

Once, a long, long time ago, I went camping with my parents in a Peruvian rain forest. On the first day, we headed to the beach to enjoy the sandy delights. We were disappointed that the coastline was fogged in and were advised to head north in order to find the sun. So, we set off northward and drove and drove and drove until, finally, we were able to watch the sun set on Party Beach. It's true that timing is everything!

The next day we embarked on a Peruvian safari. With over 500 species of mammals in the country, we were, yet again, disappointed. Yes, we saw oodles of birds and viewed many interesting plants, the rest of the animals must have been on holiday. Except for the monkeys! We were overtaken by a troop of yellow-tailed woolly monkeys. They were everywhere and one of the little scamps stole my sunglasses. He didn't want to wear them but evidently they tasted delicious!

The highlight of the trip was to be our mountain-climbing excursion scheduled for the next day so after an early dinner, we headed back to camp to get a good night's sleep. It was not until we were standing on the peak of Mount Huascarán, that I realized how much I would miss my pilfered sunglasses.

The sun at the top of the mountain is extremely hot and bright. I had to beg to borrow my brother's sunglasses for 5 minutes so I could take in the beautiful terrain. The sight was extraordinary!

The moral to the story is always pack a spare pair of sunglasses just in case you lose yours monkeying around!