

ANDEAN BEAR RESCUE CENTER: SEMI-FREEDOM PROGRAM

The Andean Bear Rescue Center at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel hosts five Andean Bears (3 male and 2 female) in its Captivity and Semi-Freedom programs. In these areas, the only species native to South America is studied, in order to manage an integral plan of conservation, breeding and reinsertion into wildlife (if conditions allow it).

Since July 1st 2013, Inkaterra Asociación (ITA) has habilitated a Semi-Freedom program for the Andean Bear Rescue Center, which has research and conservation purposes. Two specimens, the 5-year-old male bear Coquito and the 9-year-old female bear Yosi, are part of this program intended for breeding and reinsertion. If cubs are born, these will be reintroduced to their natural habitat if conditions allow it.

The Semi-Freedom program has an area of 2.980 m², surrounded by an electric fence. It has a water fountain, caves and a restored forest with native trees, bushes and plants, which serve bears as shelter and food. Inkaterra Asociación aims for the adaptation of these bears in similar living conditions to those found in their natural habitat, in order to accomplish their reintroduction.

It is worth noting that reinserting an animal to its natural habitat is the best option if they manage to survive. In this scenario, it would have the opportunity of performing its biological and ecological roles in nature. Nonetheless, many animals that are reinserted inadequately die because they do not adapt to their habitat or to the family group they shall integrate, or because they are incapable of defending themselves from their natural predators. This is the main reason why Inkaterra encourages continuous research on their diet and behavior while managing the Semi-Freedom Program.



