



VineTrust

Amazon Hope Programme, Peru

Introducing Vine Trust

Connecting people. Changing lives.

Vine Trust is an international development charity. We aim to empower communities, connecting in-country partners and local people to create significant, sustainable development for vulnerable children and families. A particular focus of the work is given to engaging and collaborating with village communities to build capacity and local response to health needs and challenges.

As part of this work, we connect and involve volunteers with these long-term partnerships to create significant and sustainable development for vulnerable communities.



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Our Medical Programmes

There are many isolated parts of the world where high rates of morbidity could easily be combated by some basic but regular medical attention and accompanying health education.

In response to this need and in cooperation with local partners, Vine Trust supports the development of primary health care services to some of the most vulnerable communities in the world.

Medical Ships

A significant part of this work is done through the use of medical ships, which are a unique and innovative approach to providing an itinerant health care service to isolated communities.

Taking into account that many remote communities cannot travel to the nearest hospitals or clinics due to distance, financial or climatic factors, the ship provides a safe and hygienic facility which can easily be accessed by patients throughout the year as well as a secure environment for the team of health professionals.

Partnerships

A particular focus of the work is given to engaging and collaborating with village communities to build capacity and local response to health needs and challenges.

As part of this work, we connect and involve volunteers with these long-term partnerships to create significant and sustainable development for vulnerable communities.

All Vine Trust ships are specifically equipped with medical consultation areas, dental clinic, minor surgery room, pharmacy, laboratory and all instruments and equipment necessary to provide a quality service in primary health care. The use of a ship also ensures that all staff are able to work and be accommodated in a secure environment, allowing the participation of a sizeable team of health professionals from a variety of medical specialities to join the regular expeditions.

“A unique and innovative approach to providing an itinerant health care service”



Amazon Hope Programme

In the Loreto region of Peru, isolated Amazonian communities live with little or no access to vital healthcare.

The Amazon Hope Medical Programme was launched in 2002. It now reaches communities in six river basins, providing 200,000 consultations per year.

The programme works extensively with the Regional Government and Ministry of Health, and collaborates closely in the development of the services with village residents and remote health post personnel.

As well as a wide range of primary health care services, the programme is also actively involved in public health initiatives, with education and promotion focusing on a variety of themes including dental health, safe water and alcohol abuse.

The programme currently consists of two vessels, Amazon Hope 2 and Forth Hope which operate simultaneously on different river systems.

As well as the ship's crew there is a full team of permanent Peruvian medical team on board the ship. We offer the opportunity for volunteers with suitable skills to join the ships on one of their 40 expeditions a year and work alongside the national team. We offer a bilateral learning experience to all our volunteers with an opportunity to exchange skills and learn about health care in a remote setting.



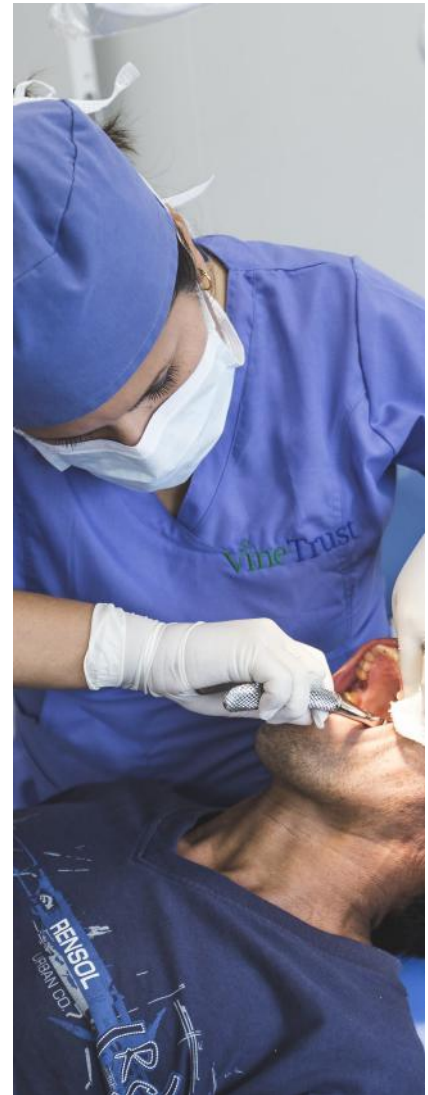
Who Can Apply?

Vine Trust has welcomed volunteers from 15 different countries! You can work alongside our permanent Peruvian medical team if you are:

- A doctor (most commonly GPs)
- A dentist
- A nurse/nurse practitioner/midwife
- A pharmacist

The ship provides predominately primary healthcare and therefore those with specialities outwith this remit must have prior experience within primary health care. We also welcome those with a variety of experience to provide training and capacity building to our national team on a case by case basis.

Please note that all healthcare professionals must be registered with the appropriate body (GMC, NMC, GDC or non-UK equivalents). Due to our partnership with the Ministry of Health in Peru we will need to provide them with evidence of this registration well in advance of your time with the programme.



Electives

We accept a limited number of applications from nursing, dental and medical students for each expedition. We offer the opportunity to conduct a 2 or 4-week elective on board the ship with the supervision of the national team and head of medical services. In order to provide adequate supervision spaces for students are limited to 2 per expedition.

Please note that due to the nature of the work we cannot guarantee a 'tick-list' of procedures or cases but we do offer the opportunity to work alongside the national team, working towards autonomy. Students can benefit from having a basic level of Spanish. Vine Trust requires a letter of confirmation from your university and the contact details of your elective supervisor in order to confirm your place.



Pre Trip Training

All applicants must attend a mandatory training session (online options available for those outside of the UK) prior to their time with the programme. Training will cover cultural competency, working with the Amazon Hope programme and expedition logistics. A clinical handbook is also provided and must be thoroughly read prior to departure. A full clinical and safety orientation will be undergone on the first day on board the vessel and is conducted by the national team.



“Connecting the Programme with overseas volunteers provides significant bilateral capacity building opportunities “

Clinical Work

The Amazon Hope programme is a primary healthcare service and so you will be dealing with many of the same conditions which you see in your own working environment. In particular, the most common conditions are:

- Respiratory
- Intestinal
- Anaemia
- Dehydration
- Fevers
- Skin conditions/infections

You may also be required to manage tropical disease such as malaria and dengue, but you will always have the support of your Peruvian colleagues with this.

The pharmacy is stocked in line with Peruvian ministry of Health guidelines and will include routine antibiotics, analgesics, NSAIDs, preps for eye/ear infections, PPIs, some dermatological preps and dressings and there is some suture material. An up-to-date formulary will be issued during the first team meeting on the ship.



EXPEDITIONS IN 2025

The dates below are for expeditions to Peru in 2025:

- 19 Feb - 5 March 2025
- 28 Feb - 14 March 2025
- 23 March - 6 Apr 2025
- 1 Apr - 15 Apr 2025
- 30 Apr - 14 May 2025
- 9 May - 23 May 2025
- 31 May - 14 June 2025
- 9 June - 23 June 2025
- 1 Jul - 15 Jul 2025
- 10 Jul - 24 Jul 2025
- 14 Oct - 28 Oct 2025
- 23 Oct - 6 Nov 2025
- 14 Nov - 28 Nov 2025
- 23 Nov - 7 Dec 2025



Sample Itinerary

Please note the itinerary below is presented to give an indication of each day on the trip. The actual itinerary will vary depending on local factors.

- Day 1 (Leave UK in the morning) Arrive in Lima later same day.
Some people may choose to arrive earlier (tourist activities). The team will gather and stay in a Lima hotel overnight. (Name & address of hotel will be advised).
- Day 2 Fly to Iquitos. There will be the opportunity to explore Iquitos under the guidance of a PMEAP team member
- Day 3 Day in Iquitos
- Days 4–12 Join Amazon Hope– first thing in the morning. Work alongside Peruvian healthcare professionals aboard Amazon Hope serving isolated river communities.
- Day 13 Leave Ship and travel back to Iquitos (Stay overnight in Iquitos).
- Day 14 Fly back to Lima. We would anticipate arrival back in Lima by early / mid-afternoon. In some cases this would allow people to start their journey home or to start any tourist activities arranged. Otherwise stay overnight in Lima.
- Day 15 Leave Lima – travel home or start tourist activities.
- Day 16 Arrive in the UK



Trip Costs

Please refer to the website and select a trip to determine the cost of your expedition. Trip costs include:

- Taxi Pickup at Lima (if you arrive on Day 1).
- Hotel accommodation in Lima (Day 1 & 14).
- Travel Insurance.
- Internal flight (Lima to Iquitos, about 1 hr 45 mins).
- Accommodation and airport transfer in Iquitos (Day 2, 3 and 13)
- Travel from Iquitos onto Amazon Hope.
- Food and accommodation on the boat.
- A contribution to the Amazon Hope Programme

The trip cost does not include:

- Required vaccinations and personal medicines (eg anti-malarial)
- International flights
- Personal spending

A deposit is required upon application to secure your place and balance should be paid 12 weeks prior to departure.

How To Apply

Step 1

Before applying for your Vine Trust Vision Trip, you should log onto your Vine Trust portal account:

- Go to Vine Trust website - www.vinetrust.org
- From the home page select Log-in at the top right
- If you have an account, please enter your email address and password and log-in

If you don't have an account, please complete the required details and select Register Now You will now be sent an activation code (to the email address you provided). Select the link provided on the email to activate your account.

Step 2

Once logged in you will be presented with your portal home page where you can apply.

Step 3

Once your application has been completed, you can log back onto your portal and view progress on your application.

From the Trip Applications block, select view to see:

- Trip Summary details
- Payment Schedule
- Trip Finance details
- Payment Breakdown.

“The most valuable part of my experience was gaining an insight into the health problems and services needed for these remote communities” (UK Volunteer)

Fundraising

If you plan to use a fundraising page to help fund your Vine Trust Trip, please use the following guidelines.

Before creating a fundraising page, your trip application should be made and you will have been provided with a trip application ID (such as TS2012101).

1 Log onto your Vine Trust portal (from www.vinetrust.org homepage, with the email address and password used when you created your application). Select Fundraising in the left menu.

2 From the Welcome to Fundraising Page - Select 'Create a Page'

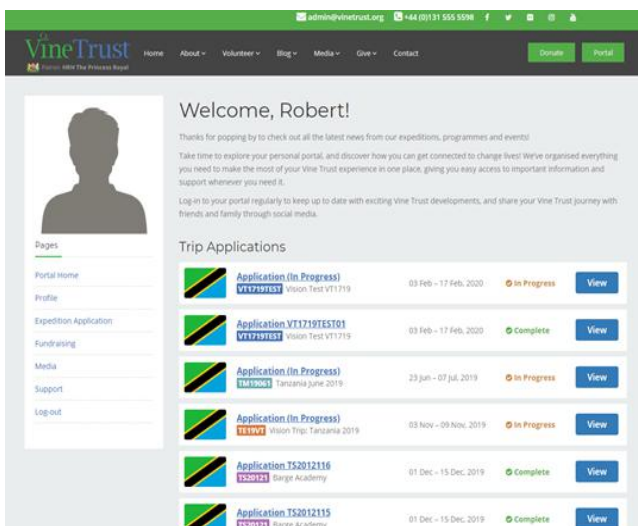
3 Complete the required details:

- Fill in a Page Title - please try to make your page title unique (avoiding common titles such as 'Tanzania 2020').
- Fill in a target.
- Click the down arrow on Fundraising Purpose and select 'My Vine Trust Expedition'.

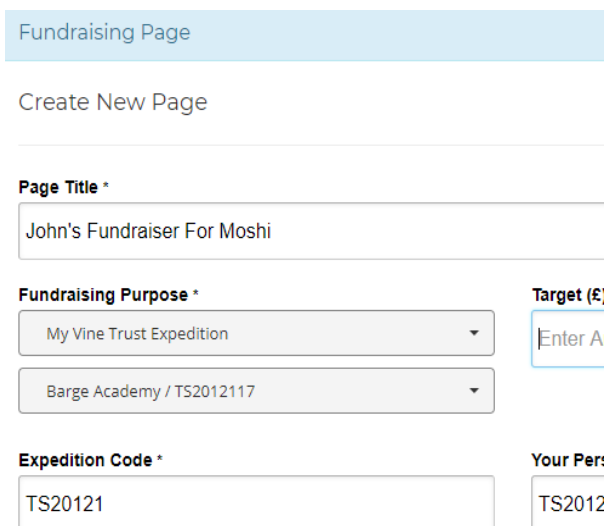
This will display 3 new fields on the page

- Click the down arrow on the 'Purpose' field – to display your trip application(s).
- Select the application this fundraising page should be linked to (the Expedition Code and Your Personal Expedition Reference fields will be completed automatically).
- Complete the rest of the required fields.

When adding images, please ensure you have permission or are the owner of any uploaded images. Images found via search engine are often subject to copyright and any fines incurred by Vine Trust from their use will be passed onto you.



Your Vine Trust Portal Homepage



Link Your Fundraising Page to Your Application

Terms and Conditions

1. To register for a medical trip we require a non-refundable £300 deposit which must be submitted on completion of your online application. Your deposit will be refunded if you are not accepted on a medical trip.
2. All volunteers must be physically and mentally fit for the medical trip and must complete a confidential medical questionnaire and disclaimer as part of the application process
3. You are not guaranteed a place until your medical questionnaire and insurance have all been confirmed. Your deposit will be refunded if you are not accepted on a medical trip.
4. By applying for a medical trip you agree to pay all your costs in full 90 days prior to departure. Failure to do so will result in cancellation.
5. Internal flights are covered in the trip cost however will be required to pay any changes or additional fuel surcharges imposed by the airline or government tax which is levied.
6. To take part in the Amazon Hope programme in a healthcare capacity, you must be registered on the GMC/GNC/GDC (or non-UK equivalent), with a current licence to practise.
7. All flights, timings, itinerary and arrangements are subject to change by airlines. You will be notified of such changes. The Vine Trust will endeavour to give volunteers as much notice as possible when changes are made.
8. If you wish to extend your stay for private travel before or after your time on a medical trip, Vine Trust will, wherever possible, meet such requests. However, volunteers must be aware they are responsible for any additional administration.
9. We are unable to alter pre-booked tickets.
10. Your passport must be valid, with at least six months' validity remaining at the time of your scheduled return from Peru. It is a volunteer's own responsibility to check if they require a Visa.
11. Travel insurance covering you for a medical trip is compulsory. This will be organised by the Vine Trust. However, if you wish to extend your stay, or take part in activities which are not part of the Vine Trust's organised programme, it is your responsibility to check that you will be covered, and top up any premium where necessary.



Terms and Conditions Cont.

12. Please note that Vine Trust's insurance does not cover medical indemnity. It is advisable that you contact the relevant body (e.g. MPS, MDDUS, MDU) and advise them of your intention to work as a volunteer with the Amazon Hope programme.

13. The Vine Trust reserves the right to cancel the medical trip if there are fewer than the minimum required number of participants, or if the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advise against travel.

14. All Medical trip members are taken to give their consent for their picture to be reproduced and published and distributed within promotional material of the Trust. It is not possible to give remuneration for any image or other material that is used. Please let us know if you wish to opt out.

15. If a volunteer passes on their own images or written contributions to the Vine Trust we receive it on the understanding that it can be used on the same terms outlined in clause 14.

16. The Code of Conduct, the Health and Safety Guidance, and financial requirements which are all outlined in the medical trip Handbook and application pack are part of the terms and conditions, and must be adhered to.

17. Deposits are non-refundable unless the trip is cancelled by the Vine Trust, in which case deposits will be refunded in full. Refunds on other costs will depend on what the Vine Trust is able to claim back. Cancellations within 6 weeks of the trip will not be eligible for any refund.

18. Prices are correct at time of going to print, but additional costs may be incurred due to unforeseen circumstances such as accommodation price increases, significant changes in exchange rates and inflation, or enforced government taxes and visa fees.

19. There will be a team orientation meeting before the trip to Peru. Online sessions are available for those living out with the UK or who are unable to attend scheduled sessions in person.

20. Volunteers take part in Vine Trust's Amazon Hope programme at their own risk.

