



## MAURITIUS: MARINE CONSERVATION WITH DOLPHINS AND WHALES

Monitor wild Dolphin and Whale populations along the coast of Mauritius and make a vital contribution to the work of a local NGO. You'll help raise awareness about the impact of tourism on these species, aiming to ensure a sustainable future for all.

Mauritius was formed about 8 to 10 million years ago as a result of undersea volcanic eruptions ... and what a success nature made of it! The island is beautiful and special. With a tropical climate and turquoise seas, it's famous for being a luxury holiday destination.

### WHAT DO YOU GET?

- An exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure into Mauritian 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

<b>Start Dates</b>	All year round – you choose your start and finish dates!
<b>Duration</b>	Minimum stay 2 weeks and up to 3 months, subject to visa requirements.
<b>Requirements</b>	You must be a competent swimmer. You should also be flexible, adaptable and prepared to work at physical tasks and in the outdoors, as well as indoors doing data entry and research
<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 team support and backup ► 24-hr emergency support ► Return transfer to the airport.
<b>What's not included</b>	Flights, Insurance, Food, Cost of Visas (if a visa is required, but we'll provide necessary documents and assistance.)
<b>Who can do this Project?</b>	All our projects are open to all nationalities. Unless otherwise stated, you need to be aged between 18 and 70+

2A, Caravelle House, 17/19 Goring Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN12 4AP, UK  
Tel: +44 (0)1903 502595 Fax: +44 (0)1903 708179 Email: [info@travellersworldwide.com](mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com)

TravelQuest Ltd t/a Travellers, registered in England & Wales, Registered Office:  
7 Mulberry Close, Ferring, West Sussex, BN12 5HY, Reg No. 3072191. VAT registration: 786540201

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

This fantastic research opportunity would suit anyone with a love of the outdoors and a passion for marine life.

### The Marine Conservation Programme

You'll work with a well established local NGO (MC) who are focused on safe-guarding the marine environment of Mauritius, paying particular attention to the protection of marine mammals and coral reefs. With the decreasing populations, it is imperative to take steps now to identify the cause of the decrease. The work being done by MC is contributing significantly to new legislation to protect the dolphin populations, so you'll be assisting in real, hands-on conservation that will hopefully have a positive outcome.

Man's growing demand for fun activities like dolphin-watching trips and 'swimming with dolphins' has highlighted the need to monitor the effect that this type of human presence is having on cetacean populations. MC are tackling this problem through data collection, but also primarily through education by highlighting to the local Dolphin watching industry the importance of adhering to codes of behaviour throughout Dolphin encounters.



In conjunction with this on-going educational work, a scientific study of the two main dolphin populations began in 2008 in order to track their migration patterns, social groups and habits. This study focuses on Bottlenose and Spinner Dolphins, Sperm Whales and Humpback Whales, all of which are found in the diverse environment between the Tamarin Bay and Black River areas of Mauritius.

At Tamarin Bay in particular, Spinner dolphins can be seen almost every day, with group sizes averaging about 30 to 60 animals. Bottlenose dolphins, although not seen as often, also reside along the west coast. Other marine mammals seen irregularly in the area include pilot whales and sperm whales. In the 'official' whale season, between August and November there are often sightings of humpback whales and calves.



### Work Content

Research involves taking photographs of dolphin and whale sightings to provide fin profiles for identification, population estimates and distribution studies. Photographs and data sheets compiled during research trips form a vital part of a much larger ecological study of marine mammals along the coast of Mauritius. Field research is then combined with office-based analysis of fin profiles and notch characteristics. Some of the data you'll collect will include, for example, the following:

- Size
- Dorsal fin-size, shape and position
- Body and head shape
- Colour and markings
- Number of animals
- Habitat
- Breaching and other activities
- Blow characteristics (whales)
- Tail shape and markings



One of the major priorities is educating the local children and general public and raising awareness of marine mammals and the habitat they live in. The NGO has some great projects in the pipeline with local schools and hotels. You may be asked to help construct an Information Board and/or other visual aids, including literature and other types of information to be used for these projects.

**CALL:**  
**+44 (0)1903 502595**

**EMAIL:**  
**[info@travellersworldwide.com](mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com)**

**Click here to APPLY:**  
**[Booking Form](#)**

The volunteer programme plays a vital role assisting with research, conservation and awareness in the area, as well as generating funds to ensure the continuity of such research. Some of the duties you may help with during your time on this project include;

- Data collection and analysis for ongoing projects, especially with regards to population parameters of coastal dolphins and whales. This requires field-based research on the boat, which may take place 2 or 3 times per week depending on weather. Here you'll photograph animals, track their movements, record environmental conditions and map habitat use.
- Learning about research techniques and methodology used during dolphin research, such as fin profile identification. You'll receive training on this during small workshops throughout your stay.
- Humpback whale work includes photographing hump/fin profiles and tail fluke patterns for identification purposes, in conjunction with taking skin biopsy samples. While this is an exciting, field-based study it is currently done opportunistically and is very dependent on the availability of researchers and whales, as humpback whales do migrate seasonally. Samples are taken as they pass along the coastline – primarily from August to November.
- Speaking to local tourists and boat operators as part of survey research on the dolphin watching industry
- Research boat checks and equipment maintenance
- Beach or lagoon clean ups
- Office-based duties including data analysis, record keeping and administration.
- Preparing educational activities for schools

### Monitoring The Effects of Tourist Activity on The Dolphins

Current projects also include surveys of tourists and local operators to gain a better understanding of the economic value of this activity. Volunteers are asked to conduct these surveys in various parts of the island...the perfect opportunity to meet locals and see some of the sights!

Monitoring the boats includes noting arrival and departure times, numbers of clients/tourists and their general behaviour for each boat while they are with the dolphins. These results assist in a number of ways:

- Looking at the value of the industry i.e. Number of tourists and number of people directly employed
- Effectiveness of the guidelines and education of operators
- Seasonality of industry
- Effects of boats and swimmers on the dolphins
- Boat Categories are speed boats, fishing boats, catamarans, pirogues and glass bottom boats.

In general, your work will vary, depending on what is required at the time that you volunteer. You'll need to be enthusiastic, adaptable and willing to *"muck in and get your hands dirty"*. It must be noted that some elements of these projects are seasonal and depend very much on the presence of the animals along the coast.



### Working Hours

Working hours are usually between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday, although these are flexible. Nothing is set in stone and work rosters are notoriously difficult to set up as something more interesting always comes up and the planned schedule goes straight out of the window!! You may be asked to help out over weekends, but generally you can spend Saturdays and Sundays relaxing on the beach, exploring the local forests or enjoying some of the many activities that Mauritius has to offer. In your spare time you can learn to scuba dive, go horse riding or hire a car to explore the island.

### LOCATION:

You'll be based in La Preneuse, Black River, on the south west coast of Mauritius. This is a small town approximately 40km south of the capital Port Louis. There are regular buses and taxis to access many of the country's most beautiful beaches and nature parks.

<p><b>CALL:</b> <b>+44 (0)1903 502595</b></p>	<p><b>EMAIL:</b> <a href="mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com">info@travellersworldwide.com</a></p>	<p><b>Click here to APPLY:</b> <a href="#">Booking Form</a></p>
---	---	---

## ACCOMMODATION & FOOD:

During your stay you will live and work in a house in La Preneuse. The property is a 2 minute walk to the beach and easy access to some small restaurants, supermarkets, bars and bus stops. Bed linen is provided and there is a washing machine available for you to use, but please bring/buy your own towels.

Depending on the number of volunteers, you may have your own room or you may share a bunk bed with 1 other volunteer. In this two-storey house the office is situated on the first floor and the volunteers live on the ground floor. It is equipped with a large living area and a dining/kitchen area, two toilets and a shower. There is a porch and a roof top which can be accessed at all times for you to enjoy relaxing after work and watching the glorious sunsets!

**Food** is not included on this project and you should allow approximately £25 to £40 a week budget. You can live on less, depending on whether you want to eat expensively like a Westerner, or take advantage of the culture and eat like the locals, and also on whether you want to eat out frequently in restaurants or prepare most of your meals at home. The house is equipped with sufficient cookware, crockery and cutlery, plus a few basics like salt, pepper and oil.



## VISAS:

For most nationalities visas are not required, and are automatically issued on arrival for 90 days. Don't worry if you do require one we will liaise with you about your 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 Mauritius 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 Mauritius 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
- ✓ Return transfer to 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.

**CALL:**  
+44 (0)1903 502595

**EMAIL:**  
[info@travellersworldwide.com](mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com)

**Click here to APPLY:**  
[Booking Form](#)

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:

Surrounded by beautiful white sandy beaches, the 330 kilometres of Mauritian coastline is home to a particularly rich marine environment. Like all tropical islands, the underwater topography is very diverse and offers diving opportunities amongst endlessly beautiful landscapes, including arches, tunnels, caves and wrecks. Together with Réunion and Rodrigues, the island of Mauritius which lies in the Indian Ocean, forms part of the Mascarene Islands archipelago, off the south eastern coast of Africa and to the east of Madagascar.

Everyone is made to feel at home in Mauritius! Mauritians are a blend of many diverse ethnicities, cultures and religions. The principal ethnic groups being Indians, Africans, Europeans and Chinese. The people are full of charm, are always willing to help and are on the whole forever friendly and great fun to be around!



The official language of Mauritius is English but the real language of the people is (French) Creole. Creole is not actually officially recognised, nor is it taught in schools - it is a language that evolved from the 'pidgin' French used by the French masters of the 18th century to communicate with their slaves, and it now includes many words borrowed from African and Malagasy dialects. Asian languages (such as Hindi) are also widely spoken, but the majority of Mauritians are bilingual (being equally fluent in English and French), if not trilingual!

The mixture of the island's melting pot of races is reflected in the adventurous Mauritian cuisine - which consists of a deliciously mouth-watering mix of spicy curries, tropical fruits and vegetables, Chinese and European food. In Mauritius you're able to travel to the furthest points of the world without leaving the comfort of the dinner table!

We would definitely recommend trying the wonderful samosas, along with dholl purri (Indian wheat pancakes stuffed with dahl (a thick creamy stew made with lentils and spices!)) and don't forget gâteaux piments (otherwise known as chili cakes!)



Due to the vast ethnic diversity and the rich heritage of the island's people, Mauritius has a brilliant culture, which is reflected in the many public holidays and festivals they celebrate. To name a few, there are always festivals and holidays for: Chinese New Year, Christmas, New Year, Independence Day, Abolition of Slavery, Eid-UI-Fitr (Muslim festival to mark the end of Ramadan) and the Hindu festivals; Thaipooasam Cavadee, Maha Shivratree, Ugadi, Ganesh Chaturthi and Divali!

## THINGS TO DO IN MAURITIUS

- **Adventure and mountain sports** enthusiasts should head to some of the reserve parks, where not only can you see spectacular wildlife and scenery, you can take part in a number of adventure activities!
- **Visit the beaches!** With over 330 kilometres of beautiful coastline there are a vast number of beaches to choose from!
- **Check out the interesting history of Mauritius** – visit some of the richly historical colonial sites, such as the Dutch ruins, or the Martello towers.
- **Dance the Sega!** It was invented by Mauritians of African origin and is synonymous with 'joie de vivre'. There are many different types nowadays, from the traditional folklore dance of old, to a modern version that young people favour!



## WHY GO WITH TRAVELLERS WORLDWIDE?

- ✓ Professional work experience placements

<b>CALL:</b> <a href="tel:+4401903502595">+44 (0)1903 502595</a>	<b>EMAIL:</b> <a href="mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com">info@travellersworldwide.com</a>	<b>Click here to APPLY:</b> <a href="#">Booking Form</a>
---	---	---

- ✓ 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.

## 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 programmes with Travellers – 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!



CALL:  
**+44 (0)1903 502595**

EMAIL:  
[info@travellersworldwide.com](mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com)

Click here to APPLY:  
[Booking Form](#)