

Galapagos Biological Station

Highlights



- Living and volunteering in one of the most beautiful places on earth!
- Spotting all manner of rare and exotic creatures – the Galapagos Giant Tortoise, sea lions, blue and red footed boobies...
- Taking an active role in the conservation of such a special place and knowing that your hard work will aide the future survival of native species on the island.

About The Project

The project is located in the highlands of the islands of Galapagos. The aim of the project is to develop reforestation and technology to reconstruct native habitats on the island, and for it to then serve as a center for similar projects in the highlands of other populated islands of the Galapagos. Currently there is very limited remaining native species due to farming activities and the introduction of invasive species. The project has also established a Plant Conservation Center for native plant species.

The project also works with local landowners to develop clean agricultural alternatives for fruit and vegetable production, which they then sell to local universities, restaurants and hotels.

Volunteer Role

The first Monday at the Academia is an orientation day. All new students and volunteers go on a city tour of Quito. 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 Ecuador, accommodation, volunteer work etc. Volunteers then usually fly to the Galapagos on the Wednesday.

As a volunteer you will be involved in some or all of the following activities;



- Reforestation – collecting and classifying seeds, working in the nursery, planting native species, maintaining reforestation lines.
- Providing environmental education to local people and schools.
- Station maintenance – maintaining trails, making signs for the trails, basic construction work, helping in the kitchen.
- Organic agricultural activities – helping to maintain and secure food production for the station.

You will also be taken on guided hikes through the reserve and surrounding area to lagoons, forests, beaches and villages and learn about the biodiversity, natural history and ecology.



Occasionally you may be required to work a half-day on Saturdays, but you will have free time the rest of the weekend to spend as you wish. The Galapagos is a nature lovers dream! You will be able to spend time spotting rare bird species such as the red footed booby, hanging out with sea lions on the beach, meeting the Galapagos Giant Tortoise, snorkeling with the incredible marine life and trying your hand at a spot of surfing!

Location

The project is located in one of the oldest island in the Galapagos archipelago. The flora and fauna on the island is simply breathtaking. It is home to frigate birds, sea lions, blue and red footed boobies, iguanas, dolphins, sharks, rays and more! It is a two-hour flight from Quito to the Galapagos, and all flights go via Guayaquil.

The Galapagos is inhabited by 40,000 people, living in just eight main settlements on four of the islands. In the center of the archipelago lies Santa Cruz, to the east is San Cristobal, straddling the equator to the west of Santa Cruz is Isabela, and in the south is Floreana. Just 3% of the Galapagos is inhabited – the rest is protected by National Park status and has been since 1959 due to damaged caused to flora and fauna by human interference. Visitors are restricted to the colonized areas as well as over sixty designated visitor sites spread across the islands. By volunteering on this project, you will gain a unique insight into life on the Galapagos.



Accommodation

You will live with other volunteers in rustic accommodation on the island. You will have shared bedrooms and bathroom facilities (cold water showers). Three meals per day are provided, consisting of typical Ecuadorian cuisine.

Requirements

Volunteers must be able to commit to at least 4 weeks at the. When choosing to volunteer in a developing country such as Ecuador, 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 Espanol you will have a comprehensive safety network behind you as we are here to help throughout the duration of your entire stay!

Feedback

"Living and volunteering on the Galapagos was simply incredible! It was really hard work as every day we were out clearing back invasive weeds and getting stuck in to physical work such as trail maintenance, but wow - what a beautiful place to spend your days! Weekends were fun too – visiting beaches and seeing wildlife that was just out of this world – its nice to know I made a difference to the conservation of such a beautiful place".

Emma Longstreet, UK

Programme Fee Includes

- Accommodation
- Meals
- Project Support
- A donation that goes directly to your project
- Orientation and city tour
- Pre-departure information
- 24 hour emergency support

Programme Fee Does Not Include

- International flights
- Return flight from Quito to the Galapagos.
- Visas
- Travel Insurance
- Inoculations
- Excursions over and above the itinerary

After Your Project – Travel Ideas

We are fully equipped to help you with onwards travel arrangements. We work with the best tour companies to offer safe, reliable and competitively priced trips. Here are some of our favorite travel options that you may want to consider after your time on the Galapagos.

- Otavalo – a famous Saturday market offering a dazzling array of textiles, crafts and jewellery just a couple of hours from Quito.
- Papallacta - 8 natural hot springs in which to soak away the day! A great day trip from Quito.
- Cotopaxi – you can choose to hike this immense volcano, or take a more moderate tour to see it!
- Baños – great for trekking, mountain biking, rafting and taking a dip in the hot baths! This makes for a nice weekend break from Quito.
- Mindo Cloud Forest – swing in a hammocks, spot exotic birds and animals, bathe in waterfalls, float down the river in inner tubes, trek and horseback ride!
- The Amazon – A fantastic option for those looking to travel after their volunteer project. Stay in rustic jungle lodges, swim with pink river dolphins, search for anacondas and swing in hammocks!

Apply Now

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