

Inti Wara Yassi

Bolivian wildlife sanctuary



A volunteer based organisation working to protect the wildlife of the Bolivian rainforest.

Inti wara yassi

The Inti Wara Yassi sanctuary was set up in 1996 to care for monkeys rescued from homes and markets. It has now expanded and deals with many different species, all of which are either confiscated or abandoned. There are several species of monkey in the sanctuary, sloths, pumas, jaguars, ocelots and tehons. There is also an expanding bird centre which works with toucans, parrots and numerous other bird species. The sanctuary is a volunteer organisation which has several full time Bolivian volunteers. International volunteers work for varying time periods, and are needed all year round. The park relies entirely upon donations from visitors and international volunteers.

The sanctuary is located on the edge of Parque Machia in the lowland forests of Bolivia. Close to the sanctuary is the small village of Villa Tunari. It is approximately a six hour bus journey from Cochabamba.



A capuchin monkey at a street market.



Most of the species in the sanctuary are protected in Bolivia. However, there is still considerable poaching and animals are often sold illegally as pets. The aim of the sanctuary is to provide a natural environment for the animals to live in. It is hoped an efficient release program can be developed in the future. Volunteer work can vary from construction, administration and local education programs to working directly with all the species in the park. Injured animals and new arrivals need constant observation and care. Full time Bolivian volunteers supervise and train new volunteers with necessary skills. The park is open to visitors, who can be shown round by volunteers.



With so many different animals arriving at the sanctuary there is a huge demand for new facilities. Cages constantly need renovating and strengthening. Feeding areas need to be cleared and re-built. Volunteers are working in the U.K, Canada and Israel to raise funds for new projects.

For more information visit our website: www.intiwarayassi.org



Nena (Tania Balthazar) has been volunteering for Inti Wara Yassi for six years and is in charge of the overall running of the sanctuary. Nena works very closely with all of the monkeys and is usually responsible for caring for and introducing new animals to the sanctuary. Nena lives at the sanctuary along with several other full time volunteers from Bolivia. The number of international volunteers varies from 40 to 15 and work is organised accordingly. Volunteers working from different countries are helping to co-ordinate projects and generate the necessary funds.

The name Inti Wara Yassi comes from the translation of sun, moon and stars in Quechua, Aymara and Guarani. These are all indigenous languages and are still spoken in some areas of Bolivia.



For more information about volunteering opportunities visit the website - www.intiwarayassi.org Information about donating money for various projects can be found on the separate project and grant forms.

Some of the animals the sanctuary works with are listed below:

Capuchin monkey
(*Cebus apella / albifrons*)
Black spider monkey
(*Ateles paniscus*)
Red Howler monkey
(*Alouatta seniculus*)
Squirrel monkey
(*Saimiri sciureus*)
Saddleback tamarin
(*Saguinus fuscicollis*)
Nocturnal monkey
(*Aotus trivirgatus*)
Sloth (*several species*)
Coatimundis (*Nasua nasua*)
Ocelot (*Felis pardalis*)
Geoffrey's Cat
(*Oncifelis geoffroyi euxenthus*)
Jaguar (*Panthera onca*)
Puma (*Felis concolor*)
Toucans
(*several species*)
parrots
(including: *Amazona aestiva*,
Amazonia ochrocephala,
Amazonia farinosa,
Ara severa, *Ara ararauna*,
Ara nobilis, *Ara chloroptera*)
Harpys eagle
(*Harpia harpyja*)
Tortoises
Box Turtles

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Good luck Shain & Tin Tin (& chino).

