

MENLO  
ABROAD



# PERU



May 18-June 8, 2025



# Menlo Abroad: Peru

May 18–June 8, 2025



## IN BRIEF

**Menlo Abroad** offers transformative experiences through guided immersive travel in the global South. Emphasizing relationship-building through homestay and community engagement, students develop knowledge, skills, and a greater understanding of themselves and their world. They emerge with a renewed sense of purpose and a desire to serve.<sup>1</sup>



***Menlo Abroad: Peru is developed and offered in coordination with Regeneration Field Institute.***

**Dates:** May 18–June 8, 2025

(Note that participants will be out of the country and unable to return for Commencement or related activities. There is a required pre-trip campus-based orientation session on the afternoon of May 16; June 8 is a required day of reflection and celebration on the Menlo campus.)

**Enrollment Limits:** 16 students

**Enrollment Eligibility:** Menlo students in grades 9-11. For medical questions or exemption requests contact the Menlo's school nurse.<sup>3</sup>

**Trip Leaders:** There will be two Menlo-affiliated trip leaders: Upper School Mathematics teacher Yu-Loung Chang and Upper School English and Latin teacher Tom Garvey. There will also be one or two leaders from the Regeneration Field Institute.

**All-Inclusive Fee<sup>2</sup>:** \$6200. Financial aid may be available. Current financial aid recipients should contact Rose Garza ([rose.garza@menloschool.org](mailto:rose.garza@menloschool.org)) for information.

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<sup>1</sup> Menlo Abroad is an elective option for MTerm and is considered and assessed as an M Term course. But while other MTerm courses will end May 30, Menlo Abroad courses complete on the evening of June 8, 2025. Menlo Abroad service participation earns students 15 community engagement credits.

<sup>2</sup> Fee includes all flights • hotel accommodation • all meals • all surface transportation • museum, park, and temple entrance fees • course preparation manual and reading materials • donations to charitable causes in the host country • instructor and extra guide fees • on-site equipment rental where needed • comprehensive risk management systems and administrative support 24/7. The fee does not include trip cancellation insurance or expenses for petty cash expenditures (est. at \$200), travel medicine or immunization or obtaining passports and visas.

<sup>3</sup> Most of our trip will be spent at altitudes of at least 10,000 feet; students with particular sensitivity to high altitudes should take this into consideration before applying.



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Menlo Abroad Peru, Menlo's first venture to South America, is a hub of mysterious ruins, enigmatic civilizations, and extreme environmental contrasts, a place still discovering its past. While over sixty percent of the country is the lowland jungle, primarily of the Amazon rainforest, our focus is the Andean highlands bordering Peru's Sacred Valley, the home of Incan civilization, which has a history over 800 years and a profound influence on Peruvian culture to this day. One aspect of this influence is that most Peruvians in the Sacred Valley speak Quechua as their first language; Spanish is spoken as a second language. The Sacred Valley is also a beautiful part of the country and an area with great environmental challenge and opportunities we will explore.

Our first days in Peru begin in Cusco, South America's oldest continuously inhabited city. Coming to Cusco in late May as we will one is likely to feel one landed in the middle of a party, a massive city-wide celebration of Incan music, art, and dancing. The joy is palpable. In Cusco we meet the other half of our trip leader team from Regeneration Field Institute (RFI), recover from the long flight with a fairly gentle day of visiting Incan sites such as Saqsaywaman and Qorikancha and acclimating to the high altitude. From Cusco we travel to the compound of Don Tomas and his wife Gloria and learn about this particular community. The following day we will be welcomed by more of the community as we meet homestay families and begin the major chapter of our journey, a routine of homestay engagement, immersion, and fun as well as community engagement activities during the day. (One exciting CE possibility involves the installation of solar powered water pumps developed in the Whitaker Lab).

The final third of our trip is transference and involves a trip to the famed Incan site of Machu Picchu, the surrounding towns of Aguas Calientes and Ollyantayambo., and time for reflection and meaning making. We return home for one final day on campus to visit the other Menlo Abroad groups and celebrate together.



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## ITINERARY

*(Note: Itinerary is subject to change.)*

- Friday, May 16** **Menlo Campus 1:00-3:30 pm**  
Peru orientation
- Sunday, May 18** **SFO (afternoon)**  
Departure for Cusco, Peru
- Monday, May 19** **Cusco**  
Nighttime arrival at CUZ  
Transfer to hotel  
Dinner and lodging
- Tuesday, May 20** **Cusco**  
Breakfast  
Checkin  
Walk to Saqsaywaman  
Lunch  
Museums (Qorikancha/Temple of the Sun)  
Dinner and lodging
- Wednesday, May 21** **Cusco to Zurite**  
Breakfast  
Checkin  
Transfer to Zurite  
Meeting with Don Tomas and Gloria  
Tour of town  
Soccer / Volleyball  
Dinner and Lodging  
Don Tomas' and Gloria's compound
- Thursday, May 22** **Zurite**  
Breakfast  
Checkin  
CE activity  
Lunch  
CE activity  
Meet homestay families  
Dinner and lodging with homestay families
- Friday, May 23** **Zurite**  
Breakfast  
Checkin  
CE activity  
Lunch  
CE activity  
Meet homestay families  
Dinner and lodging with homestay families
- Saturday, May 24** **Zurite**  
Breakfast  
Check in  
CE activity  
Lunch  
CE activity  
Homestay and unstructured time  
Dinner and lodging at homestay

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## ITINERARY (cont.)

(Note: Itinerary is subject to change.)

- Sunday, May 25** **Zurite**  
Breakfast  
Check in  
Church  
Full day with homestay family
- Monday, May 26** **Zurite**  
Breakfast  
Check in  
CE activity  
Lunch  
CE activity  
Homestay and unstructured time  
Dinner and lodging at homestay
- Tuesday, May 27** **Pisac**  
Breakfast  
Transfer to Pisac  
Retreat day for reflection, problem solving and fun  
Dinner and hotel lodging in Pisac
- Wednesday, May 28 - Zurite**  
Breakfast  
Checkin  
Return to Zurite  
Afternoon CE activity  
Dinner and lodging at homestay
- Thursday, May 29** **Zurite**  
Breakfast  
Check in  
CE activity  
Lunch  
CE activity  
Homestay and unstructured time  
Dinner and lodging at homestay
- Friday, May 30** **Zurite**  
Breakfast  
Check in  
CE activity  
Lunch  
CE activity  
Homestay and unstructured time  
Dinner and lodging at homestay
- Saturday, May 31** **Zurite**  
Breakfast  
Check in  
CE activity  
Lunch  
CE activity  
Homestay and unstructured time  
Dinner and lodging at homestay

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## ITINERARY (cont.)

(Note: Itinerary is subject to change.)

**Sunday, June 1    Zurite**  
Full day with homestay family

**Monday, June 2    Zurite and Aguas Caliente**  
Breakfast  
Checkin  
CE activity - wrap up  
Lunch  
Pack up  
Celebration and goodbyes  
Depart for Aguas Caliente  
Dinner and hotel lodging

**Tuesday, June 3    Machu Picchu**  
Breakfast  
Day at Machu Picchu  
Aguas Caliente: market and hot springs  
Hotel lodging

**Wednesday, June 4 - Machu Picchu and Ollantaytambo**  
Breakfast  
Checkin  
Transfer to Ollantaytambo  
Afternoon hike to ruins  
Explore market  
Dinner and lodging at hotel

**Thursday, June 5 - Ollantaytambo**  
Breakfast  
Check in  
Transference activities  
Dinner and lodging at hotel

**Friday, June 6 - Ollantaytambo and Cusco**  
Breakfast  
Check in  
Transference activities  
Lunch  
Transfer to Cusco  
Dinner and hotel lodging

**Saturday, June 7- Transfer to SFO**

**Sunday, June 8 - Menlo Campus (1)**

Reflective discussions with other Menlo Abroad trips, wrap up activities, and celebration <sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Students must attend the final day to receive full credit for the course..



## TIMELINE OF APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT PROCESS

<b>January 10</b>	Announcement of Menlo Abroad and Borderlands programs at upper school assembly
<b>January 28</b>	Applications due
<b>February 5</b>	Participants notified
<b>February 11</b>	Forms and Payment due by 3:00 pm
<b>April 14, 6:00 pm</b>	Pre-departure information night (Spieker Theater) for enrolled students and their parents (meeting is mandatory for student and at least one parent)
<b>May 16, 1:00 pm</b>	Menlo Abroad: Peru orientation on Menlo campus; evening departure for Peru
<b>May 18-June 7</b>	Menlo Abroad: Peru trip
<b>June 8</b>	Re-entry day on Menlo Campus for wrap up, reflections with other trips, and celebration. <sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Students must attend the final day to receive full credit for the course. The time and nature of the celebration is to be determined.



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## MENLO ABROAD ASPIRATIONS

1. **Knowledge and Global Competency**<sup>6</sup>: Menlo Abroad programs advance students' self-knowledge and global competencies, including intercultural capabilities, historical perspectives, and attentiveness to diversity. Through direct experience, students develop awareness of global systems and issues impacting their host communities.

2. **Dispositions of Global Engagement**<sup>7</sup>: Menlo Abroad programs cultivate internationally minded students who recognize their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet and strive to create a better and more peaceful world. Among the many positive dispositions they develop are agency, leadership, confidence, empathy, compassion, humility, feelings of interconnection, and respect.

3. **Relationships**: Menlo Abroad programs build sustaining relationships between students and diverse, underserved foreign communities and individuals through shared common experiences of everyday life.

4. **Community Engagement**: Menlo Abroad programs contribute to solutions based on mutually beneficial work, apprenticeship, or study, in activities that at the same time support students' knowledge of, and appreciation for, local cultures and issues at hand.

5. **Transference**: Menlo Abroad programs generate sustaining interest and connections with Menlo curricula and programs.

<sup>6</sup> *Global competency* includes the ability to investigate the world beyond the immediate environment, the recognition of one's own and other perspectives, and the ability to communicate ideas effectively with diverse audiences.

<sup>7</sup> By *Global engagement*, we mean the dispositions necessary to be connected and of service to others, including those beyond national borders.



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## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The program is being offered by Menlo School in conjunction with Regeneration Field Institute. In cases of programs offered in conjunction with other organizations, participants are required to complete forms, registration, waivers, and medical forms provided by both Menlo School and the third-party organization.

**By February 11:** To secure a place in the program each of the following must be submitted.

1. A check payment payable to Menlo School for **\$6200**. Financial aid recipients will be contacted by the financial aid with a revised program fee.
2. Completed and signed *Parent Permission and Waiver, Medical Release, Emergency and Medical Information Form - Overnight*
3. Completed and signed *Waiver and Release for Program within the United States*
4. Completed and signed Menlo School *Trip Contract*
5. Third party organization forms, waiver and release.

**By April 14:** Any remaining and required forms.

Equipment lists, air travel instructions, and further information about the program will be provided subsequently.

Our intention is to address the goals and curricular elements listed in the program description, but all participants are advised that course itineraries will likely change to incorporate participant goals and interests, to adjust to the health of members of the group, or in response to weather conditions, problems with transportation, political or social unrest or other unforeseen problems. Regardless of such changes, we will always work to structure and implement the course so that it stays true to the original intent.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

Menlo encourages participants to consider the purchase of a travel insurance or trip cancellation insurance policy for the Borderlands trip. Check your primary medical insurance provider to assure your child will have medical coverage while traveling. If that is in question, travel insurance including medical coverage should be purchased.

If the participant is on financial aid, travel insurance purchases for this trip will be reimbursed at the rate of financial aid.

You might consider purchasing a travel insurance package through an organization such as InsureMyTrip to provide some financial protection against unforeseen circumstances or withdrawal. Menlo makes no recommendation regarding these options: Please read all policies carefully to ensure that your needs are met.

**CANCELED TRIPS:** A full refund will be made for canceled trips that arise out of insufficient registration, though Menlo is not responsible for other costs incurred by the student or family preparing for the trip. For trips canceled due to any other circumstance that is beyond Menlo's control, Menlo will refund all recoupable tuition. If Menlo decides to cancel the trip at its own discretion, Menlo will fully refund participants' payments.

**REFUND POLICY:** If Menlo does not cancel the trip but a participant chooses to withdraw, the participant must inform the Global Programs Director ([pbrown@menloschool.org](mailto:pbrown@menloschool.org)) and the Program Director of ([erin@worldleadershipschool.com](mailto:erin@worldleadershipschool.com)) in an email communication. Menlo will refund recoupable fees according to the following schedule: By 3/18, 50% refund. No refunds will be given for withdrawal after 3/18 or for participants departing the trip early.\*

**MEDICAL AND EVACUATION EXPENSES:** It is the responsibility of the student and the student's family to understand the limits of any medical and evacuation policy, and to provide up-front payment of emergency services when required.

**CELL PHONES:** In order to maintain the integrity of Borderlands' immersive experience, students will relinquish their cell phones to trip leaders upon entry into the target area. Cell phones will be returned to students when they are in the airport awaiting the return flight home.

**VIOLATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS:** If a participant acts in a way that is injurious to himself or herself, people of the host community, or other participants on the trip, or generally conducts himself or herself in a way that is disruptive to the trip, we reserve the right to send the participant home without refund or to require parental pickup at the travel site. Underage use of alcohol and the use of illegal drugs are cause for dismissal. Participants sent home early or who choose to return for any reason, including sickness, personal emergencies or injury, will be responsible for all medical costs and will absorb travel and related costs associated with an unscheduled departure.

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\*Recoupable fees do not include airline fees and deposits Menlo pays to travel organization on the student's behalf.

**Please contact Peter Brown with any questions at 650.330.2001 ext. 2238 or email [pbrown@menloschool.org](mailto:pbrown@menloschool.org).**

READ THIS DESCRIPTION CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING FORMS.