



Operation Wallacea 2026 Peru - School's Kit List

INTRODUCTION

This document is a guide to the expedition kit you will need for your expedition based on what you will be doing in Peru and the experience of previous expeditions.

When packing you need to be thinking of the minimum amount you can take whilst remaining comfortable and safe. Check your airlines baggage and hand luggage allowance and ensure to weigh your bag before you go. You want to be aiming for light, compact, durable, quick-drying and versatile equipment. The list below is essential kit – unless stated as optional. If you have any questions about the information below please do not hesitate to contact your nearest Opwall office or email peru@opwall.com.

SUMMARY CHECKLIST

Summary Checklist	Tick off once you have gone through each section of your kit list.	Tick Box
Kit list video	Ensure you watch the kit list video that accompanies this pack	
Documentation	What documentation you are required to bring on site.	
Hand luggage	What to include in your hand luggage.	
Core Kit	What core kit to bring for your expedition.	
Clothing essentials	Clothing that you will require on site.	
Terrestrial Kit	What specific kit you will need for the terrestrial part of your expedition.	
Organising, packing & added extras	Top tips for packing and organising all your expedition gear and some added optional extras for you.	
Toiletries	Guide to the toiletries you will require.	
Medical Kit	Essential medical kit for the expedition.	
Helpful Resources	Suggested resources to learn more about the region before your expedition, or to help you with your expedition prep	
Money	What money you need and the easiest way to bring it to site.	
Food	What food to expect on site.	
Washing facilities	What are the washing facilities like on-site.	

DOCUMENTATION

Documentation	We would recommend bringing a physical paper copy of the following documentation.	Tick Box
Insurance documents	Bring a copy of your personal insurance documentation.	
Photocopy of passport	This is in case your passport gets lost so keep it in a separate location to your passport itself.	
ID Guides	Bring a copy of your ID guides included in this pack.	
Internal Travel Documentation	Bring a print out of your travel documents, along with any information for required VISAs.	
Yellow Fever Certificate	Experience has shown that airport officials can request to see your vaccination certificate, so ensure when getting vaccinated you obtain one from your health professional and carry it during travel.	

HAND LUGGAGE

Hand luggage	Unfortunately, working in such remote locations often involving numerous flights and forms of transport, luggage can be delayed. It is best to be prepared just in case, so here is what we recommend you pack in your hand luggage.	Tick Box
Valuables	Think passport, money, camera, phone etc. If completing your dissertation you will most likely wish to bring your laptop and this should be taken in your hand luggage.	
Personal medicine	Extremely important to bring your personal medicine with your hand luggage!	
Change of clothes	Including spare underwear.	
Head torch	Essential for your expedition, so this is not something you want to lose. Small headlamp models can be ineffective at spotting wildlife such as herpetofauna so keep that in mind when browsing for one. Don't forget spare batteries!	
Toiletries	Tooth brush and wet wipes.	
Sleeping bag/liner	If you have to borrow a sleeping bag its nice to have your own liner to use.	
Walking boots	Wear these on the plane, reduces space and makes sure you don't lose them.	
Travel adapter & power bank	Pack these so you can keep your devices charged and usable during transit and unexpected delays.	

CORE KIT

Core kit	These are things you will need no matter which expedition site you are going to.	Tick Box
Rucksack	Please do not bring a suitcase. You will be more comfortable bringing a rucksack into the boat and all the transportation we will be taking. Minimum 50 litre capacity.	
Day bag/Small rucksack	Needed for field work for carrying water, paper, pens, binoculars, cameras etc.	
Sleeping Bag	You will be sleeping on bunk beds, and bed sheets are provided. It is optional to bring your own bed sheet. No need for a sleeping bag.	
Water bottle/platypus	A combination of leak-proof plastic bottles (minimum 2 litres) is imperative. The 'hydration systems' on the market (Platypus, camelback, Ortileb) have the advantage of packing flat when not in use.	
Travel towel/Sarong	Travel towel, small/thin towel, or a sarong. Do not bring a standard towel. Towels are provided on the boat, but you may want one for swimming at the hotel in Iquitos.	
Watch with alarm	It doesn't have to be anything technical. A travel alarm clock will also do.	
Notebook and pencil	Essential for all projects!	

CLOTHING

Clothing	These are the general items of clothing you will need for your expedition. We have included rough quantities for each item but please feel free to bring more or less, it's personal preference and up to you...as long as it fits! For the forest, you should bring clothes that you don't mind getting dirty! Synthetic (wicking) fabric is the best as it is quick drying, but cotton is kinder to the skin. Don't forget to buy your Opwall t-shirt(s)!	Tick Box
Wellington boots	Do not bring hiking boots, the trekking is on land next to the riverbanks and can be flooded and extremely muddy. Label your boots or make them easily distinguishable	
Waterproof Jacket/Poncho	Jungles can often get quite extreme periods of rain so a lightweight rain jacket is invaluable. Expensive heavy Gore-Tex raincoats are not recommended as they are very hot. We highly recommend you bring a rain poncho as this will allow you to keep paperwork dry on survey.	
Waterproof trousers	Waterproof, quick dry for warmer sites, important to be thick and warm for cooler sites.	
T-shirts (7-8)	You will get sweaty at the forest site so it's worth bringing plenty. Due to mosquitoes, please do not bring crop tops.	
Long sleeved shirts (4-5)	Insects are quite prevalent so you'll need to cover up on survey, and also protect yourself from any rough vegetation.	
Lightweight long baggy trousers/walking trousers (3)	These can be worn more than once but you will need long trousers for surveys in the forest. Looser is better as insects can bite through skintight fabric.	
Shorts (3)	Useful for wearing in camp at the forest site. Due to mosquitoes, please do not bring short shorts.	
Hoodie/Jumper	For flights and the air conditioned coaches.	

Nightwear/Pyjamas	You will be in shared accommodation.	
Underwear, socks and bras	We recommend you bring enough underwear for 2 weeks. And for long treks, it may be better to wear hiking socks over cotton socks. Bring multiple bras.	
Fleece top	May be nice to cover your arms from mosquitos without overheating.	
Hat with brim	Prevent sunburn/dehydration/sunstroke, which is a big risk. Lots of the surveys are out on the rivers where you will be exposed directly to the sunlight. You will need something to offer relief from the sun.	
Sunglasses	A good pair are useful to protect your eyes from the sun and glare reflected from water in the marine site.	
Sandals/crocs/flip-flops	1 pair - Anything that is comfortable to wear on the boat that allows your feet to air and has a steady grip.	
Close Toes shoes - Trainers	Shoes to cover your feet and offer a steady grip while on some boat-based surveys.	
Mosquito Head Net	We recommend bringing a head net for the terrestrial surveys, and when you have to stay still on the boat	
Additional clothes	One set of 'regular' style clothes for when you are at any hotels during your transfers or for travelling back at the end of the expedition.	

ORGANISING, PACKING & ADDED EXTRAS

Organising, packing & added extras	Top tips for packing and organising all your expedition gear and some added optional extras for you. Label your baggage, clothes and kit; there are many volunteers, and some may have the same or similar items to you.	Tick Box
Waterproof plastic/zip lock bags/dry bag/bin liners	These are very useful to keep the water out of your kit and clothes. You can line your rucksack with a bin/garbage bag and have smaller bags for clothes and items like your camera.	
Camera	You will have lots of opportunities to take pictures but please bring a waterproof carrying case/bag for the camera	
Binoculars	These are really useful to see much of the wildlife in the forest. 8x42 are the best to bring but any you may have at home will suffice.	
Earphones/cards/book	Coach journeys can be long so bring something to keep yourself entertained.	
Language/phrase book	This is a recommendation stressed by previous volunteers. Also worth noting many translating apps allow you to download language packs you can use offline	
European or North American adaptor plug	You will get the chance to charge electrical equipment when the boat generator is on.	
Folding fan	You will be glad you brought one when the midday heat hits.	
Handheld mirror	You will have no access to mirrors in the jungle so it may be useful to bring one.	
Earplugs/eye mask	If you are someone that generally struggles to sleep, you may find that the lively sounds of the jungle or people walking by with their torches on keeps you awake. Also useful for a long plane and coach journey!	
Nail clippers/tweezers	If you are staying in camp for a long amount of time these will be very useful.	
Snacks & condiments	Cereal bars, protein bars or things to spice up your meals!	
Swimming wear	You CANNOT swim in the Amazon, but there may be a swimming pool at the hotel at the start and end of your expedition.	

TOILETRIES

Toiletries	Good tip to travelling light is to get into small groups to combine things like toiletries to split the load of shampoo and sun block for example so you don't bring a bottle each.	Tick Box
Toiletries bag	How are you storing these	
Toothbrush & Toothpaste	Avoid bringing an electric toothbrush as you may struggle to charge it in the forest. We would recommend bringing a case to keep it clean.	
Hair and Body Wash	Biodegradable if possible, small travel sizes or bars rather than liquids to save space (make sure you have a tin if you have bars)	

Insect repellent	There are a lot of biting insects so for your own comfort and to protect from bites, please bring some repellent. DEET based products are very important for day to day on camp due to a natural resistance held by the local mosquitos however, if handling animals (particularly amphibians) you will need non DEET based repellent as DEET can pose a risk to the wildlife encountered.	
Talcum powder/anti-fungal powder	This is invaluable to help prevent and combat athletes foot/other fungal infections.	
Sun cream	Factor 30, minimum, is recommended. Please ensure it is a coral friendly sun-block if you intend to use it in the water.	
Sanitary towels/tampons	Please bring a supply even if you do not expect to use them as travel can disrupt your cycle.	

PERSONAL MEDICAL KIT

Personal Medical Kit	The medical provision on site is excellent and there are medics based at all camps. However, there are some items listed below you should carry yourself (as appropriate).	Tick Box
Antihistamine tablets	For insect bites. It's useful if you can bring both drowsy and non drowsy	
Antihistamine cream	Bite/sting cream. Can be very beneficial for reducing itching and swelling of insect bites.	
Paracetamol/aspirin	For headaches etc.	
Ibuprofen	For swelling etc.	
Rehydration salts	Essential! Rehydration salts kept in camp do not have the most appetising taste so please bring your own. We utilise purified water which contains a low concentration of beneficial minerals found in normal spring water. Because of this, we recommend you take a dosage of rehydration salts every day. Don't forget to read the correct dosage to ensure you are absorbing the salts correctly	
Antiseptic wipes	Cleaning cuts or grazes	
Plasters (assorted sizes)	May also be worth adding a couple of blister plasters as well as normal ones.	
Personal Medication	It is vital that you bring any prescribed medications.	
Vitamins	If you normally take these.	
Sea/travel sickness tablets	In case you need these.	
Any required vaccination	Please visit your GP or travel clinic to check if you need any additional vaccinations or medication for this trip	

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Helpful Resources	Below you will find a selection of helpful resources for your expedition	Tick Box
A Guide to Buying Dive Equipment	https://www.opwall.com/article/all-the-gear-but-no-ideayet/	
Top Eco-Friendly Kit Ideas	https://www.opwall.com/article/top-eco-friendly-kit-ideas/	
Beginner Fieldwork Equipment	https://www.opwall.com/article/beginner-fieldwork-equipment/	
What Equipment to Borrow or Buy	https://www.opwall.com/article/the-festive-guide-to-gearing-up-for-your-expedition/	
Top 10 Must Have Items!	https://www.opwall.com/article/lets-find-out-what-you-couldnt-live-without/	
Ecological Apps to Download	https://www.opwall.com/article/ecological-apps-so-you-can-identify-appsolutely-everything/	
BBC Documentaries	BBC Planet Earth, Episode 8: Jungles Documentary BBC Planet Earth, Episode 9: Freshwater Documentary BBC Life of Mammals, Episode 8: Tree Dwellers	
Peru (Travellers Wildlife Guide)	Pearson DL, Beletsky LD and Barrell P (2004)	
Birds of Peru (Helm Field Guides)	Birds of Peru (Helm Field Guides)	
A Neotropical Companion	Kricher J (1997) Princeton, University Press	
Ecological Census Techniques: A Handbook (2nd Edition)	Sutherland WJ (2006) Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.	
Dr Bodmer interview	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/wildlife/8114754/Pink-river-dolphins-at-risk-from-drought.html	

MONEY

Spending money is an optional extra to cover personal expenditure. This includes snacks and souvenirs you wish to purchase on the boat, during the village visit, while in Iquitos and while travelling. The local Peruvian currency is Soles, and it is a good idea to have this in small denominations. Changing money to Soles is possible before you leave; however, you can also change money or withdraw from a cash machine at Lima airport and in Iquitos. Please remember that on weekends, many banks in Iquitos may be closed, so do consider your arrival time when deciding where to change money. (NB: any meals/snacks/drinks outside the start and end point of the expedition is an extra cost, this includes time in Iquitos and while travelling).

Please factor these values into your decision on how much money to bring, and organise a contingency fund for emergencies.

- Meals in Iquitos range between 15 to 45 soles.
- Snacks on the boat are 2-4 soles per item. Some larger items may cost up to 10 soles.
- Souvenirs range greatly in price depending on the item (average range of 5-20 soles).

Please also consider arranging a contingency fund to cover any emergencies, and check with your bank that your card will work in Peru if you plan on using it. We recommend bringing approximately £50-£100 spending money, depending on the items you plan to buy when on expedition.

FOOD

When on expedition, 3 meals a day are provided. Please be aware that due to the remote location of the sites and the basic facilities, the food can be basic but plentiful, with most meals being rice or pasta-based. It is recommended to bring fiber sachets to aid your digestion as it adapts to a different diet.

Special dietary requirements are catered for as much as possible, but we would suggest that if you are a vegetarian or particular about certain foods, you bring cereal bars/snacks/vitamins with you to the site.

There is a snack bar on the boat if you get particularly hungry between meal times, but this will be at your own expense. If there is anyone with food allergies, you must let us know as soon as possible.

WASHING FACILITIES

You will not get the opportunity to wash your clothes as we aim to conserve water at all times. Therefore, please ensure you have enough clothes to last you the full expedition. It is a good idea to keep one set of clothing clean for your flights to and from country, this makes your travel and the people around you more comfortable.

