

SPO Missions - Peru Mission Trip 2025

Basic Important Information

Trip dates: March 14-21, 2026
Location: Picota Peru
Country Hosts: The [Francis Institute](#)

Flight information: Destination Airport Tarapoto.

Airline: Delta, Continental, and American Airlines are the traditional carriers

Arrive in Country

Saturday March 14, 2026

Depart Peru

Saturday March 21, 2026

Important Information	
Cost	\$1,100 trip cost + Flight: ~\$800 (depending on departure location. Est'd \$2,300) Please note: Normally this cost is not something we expect the participants to bear. Because it's a mission, the idea is to have people in the church send you with their funds. Most who go will fund-raise the cost which will be addressed at the first formation meeting. When people pay then it becomes more of a "vacation", if the Church sends you then it's more of a mission
Trip Prep Timeline	10/24/25 (Sunday) - Initial applications due (interviews scheduled as part of application process) 11/1/25 (Saturday) - Acceptance and \$100 deposits due TBD - 4 Team/Formation Meetings via zoom - Sundays 1:00pm EST TBD Team/Formation Meetings via zoom - Sundays 1:00pm EST Purchase your plane tickets ASAP by Jan 1 at the latest. TBD Team/Formation Meetings via zoom - Sundays 1:00pm EST TBD Team/Formation Meetings via zoom - Sundays 1:00pm EST 2/21/25-Final payments due
Team Leaders	Mario Dance 804-314-1681 mario.dance@spo.org
Team Contact info	Mission Team Information
Passport	Required!! Apply ASAP! See Mario immediately if you don't have one.
Purchasing plane tickets	• Plane fare is NOT included in required funds raised for the mission. Purchase your plane ticket • Your plane arrival must be before 5pm • As soon as you purchase your plane ticket

	○ forward information to mario.dance@spo.org ○ then text him to say you forwarded it (804-314-1681) Destination Airport Tarapoto (TPP)
SPO Payments	● \$890 - All funds will be collected either using This will cover your food, travel and lodging <u>while in Peru</u>. ● There is a \$100 initial non-refundable deposit and the remainder will need to be raised by 12/14/25
Required Forms	● Applications: SPO's initial Trip application ● SPO Liability Release /Hold Harmless ● Medical Exam is encouraged ● Copy of Insurance Card ● Copy of passport

What We Will Do

We will stay with the [Francis Institute](#). They are Catholic lay missionaries committed to the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19). Their primary apostolate (work/mission) is sharing the Gospel, serving the poor, building community, and raising up missionary disciples on fire for the Lord. Their secondary apostolate focuses on parish renewal initiatives, inviting families and individuals to serve alongside them and to experience their life of prayer, praise, and gospel poverty, to come to know Jesus more personally, and to witness the power of the Holy Spirit.

A call to serve!

- I. As missionaries we do not come to a mission with our agenda but come humbly to serve the Lord and the needs of those we will serve. That being said, on this mission, the expectation is that we will train and work with the Erisman family and local Peruvian volunteers. The focus of the mission will be the call to conversion/commitment and the encouragement to recognize and develop their gifts. There will also likely be some work projects that we will use as part of our way to serve the community.
- II. There is no typical day in the jungle but we will be involved with supporting the work of evangelization of different communities in general with the aim of a daily routine of personal prayer, followed by service and concluding with team prayer and reflection. If a priest is available then we will also include mass and holy hour when possible.
- III. Possible Manual labor projects
- IV. Spanish skills helpful but not necessary

Daily Schedule

1. We'll be up early everyday, and go to bed fairly early, too.
2. Mornings - start with prayer
 - a) Mass, morning prayer, personal quiet prayer
3. Afternoons - outreach & evangelization
 - a) home visits - small teams visiting local people in their homes
 - b) prayer - praying with/over them
 - c) Work projects
4. Evenings -
 - a) meals together
 - b) nightly prayer service
 - c) then sharing as a team/family

Additional Preparation & Logistics

Money - 3.6 soles = one US dollar

- A. Exchange money -- won't need any more than \$100 -- this is for personal purchases while we're over there
 - a. at your bank in USA (best rate)
 - b. use ATM in airport or in Peru (good rate)
 - c. Money exchange kiosks in airport (worst rate)

Spanish - [Spanish Language Practice Sheet](#)

Spiritual preparation

- A. Patron Saints
 - a. St. Paul
 - b. St. Martin De Porres
 - c. Rose of Lima
 - d. Our Lady of Guadalupe
- B. Call each person on the team - share stories/testimonies
 - a. Do this by (Date TBD xx/xx/xx)!!
 - b. You don't have to connect with the leadership but you can (we'd love it!)

Fundraising ideas

- A. Biggest bang for your [buck](#):

- a. Pray about who God wants you to ask, tell them about this mission, ask them to join you spiritually in this, and to support you financially. Ask for specific amounts (Would you be willing to pay for my \$700 plane ticket?), rather than an unclear amount (I'll take anything)
- b. Write a letter with the above, send out and then follow up with a phone call

FAQs

- How much extra money should I bring? Will I be able to exchange it?
 - You won't need any extra money on the mission, but if you would like a souvenir, there may be opportunities to buy coffee, rosaries, and bracelets that are made locally.
- What kind of food will I be eating?
 - This largely depends on where you will be serving since Peruvian food varies based on what food sources are available in an area. The Erismans will help if there are any serious allergies. You can always expect coffee and tortillas. Usually a light breakfast consists of some rice or pastry, beans, and some fruit. For lunch you may be served a small meat dish, rice, beans, plantains and tortillas. Dinner typically consists of a slightly larger version of lunch. Often we will be offered light snacks as we visit homes. As these meals are served by the families of the villages we make every effort to finish what is placed before us as a sign of respect and gratitude.
- What if I get sick?
 - The first step is prevention. Most problems are caused by dehydration so drink up! Likewise, don't drink anything the Peruvians offer unless you know that it comes from a bottle or has been boiled. Always wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer. Odds are you probably will at least get an upset stomach at some point on this trip. You'll take medicine, offer it up and be fine. If something more severe occurs, there are medical facilities close by with excellent doctors. The second step that we emphasize is communication. This trip is not the "grin-and-bear-it" type when it comes to potential illnesses. Being open with your team and long term missionaries is essential to identifying anything serious early and getting treatment.
- Will I be able to wash my clothes? How?
 - In our dwelling quarters there should be reserved areas where you'll wash your clothes by hand. You may want to bring a small bag of laundry soap and you'll get lessons on how to wash your clothes by hand.