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Eric Arenas [00:00:13] At that time I did a lot of kayaking. So I went to Europe to train kayaking. And to train and to do some competitions. After that I did a lot of competitions in lots of competitions in Europe, so I came back here, and I saw here that they did rafting and this kind of stuff, so after that I came here and I found a company. A rafting company. I began with rafting, so I did a lot. I ran a lot of rivers with this company like the Apurímac, like the Urubamba, like the [river name]. Different kind of rivers. And also I saw that in some places of uh- some of those rivers, we could fish. For that also this like, came together, you know. But let's keep talking about the company. After doing like uh, four or five years rafting, I began to see that people that come to Cusco are not coming only to do rafting. They come to see Machu Picchu. And after that they do other activities like rafting. For that I began to sell other kind of adventure tours like the Inca Trail and this stuff. And also I began to sell the fishing because I saw a really nice spot when I did my rafting expeditions. And the latest actually now we sell different tours and tour packages for tourists. Like in taking 10 days for example in order to come here. To visit Machu Picchu and to do other activities. We do it. So we have since 1993 until now. Almost 24 years that we are running as tourists in the Peru area.

Eric Arenas [00:02:07] Yeah most of them are coming from United States probably 90 percent. Yeah. We have a lot of customers that recommend us when they come back to their countries. And they tell us "Hey go with this company because they treat us well and we had a really good experience with them." So these recommendations help us a lot in order to grow. And also we sell a lot of tours on the Internet. We have a website also. And we have as well other like tourist companies out of the country from U.S. from Europe that work with us so they send us their clients. And naturally a new kind of clients or a new country that are sending us their clients is China. We have some Chinese tourists as well.

Eric Arenas [00:03:07] US and Canada. We have a lot of them. Yeah. They as I told you. They come here not to fish probably it's a good idea in order to do like a product. I have to probably work on it. Do a product just for fishing. And maybe we'll go one day to Machu Picchu. Days at maybe, three days in the (unintelligible) or the four days in the jungle like this. Maybe a couple of days in Lima in the seaside maybe so we can have a package. And then we can cover with Machu Picchu. But. Now we are, probably I'm doing a mistake, I have to think, think about it. I am taking my, the tourist to fish back in there. Additional days that they have in their tour package. So they come to all the activities and in their free day they fish.

James Thull [00:04:04] I see.

Eric Arenas [00:04:04] These different, uh, different way to see this. So probably I have to say you know to it. I have to talk also with Ricardo, maybe we can do a package like this. Several days like this people can enjoy this activity.

Eric Arenas [00:04:23] Yeah actually you have to know that the rainbow trout is not from South America. We've had before probably 50, 60 years ago other kind of fish like for example catfish and this is that they are from South America. So when the trouts arrive here they eat everything and now we have a primary species of fish as the trout. You know we have the trout. So but now trout are in all the Highlands everywhere. Since probably, since the two thousand eight hundred meters altitude. Until more than 5000. You know it's a cold weather species you know. So you need to have some kind of cold water in order to have trout. So we have the Apurímac River. As probably the best place in order to go to

fish. Now is not good time to fish because the rivers are a bit like dirt with muck because it's rain season you know. Probably you saw as well the Urubamba River.

James Thull [00:05:36] Yes.

Eric Arenas [00:05:36] Urubamba River is muddy now.

James Thull [00:05:36] Yeah.

Eric Arenas [00:05:39] But a good fishing season is from April until October or November. That's rains began to begin. So we have trouts from. Two thousand eight hundred until more. As much as possible.

Eric Arenas [00:06:01] Mix. fly- fish and normal casting mix. Yeah.

James Thull [00:06:07] You mentioned that the locals the Peruvians are also, like to fish?

Eric Arenas [00:06:12] They fish yeah, they do a normal casting.

James Thull [00:06:14] And that's primarily to to fish and eat correct? Or do they sport fish?

Eric Arenas [00:06:19] We are talking about Peruvians in the highlands.

James Thull [00:06:23] OK.

Eric Arenas [00:06:23] Yes. Because we have Peruvians in the seaside, that is different they go with motorboat to fish and to do kind of economy activity because they're fishing with nets. In the highlands we have the normal casting fishermen low counts and also some of them fish with nets. That is forbidden. Sometimes when, you for example, or when I do rafting because I do some kind of rafting trips with the rafts you go to places that's not where people are going often. Sometimes you see people that is fishing with net. And this is forbidden. And this is really bad for the for the trout and for all the species because they fish everything.

Eric Arenas [00:07:16] We love trout. But also there's different ways to produce and to have a trout for example in your dish in a restaurant. This trout can come from a specific places that people has like farms. With trout you can have like a lake. You have your farm there to, in order to have the trout's production. And not, the other is just the people that go to the river or some wild place in order to take the trouts so different ones. When you have like a farm with trouts perfect. But there are other way is not well controlled because they can fish everything. And we don't have the culture and education. In order to prepare for a simple thing. "OK this is small. I cast back again throw it away to the river." But some people just take everything and it's everything. That is bad because, for example, if you could have the opportunity to travel with me. We could go to some small town in the Highlands. And sometimes you see the people is selling in a restaurant. A real small size of trout. And you will. Like realize what is happening.

Eric Arenas [00:08:39] Yeah. Probably a lot of concerns. Because we have each time more pollution. This time you can see in the rivers. Like this kind of plastic bags you know. Also in this years we are in, 2018, there are some places and some small villages that throw all the garbage in the river. That's really really bad. And also their dirty waters from

their bathrooms, these places. They are going to the river. This is really bad. And this happened in some places in, more in the Urubamba River. Probably you have seen it, Urubamba River, you didn't see everything. But this, this river has lots of small villages really close. Lot of them. So most of them throw their garbage in the river, that is, it's really (unintelligible). The Apurímac is different. You have to probably see and compare this different stuff. So the problem that we have now, for the wild, the places that we use in order to travel with our clients, or with our guests is pollution. The plastics we see a lot of them everywhere. And it's really hard because those arrive from the rivers and to the ocean. It's a problem for all of the world. And with the ocean streams they go. I don't know. To Japan.

James Thull [00:10:12] Yeah.

Eric Arenas [00:10:13] Maybe. This is really bad. And also the the water. And sometimes happen also with the smog, the smog of some factories.

Eric Arenas [00:10:28] Yes. Yes. In here in this city for example. Each time is beginning to comes warmer and I think maybe two or four degrees. If we compare from now, 50 years ago. 50 years ago it were, it was colder. Two to four degrees. For example, this year in November it was extremely hot. You could use short pants easily. Probably 28 30 degrees. When I was a kid, when I was I don't know, a teenager. It was impossible. All the time this city was a bit colder, you know. So you couldn't use short pants. Never. So the weather is changing. Also the rain sometimes is raining really strong. For example in December. And the rain season that is January, February, March. Zero rain. So the weather in the world is changing. Absolutely yes. Yes it is. Possible this answer is yes. It's changing.

Eric Arenas [00:11:43] Absolutely yes. I began fishing with my dad. When I was a kid. Because. We have we have a farm in the southern part of the Cusco. Cusco is a long region. The north of Cusco is jungle, Machu Picchu and the north. And the South is High Plains. So in these high plains my father has a farm and the Apurímac River pass there and we have the farm and is just really close the river. So my father really often went to fish there and he taught, teach me how to do it.

Eric Arenas [00:12:23] Being with nature is really peaceful you know and you take your time just enjoy. And walk. I. Really love to walk and see the wild everything in nature clean rivers you know you see you can see really nice landscapes. I love to do it. As well with my family.

Eric Arenas [00:12:48] Yeah. We are again I'm telling you we are in the jungle in the highlands. Yeah. We are really close the jungle. And you have a lot of different landscapes. Yes you can go to really pristine areas. That you don't find anybody but. It's really a lot of really nice landscapes. And in the highlands you have. See mountains with the forest trees the rivers, lakes. Also the wild the nature of life is great. I really enjoy it.

Eric Arenas [00:13:26] Yes. Yes. Probably there's too many people. And most of these people just arrive in order to know the place. And they probably do not take care about pollution or what they are doing exactly.

Eric Arenas [00:13:50] Yeah. There's two ways. One is that people. For example people from America people from China, come here and they help us. They give money. They have the intention to help. Yes. And. There are a lot of companies that, in from the money

that they pay for tours or this stuff. They use a certain percentage in order to try to help it. So we, we have these two options.

Eric Arenas [00:14:28] Probably you you have to talk with locals. With us or with probably local government because they have also projects that do specifically these things. And, uh, we can do it, a project in order to do it and to help it.

Eric Arenas [00:14:52] Yeah, nothing. Thanks very much to give me the opportunity to talk about it on front of your camera like this probably people would see what's happening here and what we have here. And just that we have to work and we have to think about this and this problem from all the world this kind of the pollution. And this is the stuff that probably is the problem of this century. That we have to solve.