

## ECUADOR: STREET KIDS PROJECT

You'll work with a recently formed NGO that was founded by two psychologists, who desperately want to help children, youth and adults living on the streets of Quito. The main objective of this project is to help people in desperate situations, by giving them a safe environment to eat, shower, relax, meet peers, make friends and learn new skills in.

You'll find this project incredibly rewarding as the street children are crying out for love and attention. The assistance that you can give by volunteering on this project is also invaluable, as it is severely lacking in funds. The NGO is hoping to provide a safe place for the children to sleep in the near future - without volunteers providing the project with their time and enthusiasm this would not be possible.

### 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!
- And best of all ... an unforgettable experience!



### ► SUMMARY FACTFILE

<b>Start Dates</b>	All year round - you choose your start and finish dates!
<b>Duration</b>	Minimum stay 3 weeks and up to 12 weeks, subject to visa requirements
<b>Requirements</b>	None, just enthusiasm and energy. You'll need a little Spanish to do this project, but we've got that covered! If you have no knowledge of Spanish at all, you can combine your project with two weeks of Spanish.
<b>Price</b>	For up-to-date prices, please check our website <a href="http://www.travellersworldwide.com">www.travellersworldwide.com</a>
<b>What's included</b>	► 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.
<b>What's not included</b>	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
<b>Who can do this Project?</b>	All projects are open to all nationalities. You need to be aged between 17 and 70+

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

You'll work with a not for profit NGO that specialises in the investigation, prevention, attention and treatment of the population that live in extreme marginal situations. It is their belief that a child is born good, but society corrupts them. They strive to reverse this trend by offering a safe and secure environment in which they can relax and feel at home. The street children also have the chance to meet others in their situation and learn skills that will help them turn their backs on the life of poverty and deprivation that they've been accustomed to by living on the streets.



The NGO works with **C**hildren, **A**dolescents, **Y**outh of the **S**treets and **S**treetworkers. These are the **CAYSaS**. The CAYSaS are found on the streets in urban areas. They are faced with problems such as: working and living on the streets, contact with their families, lack of education, risk of permanent and total exclusion from local communities. The children and young adults are at a very high risk of being totally excluded from local communities as a large number turn to solvent abuse and drugs to escape their problems, which can lead to a life of crime and violence to pay for these habits. Most of the children on the projects sell candy on the streets to support their most basic expenses. The project has created a carpentry workshop and various training courses to teach the youth and adults, new skills that will improve their quality of life.



The key areas that the NGO offer help with, are:

- Giving them attention, treatment and refuge. The treatment is given for behavioural problems, education problems and (drug) addiction
- When CAYSaS are in the process of moving to the street the NGO tries to prevent this by offering other options.
- Help with strengthening of character, pedagogical recuperation, and returning to school.
- Promoting suitable use of their free time.
- Education on sexual orientation, family planning, prevention of STDs and health education.
- Establishing the reintroduction of family, social life and work into the children's lives.
- Younger children are sent to school, with the help of sponsors.
- Older children are offered opportunities to learn skills such as carpentry to help themselves.

## YOUR WORK

You will mainly work as an assistant. The children will really appreciate any attention you give them! Some of the tasks that you may participate in will include:

- Helping the children with their homework
- Helping them in the carpentry workshop
- Helping in the kitchen
- Visiting the schools
- Playing with the children
- Preparing activities for the children (sports, outings to the theatre, museums, the zoo, teaching the children



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songs, role play games etc.)

The project has also had a new house donated to them. If you wish to, there may be the chance to really get your hands dirty and help finish the painting and decorating for this house so that it can be put to use more quickly!

This project is extremely rewarding and your help is greatly appreciated. If you have any special talents the children would love you to share them or teach them! However, please be aware that it is emotionally draining and requires strong characters to volunteer here. You must be incredibly self motivated and independent and must not be afraid, although it will seem daunting at first. You must be prepared for what you will be faced with - there will be dirt (these children live on the streets!), the children lack education so you must be very patient and many of them have deep-seated emotional issues, nevertheless you must remember that this NGO is doing phenomenal work helping these children overcome the hardships that they have been dealt in life. YOU can play an important part in that!



### 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 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 Earth's most bio-diverse countries, harbouring an extremely large proportion of the world's 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



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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.

### **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

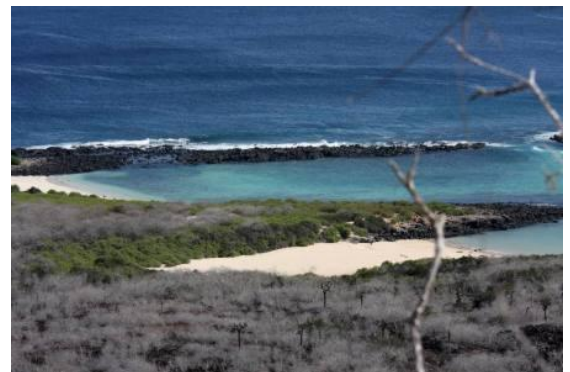
### **HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE:**

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



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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!!



## 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!



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- Detailed information on your project and country and suggestions, safety guide, tips and checklists, via our *EXTRANET*, **available from anywhere, 24/7.**
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- Free pick up from the nearest airport.



## 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!

**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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