



VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK

Thank you for your email and the volunteer guide, which was very helpful.

Thank you very much for your help.

Lyane Rochat

Thank you so much for your speedy response with the guide. I've just had a peek at the first 6 and I know I'm going to find it difficult to decide but one is feeling right already.

I look forward to reading your articles. I was having a read yesterday - it's a fantastic blog.

Thanks so much so far and I'm sure I'll be in touch with some questions.

Kind regards

Kim Burnell

WOW - I just had a look at the information on the blog - fantastic, thank you so much.

Tessa Snelgar

I must just write and thank you for your help and amazing booklet of opportunities sent to me. We have contacted several and are ready to leave for a 4 month trip next week. All the opportunities were just wonderful to read about. We are now looking forward to our trip and volunteering greatly. Since receiving your booklet I have given your details to several people, who will be contacting you.

Kindest regards to you

Cherie and Dave

Many thanks for the guide, it's extremely helpful. I'll be sure to recommend VLA to my friends.

Thomas Rees

Thank you so much for getting back to me so quickly, and with great information! I will definitely be applying to some of these projects. Again, thanks for the great service.

Best wishes

Leah Heaton-Jones

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly. I'm really happy with the information you have provided.

Thanks for all your help

Eleanor King

Wow, that was fast! I look forward to looking through the programs. :)

Thanks again

Becky Rivard

Thank you very much for the guide. It seems very interesting and I think it will help us a lot.

Yours sincerely

Tom Creten

This is absolutely wonderful; thank you again. I will be sure to write you after our year abroad with extensive feedback on the people, places, and projects.

Best

Cortney Kendall

I just wanted to thank you again for the assistance with my research into volunteering in South America. From your guide I have now sourced and booked an amazing horse internship in Costa Rica starting in January. I am so looking forward to it!

Kindest regards and a massive thank you!

Tiffany Chuck

Many thanks for compiling our guide. We look forward to reading about the projects you have selected for us.

Kind regards

Rosanna & Romana

Many thanks for your quick response. The collection is quite impressive and contains some projects which I have already shortlisted.

Thank you

Frederik Vath

Volunteer Latin America was very helpful in finding programs that satisfied my interests. I am currently participating in a program that I discovered through this service (Carismaperu). As it turns out, one of my fellow volunteers also found this program through VLA. I have been here a week and am enjoying it so far. It is a very relaxed atmosphere and I felt at home immediately. I plan to stay here for three months, then hope to participate in a new program with a different focus afterwards.

Rebecca Gordon

The service was great, especially as some clarification was required regarding our travel plans at the beginning. The information provided was detailed and allowed us to select something that would suit our plans. We now have one placement organised and are working on another. I will let you know how we find them.

Kind regards

Allanah Berry

We had some concerns about getting one of your guides but the information received has been extremely useful. The choice of projects was fantastic and after some deliberation we've set up a three week voluntary placement in Mexico, helping to save sea turtles! We really appreciate your help and for inspiring us!

Keep up the good work

Ben and Charlotte

Thank you very much Stephen. This looks awesome! I really appreciate it.

Kind regards

Brandon van Niekerk

Thank you so much for all the volunteer ideas for South America. This will greatly help us on our trip.

Jade Bartoletti

Just so you know, I have been a volunteer with Amanecer for the last year (just finishing up now) having found the organisation in a guide you did for me. It's been a great experience and Amanecer is a wonderful organisation to work for. They do an amazing job and have a wide variety of things volunteers can do to help, so it keeps it interesting!

Jennifer Byrne

Thank you very much for the personalised guide. It is helpful and straight-forward.

Thanking you again

Brendan Mulcahy

I recently came back from a 10-week volunteering trip, I worked in 2 organisations that I had found thanks to you, so I'm writing to give some feedback.

First of all thank you very much for compiling the volunteer guide, it was very complete and made my search so much easier!

Both of my experiences were great, I really only have praises for those organisations.

I first worked with the Valley of the Moon Children's Center in Bolivia (mid-June to mid-July). My stay had been very well prepared before the arrival, with the contact person (Emma Donlan) answering all my questions and giving me all the info I needed. Once on the spot, everything flowed smoothly, I felt very safe and welcome. Since Emma has been a volunteer herself and has welcomed many people over the years, she knows exactly how to handle volunteers and which advice to give. The work with the children and the women from the community was very challenging at the beginning, but I quickly got into it, it was exhausting (little kids are so full of energy!) but also extremely rewarding. I grew very attached to all of them and was very sad to leave. I'd highly recommend this organisation to anyone wishing to work with small children.

After that I worked in Peru at Pilpintuwasi Butterfly Farm and Animal Orphanage in Iquitos (mid-July to end of August). There the contact was a bit less "sustained" before arrival, given the lack of internet connexion in the village. But Gudrun Sperrer always answers emails and questions, even if it takes a little while. My stay at Pilpintuwasi was amazing as well, although less supervised and -let's say- a bit more "rough" (it's the jungle after all), I had to trust my instincts and take initiatives much more, because volunteers were not often told what to do or how to do it. I was glad I spoke some Spanish already by that point, otherwise it would have been hard. Pilpintuwasi makes for a much more adventurous experience, given the isolation and the lack of comfort in the jungle, but working there is fascinating, you learn so much about butterflies and animals! One advice to future volunteers: plan it in advance, because Gudrun doesn't take more than 4 people at one time and there's always plenty of candidates.

Best regards

Nathalie Chiêm

I just wanted to let you know that the guide was very helpful and I've found the perfect placement at Cloudbridge in Costa Rica. So thank you.

All the best

Luke Metelerkamp

I bought a volunteer guide from VLA before I came travelling and it has been a very useful resource. I am currently volunteering for a fantastic NGO based in Peru.

Thank you very much

Scott Unwin

I purchased a volunteer guide in January of this year and completed a project in Peru during the month of April which I thoroughly enjoyed. It's hard to describe my time out there as it was unlike anything I've ever done before. I participated in shamanic ceremonies that used medicine plants to heal peoples inner problems and I had to look after the retreat groups that came to the center looking for help. The center was located in a beautiful part of the Amazon rainforest so was the ideal setting for relaxation and meditation and the amount of stars at night was breath-taking. It was one of the best experiences I've ever done and I'm looking forward to returning to South America as I still have so much to see and do! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to take part in something so amazingly life-changing.

Yours Sincerely

Nia Hooper

I purchased your Volunteer Guide 2 years ago and have spent 2 winters in several of the places you sent me. All my experiences were wonderful.

Thank you!

Donna Pieracini

Thanks to the service of Volunteer Latin America I found the perfect volunteer/internship program in Peru. Since I studied Biology I was looking for a good opportunity to help and gain some experience in the field of Marine Biology, and I always wanted to go to South America, because I was also curious about the culture and the people living there. With the service of VLA it was very easy to find the perfect match. They create a personal guide for you with which you get a lot of information about many projects that fit your desires. So if you want to participate in more than one volunteer project, this is very helpful. In the end I applied for an internship with an organization based in Peru, South of Lima, called ORCA, which is dedicated to the conservation and rehabilitation of marine mammals, mainly South American sea lions, in Peruvian waters. The team was great and I had an amazing time there and also gained some new friends. It was one of the best things I did in my life so far, and I will continue to choose VLA for my upcoming experiences in Latin America. Whenever you have any questions about anything, they reply promptly within a few hours, which is a further important point of their great service.

Karin Künstler

I feel quite depressed now I'm back home and all I can think of is the magical time I had in Central America. I met so many nice and interesting people, and the project at the environmental resource centre in Costa Rica was amazing. I can't thank you enough for giving me that great opportunity. It's really changed my outlook on life and I've learnt more than I could ever have imagined.

Good luck with your organisation and thank you again.

Rachel Cowan

Thank you very much for your quick response in delivering my request. I am especially grateful as I am eager to volunteer abroad as soon as possible.

Paula Clarke

Thank you very much for the volunteer guide. It has been a great help in terms of finding something that suites us.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Blair

Just a brief but immense thank-you for the info pack. My world has been turned up-side down by the opportunities and life changing experiences that await me. I will of course follow up at a later stage once I've enrolled in some of the projects but I just had to say thank-you, for now, from the very depth of my soul.

Cheers

Paul Nel

Thank you very much for the guide. It looks very interesting and there are several opportunities that fit the bill quite well.

Adrian Jankowiak

Thank you for my volunteer guide which I received at record speed. All the projects look amazing and I'm getting very excited to pick one or two projects to participate on in the near future. Thanks for the help.

Best wishes

Anna Blyth

Thank you very much for creating the guide so quickly. I do appreciate your help.

All the best

Christine Bouquin

Thank you for informing me about some really interesting and affordable grassroots volunteering opportunities. I don't understand why anyone would work through a gap agency when all you really receive for an excessive mark-up in cost is a 24-hour helpline and a t-shirt. Most of these agencies are in the business to make profit, not to help the developing world. I thank my luck starts for stumbling upon Volunteer Latin America.

Keep up the great work

Brenda Young

Thank you very much for the guide. There is a lot of useful information and some interesting projects!

Lina Schumacher

I'm Goran Horvat and I bought the volunteer guide from you a few months ago. I just wanted to thank you because with your help I was able to find a few volunteering organisations in Central and South America which are a perfect match for me. Be sure to expect a postcard from me...that's the least I can do.

Thanks again

Goran Horvat

Wow - this is amazing. Thank you so much! I can't wait to read through this.... I'll definitely be in touch with feedback.

Rachel Thiet

I absolutely love the guide that you sent me and I am pretty sure that I have found where I want to go.

Thanks

Danielle Woodhouse

Thanks a million Stephen - a couple of the permaculture-based projects in the Amazon are exactly what I was hoping to get involved in!! Cheers and I'll be sure to provide feedback when I get involved

Many thanks

Mark Donohoe

Awesome! Thanks for this guide. Now I feel confident that I can make this trip happen.

Kind & Best Regards

Jennifer Farr

I just wanted to say thank you for your help and the prompt, efficient service. I really appreciate it. I have my volunteer guide now and am very happy with it. Thank you again.

Best regards

Gemma Parkinson

I received my volunteer package last week, and was impressed by the fast and well organized service.

Thanks

Aliyah Sadehu

Thank you so much for the Volunteer Guide. It's fantastic.

Best regards

Amanda Webb

Thank you greatly for all the interesting and detailed information on the varied volunteer projects.

Carly Holmes

I wanted to thank you for the awesome volunteer packet that you sent to me almost a year ago. I decided to travel to Guatemala and attend a Spanish school and volunteer there as well. The school is called "El Nahual" and of course it was found in the awesome volunteer packet you guys sent me. Thank you for putting so much time into these information guides.

Troy Johnson

Thank you so much for sending that through so quickly! Wow... So much to choose from... So little time! I wish I could do them all. It will be tough making a decision.

Kind regards

Isabelle Pury

Many thanks for putting the guide together for me I am enjoying looking at all the different opportunities!

With regards

Alisha Kaliciak

Thank you very much. Such a pile of projects....wow! I cannot wait to sit down and find out more about them.

Anna Lengyel

Thanks so much for sending the guide so quickly. All the projects look fantastic which has given me the problem of too much choice :)

Thanks again for your help

Beverley Redmond

Thank you so much for your fast delivery of the volunteer guide. The amount of information and variety of jobs is fantastic.

Gabrielle Goodin

Thank you very much for this. It looks great! We'll keep you posted as to where we decide to go and our experience.

Pablo Pastor

That list was very helpful and we have already found some very interesting projects for application.

Thanks for all your help

Elias Spinn

Thank you so much! I will have a good long read this evening - really excited about all the options available.

Thanks again

Vicky Osman

Thank you very much! I've only looked over it just briefly so far, and it looks like there are tons of great projects!

Sincerely

Stephanie Thornton

Thank you very much for the quick response and the projects you provided, at least 2-3 of them sound exactly like what we want. We will provide you with as much detailed feedback about any places you've recommended after our visits there.

Thank you again

Schuyler Tunaley

I found the packet you put together very helpful for our planning in Latin America.

Thank you

Jonathan Osteen

About a fortnight ago I received the Volunteer Guide I ordered. I must admit, I'm very pleased with my deal. The guide directs me to amazing, yet affordable projects, which I wasn't able to find on my own. I recommended your service to my friends already. Thank you!

Best wishes

Ziva Justinek

I have just finished a three week stay at Proyecto Caraya a project that you suggested in your information pack and I thought I would email you to let you know how it went.

Firstly it was an absolutely incredible experience working with the monkeys. My main job was to take care of a group of babies who needed special attention. This included cleaning their living area feeding and general baby-sitting duties as well as giving out the occasional cuddle (well maybe more than occasional). I also helped out with the release of some monkeys into the free living space in the forest, an endearing task to watch a new monkey become part of a group and no longer want human contact.

The project is an amazing venture that needs as much support as it can get, particularly during the winter months as there are very few full-time staff members (actually only one if you don't count Alejandra the director).

I highly recommend a solid grasp of Spanish, more than just basic level as you will be a lot more use to them when you can understand instructions the first time around. Living conditions are very basic and you should be prepared for that – no hot water on tap and no running water or electricity in the volunteer's quarters. There is limited cellular reception and no internet access at the centre and the closest village is 11km away. If you wanted to help more than giving your time, they can always use donations of cleaning products, fruit and vegetables, as well as old clothes and blankets too. I wish I'd known that before as I would have done a big shop in town before heading out there.

I thoroughly enjoyed my stay there and could have easily stayed longer, those young monkeys were just adorable.

Thank you Volunteer Latin America for making me aware of their existence. I am planning to help out at least one more project here in South America and appreciate your help in finding cost effective places to go where my money will clearly help the project and not some agency in the middle. Thanks again.

Regards

Christina Williamson

Thank you for your prompt service. The volunteer guide looks great! Appreciate your advice given as well.

Have a good weekend ahead

Wanru Wong

Thank you so much for sending me the volunteer guide in lightening speed! Thank you very much for your kind help.

Happy New Year

Priscilla Stephan

Thank you very much for our volunteer guide! It has really helped Sophie and I to narrow down our options in what we want to do on our gap year.

Darcy O'Connell-Bristow

Thank you for the list of so many great volunteer opportunities! Thank you for all your help.

Katie Horch

Thank you so much for my brochure, it's extremely informative and has got me excited about which project I could be doing.

Thank you and best wishes

Nicola Twiston Davies

Thank you so very much for my guide. Stacks of exciting opportunities to undertake volunteering in Permaculture workshops and sustainable living. I really appreciate your time for putting together such a comprehensive volunteer guide.

Kind Regards

Melissa Parish

Many thanks for sending this through - makes for some exciting reading!

Kind regards

Kimberly Gilmour

I completely forgot to send you an email sometime ago to thank you for pointing me towards BA English House in Buenos Aires. It was an excellent experience and a great way to learn more about Argentina and meet some fantastic people. It's a well run institute with some great teachers and was immensely useful for me to greatly improve my Spanish as well as experience more of Buenos Aires. I would not have found them without use of your site.

Many thanks

Barney Lyons

Volunteer Latin America has been an invaluable resource in helping me prepare for my trip. Your information service was extremely quick and efficient, and the guide you sent me contained a host of projects to choose from. The diversity of the work and study opportunity contacts you sent me really is in keeping with your organisation's mission statement. You have made my plans possible and affordable and I would highly recommend you to anybody thinking of volunteering in Central and South America.

Vivienne Lydon

Thank you for sending me the guide – it's full of interesting possibilities!

Kind regards

Sarah de Mas

Thanks so much for the guide, it's brilliant and I'm very excited!

Jo Driver

I just wanted to say thanks for the opportunities included in my pack and let you know I've already set up a job with the backpackers place in Nicaragua.

Thanks again for your fantastic service.

Paul Sturgeon

Thank you for a great and completely nice volunteer guide that you have made for me. I most definitely find it useful.

Kind regards

Kristian Salomonsen

Thanks very much for this. Hopefully I will find the perfect project soon.

Best

Aleksandra Gojkovic

I really appreciate your efforts. You have exceeded your responsibility by helping me. I have no doubt that I will find a good match for myself and my skills. Volunteers and the organizations are indebted to you as this information changes lives.

Cheers

Jocelyn R James

Thanks so much. This guide looks fantastic. We look forward to looking into some of these fantastic opportunities.

Thanks again

Martha Biasi

Thank you for the volunteer guide you prepared for me. It looks very exciting and I am looking forward to exploring all the opportunities. I know I will find several that will work beautifully for me and the problem will be choosing. I will let you know what happens.

Warm regards

Betty Hart

Holy shit! This is a great guide. Wonder if it's the largest one you have put together before, considering all our potential interests. Will look into it in more detail for sure.

Ryan Brown

Thank you very much for the volunteer guide! Ideed, you offer a great service!

Yours sincerely

Annika Putz

Thank you for the wonderful guide. After looking through it, I may have found a project I would love to join in Guatemala. I'll keep you guys updated with everything. Once again, thank you for everything.

Troy Jones

Thank you for sending me the guidebook so quickly, there are so many amazing opportunities I cannot wait to start applying for.

Colleen Del Vecchio

Many thanks for sending the guide through. It is very informative and has certainly helped us to narrow down our options.

Peter Hall

Many thanks for the guide, it looks fantastic.

Maryanne Hall

Thank-you very much for my guide-it is very comprehensive and extremely useful.

Molly Clifford

Thank you very much for the information you sent through, it has been very helpful.

Holly Holder

Such a fantastic organisation! So prompt in sending the information, quick and helpful with any questions and queries I had after sending the guide. Thank you very much and would definitely recommend to anyone interested in volunteering in South America!

Take care and thanks again

Esther Sowa

I ordered your guide some months ago and now am back from my volunteering experience and it was a really amazing time in Nicaragua. So, thanks a lot for providing that good piece of information!!!

Kindest regards from San Francisco

Johanna Schlereth

Thank you very much for your very insightful guide, it helps a lot to see that there are many volunteering projects all over Latin America.

All the best

Douglas Bigaignon

Your guide has been most helpful for me in deciding where to volunteer on my trip.

Hanna Alder

I have not yet finished reading it but I think it's very well done and useful for me.

Thank you very much

Loris Negro

I would like to thank you for the wonderful information you have supplied for me. I am now doing three of your projects, starting in a week's time. I have recommended you to everyone who is interested in volunteering in Latin America.

Danni

I just wanted to say a mighty thank you for my guide. You have given me the ammunition to make the year ahead incredibly exciting. I should have done this years ago!

Charles Cook

Thank you so much for sending me my travel guide so quickly. The projects that you picked for my package are great and meet the criteria I requested.

Thank you for your time

Trishna Patel

English House is a private language school in the suburb of Lugano, Buenos Aires. Students take classes here to supplement their language learning at school or to improve their employment prospects. The school offers some scholarships and is about to introduce a free class for 8-10 year olds.

Stella, Director of Studies, and her team, have made me feel very welcome whilst volunteering at the school. I've met students ranging in age from 5 to 65 and have participated in classes from beginner to advanced. My contribution in the classroom consisted of assisting the teacher by giving presentations about my hometown, discussions, reading texts aloud and checking answers to comprehension exercises. I've enjoyed English-Spanish conversation exchanges (a great opportunity to practice my Spanish), and ran a cultural activity workshop with 40 enthusiastic children. Students also gave me a city tour, another occasion to practice their English and my Spanish.

Being able to choose my volunteering hours has enabled me to explore the city, study Spanish and help others, all at the same time. If you are staying in Buenos Aires for a month or more, and would like to meet some local people in a welcoming environment, whilst contributing to their language acquisition, I'd recommend volunteering at English House.

Helen Gunn

Thanks very much for the guide. It saves me a lot of time and money! I've already gone through and selected 3 projects in 3 countries.

Dennesha Ferguson

We almost finalized organising our volunteering work in Ecuador. Your guide was very useful.

Many thanks again

Martijn & Irina

Thanks so much for my volunteer guide! It will be extremely useful as I try and pinpoint where to serve this summer.

Jamie Durbin

Because your guide exists, I was able to find an incredible organization that had a large impact on how I want to direct my energies in my future. I spent three months in Granada, Nicaragua working with La Esperanza Granada last year and it was the best thing I have ever done. I am so grateful that you all do what you do! Finally, a collection of low to no-cost volunteer opportunities! Because this organization is small I felt I was really able to have a real impact. Also, because an organization like this doesn't offer the kind of hand-holding that expensive volunteer placements provide, I felt like the dedication of other volunteers was very high. One had to search to find the right place, it was clearly not an afterthought second to travelling; the people that came there were highly motivated. I am looking for another organization with which to work and even before consulting the internet, I reach for your guide.

Thank you

Emma Reuss

Thank you for the volunteer guide and all the precious organizations in it.

All the best to Volunteer Latin America.

Alban Jagueneau

Thanks very much for the guide. Myself and my girlfriend spent 3 months at a sea turtle programme you recommended in Guatemala and we loved it!

Thank you

Alwyn Lubbe

Thanks for the PDF, it is most helpful. I greatly appreciate all your help.

Many thanks

Emily Jane Hay

Thanks so much for sending through all of this information, it looks great! We are currently applying for a couple of the positions and will let you know how we get on with any feedback or information that may be of use to you!

Kind regards

Elizabeth Walters

Thanks for elaborating a volunteer guide for us, we've been reading through the projects and we find them very interesting, we have already picked our favourite ones, specially the ecotourism ones are excellent!

Thanks so much for your time, advice and expertise.

Jimena Schermer & Guillaume Beaulieu

I would like to thank you for the speedy delivery of my guide which I am finding very inspiring, informative and straightforward and I would recommend them to anyone thinking of volunteering.

Gary Morrison

Thank you very much for my guide it is absolutely brilliant and I am so grateful for your service after spending the last 3 weeks searching the web looking at company after company feeling £2000 is too much to spend for a week anywhere!

Thank you very much and a Happy New Year

Elsbeth Alexander

Thank you very much for this helpful guide! It is an enormously time saving to "just" read this guide than to browse the internet for hours.

Jessica Reiss

Thank you Stephen, for my wonderful volunteer guide! The projects look brilliant.

Best wishes

Pipa Frederiksen

Thank you guys for the wonderful job you did in putting together this comprehensive guide, with so much info on the net, the mind can boggle. I'm off to Hogar Amor orphanage in La Ceiba, Honduras, mid December for 2 weeks.

Have a great Christmas and New Year

Glenda Ingram

Thank you for your ethical, fascinating, comprehensive and professional guide.

Rhona Johnston

I recently received a volunteer guide from you which is great - thank you.

Sophie Bennett

Thank you for sending me my customized guide so quickly. It looks brilliant and I definitely will be able to find a suitable project now. Have an excellent week.

Kind regards

Daniel Spiess

Thank you Stephen, this is a really nice service and a very comprehensive guide.

Cheers

Eileen Senyk

Thank you very much for this guide. I was not expecting so many possibilities to volunteer in South America.

This is just great!

Sylvie Ramseier

Thank you for the volunteer guide that you have put together for me, it is very helpful.

Willeke Adriaanse

I recently gained a volunteer guide through you and I found all of the information very useful.

Thank you

Anna Holness

Thank you very very much for your fast answer! It is great, I had a look on the guide and I am on my way to contact some associations.

Once again, many thanks for your help

Jessica Raimant

Thank you for the brilliant guide. I am very happy with the choice of projects you have provided me with.

Thank you for your time and all the best

Olga Michalik

Thanks so much for the guide, it was exactly what I wanted and so unbelievably helpful.

Eliza Sherpa

Thanks heaps for the guide, there are many inspiring opportunities that I probably wouldn't have found without this guide so thank you very much.

Robert Grover

Thank you very much for my guide. I've found five organizations in your list that I am interested in and that I will contact. Thank you for making yourselves available for any questions regarding organization contact information and for recommending how to make contact.

Best regards

Marie-Laure Couet

This is wonderful, thank you very much. I am very interested in participating in a project.

Lindsay Robinson

Thank you so much, my guide looks so exciting and I can't wait to get involved.

Thank you again!

Annabelle Acton-Bond

Thank you for sending me the volunteer guide, I am very happy with the offers you have included in my guide.

Regards from Switzerland

Sarah Zaugg

Thanks very much for the guide, it is fantastic! All the projects look wonderful.

Zephie Begolo

We received our guide and it is great!

Thank you

Peter Krige

Thank you very much for your help. The guide has allowed me to contact many organisations I may otherwise have missed and also avoid some I had contacted (Eco Volunteer UP).

Thank you once again

Robert Sanzogni

Thank you very much for this very fast service. I took a look at the guide and already found a couple of very interesting projects so I feel positive about finding the right one for me.

Thanks again

Eva Maria Fischer

Thanks so much for your incredibly quick service. I am genuinely surprised but glad. I can't wait to apply for some of these positions and will certainly give you some feedback once I've completed a project.

Keep up the outstanding work

Mark Lee

I just want to say a HUGE thank you for the volunteer guide. I've chosen to do a placement with LIFE in Argentina next month. Thanks again for all your help. I will definitely recommend this to anyone thinking of going to Latin America.

Many thanks

Petrina Maynard

Thank you for your prompt delivering of the volunteer guide, thanks to you I am now volunteering in a cloud forest of Costa Rica, doing a study on bats. I will certainly be recommending this to all interested.

Christopher Hedger

Thank you for this guide - I've found it very useful in researching volunteer work in South America.

Rob Devas

Thank you very much for the guide. There are many interesting projects, I am very excited!

Elena Loveless

Thank you so much - both for my packet and the important work you do in the world.

Take care

Lisette Johnson

I have not even fully looked over the guide, but it is amazing so far! Thank you so much!!! I could see myself doing every project so far, and I actually teach nutrition right now, so it is great.

Jennifer Thomas

Thank you so much, brilliant projects, I can't wait to get started.

Lisl Bennett

We are excited to have received the guide! All the organizations sound wonderful and I am confident that we will find exactly what we are looking for. You have been extremely helpful with this process and for that we sincerely thank you.

Mammoth thanks

Ili Pemberton

Many thanks for the guide it is very good indeed! From what I've read so far I'm definitely interested and may even volunteer in Peru!

Best wishes, and thanks again

Tracey Stemarthe

Wow - so many of these programs sound truly special. Thank you so much for the information.

Matthew Hecht

Thanks for getting back to me with my customised guide, its excellent. There are some really great looking projects in the guide.

Alex Schoelcher

I just wanted to say thanks again for putting me in touch with LIFE. It was a great experience and I am so glad that my money went straight to the charity that needed it! Thanks again for your help and if I manage to get some time to do some more volunteering in South America I will definitely contact you first!

Cheers

Wendy Jayne Quarrie

It is over a year ago that I used your information to go on my life changing experience to Peru to volunteer with children. I firstly wanted to thank you for providing the contacts I needed to find local organisations in Latin America, It definitely made things a lot easier.

Your service is brilliant.

Rita Platts

Thank you so much for the guide. It was exactly what I needed.

David Schlifka

I just received my personalized guide, and it looks awesome! Thanks so much, I'm already looking through it! This is exactly what I needed to find good inexpensive volunteer opportunities.

Emily Perkins

Thank you so much for all the information provided in the guide - I am going through it now and already seeing lots of projects I would love to get involved in!

Thank you very much

Elena Rosini

Thank you so much for planning this wonderful volunteer guide that fitted my needs. Everything was outstanding. Most information I needed was included along with the appropriate website for each project.

Great volunteer guide, keep up the good work

Brett Lewis

WOW, it looks awesome! I look forward to really combing through it these next few days.

Thank you for your help and time

Anne Townsend

Thank you for emailing the guide over so quickly - it's really helpful.

Antonia MacKinney

Thank you very much for the guide, we've found it very useful and interesting! We've decided to go to a few of the projects and travel around the continent to see as much as we can while we are there.

Verity and Chris Bland

I just wanted to say thank you very much for my volunteer guide its great! There are many projects of interest to me and I will certainly report back to you how it goes.

Cheers

Lisa Horner

Thank you for the great guide - I really appreciate all the time and effort you put into tailoring it for me.

Thanks for your help

Yvonne Yeh

Thanks, Stephen. I'm impressed already and have found plenty of organizations that I want to spend time with.

Cheri Mann

Thank you very much for sending the volunteer guide so quickly. I've just had a quick look through and can see that there are lots of projects which will be of interest.

Best wishes

Mark Turner

Just a brief note of thanks for the time you've taken to assemble this website, certainly the best in its class I've seen. I will likely be using the site to triangulate on some volunteer missions. You've saved me hours and brought groups to my attention I probably would have

missed. Thorough, professional. This is a big life decision for me and you've made a positive difference.

Thank you

Roman Robinson

Thank you for the guide. It looks fantastic, and even though at this stage I am yet to contact one of the projects, because I have only just skimmed through, I'm sure it will serve as an invaluable guide as I travel through South America these upcoming next few months. I was pleased to receive this guide as a certainly high value for money product, and would recommend your service to anyone that asks.

Many thanks

George Perry

I purchased one of your guides last summer and just wanted to give you some feedback on how they went.

I chose two volunteer projects, my first being Santa Martha animal Refuge in Tambillo, Ecuador. I organised to work there for the whole month of October last year and I thoroughly enjoyed the work. It was extremely hard physical work at times, but it really made you feel like every effort you put into it was all worthwhile. The other volunteers I met were great; I've made some really close friends from my experience.

Leon, the volunteer coordinator is great, he really gets the best out of the volunteers and works so hard himself.

Party nights are great, so there is always time in the week to let your hair down too. All in all, the whole project was fantastic. And the other volunteers that went on to the other Santa Martha Centre in Puyo, Ecuador, in the Amazon, have all raved on about how brilliant that one is too!

My second volunteer project was with the Karumbe turtle project in La Coronilla, Uruguay. I organised to do turtle monitoring for the last 3 weeks in March, the last 3 weeks of the season. This was also a fantastic project. I found it incredibly interesting, especially collecting the biological data and doing surveys, etc. The turtles are in such a dangerous situation around Uruguay and this project is persuading the Uruguayan government to put more restrictions in place for fishermen and others who may be unintentionally harming the turtles. The coordinators for this project are absolutely fantastic and have a great team of volunteers that love to come back again and again. I can see why, I would love to do this again!

In both voluntary placements, the accommodation is very basic, especially at Karumbe, but the fab work, the great people and the wonderful scenery at both certainly outweigh that. The Ecuadorian mountains are so peaceful and unspoilt and the Uruguayan beaches are all yours and just so beautiful and peaceful. I loved all of it!

And as for South America as a whole, it's the best, such diversity in every aspect, the scenery, the wildlife, the people, the activities, it's all unmissable!!!

Thank you for providing me with these opportunities, it was great!

Marie Robertson

Thank you for sending me the volunteer guide. It contains a great deal of interesting and useful material.

Thanks for your help

Robert Skene

The guide is amazing! Thank you so much, I am definitely going to set up at least 3 programmes. The information contained is brilliant and exactly the sort of volunteering projects I wanted to be involved with.

Thank you for your time

Alice Ward-Francis

Thank you so much for sending me my volunteer guide so quickly. I am so glad I came across Volunteer Latin America in the Big Issue and then through the internet.

Thanks again

Richard Johnson

I have had a look through the volunteer guide that you have sent and it is absolutely wonderful. Thank you so much. The information you have provided is extremely helpful, at this rate I won't be coming back to the UK at all. I think I could be kept busy for a few years if I participated in all the volunteer work I wanted to do!!

Many thanks again for you time spent collating this guide

Rebecca Bolton

Woohoo! Thanks so much Stephen - love your site and your concept, and can't wait to sit down with a glass of wine tonight and look through my guide!

Cheers & keep up the awesome work!

Kim Giffin

I just wanted to let you know that I found a volunteer project through Volunteer Latin America last December 2006, and went to volunteer for Bruce Peru in January 2007. I wanted to let you know what an amazing experience it was. I was planning on being there from 3-6 months, but I loved it so much I stayed for a year, and ended up being a volunteer Project Director on another Bruce project in Ecuador!

My experiences with Bruce Peru and Bruce Ecuador meant that I was able to use my experiences to arrive back in the UK, and within 2 days I had attended an interview and got my dream job working for CARE International, a job which I'm still doing and really love. I can't believe how great it's been, my life has been turned around from working in an

unfulfilling office job to having a year of amazing memories and a new career working for an amazing NGO.

So I wanted to thank you very much, and as well as this, recommend the Bruce Organisation very highly for a fantastic volunteering experience where I felt that my contributions were very valuable and worthwhile, and they gave me a fantastic reference when I left.

I have recommended Volunteer Latin America and the Bruce Organisation to many people over the past year and will continue to do so.

Thank you once again!

Jo Broughton

I just wanted to let you know that I have found your volunteer guide extremely useful and I'm really looking forward to my trip!

Thanks so much

Andrea Cowan

Thank you so much, I am very happy with your project guide. Thank you for being so fast with your delivery!

Kind regards

Noemi Bertel

Thank you very much for the project guide! It's an amazing guide which helps me a lot to figure out what I'm actually going to do in Latin America. Thank you very much for your efforts.

Kind regards

Alexander Sommer

Thank you again for the VLA guide. Due to this guide I was able to organize my volunteer work within 2 weeks. It was a great turtle experience; I wouldn't have wanted to miss it!

Kind regards

Mieke Eppink

Thank you Stephen for the exceptionally fast service. I'm impressed!

Keith Williams

I have just returned from four months as a conservation volunteer in Ecuador. I would like to thank your organisation for raising my awareness of the voluntary opportunities available.

Many Thanks

Tom Dolan

Thank you so much for the brilliant service!!! Travelling is what I love, and it's invaluable to me that I don't have to pay £2000 a month just for someone on the end of a phone line in Bristol in case of emergencies, like all these 'gap year companies.'

Fran Wyld

Just a quick email to thank you for my time at Cahuita turtle project, it was a lovely area and I enjoyed my time there and met lots of great people. Also getting to help with the hatchlings and female turtles was great. What I learnt there will hopefully help me in my veterinary nursing of reptiles and make me a better nurse.

Thank you

Tina Kemp

Thank you so much for the quick response with my volunteering package. The choices you have sent me sound great - some of them are just what I was looking for in regards to using my Degree within the work.

Amber van den Broek

Thanks for this, some of these look great, I appreciate you getting this information for me in such a short time.

Louise Boronyak

Thank you so much for all of your help. The guide looks amazing.

Bridgid Kelly

THANKS!!!!!! I'm so excited to read through this!!!!!! Thanks for including my favourite project first. Everything looks great.

Jenn Wheeler

Many thanks for the volunteer guide; that was exactly what I was looking for. I saw that at the end you found lot's of places with excellent surf conditions, thanks.

Best regards

Armando Sasselli

Many thanks for your prompt and comprehensive service. I found the guide very helpful and will definitely let you know how my time abroad goes via an email.

Keep up the good work

Dharmender Dhillon

I would like to take this opportunity to say how grateful I am my friend told me about this site. This is what volunteering should be - I have paid a deposit to ***** for 7 months but am about to forsake the deposit and cancel my expedition due to, among other factors, escalating costs: I wish to protect the environment not pay them to destroy forests for paperwork!! So it really is heart-warming to know that it is possible to support such causes without exorbitant price tags and causing more unnecessary damage to the environment.

Thanks again

Jennifer Sharp

The bus from Quito to Arutam was about 5 hours, straight into the Amazon. Blasting from the speakers was MC Hammer. This ironic conflict of indigenous people and their way of life and the modern world seeps in regularly here.

So far I have spent almost 5 days here, but it feels like much more. Arutam is a community of Shuar people. The Shuar are scattered throughout the rainforest and were once known for being the most violent of people. No worries now though, I feel quite safe.

When we arrived on the first day, we were greeted with a small soccer game and friendly faces, and told to put on our boots. Anders and I live on top of a hill. A very muddy hill. Imagine wet ankle deep mud that never quite dries. It is a five year old boys dream. We now live in these rubber 6 dollar boots, which make the trek a little less intimidating and dirty.

Everyday we wake for breakfast at 7.30, and meet at the volunteer house at 8.30 for work. Thus far we have done some trail clearing, some tree planting, and some grass cutting with the sharp blade of a machete. My triceps are loving it. I am also working with the women's group. I recently the painted the women's centre. It was a storage area, dirty and not being used. Today, the group is meeting with freshly painted walls and new benches, a washed floor and a makeshift closet. It feels great to leave a tangible mark on the community that is helping to revitalize their work. The women here really are quite impressive. Although Ernesto takes the prize. He is the tribe leader, with 11 children from one wife, and 11 from another. Ernesto's little guys can swim that's for sure.

In Arutam I am learning much about jungle medicine. Jeremy sniffed some juice from leaves and cleared his sinuses. You can pick some leaves and put it on a cut to immediately stop bleeding. Use Tagua leaves for brooms, and the barks for spears. The sap from a tree works as an itch reliever. And you can paint your nails with a brown leaf. Who needs a manicure?

My world has completely shifted since being here, and I am quite enjoying the uncomfortable friction of movement.

Kristen Berman

Your website was so wonderful to find. I had been discouraged that all of the volunteer opportunities abroad that I had found before seemed to cost so much!

Thank you again. This is an invaluable service!

Jessica Simmons

Thanks for this awesome service, and much respect for the values you practice.

Susie Scherf

Thank you very much for putting together this volunteer program information, it has a lot of options and I'm very excited to get started!

Many thanks

Diana Ochoa

Thank you very much for your help. I have booked myself on a flight to Costa Rica this July to go and teach English. I really appreciate you getting back to me with the volunteer guide so quickly.

Kind Regards

Emma Cowan

Thanks heaps for your info, we have passed your details onto many, really impressed with you guys.

Rick Benson

Thank you very much for the guide you sent me. There are so many exciting organisations I never would have known existed if it hadn't have been for Volunteer Latin America!! Thank you so much and keep up the good work.

Regards

Rachel Bainbridge

I wanted to let you know that I'm leaving tomorrow for Costa Rica, thanks to your Volunteer Guide! I'm going to be helping the Chumu Volunteer Project with their marketing needs. I will be going for approximately three months. I'm very excited, and I can't thank you enough for putting together such an extensive volunteer guide.

Thanks again!

Landa Buchkowski

I have just returned home from South America after spending one month volunteering in Peru with street children and orphans and 2 months volunteering in Ecuador at an animal sanctuary. This has been such an amazing and eye opening experience which I believe would not have been possible without the help of VLA in assisting me to find placements in grassroots projects without charging unreasonable fees which I could not have afforded.

I wish to express my deep appreciation to VLA for providing a genuine service to people who want to make a positive contribution to the cause of conservation, rather than trying to make a business out of charging unreasonable sky high fees like many organisations currently are. It's good to know that there are still volunteer placement organisations like VLA out there that have a genuine interest in conservation rather than making profits out of volunteers!

Keep up your fantastic work and thanks again!

Rhiannon Poole

I was interested in volunteer work in South America but was becoming frustrated at how much money a lot of organisations charged. Having never looked into it before, this came as something of a shock. I found Volunteer Latin America by chance on the internet, and it was by far and away the best source of information and definitely at a very reasonable cost. When I received the personalised booklet with various placements, I was really excited with the possibilities. So many of the placements sounded interesting but the Voluntarios de la Esperanza stood out for me. I have passed the details of Volunteer Latin America onto a few other people, and wouldn't hesitate in recommending people to use the website.

I arrived in Santiago on 12 March 2006 for a 3 month voluntary placement with Voluntarios de la Esperanza (I ended up staying an extra month as I loved it so much). The application process involved initially sending your CV, references and completing a questionnaire. I then had a telephone interview with a previous volunteer that lasted about 45 minutes. This was particularly useful as I could ask someone questions who had 'been there and done it.' Being informed by email that I had a place was wonderful, as it meant I could hand my notice in at work and start all the preparations for heading to Santiago.

I was placed at a day-care centre in Campamento Nesur. A campamento is a shanty town and Campamento Nesur was located on the outskirts of eastern Santiago. A community of 13,000 people living in very poor conditions. The day-care centre I worked at was to provide childcare for children aged between 2-5 years. My role was to help the Tias (local women who were in charge of the children). So I supervised (and joined in) playtime in the outside area, and helped with the activities in the wooden classrooms. This might be encouraging the older children to read (required an abundance of patience), helping with painting and art sessions or clearing the classroom up at the end of the day. It was also meant helping the younger children with their lunch, changing nappies. The children could be quite aggressive to one another so I spent quite a lot of time pulling them apart and explaining why they shouldn't hit each other.

It was emotionally quite difficult at times, but I learned so much and found it hard to say goodbye to both the children and the Tias. My Spanish wasn't very good when I arrived, but did improve during my time there. My patience and awareness of other people's lives grew dramatically.

Away from my placement, I lived with a Chilean family which for the most part worked very well. Just make sure if you have any problems or questions, they are addressed as soon as possible, so they can be resolved.

Santiago as a city has much to offer. The usual city attractions, museums, theatres, cinemas, shops, bars, restaurants, music, sport. It is cold during the winter but between the months of November and April is hot and sunny. The smog is a disadvantage and it is one of the most expensive cities in South America, although still cheap compared to London and England.

Now I back in England I am still helping the organisation, by conducting telephone interviews with new applicants and also some administrative work. I would recommend a voluntary placement with VE. I would advise you to take as many Spanish classes as possible before arriving at the project, as it means you can concentrate on helping the children from day one, rather than worrying about what you can or can't understand.

Kind regards

Louise Seaman

We have just finished a volunteer project that we found through your service. We spent four weeks with the Andean Bear project in Northern Ecuador and thoroughly enjoyed it. Thanks again for your help finding this project.

Best wishes

Amy Cowen

Thanks a lot for the volunteer guide. I've had a quick look through and there are plenty of projects that I might be interested in. Very impressed!

Thanks again

Alistair Stewart

Thanks very much for your prompt response and wide range of very interesting projects - I don't know how I'm going to choose, there are so many I'd like to do!

Kind regards

Alison Broom

I recently volunteered with VLA in Costa Rica, and found it very refreshing that, as an organisation, VLA are not trying to make a lot of money out of volunteers in order to keep a large profit for themselves. I previously volunteered in Australia with ***, and was appalled to discover that I was paying approximately £900 for a project that cost just £350 just because I chose to book with that company. I have to say that finding out about VLA restored my faith in volunteer organisations after that bad experience, so thank you!

Susanne Frost

Thanks for all your help in organising our trip to Cahuita - we had a fantastic week in a setting that was far, far better than I'd imagined. The project was interesting, fun and well organised and both the people running it and the other volunteers were all great. I want to return next year and am recommending your organisation to all my students here at Bristol University.

Thanks again

Dr Jan Frayne

I have to say that finding out about so many positive voluntary initiatives has given me hope. I also am pleased that VLA suggests ways of helping my flight to be carbon neutral, as this is a concern of mine, especially considering my interest in permaculture.

All the best

Jenna Higgins

My volunteer guide is probably the best £20 I have ever spent. Your travels in the region are evident as some of the projects you listed are amazing. I would never have found out about them anywhere else. So a big thank you and keep up the good work!

Best wishes

Richard Williams

Thank you so much for the information. Both myself and my wife are extremely impressed with both the brochure and your help. We are going to have a good look at all the opportunities in the brochure and hopefully be successful in one or more.

Once again, thank you so much for your help

Mick & Sarah White

Your suggestion worked and I've managed to access the brochure, but I've been so engrossed in it I forgot to email you back! There's a fantastic array of projects, the problem now is which one to choose! Thanks for all your help and making the brochure fit my needs, I'll definitely be recommending your website to others!

Kind regards

Laura Emmerson

Just wanted to write one last time and express my thanks and appreciation for your great help with my volunteer search. I have gone to the websites you listed and contacted these organizations and will hopefully begin my work soon! Best of luck to you and Volunteer Latin America...I will surely put others in contact with your organization for volunteering opportunities in the future.

Katie Murphy

I received your email with the volunteer guide attached, which I appreciate very much. Very valuable information, and very interesting placements, thank you for your help!

Thanks

Ricardo Barbosa

Thank you very much for coming back to me so promptly, the selection is a lot more extensive and appropriate than I was even hoping! It should make my trip (and more in future) one to remember.

Kind regards and many thanks

Gareth Bennell

Thanks very much for promptly sending me so much spot-on information! I can't wait to get in touch with some of the organisations described!

Margaret Clotworthy

I received the volunteer guide yesterday. I must say I found it very very good and extremely helpful. Thank you very much for the quick response and all the effort put into it. This is definitely the best guide I have received since I started researching for volunteering work, which is a good while ago.

Thanks

Gaizkane Loinaz

I have now received the package and it looks excellent. I'm sure to find a project amongst those you have included.

Thanks for the service you provide

Maria Hilliard

Thank you very much for your prompt action in getting a Guide book to me. It is very useful, and I certainly wouldn't have been able to find such good projects without it. I will definitely be using one of the contacts to find a placement in Latin America next year. I am very much looking forward to my trip.

Michael Whitesmith

Thank you very much for the time and effort put into compiling my volunteer guide. It is such a relief to have found a way of volunteering overseas without having to pay the extortionate rates asked by the large commercial companies. The guide was well worth the money spent, and I have found it incredibly useful. I hope to find a position soon and start volunteering.

Thanks a million Stephen

Mike Walsh

This is a bit of a random email really. I just want to commend you on Volunteer Latin America! I think the whole thing that you do, promoting these projects is amazing. I think it is especially brilliant because I know so many people who have paid £3000 or similar for 2 month 'gap year' projects around the world and frankly they just strike me expensive day care schools for 18 year olds! Maybe I'm being cynical as I know they do lots of positive work but you understand where I'm coming from! Keep up the great work and I wish you the best of luck with everything VLA related.

Kind regards

Alex Truelove

Thanks heaps for the information and contacts you have sent. They all sound like amazing projects and I can't wait to get emailing them to find out more.

Amy Gregory

I would just like to thank you again for everything you did; I have finalized my trip to Ecuador to work for 6 weeks at an Animal Rescue Centre. I am very excited and could have not done this without your help. I just want to let you know your work doesn't go unappreciated.

Steven Kruzeniski

I have been thinking about doing something like this for a while and until I saw your website I had been focusing on organisations like ***** but was a little put off by the high costs involved.

Konrad Markham

Just wanted to drop you a line to congratulate you on your efforts to bring a deep ecological view of the world at an affordable price! I've spent a good deal of time trawling around the web looking for a suitable voluntary position; and I must say after reading through your website I think I've found it.

Warren Young

Thank you so much for all the information you sent me. I was inspired, and eventually, after a lot of thought and research, contacted Belize Botanical Gardens. I received a really warm and informative email from them and hope that I will be going there next February to work on a programme for people with special needs, and of course to do my share of digging and delving and weeding and watering etc. etc. I approached the whole prospect of volunteering with some trepidation because I am 65 and ageism is rife in England, in spite of what our government protests. To my delight, my age seems to present no problem, and in some ways may be an

advantage. I am really excited and elated. I have had a very rich life, not financially, but in a lot of other ways, and have felt a raw need to put something back into the world for some time - a way of saying thank you, I suppose. It seems that at last I have the opportunity. Thank you for your help in getting me started. I will let you know how well I succeed, or otherwise, as the case may be. It will certainly be an experience, and one that I am looking forward to so much.

Thank you again

Ann McKee

Thanks a lot for the really comprehensive guide which I received today. Though I haven't gone through it fully yet, it looks great and is exactly what I wanted in terms of the information and contact details for each project. Absolutely worth the £22.50. I had been spending quite a bit of time trying to locate centralised information on a range of projects which would accept volunteers in this region. As well as being time-consuming and quite a bit of hard work, it was quite frustrating that I was invariably led to websites of agencies which focus not so much on the organisers and location of the projects, specific aims and content but more so on the extra-curriculars. It seems that you end up paying these extortionate fees for pre-trip pamphlets and a helpline phone number...

Well done on this great service. Now that I have a good base of contacts to work from I can get stuck into doing my own research and make a well-informed decision on when and where to go. Keep up the good work and I'll be sure to give you guy's feedback on my trip.

I'll definitely be recommending VLA to my friends

Joanne Walsh