

GREENTREK Sustainable Travel.

Address: El Espectador E8-13 y Shyris. Edificio El Espectador. Oficina 203. Quito – Ecuador

Phone: +593-2-600-4954 - Mobile: +593-9-9258-8303 - US Phone: (312)-450-3176

www.greentrek.org/ [volunteers@greentrek.org/](mailto:volunteers@greentrek.org) Skype: greentrektravel



Rainforest wildlife animal rescue center



1. Program overview

Our partner rescue center welcomes volunteers to help with the center's day to day activities, work on existing projects of enclosure enrichment, botanical studies in their forest, volunteers can also help create new projects like environmental awareness programs in the local schools, building new islands as fenceless sanctuaries for the animals to name a few. The main priority of the center is the well-being of the animals, therefore the most important volunteer activity is the feeding of the animals and the maintenance and cleanliness of their enclosures. These activities are normally rotated so volunteers don't find themselves solely doing these tasks (unless they want to of course!).

- Minimum time commitment: 2 weeks
- Spanish level recommended: Beginner – no Spanish

2. Life in the program

Volunteers are housed in cabañas for three persons that are in the heart of the center so they can watch the animals from their hammocks on the deck, and in the mornings wake up to the beautiful sound of macaws, parrots, monkeys and other animals of the center. The cabañas are basic but have all the necessary commodities of electricity, warm and cold running water. Clean sheets and blankets are provided in the volunteer cabañas. However, it may be useful to bring a light sleeping bag with you should you wish to camp in the forest for a night or two.

There is a communal kitchen and dining area for the use of volunteers and staff. The kitchen area is large and equipped with all necessary appliances and utensils. In the dining area, volunteers and staff eat together at breakfast, lunch and dinner. It is also an area where meetings are held, presentations are given, games are played, social events take place, and just a good place to hang out and share experiences and travelling tales with fellow volunteers.

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3. Project details & activities

Breakfast is normally prepared around 7.30am, and volunteers eat together before setting off to their daily tasks. At around 8am, volunteers and staff have a brief meeting to allocate groups to different activities and the diurnal animals' food is prepared. Volunteers carry out the morning activities until around 12pm, after which they get together to prepare lunch. After lunch, volunteers have until around 2pm to rest. At 2pm, volunteers and staff meet to arrange the afternoons' activities and prepare the nocturnal animals' food. The afternoons' activities are carried out until approximately 5:30pm after which the volunteers are free to do whatever they please, whether it be resting in the hammocks watching the sun set or heading into Puyo for a bite to eat or a beer.

4. Things to see and do!

The volunteers are required to help in the center from Monday morning until Saturday morning, until the animals have been fed. After this they are free to do whatever they please. On weekends, they are welcome to stay at the center and relax, or play on the rafts at the center's lake, enjoy the pool & hot tub, explore the jungle behind the center or visit nearby rivers and waterfalls. Not being too far away from bustling Puyo, volunteers may like to explore the town, and its surrounding areas during the day, or go for a night on the town on Saturday night, visiting Puyo's many bars for a dance. Equally, there are other Amazonian and Andean cities not too far away that have much to offer. Baños is 1 hour away on bus, Tena is 2 hours, and Macas is 3 hours away. Along with Puyo, these towns offer much in the way of tourism and adventure sports.

5. Cost

Two weeks:	USD 340
Three weeks:	USD 465
Four weeks:	USD 680
Five weeks:	USD 850
Six weeks:	USD 1020
Seven weeks:	USD 1190
Eight weeks:	USD 1365

There is a USD \$50 application fee that is valid for 18 months and you can apply to as many programs as you like without having to pay this again.

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What is included

- Pre-departure support
- Arrival orientation (Monday thru Friday at 3 PM at our offices in Quito)
- Long term experienced staff
- Welcome meeting
- Location orientation
- 24-hour in-country support
- Shared accommodation in the volunteer house
- Access to a bathroom and shower
- 3 meals per day upon arrival to the rescue center (except from Saturday midday until Monday morning)
- Tools & materials for work

What is not included

- Flights
- Medical and travel insurance
- Visa costs
- Personal kit
- Additional drinks and gratuities
- Extra local excursions
- International and domestic airport taxes.
- In country transportation
- Lodging outside the Project

Suggested packing list

- Flashlight
- Camera
- Raincoat
- Rainboots
- Light pants
- Long sleeve shirts (repel mosquitoes)
- Comfortable shoes or mountain shoes
- Hat or beanie
- Bag or small knapsack to use in the field
- Bathing suit & shorts
- Sandals
- Insect Repellent



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- Toiletries and personal products
- Any special medication that you may require
- Sunblock

Preparing for your Trip

Passport / Visa Requiriments

Please note that you need a full valid passport. Some countries do not require a visa for Ecuador, please confirm this with the embassy. Upon entry you will be issued with a 3 month permit (at no cost). Make sure the correct date and length of stay in the country is entered onto your visa when at immigration. Longer-term visitors need to obtain a volunteer visa in their home country. We can help you sending you all the documents you required for paperwork.

Arrival / Departure Information

You need to fly to Quito international airport, and make your way to a hotel. Taxis from the airport to the center of Quito cost approximately US\$8. If you would like to have the transfer service and/or hotel reservations please contact us in order to arrange this for you. After arrival you have to attend an introduction meeting at our main offices in Quito. Introductory meetings are at 3pm Mondays through Fridays. During these meetings you will receive all the information you need to volunteer in the project. If you need to change this appointment time let us know in advance.

(IMPORTANT NOTE: We kindly ask you to arrive in Ecuador at least a two days ahead of the start of your volunteer placement. Most projects WON'T receive volunteers on the weekends so please plan accordingly. Also remember you have one meeting with us at our offices, this happens at 3 PM Mondays thru Fridays.)

Direction to our Offices

Directions to our offices in Quito:

Take the Ecovia (Red bus running along 6 de Diciembre Avenue) & get off at the Estadio Olimpico stop. Walk west in Naciones Unidas Avenue (towards the big mountain, Pichincha) and get to the corner of the Naciones Unidas and Shyris Avenue (on the corner of Quicentro Shopping Mall). Cross Shyris avenue; then walk two blocks north (to your right) in Shyris avenue until you reach El Espectador street. Look for a building with blue windows called El Espectador. We are on the second floor. Office 203

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Finance

The Ecuadorian currency is the US Dollar. In general we recommend that you take travellers cheques or worldwide recognized credit cards instead of cash as your main source of money. Please be aware that you may have a maximum limit on cash withdrawal for your bank card in a single day, so it is advisable to come with most of the cash you'll need right away to avoid complications or delays in getting the cash you need.

Ecuador is a cheap country in which to live. A normal person's daily expenses (excluding room, laundry and board) range between US \$20 to US\$25. Urban public transport is US\$0.25 one-way regardless of distance.

Medical Information

High altitude, e.g. in Quito (2800 metres) can affect some people's health. You should check with your doctor if you have any doubts before you travel. If visiting Quito you are advised to take it easy for the first couple of days.

Health and Safety

Field Base safety

All volunteers will be informed of the risks, health and safety procedures for the field on the arrival orientation. It is imperative that everyone both understands and respects them.

Volunteer safety

Look after your passport and take a separate photocopy with you. Do not wear jewelry or walk around areas outside with valuable items on display e.g. cameras. Do not carry large amounts of cash. In the unlikely event that you are targeted for your belongings, hand them over without resistance. If you are traveling in public transportation in Quito, always be aware of your belongings; put your backpack on your front instead of in the back. Be careful with your wallet and keep it in your front pocket. If you are taking taxis, be sure to get on an official taxi (yellow with orange plates).