

ECUADOR: ORPHANAGE PROJECT

Many of Quito's neglected children don't get the chance of a better life - at this orphanage, dedicated support workers and volunteers give them the opportunity to play, study, and be themselves. This is a truly rewarding project, in which you'll be offering the children the chance not only to relax and have fun, but learn skills that mean they can turn their back on the incredibly sad beginnings to life that they've unfortunately experienced.

WHAT DO YOU GET?

- An exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure into Ecuadorian life and culture.
- New skills, more confidence, a greater understanding of a different culture, invaluable personal and professional development.
- An entry on your CV or résumé that will put you head and shoulders above most others in the job market.
- Experienced local staff with 24/7 back-up and support who'll meet you at the airport on your arrival - helps you feel safe and never alone!
- An in-depth Induction makes you feel local straight away!
- A unique insight into another culture – see it from the inside in a way you could never do as a tourist.
- An opportunity to make lifelong friends from all over the world.
- And best of all ... an unforgettable experience!



► SUMMARY FACTFILE

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| Start Dates | All year round – you choose your start and finish dates! |
| Duration | Minimum stay 3 weeks and up to 12 weeks, subject to visa requirements |
| Requirements | No qualifications or experience required just enthusiasm and energy! Although you do need a little Spanish to take part in this project – lessons can be combined with your project though! |
| Price | For up-to-date prices, please check our website www.travellersworldwide.com |
| What's included | ► Accommodation ► Meeting you at the Airport ► ► Transfer to your accommodation ► Full pre-departure support ► Local in-country support and backup ► 24-hr emergency support ► Weekly Salsa Class and drink in Quito ► Two free t-shirts. |
| What's not included | Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visas (if a visa is required, but we'll provide necessary documents and assistance), Transport to and from your project, Food (unless living with a host family, when food is provided Monday - Friday.), Return transfer to airport |
| Who can do this Project? | All projects are open to all nationalities. You need to be aged between 17 and 70+ |

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

At this children's centre in the north of Quito, you'll bring some love and care into the lives of neglected boys and girls. Ranging from 3 - 12 years old, many are the victims of abuse or neglect, some at the home permanently and others as a temporary measure whilst one of more families members serves time in prison. These challenging circumstances present a reality for the 46 children living here currently.

The centre is co-ordinated by nuns and doesn't receive any government funding. Some financial assistance is received from Italy and from within the local community; providing some of the cities poorest children with the opportunity for food and shelter. Despite financial challenges, the home is well equipped and the children are well dressed and living in good conditions. Every evening before bedtime, all of the children are gathered on a carpet with a large, cuddly dog and have a story read to them.

In the mornings, children of school age go there, whilst the younger children stay at the orphanage where activities are arranged for them. When the rest of the children return from school, they are given help with homework, allowed to take part in games or activities and have a meal prepared for them. There is also a school within the centre, where some children from the local neighbourhood attend classes.



YOUR WORK

You'll help provide a warm and loving environment to care for the children, as well as being able to create boundaries to give them clarity - being able to say 'no' at times is important for these children, most of whom come from incredibly sad situations. You'll be able to help with some or all of the following activities;

- Play time - creating new games and generally being there to have fun!
- Assisting with homework
- Drawing, painting, music, dancing and singing
- Helping teach the children some English (and also, to teach some of the staff more English words and phrases).

It will be reward enough just to see the smiles on the faces of the children that you work with. Unfortunately most of the children are from desperately sad and underprivileged backgrounds and have not had the best start in life. You will help to be their ray of sunshine, by lavishing attention on them and showing them that people care! Your work on this project, will be greatly appreciated by the nuns that run the orphanage and especially by the children themselves.

WORKING HOURS:

Generally between 2pm and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

SPANISH LESSONS:

If you have no previous knowledge of Spanish, your project will include 2 weeks of Spanish lessons at a fantastic and very well-established Spanish school in Quito. For the first week of your project, you will have 4 hours of group Spanish classes in the morning 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 . On the third and fourth weeks of your projects, your Spanish will be brilliant and you won't need Spanish classes so will spend all the time at your project!! (Of course, if you wish we can arrange for you to continue with your Spanish classes - please see the prices page for the supplemental cost for

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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!

LOCATION:

Tiny Ecuador, the second smallest country in South America, boasts a huge acclaim as one of the Earths most bio-diverse countries, harbouring an extremely large proportion of the worlds living species.

Most of our programmes in Ecuador are based in Quito, a wonderful city, with a population of 2.4 million inhabitants. It is full of exciting history to explore, which is easier to find than in most cities as the most important dates in Ecuadorian history are in the street names - you'll come across 10 de Agosto street, 12 de Octubre street and 6 de Diciembre street!! You then just have to find out what happened on those dates!

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, there is always something to do or somewhere to visit. 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!

Quito is very easy to get around. You can either use the buses, trolley buses or taxis, which are all very cheap and easily accessible.

ACCOMMODATION:

You'll either stay in a house with other volunteers, in a privately run hostel, or with a host family depending on your preferences/availability. Staying with a host family or in the hostel does mean a small supplementary fee - please see the prices page for details of this.

The house is located in a tourist area, 'La Mariscal', near to where all Spanish lessons are held and where there is plenty of nightlife, restaurants and internet cafes. The house has 7 rooms and accommodates 13. There is a large, fully equipped kitchen, a TV room with a DVD player, wireless internet, 2 safety boxes and a garden with hammocks and a BBQ area. All bathrooms have hot water and there is a cleaning lady 5 days a week.



The hostel is located in the same area, just a 5 minute walk from the house. The cosy backpackers hostel has double rooms with private bathrooms and a small restaurant.

Accommodation with host families means that Travellers volunteers get to eat, sleep, work, socialise and generally live like an Ecuadorian! Many of our volunteers remain friends with their host families long after they leave Ecuador and in some cases they return to the country later especially to visit their family.

Whichever accommodation you choose you're sure to enjoy a great stay in Quito!

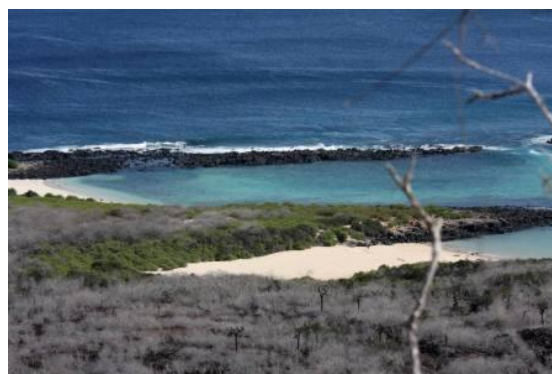


VISAS:

For most nationalities visas are not required for a stay of up to 90 day. If you do require a visa we will liaise with you about specific visa requirements, and make the visa process very easy.

FLIGHTS:

You have the option to arrange your own flights or we can assist you with your flight arrangements. If you would like us to do this for you, we will liaise with you regarding available flights and dates to suit you. All arrangements for your flight bookings/payments will be fulfilled by [Murray Rogers Travel Limited](#), ATOL No. 6856.



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INDUCTION ON ARRIVAL:

When you arrive, you will be welcomed at the airport by our Ecuadorian Organiser, who will take you to your accommodation. During your first few days you will be given an induction so that you can learn about Quito and its culture, as well as useful information like how to use the transport system etc.

COSTS:

Please see the prices pages of our website [Full Price List](#). The price of this project is a reflection of the following costs:

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

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.

For every volunteer, a donation is made by Travellers on your behalf into the [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.

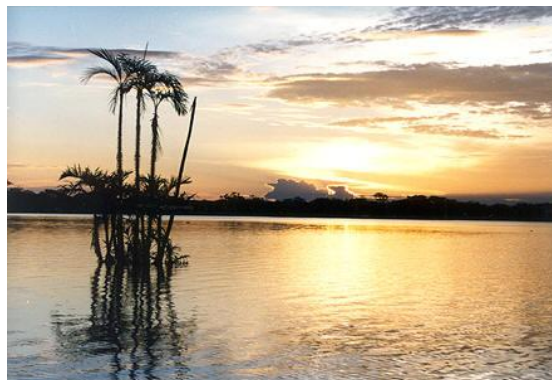
COUNTRY PROFILE:

Ecuador is a melting pot of indigenous communities, from people with colonial Spanish origins to descendants of African slaves. Ecuador was traditionally a farming country, but the economy has been transformed by the discovery of oil and now the population is spread equally between the mountains and the city as since the 1960's there has been rapid and diverse growth of many industries. This means that there is a chance to experience many different cultures and lifestyles whilst volunteering in Ecuador.

The modernisation of Ecuador has definitely not robbed the country of its charm. The cities and towns have distinctly local flavours – due to the population. Ecuadorians are wonderfully friendly, warm and lively and they respect their traditions and heritage. It means that the cities have developed into cosmopolitan hubs but retained their small town candour and geniality.

Quito, the capital of Ecuador, was once part of the Incan empire. When the Incan chief realised he had no chance against the Spanish invaders, he destroyed the city and escaped with the remaining Inca population. This means that there are no remnants of the ancient Incan buildings in the city, but Quito boasts some of the best-preserved early colonial architecture on the continent. It truly is a beautiful city and the main colonial district has been declared a 'Cultural Patrimony of Humanity' by UNESCO. Don't worry though, if you head out of Quito to experience the wonderful Incan treasures left behind by the ancient civilisation.

Ecuador is a year-round destination. In terms of weather, there are two real seasons – the rainy season and the dry season. There are however, significant variations in temperature due to the varied geographical regions and altitude also plays an important role. The wet season usually sees sunny days with daily afternoon downpours (which are a blessing to cool you down!) The tourist high seasons are roughly mid-December through to January and then again from June to August, but it doesn't really matter what time of year you go to Ecuador, as both seasons have their advantages and disadvantages and you'll still have hot weather and an amazing time!!



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THINGS TO DO IN: ECUADOR

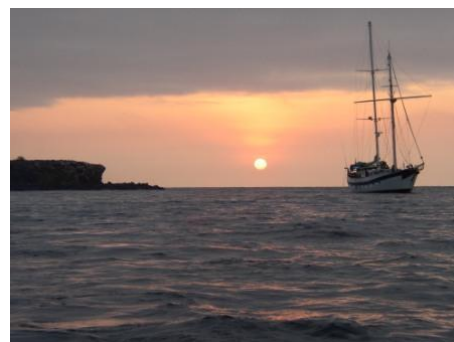
Adventure Sports: If you're an enthusiast you'll have enough to keep you going for a lifetime in Ecuador! Dive with turtles, marine iguanas, dolphins and hammerhead sharks, mountain biking, horse riding, trekking (inside a volcano if you fancy it!), white water rafting – there is something for everyone!

Visit the world's most active volcano: With over 70 volcanoes in Ecuador, there are a range of tours on offer to the infamous region known as 'The Avenue of Volcanoes' – you might be lucky enough to see the world's most active volcano whilst you're there, but it depends on how active it is at the time of your visit!

Relax in the hot springs: Termas de Papallacta is located 1.5 hours east of Quito. There is a bathing area of 9 thermal pools, all of different temperatures and sizes. The temperatures range from 30 to 70 degrees Celsius. The water is mineral rich and has healing effects!

City tours: With many fascinating cities in Ecuador a tour is definitely worth doing! Learn about the ancient Cuenca culture in Cuenca, or visit the ancient Incan fortress – Ingapirca, or how about an Indian market in Latacunga or Saquisilí?!

Visit the stunning Galapagos Islands: Located 600 miles west of Ecuador, the Galapagos islands are a nature lovers paradise! There are penguins, lava lizards, iguanas, giant tortoises and flightless cormorants on land (to name a few!) and the marine life is as breathtaking!



WHY GO WITH TRAVELLERS WORLDWIDE?

- Profesional work experience placements
- 15 years' experience sending thousands of participants overseas, plus the largest variety of **flexible projects** that are **value for money!**
- Excellent support - second to none in the industry
- Accredited projects helps **appeal to future employers**
- Your own dedicated Project Co-ordinator to answer all questions prior to, 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.



VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK

"I had so many experiences there that I could NEVER have gotten anywhere else. Ecuador is a beautiful country and I met so many people from Ecuador and all over the world. A couple of my friends and I went to the Amazon rainforest for a weekend and it was an experience that I can NEVER forget! We went to a lake in the Amazon and we swam around and none of us have ever felt more free and in touch with the nature around us. At the Jamu Lodge we did not have electricity which was cool because we did everything by candle light and that was perfect for when the tour guide would tell us his jungle stories. That was an experience that I thank god everyday that I had the chance to have."

Sarah Murphy

HOW TO BOOK:

Please complete a [booking form](#) online or you can send a postal booking from our free brochure. When we receive this, we'll telephone you to discuss the details and then start the exciting process of planning your trip!

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We do hope you'll join us and are confident that you'll find this an incredible experience. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions - we'll be happy to help you plan your exciting adventure!

You may also be interested in other courses with Travellers, or do other projects in Ecuador– please visit our [website](#) for details of all our projects. In fact you can choose from over 300 projects in 19 countries!

Make a Difference – Get Involved!

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