Dear Traveler,

December 2007

We are pleased to announce the UW Space Place “Peru Explorer” trip for August 2008, with an optional extension to visit the Peruvian rainforest. We have worked closely with a highly recommended tour operator, TURISAVEN, to create a one-of-a-kind trip just for us. From 12,000 feet at Lake Titicaca, to the lush mountain peaks surrounding Machu Picchu, this trip will provide the best of the Andes and views of the southern sky impossible to see north of the equator.

Our knowledgeable local guides will teach us about the fascinating history and culture of this ancient land. Most evenings we’ll set up telescopes to gain familiarity with the southern sky and to view the vast range of rich objects in it. In some locations, local amateur astronomers will help orient us to the Large Magellanic Cloud, Omega Centauri, the Southern Cross, the Eta Carinae Nebula and other deep sky wonders. We’ve scheduled our trip for the dry season to almost guarantee the darkest, clearest skies you’ll ever experience.

Traveling in a developing country requires some flexibility at times, but your trip leaders, Jim Lattis and Janet Niewold will be along to put your concerns at ease. Jim, director of UW Space Place is a great teacher, historian of astronomy, and experienced sky observer. Janet, outreach specialist for UW Space Place, is a Spanish speaker, experienced travel planner, and veteran Latin American traveler. Together they have successfully organized and led a variety of domestic and international trips for UW Space Place, including adventures to Yucatan, Mexico, Costa Rica, Arizona, and New Mexico. They will do their best to answer your questions and keep you comfortable along the way.

Please join us as we explore the beautiful people, land and sky of Peru. To keep the trip more relaxed and flexible, we’ve limited the space to 18 people. There has already been great interest in this trip, so please make a reservation soon to secure your spot. Attached is the trip itinerary and reservation form.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Janet Niewold at (608) 263-4686 or jniewold@sal.wisc.edu.

Buen viaje.
Peru Explorer 2008
August 1 – 10, 2008
with 4 day Rainforest Expedition Extension Option

Sponsored by UW Space Place

Day 1 – Fri, Aug 1
Upon arrival in Lima you will be greeted by an English-speaking guide and transferred to your hotel. Most flights arrive late in the evening. Overnight Lima. (no meals, but food is available at the hotel)

Day 2 - Sat, Aug 2
After our welcome breakfast we’ll transfer to the airport for our morning flight to Juliaca in southeastern Peru. On the short ride to our hotel in nearby Puno, we’ll visit the pre-Inca Sillustani Burial Towers. Puno sits on the western shore of Lake Titicaca at 12,556 feet in altitude. We’ll take it easy the rest of the day to acclimate to the high altitude. Night sky viewing, weather permitting. Overnight Puno (B-L)

Day 3 - Sun, Aug 3
Today we’ll set out by boat to explore Lake Titicaca, the cradle of Peru’s ancient civilizations. We’ll spend a highly recommended night on Taquile Island. Only 1200 people currently live on Taquile, descendents of people who have inhabited the island for over ten thousand years. There are no hotels here, so we’ll stay with local families who have added comfortable and clean guest facilities to their homes. We can expect fabulously clear, dark skies tonight as we set up our telescopes for astronomical observations from the island. Overnight Taquile (B-L-D)

Day 4 – Mon, Aug 4
After breakfast we’ll say “adios” to our host families, and continue our explorations of Taquile Island. Taquile has a fascinating tradition of handcrafted textiles. We’ll have a chance to shop for them at the island’s cooperative store, or relax on your own. After lunch, we’ll return by boat to our Puno hotel. Night sky viewing, weather permitting. Overnight Puno (B-L)

Day 5 – Tues, Aug 5
After breakfast we’ll enjoy a scenic private bus ride to Cusco, the navel of the Inca Empire. We’ll pass spectacular vistas and fields of grazing alpaca. We’ll break up the six hour trip with a lunch stop, and guided visits to interesting rural villages and Inca ruins along the way- including Pucara, Raqchi, Andahuaylillas and Pikillacta. We’ll arrive in Cusco late in the day and transfer to our hotel. Overnight Cusco (B-L)

Day 6 – Wed, Aug 6
We’ll start the day with a city tour of Cusco including Coriacancha Temple and the Cathedral. After lunch we’ll continue our explorations of the area with visits to several fascinating Inca ruins throughout the Sacred Valley- Tambomachay, Puca Pucara, Quengo, and Sacsayhuaman. Plan on more astronomical observation tonight, weather permitting. Overnight Cusco (B-L)

Day 7 – Thurs, Aug 7
Today we’ll take the train to Machu Picchu and have our first visit to the ruins. This awe inspiring ancient city was never revealed to the Spaniards and was virtually forgotten until the early 20th century. Its exceptionally elaborate and high quality stonework has led scholars to agree it was a vitally important Inca ceremonial center. Among the many fascinating features of the ruins, the “Temple of the Sun” is a curved tower containing some of Machu Picchu’s finest stonework and believed to have been used for astronomical purposes. We’ll spend the night in nearby Machu Picchu Pueblo, giving us a
chance to visit the ruins again in the early morning before the tourist train arrives for the day. Tonight, we’ll have a special lecture and astronomical observations with one of the wonders of the world as our backdrop. Overnight Machu Picchu (B-L)

**Day 8 – Friday, Aug 8**  
Sleep in, meander through the ruins, or join trip leader, Janet Niewold, for an early morning hike up Huayna Picchu (the prominent peak overlooking the ruins). There will be plenty of free time for lunch on your own and some local shopping before returning to Cusco by train. Overnight in Cusco. (B)

**Day 9 - Sat Aug 9**  
Transfer to the airport for our flight back to Lima. After transferring to our hotel, we’ll learn about the fascinating history and architecture of Peru’s capital on a guided city tour. Sights will include the Presidential Palace, the catacombs beneath the San Francisco church and the National Archeological Museum. We’ll celebrate the last night of our trip together with a special farewell dinner. Overnight Lima. (B-D)

**Day 10 – Sun Aug 10**  
After breakfast, transfer to the airport for our flight home. (B)

**High Altitude Precautions:**  
Altitude sickness, known as soroche, is a common problem for visitors, especially traveling quickly between the coast and the Andes as we will be. The best precaution is to eat light meals, drink lots of fluids, and take it easy as the body adjusts. In the unlikely event of an emergency, our tour operator will always be ready in respond. There are many good doctors and hospitals available in the areas we will be visiting should they be needed.

**A Note on Meals:**  
You’ll notice that all meals aren’t included in this trip. Our tour operator suggests that this is the ideal arrangement as we will be having a big meal in the afternoon and most people won’t want a full meal in the evening. Nevertheless, there are lots of options for an evening snack, including the restaurants at our hotels.

**Program cost:**  
$2165 per person, double occupancy, including in-country flights. Add $280 for single supplement.

**What’s included:**
- Private ground transportation
- Airline tickets from Lima-Juliana and Cusco-Lima
- English speaking guide throughout
- UW Space Place trip leaders Jim Lattis, Astronomy Historian, and Janet Niewold, Latin-American travel specialist.
- Local amateur astronomer guides in some locations
- Accommodation in double rooms in tourist class hotels, with private bath, hot water, and restaurants
- Meals as described on the itinerary (B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner)
- Visits and excursions described on the itinerary with fees included

**The price does not include:**
- International flight to/from Lima
- Extras at hotels and restaurants
- Tips for guides and drivers
- Local and international departure taxes at the airport (current tax is $4 for internal flights, $26 for international)
- Travel Insurance
- Anything which is not described on the program

**Payment and Terms:**
A $500-per-person deposit and completed reservation form are required to secure your space. Final payment is due by June 1, 2008. All payments will be made directly to TURISAVEN travel company based in Quito, Ecuador by check or wire transfer. Please see attached reservation form for further details about payment and refund policies.

**Trip Extension Options**

**Note:** TURISAVEN will provide the guide for the rainforest extension. The guide will meet your flight upon your arrival in Puerto Maldonado.

**4 day/3 night Tambopata Candamo Rainforest Expedition from Cusco**

As an option to flying back to Lima from Cusco, we have arranged for a special trip extension to explore the amazing Peruvian Amazon and stay at the beautiful WASAI Eco-lodges in Tambopata and Puerto Maldonado. Bird list available upon request.

**Day 1 – Sat, Aug 9**

Your adventure begins as soon as you’re greeted at the airport in Puerto Maldonado. You’ll embark on a 3 to 4 1/2 hour motorboat trip up the Tambopata River to WASAI Tambopata Lodge & Research Center (box lunch on route). You’ll see local communities along the riverbanks, and familiarize yourselves with the abundant birds and mammals of the rainforest. After a short rest at the lodge, you’ll have a brief introductory walk in the forest nearby to learn basic principles of ecology and learn about the natural history of this incredible ecosystem. Return to the lodge for dinner.

After dinner you’ll go for a night walk to observe the nocturnal life of insects, colorful frogs, and an occasional encounter with nocturnal mammals. You will enjoy the diverse sounds of the jungle which will accompany your first night in amazonia. Overnight WASAI Lodge -Tambopata. (B-L-D)

**Day 2 – Sun, Aug 10**

Wake early (4 am) and travel up the Tambopata River for a 1½ hour to Bahuaja-Sonene National Park. You’ll see a magical sunrise and have a great opportunity to see animals such as capybaras, tapir, jaguar, and deer in the surrounding virgin forest. You’ll also observe one of the greatest spectacles of the rainforest: hundreds of parrots, parakeets and macaws enjoying their diet of mineral salts on a riverbank. You’ll return to the lodge for a late breakfast and rest.

After lunch you will enter the verdant jungle on a special wildlife trail to look for peccaries, deer, and monkeys travelling through the forest in search of food. Time permitting, you’ll enjoy a relaxing waterfall swim.

After dinner you can take another jungle walk, search for caimans or relax in the lodge surrounded by exotic nocturnal sounds. Overnight WASAI Lodge-Tambopata. (B-L-D)

**Day 3 – Mon, Aug 11**

After breakfast you’ll travel by boat to the WASAI Maldonado Lodge in Puerto Maldonado where you will relax in your bungalow and enjoy a tasty lunch.

After lunch, a twenty minute boat ride on the Madre de Dios River will take you to the three-mile access trail to Lake Sandoval. The hike in to this beautiful rainforest lake will be well worth it. You’ll canoe around the lake enjoying the beauty of the landscape and observing the wildlife, such as kingfishers, herons, hoatzins (unique primitive looking birds), monkeys, etc. If you are lucky you may see the family of giant otters that live at the lake.

You’ll return to the modern and comfortable bungalows of WASAI Maldonado Lodge. After dinner you’ll have time to rest, visit the city on foot or bicycle, or enjoy the swimming pool surrounded by verdant vegetation. Overnight WASAI Maldonado Lodge. (B-L-D)

**Day 4 – Tuesday, Aug 12**
Breakfast and transfer to the airport for our flight to Lima. You’ll transfer to the hotel for a day-use room. On a guided city tour, you’ll learn about the fascinating history and architecture of Peru’s capital. Transfer to the airport for your international flight home. (B)

Note: You may also choose to spend an extra night in Lima and fly out the next morning for an additional $30 per person ($50 for singles).

Rainforest Expedition Program Cost (per person, double occupancy):

2-3 persons: $730
4-6 persons: $700
7 or more persons: $660
Single supplement: + $110

Note the flight from Cusco-Puerto Maldonado replaces the Cusco-Lima flight. Prices listed above include the flight from Puerto Maldonado to Lima.

Other Extension Options
If you wish to extend your stay in Lima or elsewhere in South America, our tour operator, TURISAVEN would be pleased to help you with your arrangements and reservations.
Please complete a reservation form for each trip participant.

Trip Options:
I wish to participate in:

___ 10 day Peru Explorer tour ($500 deposit required)

___ 4 day Rainforest Expedition (deposit is not required as this time)
   ___ option to fly out of Lima on Tuesday, Aug 12
   ___ option to stay overnight in Lima on Tuesday, Aug 12, and fly out the next day.

Name__________________________________________________________

___ Rooming with _____________________________________________

or

___ Single supplement

Occupation_______________________________________________________

Passport Number___________________________ Nationality____________________

Age_________________ Sex ____________________

Dietary Restrictions______________________________________________

Medical Conditions_______________________________________________

Address_________________________________________________________

City_____________________ State________________ Zip______________

Phone numbers:
Home:______________ Business:_________________ Cell: ___________________

In case of emergency, please notify:

Name________________________________________________________________

Phone__________________________

Address____________________________________________________________
Payment Options:

You may pay the $500 deposit by personal check or wire transfer. Wire transfers cost about $35 each, so you suggest you pay by check.

Please make your check out to TURISAVEN for $500. Send your deposit and reservation form to:

    Janet Niewold,
    UW Space Place
    c/o Space Astronomy Lab
    1150 University Ave
    Madison, WI 53706.

Deposit checks must be received by Friday January 18, 2008. Janet will forward all checks to TURISAVEN via Fed Ex.

If you wish to wire your deposit instead, please contact Janet directly for account information. Wire transfers are due by February 1, 2008.

You will receive a reservation confirmation and further trip information once your deposit is received. Once all arrangements are finalized, you will receive a final invoice for the last payment. Final payment is due to TURISAVEN by June 1, 2008. Janet will be accepting final payment checks prior to this date and will forward them to TURISAVEN.
RESERVATIONS
As soon as you submit your reservation form and deposit, you will confirm your hotel and flight reservations. You expect to have confirmation for groups at least 6 months prior to the tour, if possible, the earlier the better. A preliminary rooming list should be sent with the reservation.

RECONFIRMATIONS
Sixty days prior to the arrival date you need the final rooming list to reconfirm and pre-pay hotels and air space on local flights. This final rooming list must include passenger’s passport number and nationality, age, sex, diet restrictions & health conditions. This information is required by hotels and airlines thirty days prior to departure to avoid incurring a late fee.

PAYMENTS
You require a down payment of $500 to reserve your space on the UW Space Place Peru tour. Once all arrangements are finalized, you will issue a final invoice. Final payment must be made by June 1, 2008.

CANCELLATIONS
A cancellation fee must be charged if a passenger cancels less than 60 days prior to the departure date of the passenger from his/her point of origin: 60 - 16 days prior = 30% of tour cost; 15 - 7 days prior = 60% of tour cost; 01 - 06 days prior and NO SHOW = 100%. No refunds will be given for airline tickets or for the Rain Forest extension if the cancellation is done 30 days or less prior to the visit.

If a group member cancels after the final rooming list is received and he/she is replaced by another participant, there will be no cancellation fee.

RESPONSIBILITIES
TURISAVEN, reserves the right to modify or withdraw any travel arrangements or itineraries when deemed necessary in the best interest of clients. The right is reserved to refuse, accept or retain any person as a member of one of our trips. Baggage is carried at owners risk throughout the tour. TURISAVEN acts only in the capacity of an AGENT upon the legal conditions that while exercising every possible precaution, it is not responsible for injury, sickness, damage, loss, additional expenses, accidental delay or other irregularities which may be caused either through willful or negligent acts or omissions on the part of companies or individuals providing or engaged in transportation, accommodation or other services related to the accomplishment of the tour or through natural disasters, social upheavals or acts of God.

INSURANCE
Although TURISAVEN CIA. LTDA. will do everything possible to assure you a safe journey in Peru, you highly recommend that all clients purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect you in the event of an unexpected medical situation requiring you to cancel your participation. This coverage typically reimburses any non-refundable air and land costs should you cancel due to a personal, family or business associates illness or injury, as you all as expenses incurred in conjunction with an emergency medical evacuation. Coverage is also suggested for baggage and personal medical expenses. Insurance sign up information will be sent upon receipt of your reservation and deposit.
RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Please Read Carefully:

I understand that during the trek, tour, expedition, or other trip or vacation that I am participating in under the arrangements of Turisaven and its agents or associates, certain risks and dangers may arise, including but not limited to: hazards of traveling in wilderness and remote mountain terrain; travel by aircraft, boat, canoe, train, automobile, bus, horse, or other means of conveyance; the forces of nature and accident or illness in remote regions without means of rapid evacuation or medical facilities.

In consideration of and as part of the payment for, the right to participate in such treks, tours, or other activities and the services arranged for me by Turisaven and its agents or associates, I have and do hereby assume all the above risks and will hold them harmless from and defend them against any and all liability actions. Causes of action, suits, debts, demands and claims of every kind and nature whatsoever which I now have or which may hereafter arise out of or in connection with my trip or participation in any other activities arranged for me by Turisaven and its agents or associates.

This agreement shall serve as a release and assumption of risk for myself and my heirs, administrator, executors and for all members of my family including any minors accompanying me. I have read and do agree to all the conditions as stated Under “TERMS AND CONDITIONS” in the TURISAVEN Cía. Ltda. policy on responsibilities, cancellations and release and assumption of risk.

Signature________________________________________ Date________________________

Signature________________________________________ Date________________________

Signature of Parent or legal Guardian if applicant is under 21.

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Turisaven is a legally constituted Travel Agency registered in the Corporación Metropolitana de Turismo and Ministerio de Turismo of the Republic of Ecuador