

WAVES Peru Info Pack



Education programs connecting surfing and sustainable development through:
W-ater A-dventure V-oluntourism E-ducation S-ustainability



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Thank you for showing interest in joining WAVES for Development (WAVES International) in Peru. This Info Pack is intended to answer as many questions as possible regarding our current programs, project history, location, volunteer activities, living conditions, travel, food and other logistics, health and safety, how you can contribute, dates, costs etc. We've thought and grown a lot and there are many moving pieces – this is your introduction to the details.

An "[Application Form](#)" is also available for completion to officially register your interest in attending one of our programs. We believe your life will be better because of it. No joke.

The information in this pack is meant to expand on the information presented on the WAVES for Development website www.WAVESfordevelopment.org.

Mission

WAVES International inspires world travel and cultural exchange through surf experiences, while collaboratively building a network of partnerships that empower education for travelers, local youth and communities. Initiatives catalyze education and economic development through:

- Cultural Exchange & Understanding
- Life Skills & Healthy Living
- A Conservation Ethic
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Sustainable Tourism



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A Brief History

Lobitos is the first location for WAVES programming in Peru. WAVES launched a pilot project in Lobitos in February of 2008. The aim was to explore the potential of Education programming for local youth and Surf Voluntourism for visiting travelers. The success of the pilot project and positive response from the community led to ongoing programming organized by local leaders and a second group of travelers participating in 2 weeks of intensive Education programming during the school vacation in July of '08. Following the pilot, WAVES invested in a local gentleman to continue coordinating limited activities for the youth. In coordination with the local Lobitos school, ongoing education and volunteer opportunities began in October '08. 2009 was a breakthrough year in terms of participation and impact. 2010 was also a year of growth and stabilization of the Surf, English and Environmental education classes and included the filming of a short documentary about our endeavors – CAPTURE: A WAVES Documentary. 2011 marked further growth of the organization and volunteer participation. Program language was consolidated into Community Outreach, Environmental Health and Entrepreneurship Empowerment in 2012. 2013 was the official launch of the WAVES Corps and by the end of 2014, 370 volunteers have served in Lobitos.



WAVES for Development International is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt public charity in the US that recruits, selects and helps fund programs through volunteers. WAVES for Development Peru is a formalized not-for-profit association in Peru and offers the direct service programming. WAVES Switzerland also helps raise funds and awareness for WAVES Peru.

Where is Lobitos?

Lobitos is a remote fishing community in Northern Peru, south of the well-known resort town of Mancora, two hours North-West of Piura and half an hour drive along a dusty road from the oil-industry city of Talara. It is a very unique place; the town's approximately 1500 residents live among an army base, active oil extraction, the presence of Peruvian and international surfers and the remnants of a booming oil economy from the 1950's.



Dozens of abandoned buildings, such as the old officers casino right on the beach, are evidence of when Lobitos had both a large military population and the oil company had a large workforce living there. Today, Lobitos is most famous for its classic surf spots, with four quality breaks (some world class) within a 20- minute walk along the beach.

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How WAVES Came To Be



With limited economic opportunity, the youth from Lobitos tend to follow their families into fishing. A fleet of small boats is active in the community. These boats cast off at 3:00am daily. They return mid morning after fishing familiar waters offshore among the dozens of oil rigs that dot the view to the horizon. A recent survey estimated that 90% of the Lobitos population (~180 families) derive some income from the fishing industry, with the average income well below the poverty line.

Additionally, education is not given priority. National statistics (www.inei.gob.pe) report that less than half of the youth in Northern Peru graduate high school. As surfers, we believe we can make a difference in the lives of youth through education.

The limited opportunities impact on other members of the community also. Maria Luisa Saavedrah, President of the government funded food program in Lobitos, mentioned that there were 24 single mothers identified living in Lobitos who were "struggling" to meet the needs of their children. "Single mothers in Lobitos have a difficult time managing child care responsibilities, doing whatever work becomes available, usually food preparation or weaving. They often have to be taken in as 'charity' by families."

In 2006 the Lobitos Municipality released their "Plan De Desarrollo 2006-2018" (Plan for Development). In the report, surf tourism is recognized as a key area of development and its promotion repeatedly endorsed throughout the document. Tourism in Lobitos is based almost entirely around surfing and kite-boarding, is concentrated in small areas closest to the beach, and does not stretch to the inland parts of Lobitos where the majority of the local population resides.

Surfers, by nature, wish to reside and eat meals in close proximity to the ocean so as to reduce travel to and from the surf breaks. This concentration of tourism has resulted in a small number of individuals benefiting from tourist spending in Lobitos, but it has had little impact on improving employment opportunities or living standards of the majority of the local Lobitos population.

Wealthy Peruvians run numerous tourism services that offer few employment opportunities for locals or reinvest very little of their money back into the community. The theme of "foreign" or non-local control over tourism in Lobitos was continually mentioned by the Lobitos Municipality and local residents as being a primary concern for the town's development. This "Plan de Desarrollo Local Concertado" mentions the issues, but unfortunately fails to outline any plan for how to achieve a more equal distribution of tourist spending. By offering opportunities to youth in the surf tourism space, and directly supporting local families and businesses, we believe a surfing can be a tool for education and economic development.

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Why We Do What We Do

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The idea for the NGO (non-governmental organization) grew from a group of traveling surfers who wanted to offer local Lobitos youth the chance to surf perfect waves at their beach, waves which travelers enjoyed everyday. With no surfboards, wetsuits, nor the ability to swim, the challenges seemed great. However, following emails to a number of surf companies around the world, Global Surf Industries responded positively and made a generous donation of 400 surfboards for the WAVES projects. Working feverishly from many countries around the world and within Peru, the original group of surfers was joined by dozens of supporters resulting in the two successful "pilot" projects in Lobitos in February and July 2008 (as mentioned earlier). In November '08 ongoing volunteer programs began.

WAVES Surf Voluntourism programs have introduced an innovative form of tourism to Lobitos that directly addresses educational and economic needs of the community. By integrating into the community, those who participate with WAVES enjoy some of the trust we've built up over the years. As much as possible we look to support local families and restaurants through the presence of volunteers. For those of you who come for a short period of time, the focus may be to learn about the area and our development efforts, financially contribute to their sustainability. And have fun surfing.

Not only do you, as travelers, contribute to educational activities that empower local youth, you also create direct economic activity for businesses and families while living and serving in Lobitos. Ideally, the cultural exchange, friendship, and understanding reached between you and the community members of Lobitos enriches the lives of all involved.



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Join Us in Lobitos

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Programs Begin the First and Third Saturday of Each Month in Talara

WAVES is currently offering volunteer opportunities for travelers beginning the first and third Saturday of each month. You'll arrive in Talara / Lobitos on Saturday for a weekend orientation before beginning service as assistants in WAVES education programs with local youth and families. The minimum commitment is 2 weeks to explore and better understand the issues facing the community and what we, as an organization are doing about them. You can extend your involvement by increments of 1 week. See below for information about costs, food and housing. One thing we constantly hear from volunteers: they wish they could have stayed longer. We encourage you to consider a month-long stay in Lobitos after which you will qualify for reduced Program Fee rates.

Ideas on What You'll Do

Based on your skills, experience and interest, there are opportunities to contribute to the ongoing programs in the following ways:

- Learn about the community and programs offered by WAVES Lobitos
- Assist with English classes during and after school (strengthen or develop lesson plans).
- Assist with Surfing classes for Lobitos youth (ages 6 – 14).
- Assist with Environmental Education classes and activities (some Spanish required).
- Help coordinate sports activities for the kids during and after school hours.
- Work with Entrepreneurship Empowerment activities in Lobitos (WAVES Surf Shop).
- Concrete floor installation with Environmental Health program.

We're interested in other personal skills and experience that you can bring to the program. For those of you staying for a month or more, we'd like to discuss utilizing your skills for 'personal projects'. Past participants have developed personal projects including dancing, video production, editing, yoga, singing and trust building programs.



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And the Cost?



We ask that all WAVES travelers make a minimum tax-deductible Volunteer Contribution that ensures the financial sustainability of the organization and the small team. A diagram of how this money is spent can be found [here](#). A weekly Program Fee covers expenses related to the logistics of your involvement; 100% of which is spent in the community.

Volunteer Contribution: \$595/person minimum. WAVES encourages volunteers to organize campaigns and activities to raise the money while spreading the word about WAVES. All donations made from the US are tax deductible as WAVES is a 501(c)3 public charity as determined by the IRS. WAVES has profiles on a variety of online platforms such as [StayClassy](#), [Crowdrise](#), [Empowered](#), [FirstGiving](#), and [Razoo](#) and we encourage you to use the online peer to peer platform that best suits your style (click on the links).

Program Fee: \$395 per week for each week. The Program Fee covers the following:

1. Pre-project preparation and briefings, email and phone support.
2. Transportation to Lobitos from the Northern Peruvian city of Talara.
3. Accommodation in the house of a local family converted to accommodate WAVES volunteers (and staff).
4. Health and safety management (risk assessments, emergency contacts, first-aid trained staff and first aid kit).
5. Financial support of the project to ensure its ongoing success.
6. Project management from local and international staff.
7. Access to WAVES' selection of surfboards during your project.
8. The employment and training of local staff to run the projects after your departure.
9. 24 hour emergency support.

Payment Details Volunteer Contributions may be made via Credit Card or Paypal through any of the "Donate" buttons on the WAVES website. Checks may be made out to WAVES for Development and sent to: WAVES for Development International, Inc., 2915 SW 118th Ave, Beaverton, OR 97005. An electronic confirmation will be sent for all Volunteer Contributions as a receipt for tax deductibility purposes.

The Program Fee can and should be paid via Paypal or Personal Check at least two weeks before arrival.



Logistics



Following the initial projects in Lobitos, WAVES has built a strong relationship with a local family, Raul and Meche Tinoco, who provide lodging in the front part of their house. It has affectionately become known as the WAVES House because of their strong support of the programs (their grandchildren and nephew are actively involved). Located directly opposite the school, and a five-minute walk to the beach and primary surf break, it is ideally situated for the project. The relationship is a win-win situation, with the family receiving the financial benefit of housing volunteers and WAVES having a great set-up in a prime location.

The WAVES house includes:

- Running water (scarce in Lobitos)
- Flushing toilets (if it's yellow let it mellow, brown flush it down)
- Shared rooms 2, 3 and 4 beds (two w/ private baths)
- Bedding
- Two toilets, two showers
- Designated kitchen and common area
- Fully secure lockable rooms and house



Food

Three meals per day are included in the Program Fee. Emphasis is placed on making meals nutritious, balanced, and delicious with available local ingredients. Meals range from local specialties (fresh fish and rice, chicken and rice) to volunteers' favorite foods from around the world. Vegetarian options are available upon request. As a volunteer, you will be part of a team that rotates shopping and cooking responsibilities. The majority of ingredients are purchased in Talara, while some foods, such as varied fresh seafood, are available in Lobitos. Breakfast is a serve-yourself setup. Some lunches are prepared by local families / family restaurants. Dinners are typically a group effort or prepared by the Volunteer Coordinator.

Transport

The program begins and ends in Talara, a 30 minute drive from Lobitos. To get to Talara, it's possible to take an overnight bus from Lima (17 hrs, [ExcluCiva](#) and [Cruz del Sur](#) are reliable options) or from Ecuador in the North (also the border crossing is a bit tenuous). Internal flights are regularly available on [LAN](#), to Talara.

You will be met at the bus station / airport at pre-arranged times. Buses travel regularly between the main cities and are safe, inexpensive and reliable, with many offering "cama" (bed-like) seats. "Combi" taxis travel to and from Talara half a dozen times a day for the equivalent of around \$1.00. This provides volunteers with access to shops, banks and other facilities including internet. There is limited internet in Lobitos at the moment.

If you have time and the funds, a good option is to join the WAVES project before or after completing a "Surfari" with Olas Peru Surf Travel out of Lima. WAVES can arrange for you to be well looked after, including surfing remote uncrowded waves from Lima to Lobitos. Ask us for more details.

A Typical Day



Volunteers contribute to WAVES Peru Education Programs in a variety of ways depending on your skills and interests. There are also opportunities to assist in community projects, and program administration tasks.

With such perfect waves in Lobitos, we recognize the importance of providing plenty of free surfing time to enjoy the surf and the surrounding area. As a result, we ensure every morning is free surfing time, and most afternoons. The program is designed to provide an effective balance between work and play.

Typical Daily Schedule:

6-9am	Morning surf and breakfast
9am-12pm	Education Activity (group or individual); Personal or Program Project
12:30-2:30pm	Lunch with local family / local restaurant / at the house / free time
2:30-5:30pm	Education program (story hour or surf class, program-led activity)
5:30-7pm	Surf
8pm	Dinner, debrief, free time



Your Health

WAVES has extensive Health and Safety procedures in place. We have undertaken thorough risk assessments which we will share with you before you commence your travel to Peru - thereby reducing the risk of travel on your way to the project meeting point. We also have extensive risk management procedures in Lobitos, including Emergency Action Plans, First Aid trained staff, emergency communications equipment, a complete first aid kit, access to 24 hour medical services in Talara, and emergency vehicles available in the unlikely event of a severe medical incident. Proof of travel insurance is required (we recommend the [Volunteer Card](#) or [Atlas Travel](#) for all volunteers who are not covered) and you will be asked to sign a liability release waiver.



The Surf

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With near constant offshore winds and few crowds, northern Peru really is a surfer's paradise. The months from November to February see the peak of the Northern hemisphere swells that line up mechanically on their march through the North Pacific past Central America to Peru. The southern hemisphere winter months of April to October send long period swells lining up from the south to connect with the long left hand points from Lima to Lobitos. Lobitos is uniquely positioned to receive swells from both directions, is rarely flat, and often pumping.

With options to surf heavy barrels at el Hueco, the Point sucking and peeling for hundreds of meters, and additional quality lefts at Muelles and Piscinas, there are uncrowded options for everyone. It is the sort of place where you can get surfed out every day!

For beginners, the protected inside of the Lobitos point has mellow waves offering ideal learning conditions. Peeling waves provide ideal opportunities to improve your surfing.

The water temperature ranges from 16 degrees C, 61F in July up to a balmy 24C, 75F in February, with your wetsuit needs varying from a full length 3/2 steamer to board shorts.

Other Cool Things To Do

Surfing Lessons

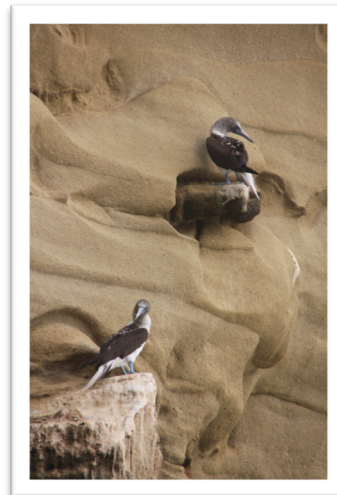
For beginner surfers and those who want to improve their surfing, you can participate in the weekly Volunteers' Surfing Class with our surf instructor – including in the program. Additional personal surfing lessons can be arranged as often as you like for a nominal fee.

Spanish Lessons

Learning to communicate in the local language is an ideal way to increase your interaction with the local community. Group and Individual Spanish lessons are occasionally available with a qualified teacher.

Local Tourism

Each fortnight you will participate in a one-day tourism activity. These may include visiting local caves, fishing with local fishermen, learning to cook Peruvian cuisine with a local family, and viewing the seals at the oil platforms. These activities are another source of income generation for local families.



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Volunteers that complete 2 weeks of WAVES programs are eligible to apply for a limited number of competitive practicante/apprenticeship positions. They support WAVES staff in developing, planning and delivering programs and typically stay for at least 3 months. Opportunities are based on programming needs and the strategic direction of the organization. Apprenticeships include reduced rate living/housing (\$195/wk if staying at WAVES house). WAVES will work with educational institutions of interns who wish to seek academic credit for their work.



What's Next?

- Fill out and submit the [Volunteer Application Form](#).
- You may attach a copy of your current Résumé/CV (not required)
- Make a \$300 contribution to confirm your interest. The remaining \$295 contribution should be made two weeks prior to your arrival in Peru. Payment details are on page 6.
- The \$395 weekly Program Fee can be contributed in Lobitos with prior arrangement
- Where possible, applications should be received well in advance of the commencement of the project to enable us to effectively coordinate your involvement.

Space is limited; get your application in today!

WAVES for Development International, Inc.

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