

Support to Indigenous Communities

Highlights

- Becoming fully immersed in the culture and lifestyle of a Bolivian indigenous community as you live alongside the villagers and become involved in every aspect of their daily lives.
- Getting back to basics and enjoying the great outdoors in a tranquil setting without the pressures of modern life.
- Providing assistance to the community by teaching English, acting as a translator in tourism initiatives and lending a hand around the village wherever needed.

About The Project

The aim of the project is to provide support to an indigenous community, to assist them in improving their quality of life, generate income through the sustainable management of natural resources, and live in harmony with nature and tourism.

Volunteer Role

The first Monday at the Academia is an orientation day. All new students and volunteers go on a city tour of Sucre to get to know the city and learn how to get around and use the public transport system. In the afternoon there's an information session in which you will learn about the Academia, as well as about important issues such as security, do's and don'ts in Sucre, accommodation, volunteer work etc. You will then travel from Sucre to La Paz and then onto Rurrenabaque to the project location.

Volunteers joining this project will have an incredible insight into the indigenous way of life. You will need to be prepared to adapt to a basic lifestyle, and all previous volunteers agree this is what makes the experience so special.

Activities will be varied and will depend upon the needs of the project at the time you are there, but you will assist with fishing, hunting, agriculture, cooking (a fantastic opportunity to learn about typical Bolivian food) and child care. The community also has a lodge and your help there will be greatly appreciated working as a guide, translator, cleaner and administrator. Help is also needed in the school assisting the teacher with reading, writing, maths and languages.

Location

The project is located within a National Park, in the town of Rurrenabaque. Rurrenabaque is an 18 hour bus ride, or a one hour flight from La Paz (you will take a bus from Sucre to La Paz which takes approximately 8 hours). Upon arrival in Rurrenabaque, you will take a 50 minute boat ride along the rivers of Beni and Tuichi.

The location provides a true jungle experience. You will be well away from towns, cities and the associated entertainment, therefore it's important you are interested in the great outdoors, flora and fauna. During your time at the project you are likely to spot all manner of wildlife including caiman, monkeys, pink river dolphins, sloths and capybaras, as well as birds, insects and reptiles!

Accommodation

You will stay with local members of the community in their family homes. The houses are extremely basic, usually consisting of just one room for all activities; therefore you will not have your bedroom. Cooking is conducted on fires, there is no hot water, often no or limited electricity and therefore you will not have television, radio or internet! Living in such a basic environment is an incredible experience and volunteers usually come away with the renewed sense of what is important in life!

Requirements

Volunteers must be able to commit to at least 4 weeks at the project in order to build up a trusting relationship with the children and staff. It is imperative that volunteers are totally open-minded to new and different cultures. You will be living alongside the community and experiencing life just as they do. The people are often initially shy and so you will need to be self motivated to offer your help and get involved. You also need to remain flexible at all times and adapt to the needs of the community on a daily basis – on some days you may be extremely busy with all number of tasks to complete, and other days may be fairly quiet, leaving you time to simply spend in the company of the families and children.

All volunteers must hold an upper intermediate level of spoken Spanish. If your Spanish is at a lower level, you must join our Spanish language school prior to commencing your volunteer work.

When choosing to volunteer in a developing country such as Bolivia, it is important to remain flexible as the needs of the project are constantly evolving. This is what makes volunteering so rewarding – the fact that you are on hand to lend your support when and where it is needed. By choosing Academia Latinoamericana de Español you will have a comprehensive safety network behind you as we are here to help throughout the duration of your entire stay!

Programme Fee Includes

- Accommodation
- 2 meals per day if staying with a host family
- Project Support
- A donation that goes directly to your project
- Orientation and city tour
- Pre-departure information
- Laundry service if staying with a host family
- 24 hour emergency support

Programme Fee Does Not Include

- International flights
- Meals if staying at the student residence
- Laundry service if staying at the student residence
- Transport to the project location
- Visas
- Travel Insurance
- Inoculations
- Excursions over and above the itinerary

Travel Ideas

We are fully equipped to help you with making weekend travel arrangements, and onwards travel arrangements following your time at the Academia. We work with the best tour companies to offer safe, reliable and competitively priced trips. Some of the most popular trips include:

- La Paz – The World's highest capital city at 3660m above sea level! Wander the markets, visit the museums and sip coffee in the plazas. Good day trips from la Paz include: the Valle de la Luna - a maze of canyons and pinnacles, and Tiwanaku – Bolivia's most significant archeological site.
- Salar de Uyuni – Go on a 4WD adventure of the incredible lunar landscape of the world's largest salt flat. See giant cacti, red lakes, pink flamingo and steaming geysers!
- Lake Titicaca – South America's largest Lake which borders Peru and Bolivia. Stay on one of the floating islands for a true insight into the lifestyle and culture of the local communities.
- Potosi – scramble and crawl through the shafts of Potosi's mines and even let off a stick of dynamite!

Apply Now

If you have some further questions about this project, please feel free to contact us at info@latinoschools.com.

If you would like to book this programme, please [click here](#) to complete the booking form. We will be in touch within one week of application to confirm your booking!