

## Wildlife Volunteers



### Highlights

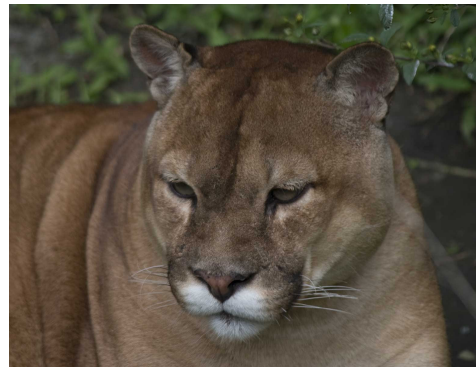
- Gaining experience in zoological management.
- Working closely with a number of different mammal, bird, amphibian and fish species.
- Living in beautiful Baños – stunning scenery and adventure activities galore!

### About The Project

The zoo is home to a variety of species of animals found in the sierra and orient regions of Ecuador, and currently there are around 60 different bird, mammal, reptile, fish and amphibian species being cared for. The aim of the zoo is to conserve and rehabilitate animals, and wherever possible release them into the wild. The zoo cares for sick wildlife, provides shelter for endangered species that have been rescued from the international pet trade, and rehabilitates injured animals brought to the zoo by local people. The zoo is conscious to provide appropriate environmental conditions and enrichment for each species, as well as proper veterinary care. The zoo is also focused on preserving biodiversity, and educating local people and visitors about hunting, deforestation and ecology.

### Volunteer Role

The first Monday at the Academia is an orientation day. All new students and volunteers go on a city tour of Quito 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 Ecuador, and about your volunteer project. You will then spend a day or two in Quito, usually traveling to the project on the Wednesday.



Volunteers will work from 8am until 5pm Monday - Friday, but with lunch and tea breaks throughout the day. By joining this project, you will have the opportunity to acquire experience in zoo management, taking part in some or all of the following:

- Sanitation and hygiene – observe and participate in cleaning each exhibit of the zoo's collection.
- Alimentation – prepare and distribute the required diets for the animals. This is an excellent opportunity to observe health and behavior of individual animals.
- Environmental Management – participate in education, environmental enrichment and environmental management related to wildlife captivity.

- Veterinary Care – collaborate in both prophylaxis and treatment as necessary.
- Guiding Visitors – volunteers will be provided with information to share with visitors as they conduct tours of the zoo.
- Shared Activities – The zoo is currently building a second facility close to the small town of Tena. This will act as an active exhibition center, as well as an emergency holding facility for the animals in the event the zoo should ever need to evacuate. Depending on the stage the project is at when you are there, it may be necessary for you to help out.



### **Location**

The zoo is located just outside Baños, approximately four hours from Quito. Baños is a really fun place to be based. It's popular with backpackers for its stunning scenery, adventure activities and vibrant nightlife. Options include renting quad bikes, mountain bikes or buggies to explore the nearby waterfalls, relaxing in the thermal baths, white water rafting or take a weekend trip to the nearby jungle! It's also possible to take a weekend 'city break' back to Quito if you wish!

### **Accommodation**

The zoo has its own lodging facilities with comfortable beds and hot showers. You will share rooms and communal areas with other volunteers and will be provided with three meals each day. There is also a small library and computers, which you will be able to use.

### **Requirements**

Volunteers must be able to commit to at least 4 weeks at the project. All volunteers must hold at least a high beginner/low 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 in order to be able to communicate with the local community and staff. Please be aware that this project involves a certain level of physical work – whilst you will not be asked to work beyond your personal capabilities, you should hold a relative level of fitness.

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 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
- 3 meals per day
- 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
- Transportation from Quito to Baños
- Visas
- Travel Insurance
- Inoculations
- Excursions over and above the itinerary

### **After Your Project – Travel Ideas**

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

- 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 to soak away the day in! A great day trip from Quito.
- Cotopaxi – you can choose to hike this immense volcano, or take a more moderate tour to see it!
- Mindo Cloud Forest – swing in a hammocks, spot exotic birds and animals, bath in waterfalls, float down the river in inner tubes, trek and horseback ride! All this and near enough to Quito to make it a great weekend excursion.
- 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 swim in hammocks!
- The Galapagos! Ecuador's true gem! Experience for yourself the exact places Charles Darwin got his inspiration! Take a cruise around the beautiful islands and spot seals, turtles, sharks, albatross, blue and red footed boobies, iguanas and more as you trek, swim, snorkel and explore! An unforgettable way to end your time in Ecuador!

### **Apply Now**

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