Ancient Medicine in a Modern World
The Temple is committed to developing credible understanding in the modern world about indigenous use of plant medicines to become accepted by the mainstream as a highly valuable and beneficial healthcare system for us all. This sacred science offers a path to reclaim our deep and intimate connection with the natural world and the vast array of medicines within it.

Located in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon, the Temple of the Way of Light brings guests from around the world to work with Shipibo healers, ayahuasca and traditional Amazonian plant medicines in a safe, socially responsible and spiritual environment. We offer our guests the opportunity to benefit from the ancient healing wisdom of the Shipibo people, and to helping this unique culture to preserve its knowledge and identity in the 21st Century.

What Makes Us Unique?

Predominantly women healers

We focus on working with Onanya Ainbobo - indigenous women healers working within the rich and complex medical tradition of the Shipibo people. The women are complemented by Shipibo male healers who provide a necessary balance to the healing work. Our healers each have from 20 to 60 years’ experience working with ayahuasca and an encyclopedic knowledge of the medicinal plants of the Amazon jungle.

A compassionate environment

Fundamental to our work is facilitating ceremonies in a safe, caring and loving environment within a container of integrity.

A high ratio of healers to guests

Our workshops are run by six or seven healers, an experienced bi-lingual (English / Spanish) facilitator and a team of support staff who all offer a high level of care and attention throughout the process.
Group sizes limited to 21 people

We ensure that each guest has individual and close attention throughout their healing experience.

7 ceremonies per 12 day workshop

Our guests have the opportunity to work very deeply with ayahuasca to ensure that our healers have sufficient time with each guest to carry out a high level of work. This level of work cannot be carried out with fewer ceremonies.

Focusing on social benefit

We are a socially responsible, purpose driven organization that acts as a funding mechanism to implement outreach programs through our NGO's - Alianza Arkana and The Chaikuni Institute. We believe strongly that we need to “give back” and are committed to partnering with the people of the Amazon to support them to preserve and protect their traditions, rights, lands, and ancient medicinal practices.

Community and permaculture

Incorporating the principles of self-sufficiency, regeneration, and sustainability, since 2009 we have been implementing a comprehensive permaculture program on the 175 hectares of Temple grounds and in our neighboring village which includes wide range of projects: food forests, perennial vegetable production, staple crops, medicinal plants, renewable energy systems, rainwater harvesting and natural spring water systems, aquaculture systems, animal husbandry, sustainable buildings, reforestation, and the production of fuel, fiber, sugars, and oils.
Ancient Medicine in a Modern World

The last forty years have seen a continual rise of interest in traditional cultures that engage with the unseen forces of nature. The fascination with what is generically known as shamanism is rapidly spreading throughout the modern world and seems to be a response to a spiritual malnourishment; a longing for connection with the greater web of life and the meaning that comes from that connection. This movement toward spirit can be considered as evolutionary and a return to our birthright.

Traditional plant medicine and shamanic healing practices have been carried out and respected in cultures alien to the Western mindset all over the globe for millennia. However, the use of psychedelic shamanic plants is generally illegal and stigmatized in the ‘developed’ world. In Peru, ayahuasca is legal and has been declared by the Peruvian government as a national heritage.

Our aim is to work with medical professionals and research scientists to develop understanding and awareness of the profound benefits that can result from working with traditional medicine. We advocate healing with ayahuasca and traditional plant medicines as a legitimate source of healing and are committed to bringing credibility to the practices of traditional healers of the Amazon.
Traditional Shipibo Medicine

Look deep into Nature then you will understand everything better

– Albert Einstein

In the Shipibo language the name for ayahuasca is Oni (pronounced Ooni) which means ‘knowledge’. The Shipibo name for a healer working with ayahuasca is Onanya which means ‘one who has knowledge’.

Fundamental to the work at the Temple is our focus on Shipibo medicinal practice and working with the Onanya. The Shipibo traditionally make use of a natural pharmacopoeia including several hundred plant species, and their shamanic tradition is one of the most prominent in Western Amazonian cultures.

Traditional Shipibo medicinal practice affirms that solutions for many illnesses can be found in nature when working at both physical and energetic levels. The Onanya explain that nature is sentient and that the plant kingdom is conscious - that medicinal plants have doctor spirits (in Shipibo called Ibo). By undergoing rigorous training over many years, they learn how to transmit energy medicine from the plant spirits in the form of ikaros – the songs of the plants – as well as how to direct and manage the ayahuasca experience of their patients.

In addition to prescribing plant medicines for specific illnesses, the Onanya identify where there are energetic blockages in their patients’ energetic systems; if there is dense energy trapped in the system and where energy is lacking. They seek to unblock, harmonize, and balance the body’s energies; restoring and enhancing the free flow of life force.

The key to successful and long term healing is to address the energetic root of the patient’s condition. By working together with the plant spirits – not only ayahuasca - the Onanya are able to successfully treat a wide variety of conditions on physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual levels.

The Temple is committed to cultivating understanding of the importance and benefits of working with experienced ayahuasca healers (Onanya, ayahuasqueros, curanderos, etc).
Overview of our Ayahuasca Programs

The Temple offers three distinctly different healing programs which have been designed to meet the varied needs of guests who want to experience ayahuasca and traditional plant medicine healing in the Amazon.

We offer the following programs:

**12 day Ayahuasca Healing Retreats**

For guests who can only take shorter periods of time out of day to day life and are seeking a deep healing experience in the Amazon, our 12 day retreats are intense and comprise of 7 ceremonies with 6 or 7 healers with group sizes limited to 21 people.

12 Day Ayahuasca Retreat Cost: 5,000 soles (= $2,000 US)*

**Deep Immersion Healing Program – 1, 2 or 3 months**

For guests who are able to spend a longer period in the Amazon and take their healing experience to an even deeper level. We offer 1, 2 or 3 month stays on this program with one 12 day ayahuasca workshop per month. The deep immersion program offers guests the opportunity to then further process and integrate the healing experience after their ayahuasca workshop while surrounded by the rainforest. In addition, we offer classes in complimentary healing practices with experienced teachers during and after the ayahuasca workshop including Yoga, Taiji, Qigong, guided meditation, and art therapy.

The Deep Immersion ayahuasca workshops are smaller and limited to 12 people working intimately with one female and one male healer. They are facilitated in a separate retreat center that is isolated from the main center.

1 Month: 7,000 Soles (= $2,800 US)*
2 Months: 10,000 Soles (= $4,000 US)*
3 Months: 12,000 Soles (= $4,800 US)*

**Skilled Work Exchange Program**

For guests who would like to work with ayahuasca in the Amazon and are able to offer a skill in exchange for reduced fees, this program has been designed particularly for people with teaching or professional experience in alternative healing practices (Yoga, Taiji, Qigong) or art therapy, permaculture, and videography or film editing. The program is for 3 months and we offer one 12 day ayahuasca workshop complimented by fortnightly ayahuasca ceremonies after the first workshop. Spaces are limited to 8 spaces per month.

Cost: 5,333 soles (= $2,100)* for 3 months

* Based on April 2013 exchange rates
Underpinning all our work at the Temple is our belief in the need to make our relationship with the Shipibo community one where the incredible compassion and care that the healers show in their work with our guests is returned in the respect and support we show them. This is reflected in our interactions with the Onanya at the Temple and in our efforts to cultivate a richer understanding of their cultural heritage, ethno-medical traditions and the pressures their society faces.

By raising awareness and developing credibility about the Shipibo system of healthcare, our model serves as a way for the Shipibo nation to encourage development in ways that place the preservation of their traditional culture and the ecosystems in which they live, at the heart of their future.
Outreach in the Amazon

The Temple has established two Peruvian NGO’s focused on raising national and international awareness about social and environmental issues in the Peruvian Amazon and developing viable solutions:

Catalyzing a Regenerative Movement in the Amazon. The Chaikuni Institute of Permaculture is a non-profit organization and educational hub working for a truly sustainable future for the Peruvian Amazon. Through the union of ancient indigenous traditions with contemporary Permaculture design, we teach and apply regenerative community-based development practices in Amazonian communities.

We bring together people from across the planet with indigenous people of the Peruvian Amazon to co-vision and commit to a common goal – working collectively for the protection of the Amazon rainforest, her people, traditions and biodiversity.

www.chaikuni-permaculture.org

Environmental Justice and Human Rights. We support indigenous leaders protect their territories against short-sighted industrial development practices by focusing national and international attention on their struggles for social and environmental justice.

Intercultural Education. We support bilingual, intercultural education that combines traditional and western knowledge systems. Through scholarships and innovative school programs, Alianza Arkana seeks to strengthen cultural identity and promote visionary indigenous leadership.

Community Based Solutions. Our programs address food security, clean water systems, waste management, economic resilience, healthcare, energy independence and education on sustainable living in indigenous communities.

www.alianzaarkana.org

For more information about the Temple and our workshops:
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