

Volunteer Galapagos
House of Ecuador - 94 Roman Way - London N7 8UN
United Kingdom

Volunteer Galapagos

2003



Preserving the Enchanted Islands

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The Galapagos Islands in the Pacific Ocean are probably one of the last remaining unspoilt enclaves in the World, home to an amazing variety of animal species and plant kinds. This ecological treasure of the archipelago needs protection and conservation. UNESCO has declared the territory World Heritage. But protection does not ensure conservation, so Volunteer Galapagos have decided to help the local community preserve this heavenly land by any **Educational means**.

As a mutual vision, the Galapagos Volunteer Program teamed up with local actors to bring forward to the community an Educational Program whereby International Students, Pensioners and Professionals from various areas will bring their knowledge and Expertise.

The Galapagos Volunteer Program aims at offering first hand experience to international students, specializing in various areas, on one of the Islands of the archipelago.

The program caters for anyone: couples, pensioners, professionals, white and blue collar workers in any field, interested in contributing to the development of the local community for at least one month and up to 1 year.

We are offering a wide range of vacancies, from teaching to fishing, from events organizing to nursing, from scientific research to marketing tasks, we will make sure to find a position that suits you.

Origin

The Galapagos Volunteer Program is the result of a development program launched by the local Authorities.

We are committed to the protection of the Galápagos land and marine environments and the diversity of the islands' unique ecosystems through an educational project which aims to equip the youth of the Galápagos with the enthusiasm, commitment and scientific knowledge that they will need to play a full and constructive role in the future of the Galápagos islands.

The Galapagos Volunteer Program is the only structure specialized in "work placements" in the archipelago.

We are offering the expertise of local organisations working in the Galapagos for Years.

Commitment

The Galapagos Volunteer Program is committed to reliability and continuity.

We have to make sure that the kids receive an educational program all year long without losing their teacher. We have to make sure that from term to term and from year to year, the kids will have the same opportunity to learn.

Philosophy

The Galapagos Volunteer Program thinks that peace between nations is based upon a perpetual exchange of knowledge.

Get to know the people and their land, listen, watch, offer what you know and your mission will be accomplished.

Please, keep in mind that we are not a travel agency. Locals, kids and grownups are eager to learn. We are committed to running a reliable, accountable and credible educational service. We honour our duty to both our Volunteers and their Students.



If you are selected and sent to the Islands, please remember that the kids can not afford to lose their English, or Science Teacher after two weeks because she/he decided she/he had seen enough.

We prefer to let you know in advance: what you are going to experiment with is not a tourist Adventure.

What you are going to experience is what the Galapaguenos feel everyday. You are going to share their proximity with nature: crossing the street trying to avoid stepping on a sea lion, swimming with the turtles as if they were not there. Having to live with the locals, like the locals, you may have some hard moments... This is not just an adventure, this is real life. If you are ready to take the challenge, experience the life of a foreign community, its happiness, fear, and sadness, sharing your moments with your local colleagues, well, The Galapagos Volunteer Program is right for you.

Why Volunteering

Whether you are currently studying in work or out of work volunteering is a great way to develop new skills. Volunteering helps to, build you confidence and show future employees you have drive and initiative.

These days employers look for more than just qualifications, they are interested in your personal qualities and transferable skills such as communication and flexibility, it is not only in work that these skills are learned, the skills and experiences developed outside work are just as useful.

What you need to know

Volunteer Galapagos provide you with the transport from the mainland Ecuador to your accommodation in the Galapagos Islands however you have to make your own way to Ecuador. Please contact us if you need information on flight prices to Ecuador, we will be more than welcome to answer you questions.

Special skills

The only skills required is for you to be flexible, understanding and eager to learn about other cultures. The needs are very diverse on the archipelago

Language

No, a Spanish speaking person will have a wider choice of vacancies but it is not compulsive to be Spanish speaking. In some fields of work, such as: Events organiser, scientific research, and tourist activity, English will be the main language spoken.

Accommodation

Your accommodation depends of your mission. If you are working for the schools, or if you have an engineering mission, it is most likely that you will live on the Ecuadorian Navy Base, here you will have access to the tennis courts and all other facilities that are available on site. A family can also be your host. The Albatross Foundation is providing an independent house to cater for people working in other areas.

Food

In the Navy Base, three meals will be served daily, for those staying at the independent house, three meals will be delivered according to your work's schedule. The Ecuadorian food is rich and high in calories, totally different from what you have been used

to in Europe or in the USA; remain open minded, and try everything before giving your opinion. Vegetarian meals can be pre-arranged with our Partners, however, the Vegetarian culture is not very big in the Galapagos.

Working hour

This varies from project to project, but you should be prepared for around 2 to 6 hours a day from Monday to Friday, this is usually in the morning giving you the sunny afternoons to explore the Island.

**Minimum length
Of stay**

We accept Volunteers coming for only one month, However, we advise you to go for at least 3 months to get a feeling of full achievement.

Cost

Volunteer Galapagos is one of the rare organizations based on a **“participative volunteering” system.**

The cost of the program includes a financial participation in local educational structure. From January 2002 until December 2002, all the Volunteers sent to the Islands have participated in the creation of a multimedia building equipped with 20 computers linked to the Internet, thus, not only bringing knowledge but creating an interactive link to the outside world.

The program also includes :

- **Food:** all meals are provided. We ask you to be open-minded and not to expect American or European cuisine.
- **Accommodation:** Volunteers will stay at the navy base, or in an independent house provided by the Albatross Foundation.
- **Transportation:** Return Air Flight ticket from Guayaquil-Ecuador to San Cristobal or Baltra Islands.
- **Residency document**
- **National Park entrance fee**
- **Certificate of mission**
- **4 days cruise in the Galapagos Islands**
(only for Volunteers staying at least 5 months)
- **Administrative fees**

In 2002, the Program was proud to see the result of one year of tremendous effort to build what we decided to call “la Casa de la Ciencia”. \$5700 were financed through the “participative volunteering” scheme, The Kohlberg Foundation (<http://www.icfdn.org/NewsnTrends/jan01.htm>) and the Padi Foundation (<http://www.padi.com/aware/english/get-involved/grants/GrantList-2000AM.asp>) We also received material donations: microscopes, multimedia computers (Macintosh and Pc), and digital camera.





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La Casa de la Ciencia is currently linked to the Internet through a dial up connection resulting in high running cost for a poor connection. We are looking for alternatives through technical and financial partners to be able to start our Remote Twin Program with American Schools by July 2003.



