

## Penitentiary Volunteers

### Highlights

- Providing your support to people who are often forgotten about by Bolivian society.
- Living and working in Sucre, Bolivia's most beautiful colonial city.
- Getting away from the tourist trail and experiencing the real Bolivia.

### About The Project

Help is needed within a prison facility in Sucre. The people within the prison are often forgotten about by family and friends and also neglected by society due to their criminal backgrounds, however the project is reaching out to some of the inmates who will benefit from support, guidance and teaching.

### 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. Your volunteer placement commences on Tuesday of the first week.

Volunteers can work with three groups of people. Firstly, with the female prisoners, where classes and workshops are being conducted to teach the women how to sew, weave and paint. Secondly you can choose to help out in the carpentry and electricity workshops with the male prisoners. These workshops aim to arm the prisoners with new skills to enable them to gain employment following their release. Some of the prisoners are studying Agronomy, and professors from the university go to the prison to provide teaching materials, this is something else you may be required to help out with. Finally, you can work with the children of the prisoners – helping them with their homework and taking them to school or kindergarten.

### Location

Sucre is a beautiful city set in a valley and surrounded by low mountains. It has a rich colonial heritage and is also known as 'the white city' due to its numerous colonial buildings, all of which are painted white and topped with shiny red roofs. In 1991, it was granted 'UNESCO Cultural Heritage' status.

Sucre is home to many museums, a lively central plaza, shops, bars and restaurants. Locals and visitors alike are also attracted to markets where food, textiles and an assortment of other products are sold in barter fashion! The charming colonial town and its nearby villages feature a sizeable indigenous population and they have managed to maintain their customs and colorful dress.

### Accommodation

You will stay either at the student residence or with a host family. Host family accommodation includes a private room, breakfast, dinner and laundry service. Singles, married couples and parents with children can all be accommodated. It is also possible to stay in a student residence – one is located within the school grounds, and there are two very nearby. Here you will self cater - there are shops and markets very nearby and a fully equipped kitchen.

## **Requirements**

Volunteers must be able to commit to at least 4 weeks at the project in order to build up trusting relationships. Due to the nature and location of this project, it can make for quite a difficult working environment. As such, its important volunteers have strong, resilient characters, are self-motivated and able to work independently.

All volunteers must hold an advanced 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
- 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!
- Pampas – visit the wetland savannas to spot a vast array of wildlife including caimans, monkeys, sloths, pink river dolphins and maybe even anacondas! Stay in riverside lodges, watch incredible sun sets and sun rises and sway the day away in hammocks!

- 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 – scabble and crawl through the shafts of Potosi’s mines and even let ff a stick of dynamite!

**Apply Now**

If you have some further questions about this project, please feel free to contact us at [sandra@latinoschools.ec](mailto:sandra@latinoschools.ec)

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!