

be part of the solution

VOLUNTEER WITH

INTERCULTURAL OUTREACH INITIATIVE



Protect unique ecosystems

Contribute to Global Goals

Develop employability skills

Improve your Spanish

IMMERSE YOURSELF
INTO LOCAL
CULTURES



**ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION**

DIRECTLY ADVANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**  **GOALS**

welcome to ioi!



WHO WE ARE

IOI is a leading nonprofit that empowers isolated communities to grow sustainably through educational travel since 2006. We provide international education programs that support the education, conservation, and social development of our host communities in Galapagos and Cuba.

learn more,
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WHAT WE DO

We run international volunteering and study abroad programs to support local conservation and community development projects.

HOW WE DO IT

We offer volunteer opportunities that focus on conservation, education, and social development. The programs provide our participants with life changing experiences, as well as our local partners with funding, expertise, and people power on site. Our academically robust and customizable, faculty-led, field based study abroad programs focus on how communities can become more sustainable within their local environments.

SUSTAINABLE PROJECT DESIGN

We design affordable, safe, fun, and impactful trips so students get extraordinary academic experiences and gain highly valuable global competences and other key employability skills. The design of our outreach programs is based in and around science by merging international education, research, and local projects. Thus, our projects are academically informed by research, financed and participated in by international education, and executed throughout the year by our volunteers, local authorities, and community members.



our global contribution

THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015 the United Nations General Assembly agreed on a series of 17 global goals for 2030. Better known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), their 169 sub-targets cover a range of sustainable development issues, and are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

IOI is fully committed to helping achieve the SDGs. In collaboration with local, regional, and global partners, IOI's work directly advances the implementation of these goals. IOI designs all of its projects and organizational objectives to align with the SDG framework. Specifically, our work substantially contributes to the achievement of the following goals:



The implementation of the SDGs ensures a human-environmental balance and economic prosperity for today while ensuring the same benefits for all future generations. IOI aims to engage, educate, and help create global citizens who are inspired to be part of the solution and who continue to contribute towards a sustainable world.



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more info
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why volunteer with ioi?

1 CONTRIBUTE TO AN IMPACTFUL EXPERIENCE

With IOI you will have real and measurable impact on our sustainable projects, host communities and ecosystems. Our programs are co-designed with our local partners, with clear short, mid, and long term objectives. We are also very aware of our global impact and responsibility, so we ensure our programs are aligned with, and contribute to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

2 HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE

Are you looking for a fulfilling experience in an incredible location with amazing people? Look no further! Be part of an international team with outstanding 24/7 field support from our experienced staff. Develop personal skills, open your mind to other ways of living and seeing our world, become globally culturally aware, and improve your emotional intelligence. This will be a life changing experience!



3 GAIN VALUABLE LIFE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Our projects will help you develop key life and professional skills. From global cultural awareness and intelligence, practical field experience, teamwork, leadership, and adaptability, to improving your Spanish language, your participation will make your CV more attractive. Through our projects you will learn about local and global sustainability issues as well as potential solutions and strategies to help achieve the SDGs.

You will also be able to earn certificates that will help you stand out professionally in today's highly competitive employment world. Whether it's our International TEFL course or the AFS Global Competence Certificate, we want this experience to contribute to your professional success!



TEFL Certification



GALAPAGOS

The Galapagos Islands are every Explorer's and Naturalist's dream for their dramatic landscapes and the fearless, unique wildlife. Formerly a fisheries-based economy with very few locals living mostly for subsistence, the Galapagos evolved to be a Wild West for sea cucumber and lobster trading before turning into one of the foremost Ecotourism destinations on the planet. While being one of the best preserved places in the world, with 95% of its pre-human, original biodiversity still intact, pressures from tourism are increasing. IOI and its volunteer programs help the Galapagos to continue on their path to sustainable development where both quality of life is ensured and the unique environment is preserved, today and for future generations.



more details?

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our programs

GIANT TORTOISES

In this position, you will work with the Galapagos National Park as a member of the staff at the Tortoise Breeding Center. You will feed and care for the tortoises and their eggs, assist the Park Rangers with the breeding program, and work directly with the public to educate visitors. Some tasks will require the use of basic tools (shovels, hand tools, etc.) and this position requires the physical ability to work outdoors with high sun and temperature exposure!

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND URBAN FARMING

Contribute to the establishment of sustainable and environmentally-friendly food production in Isabela Island. Located on the slopes of Volcano Sierra Negra, the highlands are fertile, lush lands with rich volcanic soil - perfect for agriculture! Additionally, our urban gardening program helps locals grow their own food in the arid coastal zone. Learn local techniques for sustainable tropical agriculture and help to increase food sovereignty, lower the carbon footprint of island life, lower waste from shipping materials, lower consumer prices, increase local income, and increase the nutritional content of the food available in Isabela.



COMMUNITY ENGLISH EDUCATION

You will have the opportunity to work with students, teachers, government workers, and community members. You will have the choice between formal or applied teaching opportunities, including assisting classroom English teachers with classroom management, lesson planning, and leading activities; Working with International Baccalaureate students completing their degree requirements in English as a second language; Teaching job related language skills to naturalist guides, English teachers, and biodiversity protection officers in their work setting; and helping to design and run continuing education programs for community members to practice conversational English. You can also gain an internationally recognized TEFL certificate as part of this program.

TURTLE MONITORING

In this role, you will handle critically important nesting baseline data designed to identify species, determine nesting patterns and monitor nest sizes. Such information is used by the Galapagos National Park to determine conservation zones and development policies.

AVAILABLE DURING NESTING SEASON DEC-MAY



OUR LOCAL PARTNERS



State Government of Galapagos



Galapagos National Park



Educational Art Program



ABG Biodiversity Control Agency



ECOTOURISM MANAGEMENT

As an eco-tourism intern, you will help the Galapagos National Park in tasks related to the management of nearby visitor sites. According to your specific skills and experience, your tasks may involve creating English language visitor information and educational material, monitor visitor sites and run satisfaction questionnaires, as well as generate statistical databases from your surveys, or more manual labour such as park and trail maintenance. The information collected will help the National Park make decisions in tourism management that might be crucial for Galapagos wildlife preservation and sustainable eco-tourism, as well as help utilize the park's limited human resources in more technical tasks.

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT

As the IOI social media volunteer, you will be in charge of generating content (photo/film/text) that accurately and meaningfully captures the nature of IOI's international presence and impact. You will work across the organization and collaborate with different team members in all departments, as well as different local project partners.

ready to explore the Galapagos?

Volunteers can participate in several projects, schedule allowing.
Contact our international program manager VOLUNTEER@IOI.INGO

CUBA

Thirty air-minutes from Cuba's mainland lies an island with an amorphous historical identity and a vast array of endemic species. From treasure-seeking pirates to a booming marble industry, this 7th largest island in the Caribbean hides intriguing political, cultural and ecological secrets. Today, it is known as the Isla de la Juventud, the island of youth, and its reefs and protected waters are some of the most vibrant ecosystems in the Caribbean. The small community of Cocodrilo with a population of 320 has been, to these days, essentially cut off from the world by a National Park—it is the forgotten part of a forgotten island! This separation from the world offers a unique experience for the rare visitor (only 8 to 10 visitors a month!).



Coastal and marine ecosystems, including coral reefs, are threatened worldwide by oceanic warming and acidification, as well as pollution, causing thermal stress, bleaching and die-offs. Cocodrilo's reefs are especially important because they are so well-preserved. They are a window into the Caribbean of a century ago. The currents from Cocodrilo towards the Yucatan Channel transport coral larva north thus feeding most reefs in the Continental US.

come join us

MARINE AND COASTAL HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECT

Contribute to an ongoing initiative to improve and monitor marine and coastal ecosystem health. In collaboration with Cuba National Parks and local higher education institutions, the data collected will help guide the environmental planning of this protected area. As part of this program, participants will partake in a wide range of activities and initiatives, all with the overall objective of helping protect and restore the local marine and coastal habitats. Some of the initiatives include land based invasive species removal, reforestation, bird diversity counts and data collection. Work in the water includes snorkeling to conduct fish and seagrass surveys, underwater trash pickups, and invasive species removal (lionfish hunting).

questions?
CONTACT US

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about your stay

DURATION

We encourage all volunteers to stay as long as possible to maximize local and personal benefit. We encourage longer commitments by heavily discounting each additional week stayed. Minimum stay is 1 to 4 weeks depending on the position, maximum stay is 3 months.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is provided by one of our carefully selected host families or in our volunteer housing. Our host families have experience with foreign culture yet provide an amazing local immersion experience.

GALAPAGOS / Puerto Villamil, Isla Isabela

Volunteer housing or local family stay.

Breakfast and dinner with your host family, lunch in any of the numerous selected local restaurants.

In volunteer housing, breakfast isn't included but you have access to the community kitchen. Lunch and dinner in any of the numerous selected local restaurants.

CUBA / Cocodrilo, Isla de la Juventud

We offer volunteer housing. All meals will be prepared for you in-house, by your private local chef!

LEVEL OF SPANISH

The better you speak Spanish, the easier the integration, but it is not a requirement. Want to learn? Let us know, we can arrange Spanish classes before your volunteering program.

Don't just contribute to amazing projects, but leave with a new language to add to your CV!



PARTICIPATION FEE

The program fee is necessary to cover logistics and your cost of living. Our overhead expenses are covered by other means, and thus, 100% of any funds that exceed your direct cost will go towards the project you are volunteering for. Discounts are available for couples, families and returning volunteers.

REQUIREMENTS

- A genuine passion for conservation.
- Ability to work independently as well as within a team.
- Ability to adapt your schedule depending on the day-to-day needs of the local institutions.
- Physical ability to work outdoors with potentially high sun, elements and temperature exposure.
- Be ready to make an impact and have fun!

looking forward to meeting you!

TAKE THE PLUNGE AND TOGETHER,
LET'S MAKE THE WORLD MORE SUSTAINABLE!



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