



TURTLE CONSERVATION ON HAINAN ISLAND IN CHINA

Rescue, Rehabilitate, Research, Raise, and Release – that's how this project is trying to break the cycle of sea turtle poaching and consumption around Hainan Island.

Get hands-on experience helping in working in rescuing illegally captured sea turtles, rehabilitating injured turtles, raising hatchlings poached from distant islands, and releasing turtles back into their natural habitat.

You can help to give these endangered creatures a fighting chance at survival.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering on this Project. Below is a description of what you can do and expect. You can volunteer whether you're taking a gap year, on a career break, retired, or on a holiday with a purpose. No matter what your age or experience, we look forward to welcoming you to the team!

WHAT DO YOU GET?

SELF-DEVELOPMENT:

- New skills, more confidence, a greater understanding of a different culture, invaluable personal and professional development.
- The enormous satisfaction of helping an endangered species
- An entry on your CV or résumé that will put you head and shoulders above most others in the job market.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Your safety is our top priority. We risk-assess all destination countries, projects, accommodation and more to ensure that they are stable and safe.
- We have experienced local staff with 24/7 back-up and support who are there to assist you and look after you, starting with an in-depth induction on your arrival.

AN ADVENTURE!

- An exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure into the Orient and the fascinating Chinese culture, and best of all ... **an unforgettable experience!**

SUMMARY

Prices: £645 for 1 week, then £350 for each additional week, excluding flights.

See our [Full Price List Online](#)

Duration: From 1 week to 12 weeks, subject to visa requirements.

Start Dates: All year round - you choose your start and finish dates! Projects begin every Monday.

Requirements: Minimum age 17. No qualifications necessary but you should be enthusiastic about turtles.

What's Included:

- ▶ Arranging your Programme,
- ▶ Payment Protection insurance
- ▶ Food
- ▶ Meeting you at the nearest airport
- ▶ Transport to and from your project
- ▶ 24-hr emergency support.
- ▶ Full pre-departure support and assistance,
- ▶ Accommodation
- ▶ Certificate of Completion
- ▶ Transfer to your accommodation
- ▶ Local in-country team support and backup
- ▶ Free T-shirt.

What Not Included: Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visas (if a visa is required), Return transfer to airport.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Get hands-on experience working with one of the most ancient and amazing creatures alive today – sea turtles. The immediate goal is to revive populations on and near Hainan, raising sea turtles in preparation for release.

You'll conduct all aspects of sea turtle husbandry - such as feeding sea turtles, cleaning nets, and assisting in medical treatments.

You'll also get the opportunity to work with local children and adults in community outreach and education programs to build awareness about the importance of sea turtle conservation.

This is also an opportunity to experience Chinese culture and interact with Chinese people at a grass-roots level. On a daily basis, we are out talking to local people, discussing the sea turtle's plight and also trying to understand the locals' point of view.

The Project sea turtle hospital is located in a floating fishing village near the city of Sanya on Hainan Island, a famous international tropical seaside resort area, which is often referred to as the "Hawaii of China". The programs are located in and around the southern part of Hainan. If you like beaches and warm weather, Sanya is the place for you!

A TYPICAL SCHEDULE

A typical day greatly depends on the projects you work on. If you are stationed at the floating hospital, each morning we get up and, after breakfast, catch a boat taxi out to the floating hospital.

Morning responsibilities involve greeting and checking in on all the turtles, giving vitamins, feeding, monitoring activity and appetite, and examining the rehab patients for any changes.

Mornings are also great for side projects, research, and general hospital care-taking.

Afternoons tend to be spent on land, as the whole village tends to go into 'siesta' mode during the hottest part of the day. People are often found sitting in the shade with a tea or napping. We use this time to relax indoors, get work done on our computers and prepare for any upcoming events.

Late afternoon we go back to the floating hospital for the majority of rehab treatments and to feed the turtles their evening snack.

Rehab treatments can include **tube feeding, fluid therapy, antibiotic administration, etc.**



Afterwards it's dinner time and evenings are usually pretty free; we'll get some needed computer work done, individual projects, or public education and campaigns, or socialize and network with fishermen families or some of our organization's partners, explore the village, or have some personal time. We all tend to stay pretty busy as we have a big job to do here in China and need all the help we can get!

We recommend you plan on any personal exploration to be done either before or after your participation in our Volunteer Program; but don't worry, you'll get a huge China experience going out into our floating fishing village, interacting with the locals, and changing the world, one sea turtle at a time.

Schedule: during the evening times:

Generally, the volunteers are free to do their own thing. No program activities are scheduled (unless stated otherwise)

****Please note;** this schedule can be changed and/or amended depending on weather conditions, local conditions and unforeseen circumstances. **

“Two weeks isn't a very long time but it's amazing what you can learn about a country and its culture from doing this type of experience; working and living alongside the natives of the country.

The best element of my trip was the people. The curiosity of the Chinese is endearing and their friendliness is infectious.”

Abby Poar

ACCOMMODATION

ACCOMMODATION:

Volunteer accommodations are located on-land near our floating sea turtle hospital. They are modern with a common living area, internet accessible computers, a shared bathroom, kitchen, an open rooftop terrace, and several bedrooms that you may share with one or two others, depending on how many volunteers and interns we have at any given time.

If it is necessary for you to travel to other cities for whatever sea turtle related reason, living space will be arranged for you. We will undertake costs associated with utilities and general housing maintenance.

FOOD:

Three Chinese-style meals will be provided per day either at a local restaurant or prepared for you by our Chinese chef who cooks traditional Chinese food. There's nothing like real Chinese food in China!



WHY TRAVELLERS WORLDWIDE?

- Over 20 years' experience of sending thousands of participants overseas, plus the largest variety of flexible projects that are value for money!
- Accredited projects helps appeal to future employers
- Excellent support!
- Your own dedicated Project Co-ordinator to answer all questions before, during and after your trip of a lifetime!
- Detailed information on your project and country and suggestions, safety guide, tips and checklists, via our EXTRANET, available from anywhere, 24/7.
- 24/7 emergency helpline for you and your family
- Free pick up from the nearest airport.

HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

By joining a Travellers Program you enable us to keep donating money to worthwhile projects around the world; from clothing and feeding school children, building playgrounds or funding vital conservation research - your participation makes these donations possible.

Donations to **Bridge The Gap Foundation**. This Foundation was set up by us to donate directly to particularly worthwhile and necessary projects for children and animals around the world, and partners with other NGO's to raise match-funding for worthy projects.

The price of this project is a reflection of the following costs:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ✓ Accommodation | ✓ Full pre-departure support |
| ✓ Food | ✓ UK administration |
| ✓ Meeting you at the airport | ✓ Marketing (brochures, website design and maintenance, attending careers fairs, advertising, website listings and presentations) |
| ✓ Transport to and from your project | ✓ Project Research/Site Inspection |
| ✓ Local in-country team support and backup | ✓ Staff Training/Equipment |
| ✓ 24hr emergency helpline | |
| ✓ Donations to worthwhile projects | |

“My placement was an unbelievable experience and I had an amazing time - thank you for helping me to have such a great experience! Travellers were very helpful, whenever something was asked or wanted it was provided to the best level...”

Ruairudh Couston

“The trip was an amazing time and has made me eager to want to travel again in the future with Travellers.”

Abby Poar

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

WHY IS THE GIANT PANDA ENDANGERED?

Giant Pandas are naturally solitary creatures that move freely from area to area seeking out fresh bamboo (their staple diet), creating avenues in order to come together in spring and mate.

This magnificent creature that is known to have survive the ice age, has over the years been faced with great challenges, such as their natural habitat decreasing significantly due to the expansion of humans: the development of new roads, towns and power lines resulting in the need for more logging and thus haltering the natural migration and contributing to the lack of bamboo. (Bamboo requires shade in order to grow.)

This has resulted in Giants Pandas being unable to find new food and thus preventing male and female Giant Pandas from finding one another and being able to mate and increase their numbers in the wild.

The 2008 earthquake in China also had a devastating effect on the Giant Pandas' natural habitat and food sources, thus further decreasing the number of Giant Pandas found in the wild.

Got any questions? Please email us: info@travellersworldwide.com

Once you have applied for a placement, we'll contact you and send you our Welcome Pack. You'll also receive Log-on details and password for our Volunteer Extranet where you'll have access to all the documentation and information which we've put together to facilitate preparations for your adventure!

Your Project Co-ordinator for your country will liaise with you throughout the arrangements process, as well as while you're on your placement and on your return home. The documents you'll have access to also include a Country Fact file, Safety Guide and any manuals that may assist you on your particular programme (for example, Teaching Guide, Sports Manuals, Enrichment Suggestions for Animal Care, etc.). We do all we can to make your stay one that you'll never forget.

As with all our destinations, the culture and heritage is different to what you're used to ... which, although one of the most exciting aspects of travelling, should be borne in mind. Self-reliance and independence are highly appreciated in all our destinations and will help you to make the most of this wonderful opportunity!

ARRIVAL AND TRANSPORT TO YOUR PROJECT

Please note that this will vary from week to week and season to season.

You'll fly into Chengdu airport on a Sunday where you will be collected by one of our coordinators. You will then travel to Chengdu City which is approx. 30-40 minutes away where you will spend your first day, giving you time to relax and rest. Monday will be spent touring the city of Chengdu including the local markets, parks and later you will be invited to a welcome dinner.

The following morning you will be transferred to the Panda base which is approx. 3 hours away, where you will have lunch at the panda base with a briefing and introduction to your work content in the afternoon. Registration will also take place, where you will receive your uniform and volunteer card before you will receive a guided tour before dinner.

REQUIREMENTS AND NOTES:

China is still a developing country in a period of transition. The living standard falls short of what we are used to in the West. The Chinese culture and heritage is totally different to Anglo-Saxon or Western cultures. However, the people are very friendly. China is a non-English speaking environment and it would benefit you to try to learn a few basic Chinese words before starting your programme. This will help you to get involved in the daily life of the local people.

THINGS TO DO IN CHINA

LOCATION, EXPLORING AND SIGHTSEEING:

The Panda base is in the middle of nature reserve, thus surrounded by tranquillity and peacefulness, with the loudest noises often only being the male pandas' chatter and birds singing in the trees.

Often after completing your duties there is a fair amount of free time, as Pandas do also want their own space to be wild animals. So during this time there is a range of activities for you to be able to take part in:

- Full access to the Panda reserve and volunteer centre
- The Chinese favourite sports, including: Table tennis, Mah-jong, and Chinese chess
- Free Chinese language lessons from 4pm -6pm daily
- You will also have access to the Volunteer Centre – this is a general area where most volunteers will take time to relax, chat or eat ice cream.



On the weekends, you will have time to further explore this beautiful country, with options like:

- The many walking routes in the reserve. (Guided tours are available around nearby waterfalls)
- Fishing.
- Visit the hot springs that are approx. 1 hour away from the Panda base.
- Explore the city of Ya'an for shopping and general sight seeing
- Visit the local zoo (10 minutes from the reserve).
- Visit sites like the Sichuan opera, Jinli night fair or the Tibetan quarter in Chengdu city.
- Hike to the Emei mountain or mount Oingchent to see the giant Buddha

Your project Coordinator will be able to suggest more options depending on your budget and interests

In our opinion, some of the highlights of the rest of China are:

The Army of Terracotta Warriors outside Xi'an - 6000 soldiers and horses that were originally designed to guard the tomb of an ancient Emperor. 2000 years old, these warriors were discovered by accident in the 1970s by peasants digging a well! Every figure differs in facial features and expression, and they make for an amazing sight!

Tropical Xishuangbanna - China's very own South-East Asia complete with sunshine, Thai style temples, Dai minority dancing and water splashing festivals! Here you can explore tribal villages on the border with Burma, or trek through the rainforest.

Northern China, along the path of the ruins of the Great wall, also has many sights, and a slightly rough-around-the-edges charm. Here, you can visit the Gobi desert & climb enormous sand dunes in Gansu Province or explore ancient grottoes and caverns full of religious art & Buddha statues at Dunhuang or Datong. You can even spend a night camping out under the stars in a yurt on the epic grasslands of Inner Mongolia. Here you might find yourself taking part in traditional Mongolian wrestling or drinking the local spirit (hopefully not at the same time!)

China's big cities - The economic and cultural centres of this blossoming nation can be found in its 3 big cities - Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. These cities are practically alive with energy and each deserve a visit during your time in China. They represent the glitz and glamour of China's future and everything that's hip in China's new youth, with the rich history of Chinese culture running strongly through them.

The far North-West - Xinjiang Province in the far North-West of China next to the borders with Mongolia & Kazakhstan is a multicultural melting pot of Han Chinese, Uyghurs (the local Muslim people) and Kazakhs. Here you can visit Tian Chi, a lake halfway up a mountain inhabited by nomadic Kazakh people or take part in local grape making in the desert around Turpan



HOW TO BOOK

TWO EASY WAYS ...

Complete a [booking form](#) online.

Telephone
01903 502595 (UK)
or
1-603-574-4935 (USA)



THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR PROGRAMME!

We hope you'll join us!

Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

We're happy to help you plan your exciting adventure!

www.travellersworldwide.com

www.travelersworldwide.org