



Travellers Worldwide is a leading International Provider of
Volunteering Programmes, Work Experience Internships
and Cultural Courses Abroad

ECUADOR

CONSERVATION: WILDLIFE RESCUE IN THE RAINFOREST

Help a Quechua family-run Centre to rescue, rehabilitate and, where possible, release wild animals in the fight against trafficking, abuse and hunting of wild species.

You'll work with a Foundation dedicated to caring for animals that have nowhere else to go. Some are orphans because their parents were killed by hunters, others were rescued from animal dealers, and others were rescued from people who kept them in small cages!

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 conserving animals in their natural environment and knowing that you made a difference to them.
- 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 fascinating culture of Ecuador, and best of all ... **an unforgettable experience!**

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SUMMARY

Prices: From £895 excluding flights. See our [Full Price List Online](#)

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

Start Dates: Availability all year round – you choose your start and finish dates.

You should ideally arrive at the weekend, between 8.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m.

Requirements: Minimum age 18. No qualifications needed, just a big heart and a love of animals and their conservation. If you are studying an animal-related subject or you are qualified, you'll be especially welcomed!! You should be reasonably fit as the area is big and a lot of walking is involved in a climate that is hot and humid.

What's Included:

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| ▶ Arranging your Programme, | ▶ Full pre-departure support and assistance, |
| ▶ Payment Protection insurance | ▶ Accommodation |
| ▶ 24-hr emergency support. | ▶ Transfer from Quito to the Project Site and back to Quito |
| ▶ Meeting you at the nearest airport | ▶ Local in-country team support and backup |
| ▶ Certificate of Completion | ▶ Free T-Shirt |

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

PROJECT OVERVIEW

WORK CONTENT

This Centre is located in the Ecuadorian rainforest. The Centre was established in 2006 by a Quechua family and works in rescuing, rehabilitating and when possible releasing animals back to their natural environment.

Animal welfare is not a high priority for many Ecuadorians and many don't understand the problems associated with keeping wild animals as domestic pets. In captive situations, they become depressed and sometimes aggressive and, as a result, they are neglected and abused. Many of the animals arriving at the Centre have been mistreated with either physical and/or psychological injuries.

The rescue Centre covers an area of over 100 hectares on land belonging to a Quechua family whose ancestral line stems back hundreds of years. As a family-run rescue Centre, they have a great understanding of the local community, the culture and the plight of their native wild animals. There are currently over 70 animals at the Centre which include: Primates (Squirrel Monkeys, Titi and Capuchin Monkeys), Mammals (Peccaries, Coati, Tayra, Kinkajou, Margay), Reptiles (Tortoises) and Birds (Turkeys, Parrots and Macaws).

The Centre is dedicated to helping the local community in many ways, not only in contracting their local services to help the local economy, but also in educational programs, working closely with the local school to teach children the importance of environmental issues.

Your work will be varied and you'll be involved in some or all of the following:

- Day-to-day care of the animals
- Cutting up fruit and preparation of diets and feeding them.
- Helping new arrivals adjust to the Centre
- Measuring and weighing the animals
- Studying their behaviour
- Protecting the more vulnerable animals
- Observing and monitoring those animals that have been released
- helping in the development of programmes on rehabilitation and release of animals
- General maintenance and cleaning
- Construction work, such as helping to repair and build new enclosures for the animals
- Daily hikes to pick fruit for the animals and also to harvest yucca, corn, sugar cane or cocoa.
- Enclosure Enrichment: Some of the most satisfying work you can do will be to provide some enclosure enrichment and mental stimulation. You can use your creativity to provide useful "toys" and games for them and animals generally take great interest and delight in new areas to explore. We provide you with our in-house guide of Suggestions for Enclosure Enrichment and you may be able to use or adapt some of the suggestions for the different types of animals.



Additional activities:

The Centre is dedicated to finding ways to provide the chance of a good quality of life for the animals in their care. This includes basic things, such as:

- Providing them with a suitable diet, which in so many cases they have never had during their time in captivity.
- Where possible, to run effective, science-based rehabilitation programmes to help in the process of returning them to their natural environment.

You will also be able to help with these observation and enrichment projects. For example, most animals living in the wild spend a big part of their day foraging and searching to find food or safe shelter. These are the types of behaviours that have to be encouraged so that animals at the Centre do not lose these skills.

You can help by using your imagination to build a toy or devise a game for the animal and then observe how it uses it and in what way it benefits the animal. This work is invaluable to the animals because it helps to relieve the boredom of their captivity and to maintain their natural predatory instincts.

In addition to animal welfare and care, you can also be involved in the local **Environmental Education Programme**. Here you'll help prepare lessons on specific environment issues which are given twice a month at a local school located close to the Centre. The children are aged between 6 and 12 years and in these classes the idea is to help the younger generation to understand the importance of ecosystems as a whole (including all living beings who form part of them) and the role of natural resources (the ones we need to survive and yet, at the same time, are being destroyed because of bad or non-existent management).

**WORK SCHEDULE:**

You'll work Monday to Friday, from 8.00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. On Saturdays all the volunteers work for a couple of hours to clean the volunteer house and kitchen, and feed the animals. This usually ends around 10:30 a.m. then you're free for the weekend.

“The experience I gained was invaluable. I learned about current environmental issues. The experience really opened my eyes to the world around me. It was the best month of my life. Thank you!”

Lindsay Peterson

“It has been absolutely great so farnot easy but a most amazing experience.”

Tim Clark

ACCOMMODATION**ACCOMMODATION**

You will live in a room on site. Although the accommodation is basic, it is comfortable. The location is fairly remote and access to the outside world is limited. But this will give you a wonderful opportunity to experience the true Ecuador culture!

FOOD

Please note that food is not included in this project and you'll need to budget around \$15 (about £10 per week).



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

Abby Poar

“I would definitely recommend Travellers Volunteering to anybody that wants a challenge and is ready to get stuck in.”

Lizzie Faithfull

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:

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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 Factfile, 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! This is a truly awesome, elegant and beautiful country.



THINGS TO DO IN ECUADOR

LOCATION:

This project is located close to Arajuno, approximately 1 hour from the nearest town of Puyo, in an isolated area. Travelling by bus from Quito takes approximately 6 hours.

PUYO

Puyo is the provincial capital of Pastaza housing some 25,000 residents. It also provides a crossroads for visitors arranging various tours to the jungle and forest reserves. If you're an early riser, the views of the incoming rolling mists are spectacular dissipating into cloud form as the day rolls on.

This attractive jungle town is also the crossover point for further onward routes into the northern and southern oriente as well as travellers journeying back to Baños and Ambato.

In recent years, Puyo has become noted by tourists for its incredible natural beauty. Surrounded by mountains, forest, rivers and natural valleys, the abundance of surrounding wildlife and scenery is absolutely breathtaking. The city also has a good infrastructure, providing visitors with good accommodation and a variety of activities. The annual festivals that are celebrated by the locals are also a special treat.

QUITO:

Ecuador's capital, Quito, lies in the north of the country, some 15 miles from the equator and with the Andean Mountains and valleys as a backdrop. It's 10,000ft altitude keeps it cool, with spring like temperatures year round. It was declared a **UNESCO world heritage site** in the 1970's for its preserved historic **Latin quarter**. There is always something to do in Quito, whether you'd like to experience some culture or join in with the cosmopolitan, modern way of life. Cultural highlights include the old town, the cable car and the equator, along with a multitude of museums and monuments.

Modern highlights include a range of shopping malls, a zoo, an ice skating rink, and plenty of restaurants and bars serving wonderful cocktails and tasty food - you'll find anything from traditional Ecuadorian cuisine to Thai and Italian!

The city also contains a thriving 'new town' popular with younger generations for its restaurants, shopping and nightlife. There are lots of restaurants and "Patio de Comidas" where you can pick up an excellent value lunch or dinner.

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS:

The Galápagos Islands lie some 600 miles from the coastline of Ecuador. Formed by volcanic eruptions into the sea, they contain species found nowhere else on the planet and are one of the most significant sites in the world; most notably because this is where Charles Darwin's theories of evolution were inspired and shaped. This rocky and at first glance inhospitable terrain is home to giant tortoise, swimming iguanas and fearless blue footed boobies.

The marine reserve here is equally impressive, boasting encounters for divers and snorkelers with penguins, marine turtles, manta rays and sea lions, amongst others. Around 90% of the islands are protected areas, with visitor numbers restricted and some sites off limits altogether to ensure conservation.

You'll be based on the island of San Cristobal, which is about a 2 hour flight from the Ecuadorian mainland. It is the 5th largest of the Galapagos Islands and its' primary industries are fishing, tourism and arable farming. The town has restaurants, shops and hotels. It is also fast-becoming a surfing hotspot, with a good beach just a short walk from the volunteer accommodation.

THE AMAZON:

The Amazon is the world's largest remaining tropical rainforest, occupying about one third of Ecuador. To get some idea of its scale, first you need to know that Ecuador's share of the Amazon represents just 2% of the whole rainforest; most of it belonging to Brazil (60%) followed by Peru (13%). Important nevertheless as the Amazon in Ecuador remains relatively untouched, has good infrastructure to make for easy visitation and is home to numerous indigenous settlements which welcome outsiders.



THE ANDES:

One of the greatest mountain ranges in the world, they split Ecuador in two running from the north of the country down. Indigenous communities have cultivated the land in the Andean Highlands for thousands of years, selling their produce in bustling market towns. Catch a glimpse of the abundantly colourful markets, showcasing traditions of ancient civilizations and Inca descendants.

Mountaineers will love the peaks of the 'Avenue of Volcanoes', an area in the central highlands with a number of active volcanoes. Whilst each climb is different and most are incredibly challenging, the rewards along the way are numerous. Dense forest, waterfalls and spectacular views across the valleys below await the intrepid few. Other hot pursuits in this region include walking, rafting, biking or camping.



PACIFIC COASTLINE:

This 2000km coast is fringed with pristine sand beaches, sweeping bays, mangrove forests, crashing waves and tranquil fishing villages. The ports and fishing villages are an important part of Ecuador's economy, delivering fresh sea food and imported goods. At certain times of the year you can see Humpback whales arriving from Antarctic waters to mate; splashing their fins and exhaling gushes of water. Marine birds are also in abundance along the pacific coastline, with sightings of the albatross, one of nature's largest birds, being common.

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

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