

Costa Rica

India

Mexico

Peru

South Africa

Thailand

ProjectsAbroad



*help...
learn...
explore!*

**CONSERVATION
& ENVIRONMENT**

➔ www.projects-abroad.co.uk

Tel: +44 (0)1903 708300

➔ Introduction

The conservation of rare species of plant and animal life, and the protection of the environment in which we live are increasingly important considerations in today's world. The sun never sets on Projects Abroad's efforts in these vital areas.

Conservation & Environment volunteers work across the globe on a huge variety of different projects - from the National Parks of South Africa to the beaches of Mexico; from an eco-development farm in South India to the tropical forest of Costa Rica; and from the coral reefs of Thailand to the rainforests of Peru.

You can volunteer on any of our Conservation & Environment Projects whether you are on a gap year from education, a career break or an extended holiday, there is important work for you to be involved in and you will make an important contribution. You do not need any previous conservation experience and all volunteers will receive relevant training in all the work involved.

All of the Conservation & Environment projects are managed by our Conservation Director, Stuart Timson. Stuart has been living and working in Peru since 1998. He studied Biology at Oxford University before getting involved with conservation in the field. After spending several years guiding for eco-lodges in both Peru and Bolivia he set up the Taricaya Lodge on the Madre de Dios river from scratch in 2001. Over the last couple of years he has been working to improve all our conservation initiatives around the world and we are proud to run some of the most cutting-edge projects in the countries where we operate.

The following projects are available:

Destination	Tropical Forest	Eco-development	Sea Turtle & Coastal Ecology	Amazon Rainforest	African Savannah	Diving & Marine
Costa Rica	■					
India		■				
Mexico			■			
Peru				■		
South Africa					■	
Thailand						■

Key: ■ Africa ■ Asia ■ Eastern Europe ■ Latin America and the Caribbean

2 Week Conservation & Environment Specials for 16 -19 year olds – although our normal projects have no set dates and duration, we also run 2 week projects over set dates in the summer. Please contact us on 01903 708 300 for the start dates.

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➔ What is included?

YOUR PLACEMENT

You will be given a supervisor at your place of work, and they, our staff and you will meet regularly to discuss your placement and any issues which may arise.

YOUR OWN START-DATE AND PROJECT-LENGTH

You choose when you want to go, and how many months you wish to work. This applies to all projects except for the 2-Week Conservation & Environment Specials for 16-19 year olds which operate on set dates only.

YOUR ACCOMMODATION

You will live in a conservation lodge, which provides you with safe and secure accommodation for the duration of your stay.

ALL YOUR MEALS

We will ensure that you are provided with three meals a day.

INSURANCE

Our package includes comprehensive insurance, which includes medical and travel insurance for the duration of your time away with us.

COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL SUPPORT

We directly employ sizeable staff teams in all of our destination countries, and they are responsible for ensuring that all aspects of your project run as smoothly as possible. From the moment they meet you at the airport they will be available to show you around the local area, introduce you to your placement supervisor, and be on-call 24/7 if you have any problems.

SOCIAL LIFE

It's nice to have other people to share your experiences with. Thanks to the large number of volunteers we work with in each destination you can be sure that there will always be someone for you to meet up with, go out with and possibly even travel with when your project finishes.



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COSTA RICA

Projects Abroad offers you a fantastic opportunity to learn about tropical conservation in endangered habitats whilst working in the Barra Honda National park of Costa Rica. The park is made up of 5,600 acres of dry tropical forest, with an extensive network of over 42 caves and limestone caverns to discover. There is a wide variety of wildlife found within the park including monkeys, deer, raccoons, ocelots, peccary, opossum, anteaters, iguanas, margay and abundant birdlife.

Volunteers have an important role to play in Costa Rica's Parks and Reserves and you will be involved in essential activities in the park such as working on trail systems within the reserves, constructing and maintaining trails, as well as extending, establishing camping, picnic sites and viewpoints. You will also help to improve access to the caves and undertake research to find out more about the many species of bats which live within the caves. You might also spend part of your placement becoming involved in the rescue and release of sea turtles on the beach.

Our project coordinators are keen for you to assist in environmental education projects which help your volunteering efforts to be felt throughout the wider community.



INDIA



With sustainable development becoming an increasingly important political theme on global agendas, our Eco-Development Project in Southern India offers volunteers the opportunity to work alongside local people, promoting organic agriculture, learning about traditional medicinal plants, and teaching environmental awareness to the community.

Our Conservation and Environment programme has expanded from a tree-planting exercise to a pioneering project which includes our Model Farm which promotes many environmentally-friendly farming practices. Projects Abroad volunteers are totally responsible for the running and maintenance of the Model Farm and villagers from the surrounding area visit the farm to learn about the different techniques and technologies that can benefit them.

You'll learn all about sustainable development and organic practices, including how to produce 'vermi-compost', a natural fertilizer produced from domestic and farm waste, made using earthworms. Once a week volunteers visit the nearby town of Rajapalayam to sell the vermi-compost at the local market. There is also a large medicinal plants nursery where you might help to cultivate indigenous species that are used to treat a variety of common ailments. You will learn about the medicinal properties of plants and use our manufacturing equipment to produce medicines that are distributed throughout the local community.

MEXICO

Our Conservation & Environment Project in Mexico is based on the Pacific coast of Colima and offers a unique location for volunteers to work for the rescue and release of endangered turtles, crocodile conservation and study wildlife at a spectacular coastal lagoon.

The Olive Ridley sea-turtle has become an endangered species due to human activities such as trawler-fishing, poaching and coastal development and eggs are considered a delicacy and even an aphrodisiac. Your work will involve patrolling the beach on foot or quad-bike in search of eggs or adult turtles. When eggs are collected, they are re-buried in a safe area near the camp and are released into the ocean once hatched.

We also work with endangered species of crocodile and volunteers help to prepare food for the crocodiles and conduct a population census of the number of wild crocodiles that inhabit the lagoon next to the crocodile park. You will also learn how to identify birds, reptiles and mammals, and regularly go out on the lagoon by boat to gather data and conduct studies of the local wildlife. The biodiversity studies of the lagoon ecosystem help us discover the ecological value of the lagoon for future preservation of this delicate environment.



PERU

Projects Abroad's private reserve Reserva Ecologica Taricaya in Peru is a slice of unspoilt Amazon rainforest. Taricaya is at the heart of the Amazon and at the heart of conservation work in the Amazon.

As a Conservation volunteer, you will work on wild animal re-release programmes, construction and trail maintenance and monitor bio-diversity to record the positive effect this project has on the jungle ecosystem. Volunteers will also be involved in a unique farming pilot concept which aims to help local people manage their land efficiently and hence reduce their negative impact on the surrounding forest.

We are also undertaking a long-term conservation project involving the endangered side-necked turtles. Population numbers have been declining for decades, due to the high commercial value of their eggs. Volunteers work with local communities to help collect the turtle nests in order to move them to safety where they can hatch and be released.

Your time at Taricaya will help us achieve many short and long-term goals.



SOUTH AFRICA

Projects Abroad's African Savannah Conservation and Environment project involves working with different reserves and environmental groups in South Africa and Botswana to conserve wildlife, bush ecosystems and to share knowledge about the diversity of the area.

Whilst volunteering in South Africa, you will be living outdoors in the bush amongst the dramatic high rock outcrops, enormous Baobab trees and wild animals including elephants, kudu, impala, baboons, crocodiles, hawks and hyenas.

You will live and work at our Projects Abroad base camp, Legodimo in Botswana, and have opportunities to visit a number of other parks and reserves to learn GPS tracking techniques and practice your new tracking skills on leopards, lions, wild dogs and elephants.

The activities available for you to do on this project are varied and work can include fence removal to allow animals to roam freely, tree wrapping to protect them from damage by elephants, building hides for animal monitoring, building waterholes and mud-baths and protecting vultures to prevent endangerment of the species. You will also get the opportunity to work on monitoring elephant migration or learn about cheetah conservation and spend days tracking these incredible animals.



THAILAND



Our Diving and Marine Conservation project in Thailand is working to conserve the coral reefs and mangrove swamps which are being threatened by fishing, tourism, shrimp farms and climate change. Projects Abroad works in both parts, doing important scientific work on the coral reefs and planting new mangroves - and minimising human impact on both environments.

As a volunteer on this programme, the first thing that you will learn is how to scuba dive. We will train you up to the level of Advanced Scuba Diver, and you will be able to dive to depths of 30m and participate fully in the underwater conservation work. The diving is some of the best in the world and you'll have the chance to observe a wide variety of marine life - including turtles, rays, harmless reef sharks and hundreds of species of multicoloured tropical fish.

Volunteers monitor the development, deterioration and overall condition of coral reefs and fish population in the area. This information then gets added to a wider database and used across the world by experts in this field.

→ Why choose Projects Abroad?

Safety & Security: We take your security abroad very seriously. Before we send volunteers anywhere, the countries must be politically stable and safe. We are in contact with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, regarding safety and stability and, of course, we have the added security of our own overseas staff who know the local area in detail.

Structure: Our Conservation & Environment programmes are structured so that you get the most out of your time overseas. Each group will have a project supervisor there to provide assistance and guidance throughout the trip.

Variety: We want to match your skills and enthusiasm to the right project. By creating a wide variety of projects for volunteers, we allow you to select the project best suited to you. There are 6 destinations to choose from, allowing volunteers with all interests to find a placement that is just right for them.

Flexibility: Our projects have no set start dates which mean you can choose when your placement begins.

CV and Self-Development: Voluntary work with Projects Abroad is excellent for your CV and university applications. It gives you greater life experience, develops personal skills, and shows your initiative to try something new - traits which appeal to employers and universities.

Prices: Conservation & Environment placements start from **£995**.

→ 3 easy ways to apply



Telephone
Tel: +44 (0) 1903 708300



Internet
www.projects-abroad.co.uk
(Under section "Apply Now")



Application Form
(Request a brochure)



The camp is, quite frankly, amazing. On the journey there we drove through a banana plantation and past fields of palm trees stretching, literally, as far as the eye could see. From then on I was hooked on the place. Every night there were the most incredible sunsets turning the sky all shades of red and yellow. The sound of the waves was hypnotic. You could hear it as you were falling asleep at night, almost as though they were right outside the door.

Charlotte Forsdick (in Mexico)

Life at the lodge was always very varied and fun with a huge number of different projects to work on. These ranged from donkey training, picking flowers to sell at market, working on the pilot farm, building new enclosures for animals, camping on the beach to collect turtle eggs and many more. My particular favourite was early morning observation from the canopy walkway. Despite the 5.30am wake up the views were always stunning and the bird life at that time of day was always busiest.

Ben Lane (in Peru)

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