



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

# ECUADOR



## GALAPAGOS ISLANDS CONSERVATION, REFORESTATION & COMMUNITY PROJECT

Work to preserve the native and endemic forests on the beautiful island of San Cristobal. There are numerous elements to the project that you'll be involved in and most of the work is on reforestation, research and community based projects. This is the only project in the Galapagos Islands that combines environmental, community and social initiatives to improve the sustainability of the islands. Plus ... it's loads of fun!

***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 knowing that you're contributing to a worthwhile and necessary conservation project aimed at protecting and preserving our world for future generations.
- 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 South/Central America and the Galapagos Islands, and best of all ... **an unforgettable experience!**

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## SUMMARY

**Prices:** From £1,245, including flight from Quito to the Galapagos Islands,

but excluding your international flights.. See our [Full Price List Online](#)

Please note for projects in the Galapagos Islands: As flights from Quito to the Galapagos have to be booked upon receipt of your booking (because flights get fully booked very early), you will need to pay an additional non-refundable deposit of £425 immediately. This flight deposit is already included in the price and is not in addition to it.

**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 necessary (just a good dose of enthusiasm!). You'll need a little Spanish to do this project, but if you have no knowledge of Spanish at all, you can combine your project with a 1-week intensive Spanish Course in Quito prior to starting your project in the Galapagos.

### 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 to your accommodation                     |
| ▶ Meeting you at the nearest airport         | ▶ Local in-country team support and backup           |
| ▶ Certificate of Completion                  | ▶ Course fees and some materials                     |
| ▶ Up to 2 nights in Quito for your induction | ▶ Return flights from Quito to the Galapagos Islands |

**What Not Included:** Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visas (if a visa is required), Food, Return transfer to airport, Galapagos National Park Fee (\$110)

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### WORK CONTENT

This is a wonderfully varied and interesting project where you get to experience many different types of work. For example...

You'll work on a controlled plot to eliminate introduced (non-indigenous) and invasive plant species and to restore native and endemic species. You'll grow the plants first in a greenhouse and then transplant them to their permanent locations.

You'll also assist in community projects, such as installing a new water pipeline for the local community.

In addition, you can assist in mentoring children from INFA, working with them in hippo-therapy (a form of therapy where the therapist uses the movements of a horse to assist in physical, speech or occupational therapy. No hippos actually involved!).

There is also gardening, environmental education and field trips to the Hacienda. Hacienda team-members are always on hand for assistance and guidance.

Volunteering activities vary from day to day and season to season, but there is always lots of work to be done and huge variation in the types of activities. Typical jobs may include:

- Field reforestation work – planting endemic species and clearing non-indigenous species
- Horse riding
- Visiting areas and monitoring growth of plants
- Cleaning the farm house and areas of work
- Helping out at the very small local school
- Informal opportunities to teach English, Sports, Music, Art, etc.
- Playing football/volleyball once a week with locals and neighbouring farm kids
- Taking care of the cat!
- Milking the cows
- Collecting coffee beans grown on the farm and making your own coffee (the BEST you will ever taste!)



- Socialising and entertaining
- Various other odd jobs that always crop up
- Enjoying the company of the many giant tortoises, iguanas, lizards, birds and farm animals strolling around!

Other work includes participating in the restoration of habitats in the Galapagos Islands, working with the local community; visiting ecologically important sites, teaching visitors about ecological issues; exploring the islands and marvelling at the unique wildlife.

If you have a special interest, please do not hesitate to inform us. We will do our best to arrange that your project is focused on your interests!

## SPANISH LESSONS:

If you have no previous knowledge of Spanish, you can include 2 weeks of Spanish lessons at a well-established Spanish school in Quito. If you choose this option...

- You'll have 4 hours of group Spanish classes in the morning during the first week of your placement, and will work at the project in the afternoon.
- For the second week of your project you will have 2 hours of private Spanish lessons.

If you'd like to, we can arrange for you to continue taking Spanish classes once your two weeks of lessons have been completed (please see the prices page for the supplemental cost for this).

All the teachers at the school have taught Spanish for 8 or more years and between them they have developed a great many resources to make the lessons lively and fun. They also periodically organise interesting and enjoyable activities in order to introduce the Ecuadorian and Latin culture to their students - most recently they've been cooking Ecuadorian dishes in classes! It's a great, fun way to learn!

*“The experience I gained was invaluable. 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 far ....not easy but a most amazing experience.”*

Tim Clark

## ACCOMMODATION

### ACCOMMODATION

#### Getting there:

You will most likely fly into Quito in Ecuador where you will be met by Travellers staff and have an induction and an overnight stop-off here. Your volunteer work will start on Monday; however, you will fly from Quito to San Cristobal during the weekend. Your return flight from Quito – Galapagos Islands is included in your project price! You will be met at the airport by our project director and taken to the accommodation and settled in before your induction.

You will stay at the project house at the Hacienda. There is no phone or internet at the project house (other than for a phone for emergency use), however you can find numerous internet cafés and international phone booths in the nearby town of El Progreso, along with places to eat, drink, shop and socialise.

There are usually at least 3 or 4 volunteers from all over the world living at the Hacienda at any one time, and often there are many more! The atmosphere is very calm and communal here, although a shared taxi into the local town is cheap and plenty more fun can be had there.

### FOOD

Food is not provided at the accommodation. However, you will be able to eat much of the locally grown farm fruit & veg produce and you can buy your other food in the local village to cook at yourself at home.



## 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 nearest airport       | ✓ Project Research/Site Inspection  |
| ✓ Transport to and from your project       | ✓ Staff Training/Equipment  |
| ✓ Local in-country team support and backup | ✓ Course fees and some materials  |
| ✓ 24hr emergency helpline                  | ✓ Donations to worthwhile project   |
| ✓ Full pre-departure support               | ✓ Return flights from Quito to the Galapagos Islands  |
| ✓ UK administration                        |   |

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Got any questions? Please email us: [info@travellersworldwide.com](mailto: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.

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project is run by Giovanni, who, although native to the island, spent many years in the States and married an American lady. With a PhD in Biology, this farmer really knows what he is talking about and he has set up an excellent structure for a volunteer program and great support.

The Biological Station opened in San Cristobal in 2005. The Foundation has worked towards the development of reforestation, habitat re-composition and agro forestry activities during its 5 years on the island. In virtue of this, one of the objectives of this station is to develop methodological practices for natural system reconstruction that will serve as a model for similar projects in other reserves.

Volunteers have begun reforestation with Hacienda San Cristobal staff, replacing exotic, invasive plants with other species. Furthermore, volunteers collaborate with organizations such as the Instituto Nacional del Nino y la Familia (INFA) in Hippo-therapy to promote environmental conservation among young children from the island, as well as motivate community members to plant local, rather than introduced vegetation. Plans include the construction of a native plant corridor from dry forest portion of the low land reserve to the moist forest above. Reforestation with native plants will be emphasized as a plant production centre is developed.

The Bio station is located in the highlands of the island on a 50 hectare site where there is still native vegetation. One of the objectives of this new station will be to develop the new technology to reconstruct native habitat in the highlands of San Cristobal, and to serve as a centre for similar projects in the highlands of other populated areas in the Galapagos chain. The remaining native highland forests on the populated islands are quite limited due to farming activities in general, and the introduction of useful, but very invasive species from the mainland. Volunteers work to reserve the native and endemic forests of San Cristobal. They collaborate with institutions such as the Instituto Nacional del Nino y la Familia (INFA) to promote environmental conservation among young children from the island as well as motivate community to plant local, rather than introduced vegetation.

## THINGS TO DO IN ECUADOR

### LOCATION:

The local town of El Progreso is a 30-minute walk or 10 minutes taxi ride from San Cristobal or a speedy ride down the mountain on the bikes that are provided for your use (not so speedy getting home perhaps). You can shop, relax, get on the internet, or party here!

From El Progreso you can catch a bus or taxi (20 minutes) to the port and either take a plane or a small speed boat to neighbouring islands from this port town.

### 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.

### 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**.



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.

## 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!**

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