal pieces and jewelry of incalculable value in gold, silver and precious stones used by the Incas – the children of the Sun God and monarchs of the vast Inca Empire, are shown in this collection. Five hundred years ago, the gold of Peru attracted many European adventurers who conquered the Inca and founded the Vice-Royalty of Peru under the Spanish Crown.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
**June 06:** Fly to Cuzco – City Tour
Early morning transfer to the airport for your included flight to Cuzco. Upon arrival in Cuzco, transfer to your hotel.

This afternoon’s city tour includes a visit to the Cathedral, considered the best repository of colonial art from the Cusco school. We’ll continue the circuit to Qoricancha ("court of gold", also known as the temple of the sun), the religious and political center of Cusco during the Inca era. Just outside the city is Sacsayhuaman ("speckled falcon"), the fortress above Cusco whose precise zigzags of massive stone remain unmoved by the centuries. This is the center of the ceremonies for the famous Inti Raymi festival. Continuing away from the city, we’ll visit the labyrinthine ruins of Qenko ("zigzag"), Puca Pucara (Red Fortress) and Tambomachay ("cavern lodge") where fountains built by the Incas capture the waters of a natural spring.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: El Mercado Tunqui x 3 Nights

**June 07:** Cuzco – Sacred Valley – Cuzco
This morning you will visit Pisac, a picturesque town located 19.8 miles or 32 km northeast of Cuzco. Its colorful fairs also take place every day. Here merchants offer for sale all sorts of handicrafts, the most important of which are the textiles and ceramic goods such as ceremonial goblets called "Q'eros", plates, ashtrays, necklace and replicas of pre-Hispanic pottery. Lunch is included at a local restaurant.

In the afternoon you will visit the remarkable fortress of Ollantaytambo, built by the Incas. A very steep stone staircase leads into the fortress. Across an esplanade there is a temple with 10 niches, and beside it a block of partially unworked stones. Beyond another esplanade, six huge rectangular monoliths (estimated weight: 50 tons) form the Temple of the Sun. Vestiges of rooms are seen on top, and on the other side of the hill a four story building, either a military school or prison.

Tonight, you will enjoy a dinner show at a local restaurant including transfers.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**June 08:** Cuzco – Machu Picchu – Cuzco
Early morning transfer to the railway station to board the tourist train that goes through the Urubamba or Sacred Valley of the Incas, to the fabulous mountaintop ruins of Machu Picchu. Machu Picchu was never discovered by the Spaniards. For centuries it was buried in the jungle until Hiram Bingham found it in 1911. The Holy City of Machu Picchu was built in stone among the flanks of two hills belonging to the eastern mountain range of the Andes, descending into the Amazonian upper sylvan. There is no doubt that Machu Picchu represents an extraordinary example of architecture and engineering. Upon arrival to the station, the buses wait to transfer you to the top of the ruins (30 minutes). A guided tour of the ruins gives you some idea of what the city must have looked like. Lunch at Sanctuary Lodge. Board the afternoon train back to Cuzco. Upon arrival at the station, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
June 09: Cuzco / Puerto Maldonado / Into the Amazon
Transfer to the airport for your included flight to Puerto Maldonado. Upon arrival, we will welcome you at the airport and drive ten minutes to our Puerto Maldonado headquarters. While enjoying your first taste of the forest in our gardens we will ask you to pack only the necessary gear for your next few days, and leave the rest at our safe deposit. This helps us keep the boats and cargo light. Transfer from Puerto Maldonado Headquarters to Tambopata river port. Skirting Puerto Maldonado, we drive 20 km to the Tambopata River Port, entering the Native Community of Infierno. The port is a communal business.

Transfer Boat: From Tambopata river port to Posada Amazonas lodge. The 45 minute boat ride from the Tambopata Port to Posada Amazonas will take us into the Community’s Primary Forest Private Reserve. Boxed lunch will be provided. Upon arrival, the lodge manager will welcome you and brief you with important navigation and security tips.

Canopy Tower: A 20 minute walk from Posada Amazonas leads to the 30 meter scaffolding canopy tower. A bannistered staircase running through the middle provides safe access to the platforms above. From atop you obtain spectacular views of the vast expanses of standing forest cut by the Tambopata River winding through the middle. Now and then toucans, parrots or macaws are seen flying against the horizon, or mixed species canopy flocks land in the treetop next to you.

Ecotourism Lecture: A daily presentation on the Infierno ecotourism project is available every night from a staff member.

Rainforest Expeditions boats are 20 feet long, roofed canoes. Outboard boat engine are 60 hp, 4 cycles, eco-friendly, low emission motors.

Transfer In (From Puerto Maldonado to Lodge): Two departures daily at 1:00pm and 2:30pm
Transfer Out (Lodge to Puerto Maldonado): Two daily departures at 7:00am and 8:00am

Meals:
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Posada Amazonas Lodge x 2 Nights

June 10: Deeper into the Amazon
Tres Chimbadas Oxbow lake: Tres Chimbadas is 30 minutes by boat and 45 minutes hiking from Posada Amazonas. Once there you will paddle around the lake in a catamaran, searching for the resident family of nine giant river otters (seen by 60% of our lake visitors) and other lakeside wildlife such as caiman, hoatzin and horned screamers. Otters are most active from dawn to 8:00 - 9:00am.

Parrot Clay Lick: This clay lick is only a 20 minute walk from Posada Amazonas. From a blind located about 20 meters away you will see dozens of parrots and parakeets descend on most clear mornings to ingest the clay on a river bank. Species such as Mealy and Yellow-headed Amazon, Blue-headed Parrot and Dusky-headed Parakeet descend at this clay lick. The clay lick is active at dawn, during the late mornings and mid-afternoons.

Ethnobotanical tour: A 20 minute boat drive downriver leads you to a trail designed by the staff of the Centro Ñape. The Centro Ñape is a communal organization that produces medicines out of forest plants and administers them to patients who choose their little clinic. They have produced a trail which explains the different medicinal (and other) uses of selected plants.

Night Walk: You will have the option of hiking out at night, when most of the mammals are active but rarely seen. Much easier to find are frogs with shapes and sounds as bizarre as their natural histories.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
June 11: Back to Lima / Fly Home
Take the transfer boat from Posada Amazonas to Tambopata river port, then transfer from Tambopata river port to Puerto Maldonado Headquarters. We retrace our river and road journey back to Puerto Maldonado, our office and the airport for your included flight to Lima.

Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel where your room will be available until departure time. Remainder of day is at leisure. Walk on your own to the Miraflores area where you can browse, do last minute shopping, enjoy a leisurely dinner on your own expense. Later in the evening, you transfer back to the airport for your international flight homewards.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Casa Andina Select Lima x 1 Night

June 12: Arrive Tampa

TOUR FEATURES

Included:

· Excellent English-speaking guide from the region
· Accommodations in double/twin-sharing room
· Breakfast daily
· All transfers and transportations by air-conditioned buses
· Porterage one per person at hotels where available
· International flight from Tampa, Florida to Lima, Peru
· Internal flights (Lima to Cuzco, Cuzco to Puerto Maldonado and Puerto Maldonado to Lima)
· International flight from Lima, Peru to Tampa, Florida
· All entrance and sightseeing fees as listed on the itinerary
· Gratuities/tips and luggage handling
· Air fuel surcharges and taxes - subject to change at any time before reservations are made

Not Included:

Any personal purchases such as souvenirs or lunches/dinners.
PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Deposit: $500.00 non-refundable deposit due Monday, December 1, 2014, by 4:00 PM in the Honors office

With your deposit of $500.00 (non-refundable) payable to Alexander + Roberts Tours, plane reservations will be placed in the name you give. If you give us the incorrect information and a ticket has to be re-issued, you will be responsible for any additional fees.

The opportunity to travel with your own colleagues is one that can never be replicated and is important to the entire Honors experience. The cost of the trip is $3784.00 for double occupancy (see tour features). Single occupancy is an additional $560.00. The $500.00 deposit must be paid by check, payable to Alexander + Roberts Tours. The first 14 students who provide the required information listed below and have paid the balance in full will have their trip subsidized by $522.00 which brings the trip to $3262.00 as opposed to the $3784.00. Priority for the first 14 students to receive subsidy will be given to students who have not had previous trips subsidized, who have volunteered for the Honors Institute, and are in good academic standing. If you want to make this trip, I encourage you to make your deposit as soon as possible because these international trips do fill up quickly and always before the due dates. Full and final payment of $2762.00, which represents a balance minus the $500.00 deposit when the student falls within the first 14 students, (payable to Alexander + Roberts Tours) will be due to the Honors office by Monday, February 2, 2015 by 4:00 PM.

NOTE: Checks returned for “insufficient funds” will be assessed a $50.00 per occurrence fee. MasterCard or Visa may be used as the balance of the payment.

INSURANCE:

You will be required to purchase international medical and emergency medical transportation insurance and turn in the policy copy to the Honors Office. You must purchase international emergency medical and dental for a minimum of $10,000 and emergency medical transportation for a minimum of $50,000.

REQUIREMENTS: All passengers traveling to Peru must provide the following information:

1. Name as it appears on passport*
2. Date of Birth
3. Nationality
4. Date and place of passport issue
5. International Release Form (available in the Honors Institute Office)
6. Copy of passport* (Students who do not have passports need to begin the application processes Immediately)
7. Any disability requiring special assistance**
8. Copy of International Insurance
9. Copy of Visa***
**Passport and Visa Information**

If you are planning on making this trip, you must have a passport that is valid for at least six months after your return to the U.S.

It’s each traveler’s responsibility to obtain his or her required visa. Visa requirements vary according to the nationality of the passport holder. For travelers who are not citizens from the U.S., please consult a visa service company or the embassy of your country for visa requirements. Visa requirements and charges are subject to change. You may make your own arrangements for a single-entry visa or for total cost including service through Alexander + Roberts Tours’ Visa service, CIBT. Forms can be downloaded from: http://www.generaltours.com/ under Travel Resources. Hillsborough Community College, Honors Institute, and Alexander + Roberts Tours are not responsible for the refusal of visas by Consular offices and normal cancellation changes will apply.

**Travelers Requiring Special Assistance**

Any disability requiring special attention or medical condition should be reported in writing at the time the reservation is made. Alexander + Roberts Tours will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of such travelers, but HCC, Honors Institute, and Alexander + Roberts Tours are not responsible for denial of services by carriers, hotels, and other independent suppliers. Please understand that Peru does not have the American Disabilities Act (ADA). HCC, Honors Institute, and Alexander + Roberts Tours regret that we cannot provide individual assistant to a tour member for walking, dining, getting on and off motor coaches and other transportation vehicles, or other personal needs. Travelers who need such assistance must be accompanied by a qualified companion. HCC cannot provide a qualified companion or the funds for that person’s travel.

**BAGGAGE**

Airline baggage allowances do vary by carrier, but usually are based on measurement system and weight limit. Specific questions regarding check-in and carry-on baggage limitations should be addressed directly to the airline. You will be responsible for any fees for your one checked luggage. Porterage is included for one baggage at hotels. If you check more than one piece of baggage, in Peru there will be an additional charge of approximately $20.00 per bag, per day. In other words, if you are checking baggage, check only one! You will be responsible for your carry-on bags.

Please plan to attend the mandatory orientation which will be approximately 3 weeks before departure.