



TRAVEL SAFELY WITH GVI

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR TRAVELLERS



For over 20 years, GVI has maintained a reputation as one of the youth travel organisations with the highest level of participant safety. Our health and safety operational guidelines go far beyond our compliance with British Standards 8488, a system designed to protect international travellers during adventure trips abroad.

We have won several awards for our commitment to effective risk mitigation processes. Some have been awarded to us by boards of industry professionals, such as DAN (Divers Alert Network).

Others we have received as a result of global communities of young travellers recommending the excellent safety of our programs on platforms such as Go Overseas.



DO GOOD, BETTER

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AWARD-WINNING PROTOCOLS

Our award-winning health and safety protocols include:

- the availability of a 24-hour emergency support desk for participants and their guardians
- the continuous observation of any local risk factors
- the employment of long-term, experienced, suitably qualified and trained staff who manage risk dynamically
- the establishment and maintenance of Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) and crisis management plans for all possible major incidents
- the internally auditing, review and evaluation of our safety protocols on a quarterly basis
- the monitoring of travel updates from travellers' governments
- the risk assessment and daily monitoring of all locations and activities
- the surveying of updates from international health organisations.

OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

Hear feedback from our participants about our response to COVID-19:

Being in Nepal and in the hands of GVI during the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic was about as pleasant of an experience as one could ask for, given what was happening. Even with coronavirus, my time with GVI in Nepal couldn't have been more impactful and fun. All in all my time in Nepal couldn't have been more amazing even with the shadow cast by COVID-19 and for that I have GVI to thank.

- WILL ANDERSEN -

The GVI base staff always had our backs, whether they were helping us find flights home, answering logistical questions, or just offering a shoulder to cry on. Throughout the disruption caused by the virus, they were there to help in whatever way they could. I'm so grateful to our base staff, not only for making my time in Mexico so special and memorable but for handling an unforeseen crisis with professionalism and compassion.

- ELIZABETH DRAY -



Through it all, [GVI's Mexico marine conservation project] base staff stood behind us. We were well-stocked with soap, toilet paper, and hand sanitizer. Our questions about what we should do to stay safe were answered. When social distancing was recommended, we came up with activities we could do around base to keep ourselves happy and busy.

Those of us who still had weeks - or months - left in our programs were promised food and accommodation for as long as we stayed, which was a relief. Soon, however, we learned that GVI was officially recommending that participants return home. Even so, the GVI base staff always had our backs, whether they were helping us find flights home, answering logistical questions, or just offering a shoulder to cry on. Throughout the disruption caused by the virus, they were there to help in whatever way they could. I'm so grateful to our base staff, not only for making my time in Mexico so special and memorable but for handling an unforeseen crisis with professionalism and compassion.

- RHIANNON HARVEY -

I thought that the GVI ground staff members who were going through the process with us did a great job at making sure that all of the participants were taken care of. They made sure that all of us had our flights booked as soon as possible, and they took down our flight numbers so that they would be aware of any delays or difficulties we could have experienced while trying to leave the country.

They also offered emotional support throughout the entire process, which I appreciated so much. I was a bit of a mess, but the staff members were there to comfort us and reassure us that everything would be okay. Overall, they were amazing not just throughout the evacuation period, but for the entire time that I was on GVI's South African wildlife conservation project and I'm forever grateful for the experience that I had.

- ABBEY RAMICONE -

