



DISCOVERCORPS



VACATIONS WITH PURPOSE

2017



Asia & Australia | Africa | Central America | South America | Cuba



DISCOVER

A New Way To Travel

Discover Corps is a grassroots travel company that is pioneering a new way to explore life and culture around the world in a way that rejuvenates the human spirit.

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WHY DISCOVER CORPS?

Discover Corps offers spontaneous, authentic and unforgettable experiences. We know that the most memorable travel moments don't happen on a giant tour bus - they come through experiencing a new place through the eyes of those who call it home. Our *Vacations with Purpose* offer a curated blend of activities that allow you to discover a country through its people.

Whether you are participating in one of our purposeful projects, visiting culturally significant sites, or wandering through a local market, those you meet along the way will recharge your spirit. This makes traveling with Discover Corps one of the best ways to experience a new country in an authentic, sustainable and inspiring manner.



Distinctive Accommodations

Our accommodations come with a wow factor. No chain hotels or tourist traps in sight - just properties selected for their quality, location and charm. These unique living spaces are curated to enhance your overall experience, whether you're staying at a rustic scientific research station in the heart of a jungle or a luxurious safari camp in a renowned game preserve.



Purposeful Projects

Designed by grassroots organizations to connect our travelers to local communities in a meaningful way, each Discover Corps project is an opportunity for you to lend your hand and heart to an important cause. These projects are accessible to people of all ages and abilities. They provide meaning and purpose to your journey, and allow you to get to know a country in a deeper, more authentic way. Trips are measured from 1 to 5 based on the number of days volunteering (i.e. 2=2 days).

Unparalleled Access

Our Program Hosts aren't your typical tour guides. They're local residents who are experts on the area and its customs. Throughout your trip, they'll share their lives with you, while introducing you to people and taking you to special local places that most travelers would never know existed.



Small Groups

We prioritize keeping our groups small, with the average group made up of about 8-10 like-minded travelers. This allows us to experience things that big tours of people would never be able to, from visits to the studios of celebrated local artisans, to up-close encounters with exotic wildlife.



Hands-On Cultural Immersion

Our travelers are immersed in local communities through cultural workshops, insightful sightseeing, and sharing meals with local people. Like to cook? Learn to make tortillas alongside a local artisan. Interested in women's empowerment? Visit a local group of female textile weavers and learn about their mission. You'll return home with a feel for what life in the community is really like.



TRIPS FOR EVERYONE



For Families

On departures specifically designated as “Family Friendly,” travelers of all ages are encouraged to join — and our staff will offer special activities that allow younger travelers to connect with the youth of the destination country. Let your children or grandchildren discover the world in a way they never could in a classroom. Best of all, families of four or more that join an existing trip qualify for our group discount.



For Solo Travelers

Don't have a travel partner? No problem! While other travel companies usually charge a premium for solo travelers in the form of a “single supplement” fee, we offer options that make our trips more affordable for you. If you are open to having a roommate of the same gender, we will do our best to pair you with another solo traveler so that we can keep costs low for you both. On selected departures labeled “Solo Traveler Savings” (see Trip Calendar in back pocket), we completely waive the Single Room Supplement for any solo travelers who request a single room.



For Groups

Have a group of six or more? We operate private departures for families, corporations, alumni associations, and student organizations. We make it easy for your group to have an incredible experience. We design a tailor-made travel experience that allows you to give back and reconnect.



OUR COMMITMENT

To the Planet

We partner with ethical, responsible organizations that work tirelessly to protect the environment and preserve the natural wonders that make our world so special.

To the People

We work with small-scale entrepreneurs in order to channel resources to their local communities, and to create a financial incentive to preserve their cultural heritage.

To You

We design trips built on sustainable travel principles, so that your journey can both improve the lives of the people you visit and allow you an authentic, meaningful experience.

AUSTRALIA

Beachside Wildlife Adventure



Learn about Australia's indigenous cultures and unique native species during this journey into the habitat of kangaroos, koalas and wallabies. Ensure this kaleidoscope of life remains intact by working alongside conservation experts to learn about the issues affecting Australian animals and the tools used to protect them.

Memorable Moments

- Care for kangaroos, koalas and other native Australian wildlife
- Hike through the rainforest to view waterfalls and secluded rock pools
- Learn about the work being done to conserve Australia's koala population
- Observe ancient Aboriginal ceremonies and dances
- Kayak off the golden sands of North Stradbroke Island

Your Purpose

Despite environmental regulations, Australia's indigenous wildlife population has been blighted by both climate change and invasive species. Provide hands-on assistance to rangers and conservation staff at a Gold Coast wildlife park and care for endemic creatures such as koalas and kangaroos. We'll also help with other projects around the park, improving infrastructure and ensuring the homes of these animals are kept clean.

“ Watching kangaroos bounce along and koalas thriving in their native habitat was **an experience I'll never forget**. My children were amazed not only by the wildlife, but by the different sides of Australia we saw. On the one hand, you have the **fascinating culture** of the indigenous Aboriginal groups and on the other a **laid-back beach culture** that Australia is famous for. ” - Deborah H.



Trip Details

Duration 10 days

Lodging Premium

Physical Demand ■■■■■

Group Size Max 15 Avg. 10

Volunteer Time ■■■■■

Family Friendly Selected Dates

See **Trip Calendar** in back pocket for dates and prices.



Itinerary

Days 1 + 2

After we settle into our hotel, receive a traditional Aboriginal welcome to the Gold Coast with a dance performance and fire demonstration. Trek around the coastal headland known as Dreaming Mountain to discover sites used by the local Yugambah people. Watch the sun set on a cruise through the Gold Coast waterways.

Day 3

Head to the local conservation park where we'll begin a variety of wildlife-related activities, including caring for the wallabies, koalas and kangaroos. Hike into the hinterland to the spectacular Currumbin Valley and view tumbling waterfalls in Springbrook National Park.

Day 4

We'll continue with our projects at the wildlife park and then head to a leading koala conservation center to find out more about the steps being taken to protect these gentle marsupials. Enjoy a barefoot stroll in the sand on the way back to the hotel, as we stop at a Gold Coast beach.

Day 5

Boosted by a greater understanding of the park's work and the animals it cares for, we'll begin to make a more tangible difference to the various conservation projects. Later, we'll cruise along the coast to the quaint seaside village of Brunswick Heads.

Day 6

After a final morning working at the

wildlife park, venture into the rainforest and scale a towering skyway, which meanders through the trees, while spotting some of the abundant wildlife perched in the canopy. After, explore the quaint galleries and wineries of Mount Tamborine.

Day 7

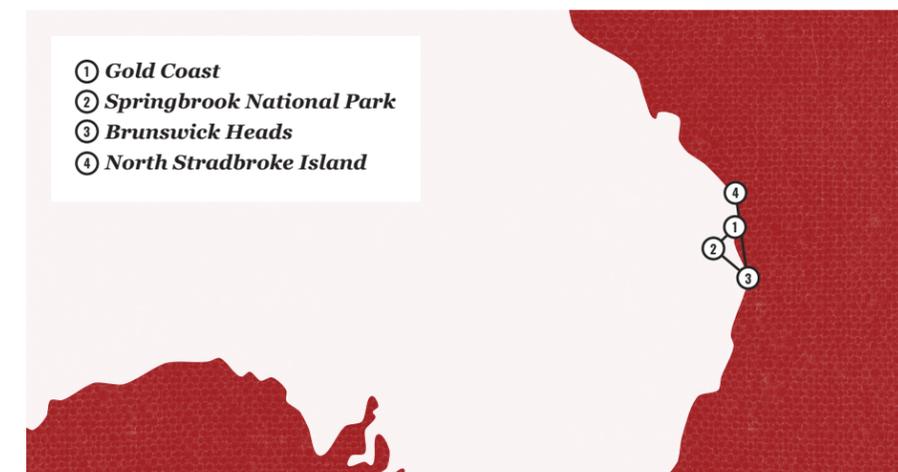
Hop aboard the ferry to North Stradbroke Island and enjoy a traditional Aboriginal welcome from the indigenous Quandamooka people. Paint your own boomerang, play a tune on a didgeridoo and visit the freshwater Myora Springs, before strolling through the bush towards the beach, spotting native koalas along the way.

Day 8

Soak up the beauty of North Stradbroke Island by hiking to the island's famous blowhole, keeping watch for kangaroos and dolphins along the way. Paddle in a kayak out into the waters off picturesque Amity Point and survey the incredible marine life present under the sea. That evening, try your hand at Australian lawn bowling.

Days 9 + 10

Return to the mainland and further explore the beaches of the Gold Coast, as well as shopping for some last-minute souvenirs. Reminisce about our experiences at a farewell dinner, before heading back to the airport to return home.



THAILAND

Cultural Kaleidoscope



Spend time with hill tribes, monks and elephants during this trip into the green hills surrounding the vibrant city of Chiang Mai in northern Thailand. Learn about the traditions of remote tribal villages and help children improve their future prospects by teaching them essential language skills.

Memorable Moments

- Meet hill tribe children while volunteering in schools and orphanages
- Explore the vibrant northern Thai city of Chiang Mai
- Savor traditional Thai food and learn how to make delicious dishes
- Visit an elephant camp to feed and bathe these gentle giants
- Chat with Buddhist monks about how they are handling modern challenges

Trip Details

Duration 10 days

Lodging Standard

Physical Demand ■■■■■

Group Size Max 18 Avg. 12

Volunteer Time ■■■■■

Family Friendly Selected Dates

See **Trip Calendar** in back pocket for dates and prices.



Itinerary

Days 1 + 2

Find your bearings in the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai and learn about the cultural norms that prevail here. Tour the city and climb to the top of the ornate Buddhist temple of Wat Doi Suthep. Wander around and take in stunning views of the entire region. Visit the lush botanical gardens of Doi Pui and the community of the Hmong ethnic hill tribe.

Day 3

Volunteer at a local school that receives children from the city as well as the hill tribes. Teach basic English lessons and engage the pupils with a range of educational games and activities. Experience an explosion of local flavors at a Thai cooking course after

sourcing ingredients from an open-air fresh food market.

Day 4

Spend the morning at the school tutoring your students. After lunch, get better acquainted with the community by meeting the monks shaping modern-day Buddhism and venturing to local markets to taste delicacies and purchase crafts from artisans.

Days 5 + 6

Over the next two mornings continue tutoring at the school. In the afternoons, visit a home for exiled single mothers and learn first-hand about Thai massage. In the evenings, explore the famed night bazaar and enjoy independent exploration through the charming historic district.

Day 7

Venture to an Akha hill tribe village on the outskirts of Chiang Mai and learn about their fascinating traditions. Meet with village elders, practice traditional bamboo cutting and find out how they are preserving their heritage in the face of modernization.

Day 8

Journey to a sanctuary for elephants who were either being hunted or who were in unhealthy working conditions. Meet the elephants and visit the nursery, where newborn elephants are housed. You'll have the chance to interact with the elephants and bathe them while learning about these gentle giants from their caretakers.

Days 9 + 10

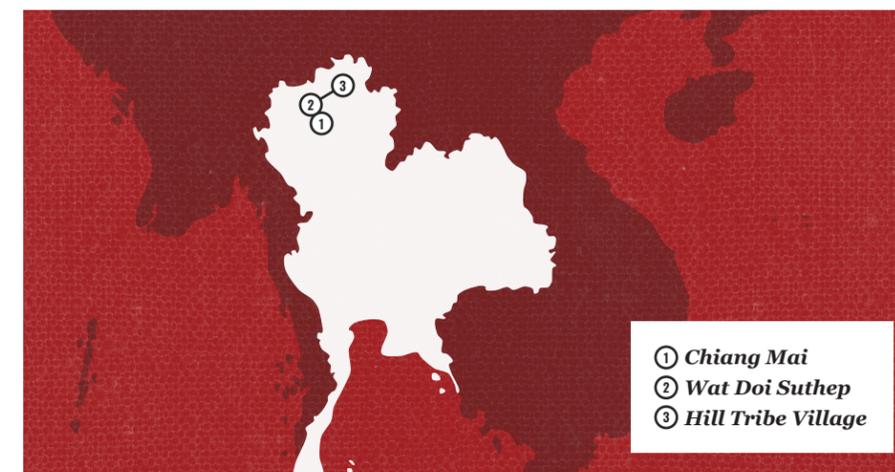
For our final day of volunteering, host an all-day English camp. Bid farewell to the students that we have worked alongside throughout the week and enjoy a final lunch together. Feast and reflect at a farewell dinner, before heading back to the airport the following day.

Your Purpose

Speaking English is a vital skill for those trying to land a good job in Thailand, yet the traditional education system largely relies on learning by rote. Use educational games, conversation and arts and crafts to make English learning fun, as we volunteer at either an orphanage or a primary school in a mountain community. Inspire children to better their English and give them the best possible chance of a brighter future.

“Thailand was an enlightening and **inspiring experience**. We got off the typical tourist path and truly got to **know the local people** and their culture. My experiences traveling across the country **broadened my horizons** and led me to my eventual career path. It remains one of my favorite destinations to this day, and I'm thrilled to share my passion for the country with other travelers.”

- Alex T.



THAILAND

Elephants & Islands Expedition



Bathe in turquoise waters and bask under swaying palms on the white sands of tropical Southern Thailand. Help an elephant sanctuary care for threatened animals, explore centuries-old fishing villages and rest up on the famous Koh Phi Phi Island.

Memorable Moments

- Care for elephants at a secluded rainforest sanctuary
- Bask on the dazzling white-sand beaches of Phi Phi Island
- Experience traditional village life on the Yao Islands
- Taste fresh coconut water and learn to make batik artwork during a visit to a fishing community
- Learn about elephant conservation from leading experts

Trip Details

Duration 10 days

Lodging Premium

Physical Demand ■■■■■

Group Size Max 15 Avg. 10

Volunteer Time ■■■■■

Family Friendly Selected Dates

See **Trip Calendar** in back pocket for dates and prices.



Itinerary

Days 1 + 2

Explore the stunning southern Thai island of Phuket and learn more about the local traditions and culture. Visit a fishing village, discover ancient temples and search for souvenirs and crafts at the markets of colonial Phuket town.

Day 3

Board a boat bound for the offshore Yao Islands. We'll get a tour of the community from the locals and can begin to appreciate the laid-back way of life. Chat with fishermen, learn traditional batik painting and sample Thai cuisine, including fresh coconut juice and a home-cooked lunch at one of the islander's own homes.

Day 4

Visit an elephant sanctuary in the rainforest and walk through lush jungle in the company of one of these gentle giants. Find out more about the work being done to protect these remarkable creatures as we spend the day with the sanctuary's conservation team.

Days 5 + 6

Gather food and feed the elephants, as we begin our volunteering work at the sanctuary. Shadow the elephants and their caretakers to see how these great beasts thrive in the jungle. Clear paths, plant trees, clean pens and even take a few moments to relax in the treetop observation center.

Day 7

Watch the elephants reveling in their

natural habitat as they bathe, socialize, forage and roam free. Put the final touches to our work at the sanctuary.

Day 8

Ride the turquoise waters as we take a boat through the tropical Phi Phi Islands and arrive in paradise. Lay out on chalk-white sands and take in these stunning surroundings at our four-and-a-half star luxury oceanfront base.

Days 9 + 10

Snorkel above offshore reefs, gaze across the peninsula or simply bask on the beach as we enjoy a free day on the famous island of Koh Phi Phi. Sit down for one final farewell dinner together before heading off to the airport the following morning.

Your Purpose

The elephant population of Thailand faces an uncertain future due to factors such as deforestation and illegal poaching. Volunteer alongside a team at a renowned elephant conservation sanctuary, which cares for animals that have been rescued. Feed these gentle giants, clean their living areas, maintain the sanctuary and watch them thrive in their natural habitat.

“ Working alongside these gentle giants **truly blew me and my family away**. I was amazed at the approach the community took toward their preservation and the commitment the locals have to their health and well-being. On top of that, Thailand is a land of contrasting landscapes, beautiful people and amazing cuisine. This trip is a **fun, all-encompassing experience** through Southern Thailand. ”

- Tim J.



BELIZE

Caribbean Wildlife Adventure

Encounter coral-fringed islands, white-sand beaches, dense rainforest and wildlife-packed wilderness during this expedition through the natural wonders of Belize. Amid this stunning setting, volunteer with marine conservation groups who work to protect and preserve Belize's manatee and dolphin populations.

Memorable Moments

- Monitor manatee and dolphin populations alongside conservation groups
- Explore ancient Maya ruins tucked deep into the jungle
- Snorkel over rainbow-colored reefs in the glassy Caribbean waters
- Come face-to-face with Belize's vast array of wildlife, including baboons and monkeys
- Step into the rainforest and discover untouched white-sand beaches

Trip Details

Duration 8 days

Lodging Standard

Physical Demand ■■■■■

Group Size Max 16 Avg. 10

Volunteer Time ■■■■■

Family Friendly Selected Dates

See **Trip Calendar** in back pocket for dates and prices.



Itinerary

Days 1 + 2

After arriving, you'll have the chance to meet Belizean primates as we stop at a baboon sanctuary en route to the golden sandy beaches of Hopkins. The next day we'll visit the Nim Li Punit Maya ruins, before sampling traditional foods, playing instruments and making tortillas at the home of a local family. Watch the sun set in the seaside town of Punta Gorda.

Day 3

Hop aboard a kayak to explore the local marine ecosystem and learn about the issues facing the manatees of Belize from the conservation experts we'll be working alongside. After lunch, we'll board a boat, which will take us through Payne's Creek National Park

to our mangrove-surrounded accommodation.

Day 4

Rise and shine for a first day monitoring the manatee population in a nearby lagoon, while also tracking other marine life, including dolphins. Return to the idyllic coastal village of Punta Negra and enjoy a coconut oil-making workshop.

Day 5

Head out to the sugar-sand beaches of the coral-edged island of West Snake Caye after spending the morning collecting data on manatees along the beautiful Frenchman Cayes. Picnic on the beach and snorkel in the crystal-clear waters.

Day 6

Meander along the river for a final day helping to expand knowledge of the manatee population. Explore the quaint Caribbean town of Punta Gorda and enjoy a dinner together at one of the town's restaurants.

Days 7 + 8

Venture into hidden caves camouflaged by jungle growth, explore beautiful waterfalls and relax by natural pools, as we visit Rio Blanco National Park. Spend a final evening at the Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, before embarking on a night tour of the Belize Zoo. Rise early to head back to Belize City for flights home.

Your Purpose

The West Indian manatee population is under threat due to habitat loss, boat strikes and human impact in the waters of Belize. Volunteer with a manatee conservation group to collect critical data on these creatures, including currents, size of populations and overall health, which will be used to better understand these aquatic mammals. Explore ocean, river and lagoon ecosystems to track both manatees and other marine life, including dolphins.

“I'll never forget the feeling in my heart as we pulled the boat over and watched our first group of manatees swim by - such majestic creatures! The itinerary was the perfect mix of activities around the coast, reefs and onshore.” - Lisa S.



COSTA RICA

The Sea Turtle Initiative



Provide hands-on support to conservationists in their efforts to ensure the survival of the increasingly rare sea turtle. As well as volunteering, you will also venture inland into the heart of the rainforest for wildlife-spotting and participate in a series of adrenaline-fueled adventures.

Memorable Moments

- Help with the survival of fragile sea turtles along the Costa Rican coastline
- Boat through unspoiled mangroves to catch a glimpse of crocodiles and tropical birds
- Fly through the treetops on a zip line adventure
- Tube or raft along a jungle river bordered by lush vegetation
- Relax on pristine Costa Rican beaches

Trip Details

- Duration** 8 days
- Lodging** Standard
- Physical Demand** ■■■■■
- Group Size** Max 20 Avg. 12
- Volunteer Time** ■■■■■
- Family Friendly** Selected Dates

See **Trip Calendar** in back pocket for dates and prices.



Itinerary

Day 1 + 2

After a welcome dinner and a good night's sleep, we'll rise early and journey through scenic mountainous terrain toward the coast. We'll find our bearings at the beachside accommodation, learn about the conservation work and embark upon a midnight patrol to scope the nesting area.

Day 3

Protect turtles from discarded trash by spending a couple of hours on a beach clean-up, as well as other conservation projects. Return to work at the hatchery in the late afternoon and patrol the beach in shifts. During peak turtle nesting season, you may have the chance to release hatchlings into the ocean.

Day 4

Ride a boat through unspoiled jungle and look out for crocodiles, exotic birds and fish rummaging along the river bed. Hear from a Costa Rican conservationist on the challenges facing local wildlife and participate in our final night patrol.

Day 5 (Caribbean)

After driving to the small town of Siquirres in the heart of the Costa Rican rainforest, raft down a river that cuts through the jungle to reach our base lodge. Explore the nearby trails and waterfalls before dining together at the lodge restaurant nestled in the trees.

Day 5 (Pacific)

Relax on the beach after some maintenance work around the hatchery. Take an afternoon hike along the coastline.

Day 6 (Caribbean)

Swoop over the jungle canopy on zip lines, watching for wildlife as you go. Later, hike to a local waterfall or simply relax at the lodge and soak in the surrounding natural beauty.

Day 6 (Pacific)

Return to the Liberia region and visit an animal rescue center rehabilitating endangered wildlife including pumas, ocelots and jaguars. Continue on to a mountainside hacienda where we'll visit natural hot springs, a butterfly farm and a serpentarium.

Day 7 + 8 (Caribbean)

Brace yourselves for the thrills and spills of a morning rafting on local rapids. Under-12s can ride in a basket-pulley system over the river and take a horseback trip through the rainforest instead. Drive back to San Jose and enjoy a farewell dinner together, before departing the following day.

Day 7 + 8 (Pacific)

Careen over the treetops on a zip line and ride an inner tube down the Rio Negro during an action-packed penultimate day. Enjoy a final afternoon relaxing or exploring before reflecting on the trip at a farewell dinner.

Your Purpose

Costa Rica's sea turtle population has declined by an astonishing 90 percent over the past 35 years due to a host of factors, including climate change, boat traffic and increasing amounts of trash in their habitats. We'll spend three days volunteering with a turtle conservation organization conducting night patrols, collecting eggs and aiding researchers. Because of nesting patterns, our time will be split over the course of the year between the Caribbean and Pacific coasts.

“I loved watching my granddaughter's eyes light up as she released a baby turtle into its natural habitat. Every time she encountered a new species of animal that she had only previously seen in a zoo, I couldn't help but smile. My husband and I also really enjoyed our long walks on the beach.” - Rita Q.



COSTA RICA

Family Volunteer Vacation



Witness a mind-boggling array of tropical wildlife in their breathtaking natural habitat during this exhilarating and immersive family-friendly expedition. Discover lush rainforests, deserted beaches and bubbling hot springs - while also caring for injured animals at a wildlife rescue center.

Memorable Moments

- Foster your whole family's love of wildlife in the heart of the rainforest
- Hike along hanging bridges suspended across the cloud forest canopy
- Bathe in natural hot springs at the base of a volcano
- Help vulnerable animals at a wildlife rescue center
- Find out first-hand how artisanal chocolate is made

Trip Details

Duration 8 days

Lodging Standard

Physical Demand ■■■■■

Group Size Max 24 Avg. 14

Volunteer Time ■■■■■

Family Friendly All Dates

See [Trip Calendar](#) in back pocket for dates and prices.



Itinerary

Days 1 + 2

Experience a traditional way of life in a rural community in the highland town of Fortuna. Local schoolchildren will entertain us with a dance presentation and we will also learn about the farming techniques of the region. Assist on a reforestation project and return to town to cook up one of Costa Rica's most famous dishes.

Day 3

Spend the morning learning about the cacao bean's role in Costa Rican history, as well as finding out how it is harvested and produced, before soaking in the natural hot springs at the base of Arenal Volcano. Begin to explore the vast cloud forest reserve of Monteverde.

Day 4

Hike along the hanging bridges that skirt the stunning rainforest canopy in one of the most biodiverse regions of Costa Rica. Spend the afternoon exploring the forest-encircled mountain town of Monteverde. After sunset, venture into the forest again for up-close encounters with nocturnal creatures.

Day 5

We'll hit the road heading to the fun surfing town of Quepos, stopping at the Tarcoles River on the way to spot crocodiles from the safety of a bridge. After arriving in Quepos, visit a wildlife rescue center and meet sloths, monkeys and toucans.

Day 6

Volunteer at a wildlife center dedicated to helping rescued animals and learn about the issues these vulnerable species face. Explore the stunning coastline, rugged rainforest and beaches of Manuel Antonio National Park, before returning to Quepos.

Days 7 + 8

Spend the morning hiking through Manuel Antonio National Park, looking for monkeys, sloths and all manner of birds. For those seeking a more intense adrenaline hit, there is the opportunity to add on an exhilarating rafting excursion along Class II rapids. Lounge on the park's pristine beaches before heading to San Jose the next morning to catch our flights back home.

Your Purpose

Costa Rica has an excellent reputation as a leader in sustainability, but environmental pressures are rising due to a growing population and increased deforestation. Plant trees with a rural community in the highlands and learn about a traditional way of life. Volunteer at a wildlife rescue center, where the whole family will lend a hand helping injured creatures such as sloths, spider monkeys and marmosets.

“ My family has vacationed to Costa Rica before but **this trip was different**. Over the course of eight days, we not only saw volcanoes, rainforests and absolutely beautiful beaches, but were able to have our kids help out for a morning at a local wildlife rescue. Seeing the expressions as they **came face-to-face with animals they've only seen in photos** was a memorable experience for all of us! ”

- Allison M.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Heart & Soul of the Caribbean



Escape the tourist resorts of the Dominican Republic and experience the island's idyllic beaches and tropical mountain landscapes as only the locals do. Help welcoming communities maintain this paradise by volunteering with sustainable development projects that maximize the use of recyclable materials.

Memorable Moments

- Build schools, medical clinics and houses out of reusable plastic bottles
- Snorkel in turquoise Caribbean waters inhabited by exotic marine life
- Explore mountainous landscapes untouched by tourist development
- Volunteer in bateyes, underprivileged villages of Haitian sugar cane workers
- Hike along dense jungle trails to reach secluded villages

Trip Details

Duration 8 days

Lodging Rustic

Physical Demand ■■■■■

Group Size Max 20 Avg. 12

Volunteer Time ■■■■■

Family Friendly Selected Dates

See **Trip Calendar** in back pocket for dates and prices.



Itinerary

Days 1 + 2

Explore our base in the small town of Playa Las Canas and learn about the social, political and cultural issues affecting the Dominican Republic. Sample the local cuisine, wander around the markets and take a short stroll down to the beach to listen to the waves gently crashing against the shoreline.

Day 3

Roll your sleeves up and begin work on a variety of community projects, which will make a huge difference to the surrounding towns. Our work will revolve around boosting the use of recyclable materials and will include constructing schools and health clinics out of discarded plastic bottles.

Day 4

The hands-on learning experiences about the lives of local people continue today as we visit a Dominican batey, a community of displaced Haitians who have come to the north of the island seeking better economic opportunities.

Day 5

Explore the untouched side of the Dominican landscape after the volunteer work concludes for the day, with an afternoon free to lounge on the island's undeveloped beaches or breathlessly climb through the mountainous interior where we will uncover cool swimming holes and trails leading through dense jungle.

Day 6

After concluding our work in the community, you will have further chances to visit lesser-explored island locales. Climb to a rural mountain village to experience a traditional way of life or simply relax on the white-sand beaches, which are a hallmark of the Dominican Republic's north coast.

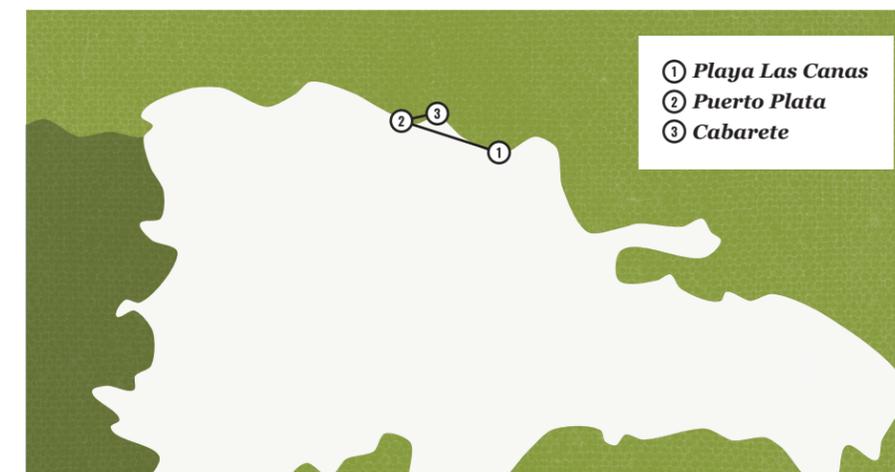
Days 7 + 8

Hop aboard a catamaran anchored at Sosua Beach and cruise toward hidden coves. Don snorkeling gear and plunge into the warm waters to view the colorful and wonderful marine creatures that populate this underwater paradise. There will be another opportunity to lounge on the beach, before a farewell dinner.

Your Purpose

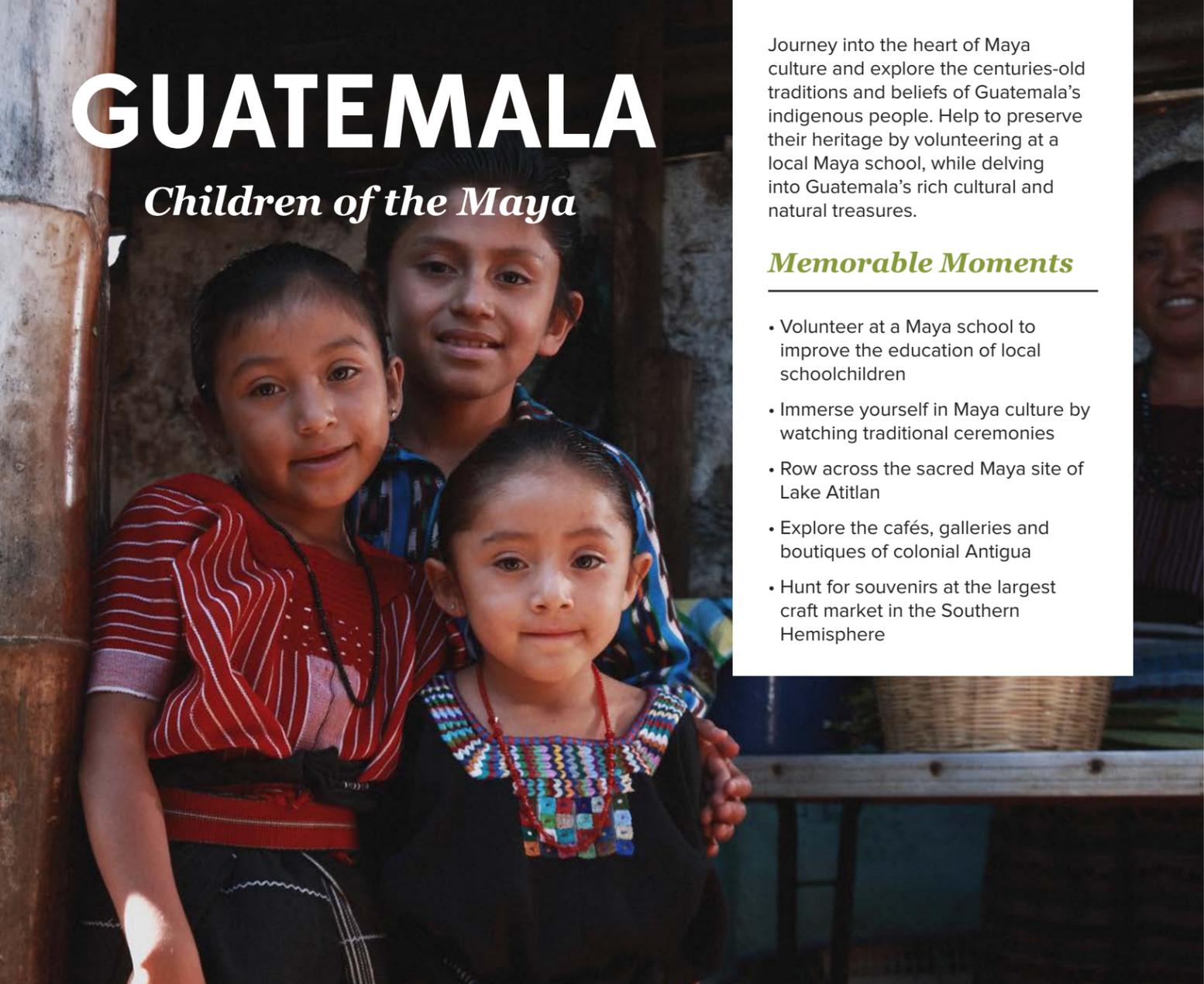
Schools, medical clinics and houses are being constructed in the Dominican Republic out of reusable plastic bottles. We'll work with local people, including Haitian migrant communities, to create more of these structures, which help rid the area of waste and teach environmental awareness. Most importantly, they provide a much-needed resource, with many of these rural communities lacking basic infrastructure.

“This was exactly what we wanted – an **up-close and personal experience of the real Dominican Republic**. Our guide Dave introduced us to really interesting community members, and the volunteer project gave us a way to become part of this village and get to know about the challenges people faced. We **fell in love with a whole new way of traveling**.” - Patty Ching



GUATEMALA

Children of the Maya



Journey into the heart of Maya culture and explore the centuries-old traditions and beliefs of Guatemala's indigenous people. Help to preserve their heritage by volunteering at a local Maya school, while delving into Guatemala's rich cultural and natural treasures.

Memorable Moments

- Volunteer at a Maya school to improve the education of local schoolchildren
- Immerse yourself in Maya culture by watching traditional ceremonies
- Row across the sacred Maya site of Lake Atitlan
- Explore the cafés, galleries and boutiques of colonial Antigua
- Hunt for souvenirs at the largest craft market in the Southern Hemisphere

Trip Details

Duration 8 days

Lodging Rustic

Physical Demand ■■■■■

Group Size Max 16 Avg. 8

Volunteer Time ■■■■■

Family Friendly Selected Dates

See **Trip Calendar** in back pocket for dates and prices.



Itinerary

Days 1 + 2

Stroll the cobble streets of the colonial town of Antigua as we learn about Guatemalan culture and cuisine. Meet with local Maya women, who will teach us the age-old customs involved in a traditional Maya wedding ceremony. Make tortillas and learn how the country's famed coffee is roasted, before heading to Quetzaltenango.

Day 3

Wake up to the mountain air of the Guatemalan highlands and begin the community work at a local school that promotes Maya heritage in the classroom. Meet with the school's director to learn more about the socioeconomic situation in the area.

Days 4 + 5

Spend two more days in the classroom developing educational materials to help the teachers; sharing your talents in arts, crafts and sports; and helping teach students basic English skills.

After school, there will be opportunities for extracurricular excursions, including a visit to an organic coffee plantation and a salsa dancing class. Get acquainted with Guatemala's tumultuous recent history during a lesson focusing on the country's civil war, which only ended in 1996. Meet a former guerrilla who is now a human rights advocate and hear a contrasting perspective on the conflict from an ex-military general.

Day 6

Lake Atitlan is regarded as one of the 10 most beautiful lakes in the world and is a sacred site for the Maya people. Spend the day enjoying the activities around the lake. Row to a village on the opposite bank and go for a scenic lakeside stroll.

Days 7 + 8

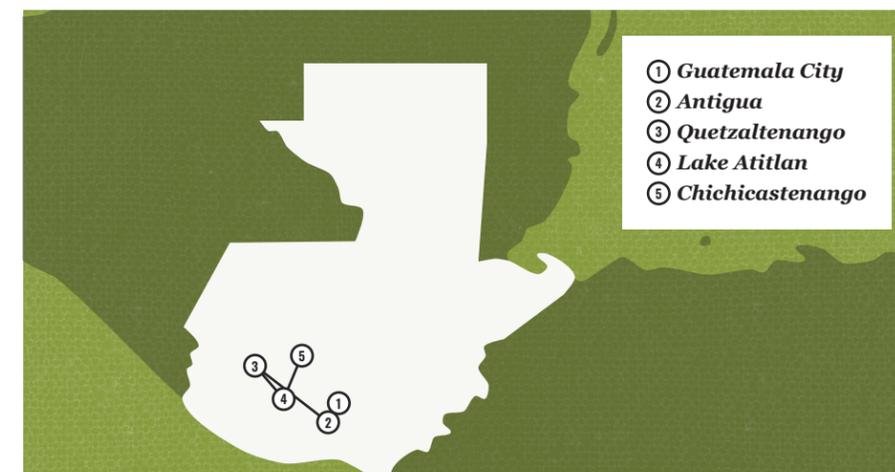
Shop for last-minute souvenirs at the Chichicastenango craft market, where skilled Maya artisans from across the country sell their carefully designed products. Return to Antigua for a final wander about town and a farewell dinner, before we say our goodbyes.

Your Purpose

Guatemala's Maya community has long been discriminated against and faces the challenge of preserving its heritage in the face of rampant globalization. Support local Maya teachers who strive to preserve this culture for the next generation by developing learning materials and educational games for students. These resources will be left behind and used throughout the school in their future work.

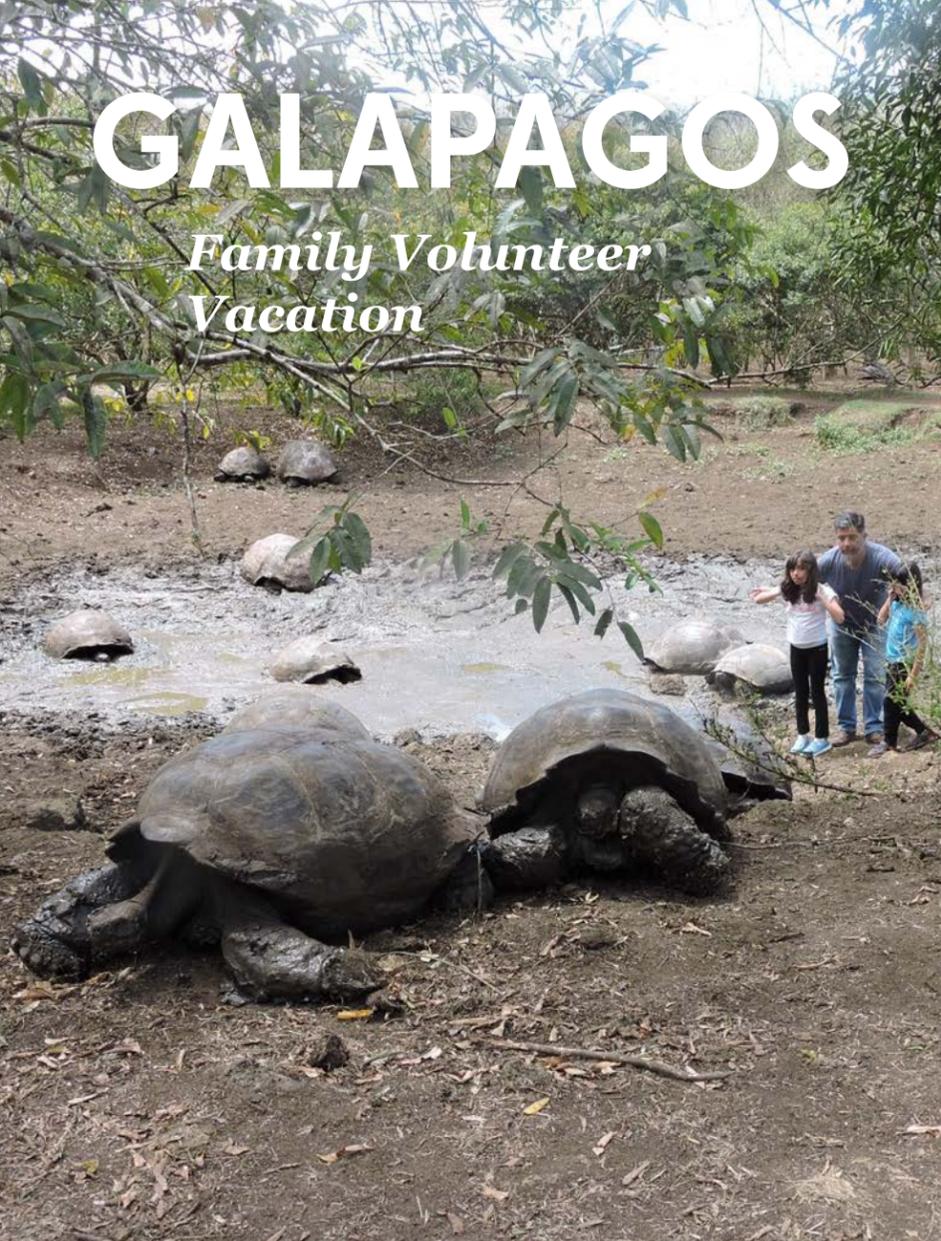
“I loved it. Everything about *this trip surpassed my expectations*. I expected a high-quality trip where I saw the important sights and did some volunteering, but *I got much more than that*. The ladies at the Home Base became like family, and *I left a piece of my heart with the children at the school.*”

- Sue C.



GALAPAGOS

Family Volunteer Vacation



Swim with friendly sea lions, snorkel with sea turtles, observe sunbathing iguanas and meet giant tortoises while helping out at a tortoise reserve. This exciting small-group family trip to the fabled Galapagos Islands promises activities galore – kayaking, hiking and volunteering – as well as a dose of relaxation.

Memorable Moments

- Get up close to giant tortoises while volunteering at a conservation sanctuary
- Snorkel with penguins, reef sharks and sea lions in crystal-clear waters
- See first-hand the unique biodiversity that has inspired scientists for generations
- View creatures in their natural surroundings on uninhabited islands
- Kayak in search of the famed blue-footed booby
- Create unforgettable memories in one of the most pristine places on our planet

Your Purpose

By the time the Galapagos National Park was established in the 1959, the islands' giant tortoise population had been decimated, with only 11 of the 14 original populations remaining. Volunteer at a tortoise sanctuary, helping remove invasive plant species and sowing native bushes and grasses that the tortoises eat. Learn first-hand about protecting the natural habitat of the Galapagos' most emblematic native species.

“Traveling to the Galapagos as a family was truly a **bucket list item**. From the vast array wildlife to our guide's depth of knowledge to the time spent volunteering with the massive tortoises, **this is a trip our family will never forget**. Just watching **my daughters' eyes light up** as they watched the penguins waddle into the water made the experience worth it.” - The Carlin Family



Trip Details

Duration 10 days

Lodging Premium

Physical Demand ■■■■■

Group Size Max 15 Avg. 10

Volunteer Time ■■■■■

Family Friendly All Dates

See [Trip Calendar](#) in back pocket for dates and prices.



Itinerary

Days 1 + 2

Tour the cobblestone streets of Quito's UNESCO-listed colonial center, and see the city's more modern side. Ride a cable car to a mountain summit and enjoy a bird's-eye view of the city and surrounding volcanic peaks before dining at a chic restaurant.

Day 3

Catch an early flight to Baltra Island in the Galapagos and hop aboard a boat to Isabela Island. Spend the evening exploring the idyllic coastal town of Puerto Villamil, the third largest urban area in the archipelago.

Day 4

Snorkel at the spectacular site of Los Tuneles, off the coast of Isabela. Dive beneath the turquoise sea and explore

gnarled formations of hardened lava, which have created underwater tunnels. Swim alongside sea turtles, rays and white-tipped sharks.

Day 5

Kayak around the Las Tintoreras islets in search of the famed blue-footed boobies and snorkel in quiet coves known to house turtles, friendly reef sharks and tropical fish. Wander through a pristine mangrove forest at low tide to discover an otherwise invisible ecosystem, before stopping at a tortoise breeding center to learn about the efforts to repopulate the islands.

Day 6

After a pre-dawn boat ride to Santa Cruz Island, we'll head to the highlands. Hike through underground

tunnels formed by lava and see giant tortoises slowly plodding along. Volunteer at a sanctuary, planting native crops and removing invasive species to help restore the tortoises' habitat.

Day 7

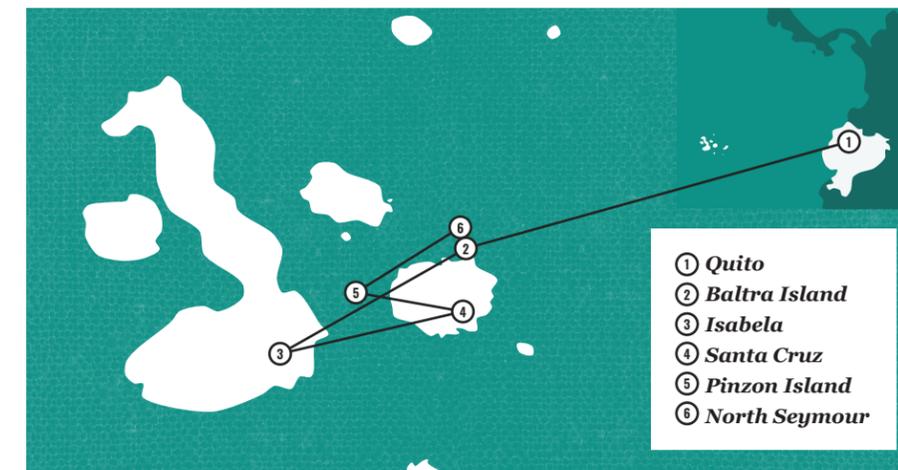
Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn about the conservation projects across the archipelago. Trek to the floury white sands of Tortuga Bay where you can visit marine iguanas, go swimming or simply soak up some sun. We'll then continue our work at the tortoise sanctuary in the highlands of Santa Cruz.

Day 8

Venture to the uninhabited island of North Seymour, home to one of the largest populations of blue-footed boobies and frigate birds, identifiable by their large, red balloon-like throat sacks. Learn about the symbiotic relationship between these two species, before we stop at a magnificent beach where you can snorkel with sea lions.

Days 9 + 10

Plunge into the protected waters around the island of Pinzon, one of the best snorkeling spots in the archipelago, and swim with sea turtles and sea lions. Cruise around the island of Daphne, which is only accessible to scientists. The following day, fly back to Quito, before continuing the journey home.



PERU

Children of the Andes



Hike to the summit of one of the great world wonders and explore the ruins of the fabled Inca citadel of Machu Picchu. Delve into local cultures as you journey through the Andes and help local children achieve their potential by assisting in after-school programs in rural communities.

Memorable Moments

- Hike to the ancient Inca citadel of Machu Picchu
- Help Peruvian schoolchildren develop English language skills
- Explore compelling archaeological sites in the Sacred Valley
- Attend a traditional ceremony conducted by a Peruvian shaman
- Shop for colorful keepsakes at indigenous craft markets

Trip Details

Duration 10/14 days

Lodging Standard

Physical Demand ■■■■■

Group Size Max 20 Avg. 12

Volunteer Time ■■■■■

Family Friendly Selected Dates

See [Trip Calendar](#) in back pocket for dates and prices.



Itinerary

Days 1 + 2

Settle into a Cusco guesthouse for the night, before rising to enjoy an authentic Peruvian breakfast the following day. Learn about the area's fascinating history and visit landmark sights, including the cathedral, San Blas church and the Inca Temple of the Sun, Koricancha.

Days 3 + 4 + 5

Head for a small Andean village outside Cusco and meet a mystic shaman who will explain ancient Inca spiritual rituals. We'll sew handmade dolls using colorful locally woven fabrics and tour a nearby orphanage. Teach basic English through language lessons and engaging educational games at the community's after-school program.

Days 6 + 7

Experience the innovative ways that a local artist and his wife are economically empowering women in the community through projects such as selling hand-sewn Peruvian dolls internationally. Visit the women's houses and learn to make a typical local dish, before continuing to assist with the after-school program.

Day 8

Head back to Cusco for a tour of the city that will include shopping at open-air markets. Savor a farewell dinner before the two groups – those taking part in the 10-day and 14-day trips – go their separate ways.

Days 9 + 10 (10 Day)

Rattle through the Andes on a train to

reach the famous mountaintop ruins of Machu Picchu, where we will spend the afternoon reflecting on the astonishing archaeological masterpiece. Return to Cusco later in the afternoon before departing the next day.

Day 9 (14 Day)

Discover Inca remnants scattered around the Sacred Valley in Pukapukara, Qenqo and Tambomachay. Stop off at a llama farm along the way.

Day 10 (14 Day)

Sit back for a scenic drive to the historic village of Ollantaytambo, where you'll begin a 13,000-foot ascent overlooking the Wakay Willca glacier. Descend back down the pass to the Pacha Conservancy camp and hear about their environmental work. Travel to the town of Santa Teresa and bathe in the natural hot springs.

Days 11 + 12 (14 Day)

Hike along the river and railroad tracks, slowly descending into the rainforest until we eventually reach the town of Aguas Calientes, at the base of Machu Picchu. Venture inside the centuries-old Inca citadel the following day, before returning to Cusco.

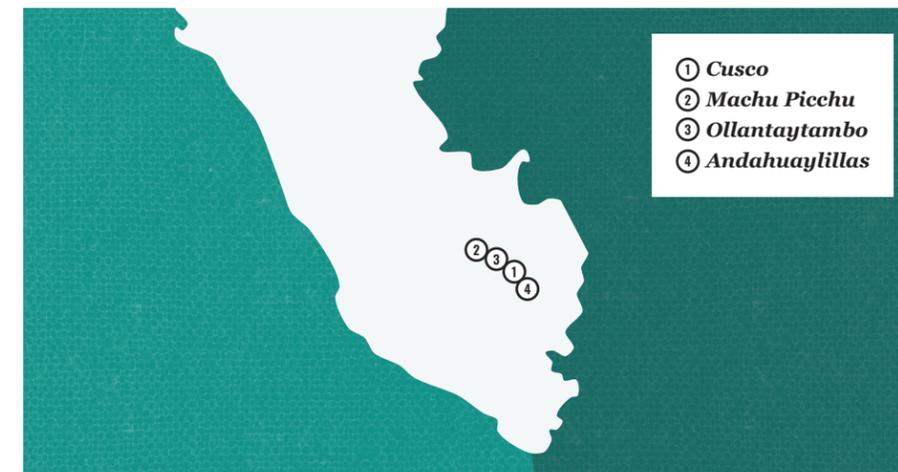
Days 13 + 14 (14 Day)

Absorb the atmosphere of the Cusco streets, drinking coffee, listening to the church bells or picking up some final souvenirs, before a farewell dinner and flights home.

Your Purpose

Education is key to unlocking economic doors in the deprived small towns on the outskirts of the Peruvian city of Cusco. Assist with an after-school program that helps local children improve their English language skills. Devise lessons and educational games, which will create lasting memories both for you and the children involved.

*“Peru was a **magical experience** for me. My objective was to see the archaeological sites and beautiful Andean culture. But I ended the trip feeling like I got much more than that – **I felt my soul replenished**, and I gained a true understanding of what life in the Andes is all about. It was so much deeper than any trip I've taken; it was **an inspiring and enlightening journey**.”* - Ingrid A.



SOUTH AFRICA

Wildlife Conservation Experience



Plunge into the heart of the African bush and get up close and personal with lions, leopards, giraffes and rhinos. Go beyond the safari and become part of the efforts to preserve this habitat by volunteering alongside conservationists in South Africa's Kruger National Park.

Memorable Moments

- Track the "Big Five" on game drives throughout Kruger National Park
- Feed orphaned baby rhinos at a wildlife sanctuary
- Teach English to vulnerable orphans at a local township
- Play a hands-on role in animal conservation by using camera traps and tracking data
- Wander through lush subtropical vegetation at the largest "green canyon" on Earth

Trip Details

Duration 10 days

Lodging Premium

Physical Demand ■■■■■

Group Size Max 16 Avg. 10

Volunteer Time ■■■■■

Family Friendly Selected Dates

See **Trip Calendar** in back pocket for dates and prices.



Itinerary

Days 1 + 2

Wake up to the sound of singing birds in the heart of the African bush after heading straight to Kruger National Park, following arrival in Johannesburg. Learn how to track leopards and hyenas by identifying paw marks and set up camera traps to gather data about animal movements. We'll further introduce ourselves to this wilderness on a game drive.

Day 3

Enjoy an introduction to South African culture at a local community show then visit Moholoholo, a rehabilitative haven for abandoned, injured and poisoned animals. Interact with the rare species being cared for, including the serval, a type of wild cat.

Day 4

Gaze at the lush subtropical foliage of the Blyde River Canyon, the world's largest green canyon, as we drive along the Panorama Route. Wander through mist-covered forests teeming with birdlife and pass majestic formations including the Pinnacle as well as striking lookouts such as the aptly named God's Window and Wonder View.

Day 5

Embark upon an epic full-day game drive through the heart of Kruger and encounter many of the 147 species of large mammals that roam here. Meet with staff along the way to hear about the conservation techniques they employ.

Day 6

Feed baby rhinos and witness firsthand the conservation work being done to protect these endangered creatures at an inspiring local sanctuary. Sample South Africa's famous wines during a sunset tasting session back at camp.

Day 7

Practice English with vulnerable children and orphans from the townships while volunteering with the Seeds of Light project. Read with the children and engage in arts and crafts, while learning about life in South Africa.

Day 8

Encounter the king of the jungle as we spend the day with the Global White Lion Trust conservation organization, which aims to introduce captive-bred white lions back into the wild. Learn about the project's work and spend the day in the field monitoring and collecting data on lions, as well as removing harmful alien plant species.

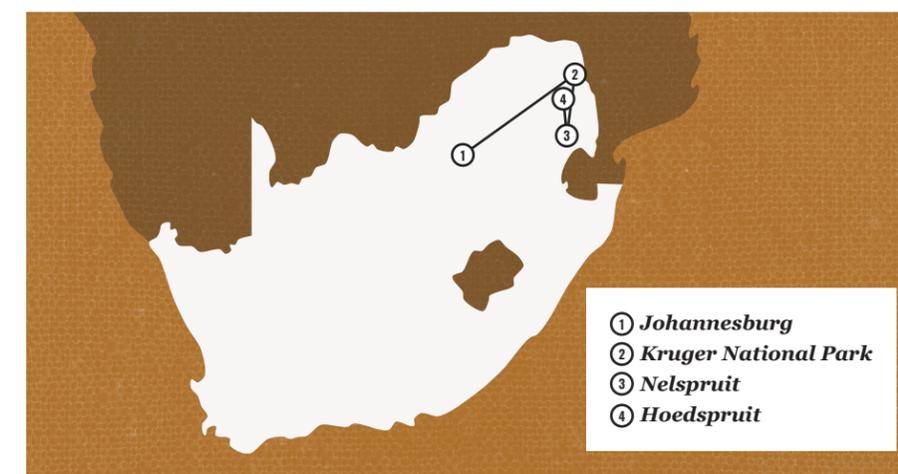
Days 9 + 10

Track the "Big Five" on a final game drive through a nearby park and meet with conservationists along the way. Collect the memory cards from the camera traps and present the data before saying our farewells.

Your Purpose

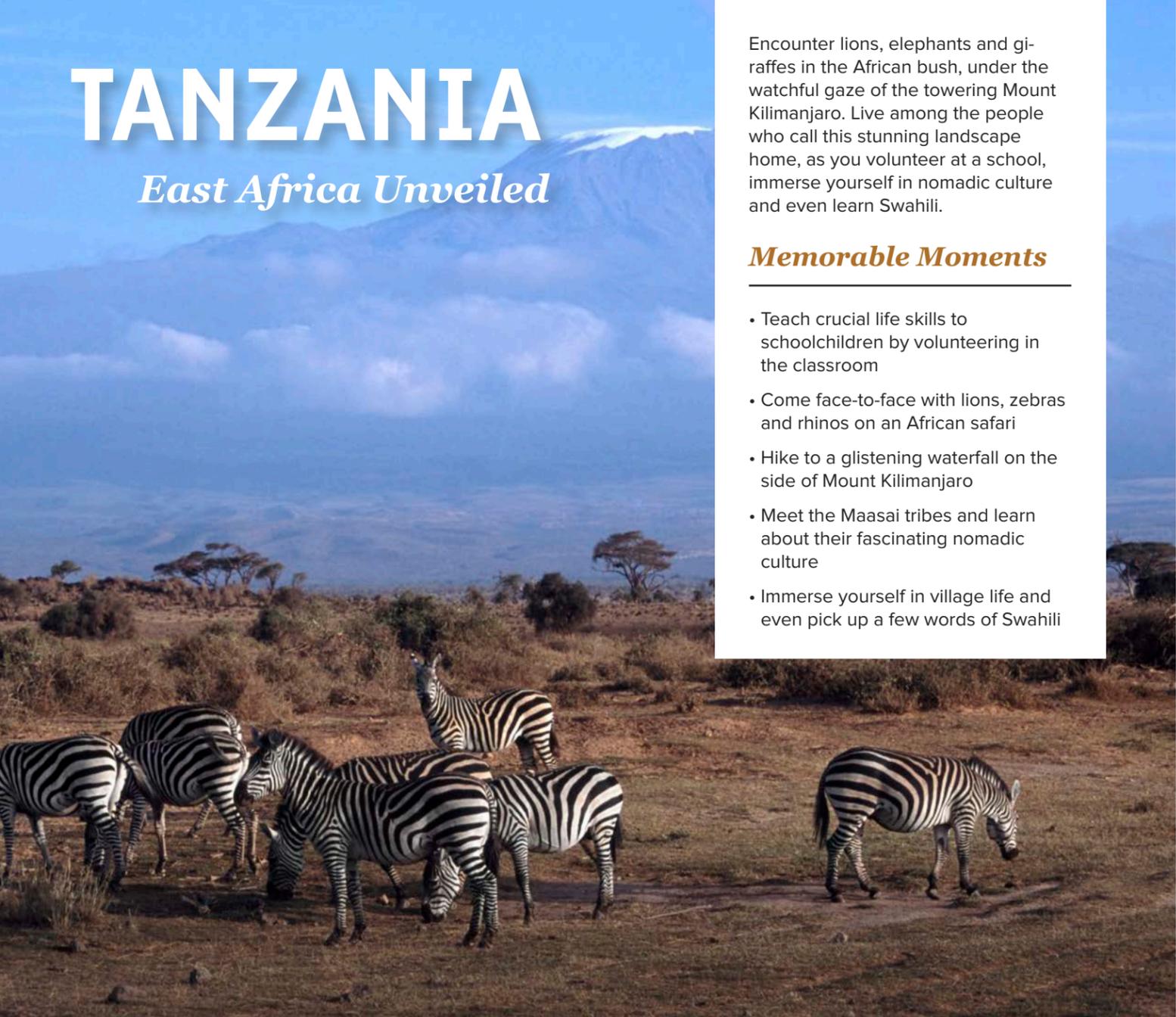
South Africa's largest animal reserve, Kruger National Park, faces threats from rhino poachers, leopard-shooting farmers and outbreaks of immune system viruses among its lion population. But there are also many innovative conservation projects happening in the park, with the goal of protecting endangered species. We'll meet the inspiring leaders spearheading this work and pitch in on efforts to preserve this rich landscape.

*“The entire trip was a **whirlwind** of seeing beautiful wildlife, unique plants, and speaking to inspirational local people. My daughters and I bonded over the **once-in-a-lifetime experience** of being so close to nature and the animals. It's **an experience we'll remember for the rest of our lives.**”* - Sandra A.



TANZANIA

East Africa Unveiled



Encounter lions, elephants and giraffes in the African bush, under the watchful gaze of the towering Mount Kilimanjaro. Live among the people who call this stunning landscape home, as you volunteer at a school, immerse yourself in nomadic culture and even learn Swahili.

Memorable Moments

- Teach crucial life skills to schoolchildren by volunteering in the classroom
- Come face-to-face with lions, zebras and rhinos on an African safari
- Hike to a glistening waterfall on the side of Mount Kilimanjaro
- Meet the Maasai tribes and learn about their fascinating nomadic culture
- Immerse yourself in village life and even pick up a few words of Swahili

Trip Details

Duration 14 days

Lodging Standard

Physical Demand ■■■■■

Group Size Max 18 Avg. 10

Volunteer Time ■■■■■

Family Friendly Selected Dates

See **Trip Calendar** in back pocket for dates and prices.



Itinerary

Days 1 + 2

Adjust to life in the village of Rau, on the outskirts of Moshi, and learn about the culture of the Chagga people. We'll take a crash course in Swahili and get our tongues around a few basic phrases with the host families.

Days 3 + 4 + 5 + 6

It's time to go back to school as our volunteering begins in the classroom, where you will help teach basic English and math through educational games. In the afternoons, explore local culture by visiting an artist, watching a dance troupe perform and meeting an organization that promotes HIV/AIDS awareness.

Day 7

Today, embark on a nature hike around

Africa's most famous sky-skimming peak, Mount Kilimanjaro. We'll see caves where the Chagga people once hid from Maasai raiders and trek to a stunning waterfall.

Day 8

Drive to a rural Maasai community and learn about how their tribal culture has developed over thousands of years. Witness a traditional Maasai ceremony, learn to throw spears with warriors and after sampling the local cuisine, dance together to the beat of their drums.

Days 9 + 10 + 11

Continue our work in the classroom and develop a more confident relationship with the schoolchildren. Afternoons and evenings will be spent learning about life in Rau village by visiting a

local orphanage, tasting the produce of a coffee farm and hearing from guest speakers about the challenges facing Africa.

Day 12

Rise early and head out on safari in Tarangire National Park, one of the top wildlife-sighting spots in Africa. Search for elephants, giraffes, buffalo, monkeys, lions and leopards before spending the night at a lodge near the park.

Days 13 + 14

Travel to Ngorongoro Crater and observe the remains of what was once Earth's tallest volcano, before its collapse two millions years ago. It is home to more than 30,000 animals. We'll return to the village and say our good-byes before catching a flight home.

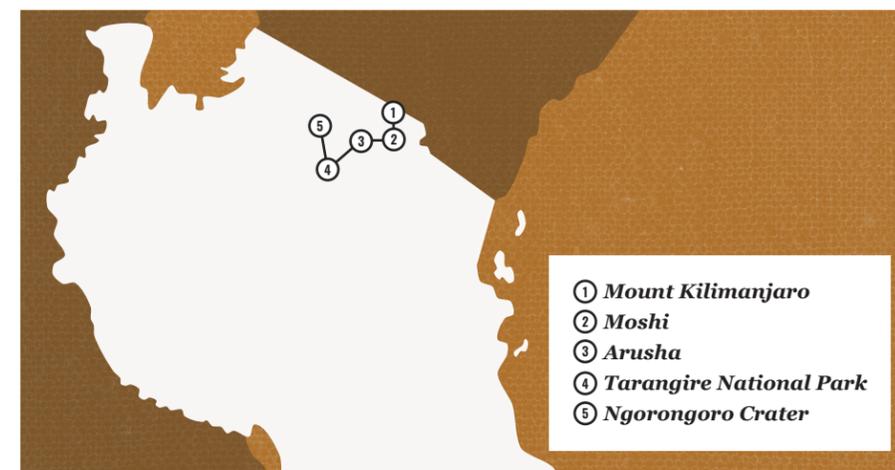


Your Purpose

In village schools in rural Tanzania, student-teacher ratios regularly reach 50-to-1, with overcrowded classrooms negatively affecting the teaching and learning processes. Volunteer at a local primary school, where you will tutor children in English and math, and work alongside teachers to help devise instructional aids and craft the curriculum.

“Tanzania was an **inspiring place**. Mount Kilimanjaro and the wildlife safari were definite highlights, but having a **personal connection to the community** made a world of difference.”

- Karen K.



- 1 Mount Kilimanjaro
- 2 Moshi
- 3 Arusha
- 4 Tarangire National Park
- 5 Ngorongoro Crater





DISCOVER THE HEART AND SOUL OF CUBA

Now is the time to travel to this enigmatic and vibrant country. Travel with an organization that will provide you with a legal and unforgettable experience of a lifetime.

- Cuba: Building Bridges 33
- Cuba: Preserving Nature’s Wonders 35
- Cuba: Celebration of Arts & Culture 37
- Cuba: Havana Weekend Getaway 39
- Cuba: Yoga & Culture Exploration See Website



“I wanted to travel to Cuba before it changed forever. I’m glad I traveled with Discover Corps because I didn’t want to just be another tourist. I wanted to experience the true spirit of Cuba.”

- Tim D., New Jersey



THE DISCOVER CORPS ADVANTAGE

People-to-People

True cultural immersion can only happen when people of different cultures connect in an authentic setting. Our trips allow you to get to know a variety of Cuban people from different slices of society.

Insider Access

Our expert bilingual Cuban guides have deep connections to the community and can tailor visits based on the interests of our groups. Whichever itinerary you choose, experience the welcoming spirit of the Cuban people.

Living History

Enjoy the timeless music and colonial architecture while also witnessing firsthand the rapid changes occurring on the island. Watch history come alive, while also making history of your own.

The Smallest Groups

Our average group size is eight, but we’ll never have more than 16 guests on a trip. This allows you to travel with like-minded people and share authentic, intimate experiences throughout the island.

Undiscovered Beauty

Our wide variety of itineraries in Cuba take you to the must-see sights, as well as beautiful, undiscovered corners of the country. Whether you love mountains, beaches, villages or cities, we have an itinerary that will take your breath away.

CUBA

Building Bridges



Enter a land largely untouched by the Western world, as we delve into the fascinating history, culture and beauty of Cuba at a time of growing diplomatic relations. While in the capital of Havana, we'll engage with local children in a pioneering community project.

Memorable Moments

- Inspire children to revitalize their neighborhood through art projects
- Explore Havana's labyrinth of streets and stunning oceanfront promenades
- Learn to salsa with a Cuban dance instructor
- Discover the attractive colonial towns of Trinidad and Cienfuegos
- Engage in citizen diplomacy at a time of evolving relations

Trip Details

Duration 8 days

Lodging Standard

Physical Demand ■■■■■■

Group Size Max 16 Avg. 8

Volunteer Time ■■■■■■

Family Friendly Selected Dates

See **Trip Calendar** in back pocket for dates and prices.



Itinerary

Days 1 + 2

Hit the ground running in Havana by exploring colonial plazas, the Malecon seaside boardwalk and the maze of backstreets. We'll head to the neighborhood of Lawton on the outskirts of old Havana to settle into our bed and breakfast accommodation and then begin our work with the Muraleando community art program.

Day 3

Participate in a range of art, dance and sports activities with the children, including painting and repairing soccer fields. We'll learn more about the history of Havana and enjoy a lesson in Cuban dancing. There'll also be a chance to sample a wide range of mouthwatering local cuisine.

Day 4

Tour the home of one of Cuba's most famous residents, Ernest Hemingway, and explore the surroundings which inspired his novels. We'll continue our work with Muraleando, connecting with the local community and helping to build bridges between the U.S. and Cuba.

Day 5

We'll hit the road and visit the historic site of the Bay of Pigs invasion. Spend the night in the colonial town of Cienfuegos and enjoy a guided tour around its expansive boulevards. In the evening, the Cienfuegos Choir, whose mission is to preserve Cuban choral music, will treat us to a rare private performance.

Day 6

Tour the colorful alleys of the UNESCO-listed historical core of Trinidad with a local guide, as we uncover the secrets of this Spanish-style town. After lunch on the patio of a paladar, we'll head back to Cienfuegos.

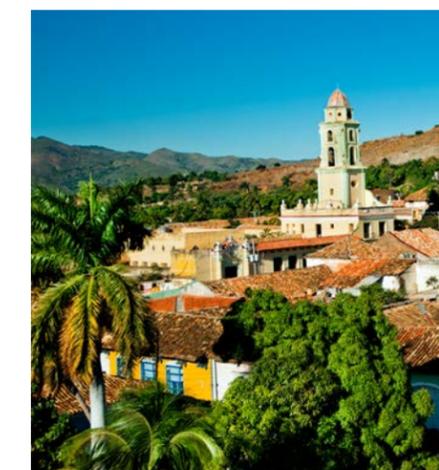
Day 7 + 8

Take the chance for some last-minute shopping or exploring in Havana during our final days. We'll say our farewells at a goodbye dinner, before departing the following day.

Your Purpose

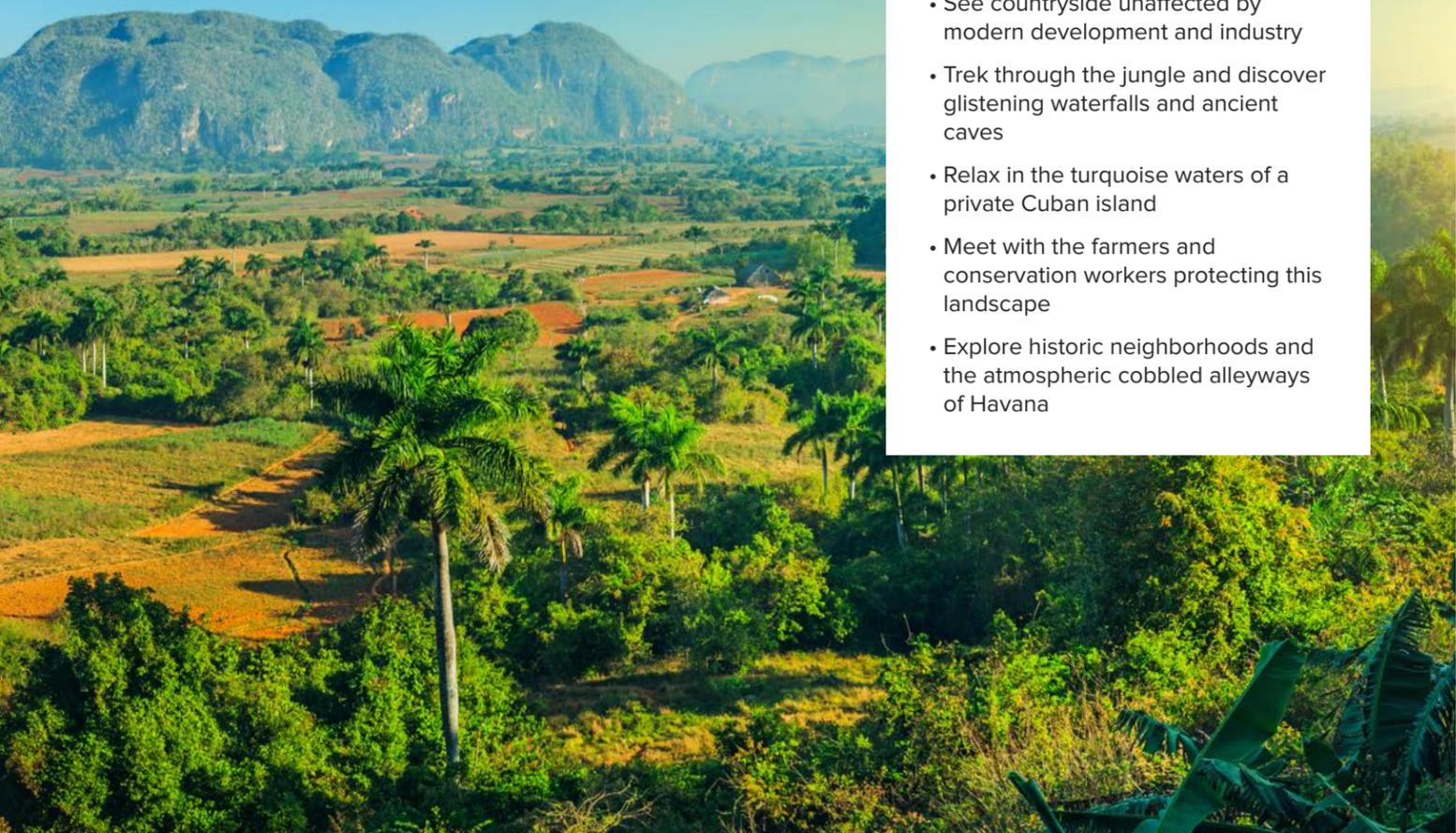
The deprived community of Lawton on the edge of Old Havana was struck by economic hardships during the 1990s with many children dropping out of school. The Muraleando art project is helping youngsters revive their neighborhood. Work with this pioneering community center on a range of art, sports and dance schemes to both inspire children and continue the regeneration of their home.

“ Before I founded Discover Corps, I worked for an international non-profit organization. During that time I had the privilege of traveling to Cuba over 20 times. I have developed a network of **fascinating local people** who **welcome us as friends**. I'm excited to be able to share this beautiful — and often misunderstood — island with the Discover Corps community. ” - Andrew M



CUBA

Preserving Nature's Wonders



Swim in turquoise waters, trek through jungle and explore the countryside on a Caribbean island that remains mostly untouched by the impact of modern tourist development. Discover conservation and agricultural projects that have safeguarded Cuba's natural environments both on land and sea.

Memorable Moments

- See countryside unaffected by modern development and industry
- Trek through the jungle and discover glistening waterfalls and ancient caves
- Relax in the turquoise waters of a private Cuban island
- Meet with the farmers and conservation workers protecting this landscape
- Explore historic neighborhoods and the atmospheric cobbled alleyways of Havana

Trip Details

Duration 8 days

Lodging Standard

Physical Demand ■■■■■

Group Size Max 16 Avg. 8

Volunteer Time None

Family Friendly Selected Dates

See **Trip Calendar** in back pocket for dates and prices.



Itinerary

Days 1 + 2

We'll waste no time getting started as we explore Havana's cobbled streets, visiting the city's main sites, including Revolution Square, the Malecon seaside boardwalk and Old Havana. Sample the local cuisine before we head for Las Terrazas, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in the heart of the Cuban countryside.

Day 3

Get to the heart of this untouched wilderness as we soak in waterfalls and natural swimming pools hidden amid the undeveloped Cuban countryside. Visit one of Cuba's first coffee plantations and chat to artisans from the Las Terrazas eco-village. Sample coffee and vegetables sourced from the valley.

Day 4

Wander through the lush Viñales Valley, bordered by dramatic rocky cliffs and dotted with communities. Visit one of the largest orchid gardens in Cuba and see first-hand the traditional methods employed at a local farm. A delicious lunch will be served overlooking the valley, before we stop at a nearby town and view a cliffside mural depicting the area's ancient past.

Day 5

Relax for an entire day on the paradise island of Cayo Levisa, where, after a 45-minute boat ride from the mainland, we'll be surrounded by white sand, sapphire waters and swaying palms. Rent a snorkel to witness life beneath the waves or simply unwind on the beach, before we return to Viñales for

dinner and a night out Cuban-style.

Day 6

Trek through the Viñales Valley, whose blossoming landscape of coffee, tobacco, sugar-cane and banana plantations supports a population of about 25,000. Meet with farmers along the way and see the meandering river that flows into the ancient Cueva del Indio cave. A private botanical garden tour follows before we cap off our time in the west of Cuba with a final dinner.

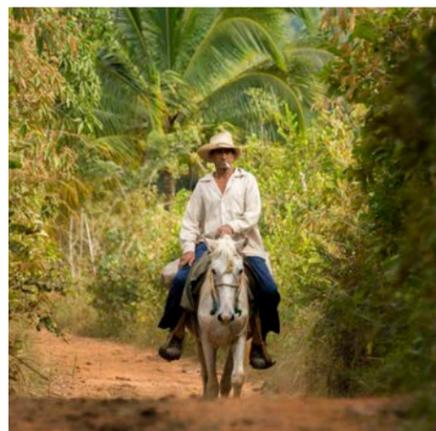
Day 7 + 8

Take the chance to absorb Havana's infectious energy, listening to the sounds of salsa that echo through its alleyways. After a last-minute shopping session at a craft market, we'll enjoy a cocktail-making class and dinner before bidding our farewells.

Your Purpose

The west coast of Cuba boasts some of the best-preserved countryside in the Caribbean thanks to a series of strict government environmental policies introduced after the 1959 Revolution. Traditional agricultural practices remain in place and the outlawing of pesticides has created a unique ecosystem. We'll explore the farms, beaches and landscape of this region and meet with the people who work to preserve it.

“Most people equate Cuba with Havana, which is an amazing city. My advice: Get out of town and go the countryside! Cuba is a gem and its natural resources are preserved unlike any place I've ever been. Go before it changes!” - Susan S.



CUBA

Celebration of Arts & Culture



Sway to the salsa beat on this voyage into the heart of Cuba's art and music scene. We'll meet musicians, artists and dancers inspired by the rhythm that bounces off the cobbled streets of Havana and flows across the whole island.

Memorable Moments

- Delve into the vibrant art and music scene of Cuba
- Discover private art galleries, and witness dance and choral performances
- Step back in time on the cobblestone alleyways of Havana
- Soak in the beauty of UNESCO-listed Trinidad and Cienfuegos
- Savor Cuban cuisine at a range of family-run paladar restaurants

Trip Details

- Duration** 8 days
Lodging Standard
Physical Demand ■■■■■
Group Size Max 16 Avg. 8
Volunteer Time None
Family Friendly Selected Dates

See [Trip Calendar](#) in back pocket for dates and prices.



Itinerary

Days 1 + 2

Jazz and salsa beats will immediately hit your ears upon arriving in Havana. There will be no time to waste as we set about exploring the maze of backstreets, plazas and seaside promenades that form this historic city. We'll visit a world-renowned Cuban dance troupe and wander through a neighborhood transformed by Cuban artist Jose Fuster. There'll also be a chance to visit the Fine Arts Museum of Havana and explore the community-based arts organization Muraleando.

Day 3

Sample one of Cuba's most famous exports at the Havana Rum Museum and continue to tingle the taste buds with a meal at an authentic family-run

paladar. An energetic evening follows with a visit to the Fabrica de Arte, an old factory transformed into a thriving culture and nightlife center.

Day 4

Head out of Havana and visit two UNESCO World Heritage Sites on the island: the colorful towns of Trinidad and Cienfuegos. Stop at the historic location of the Bay of Pigs invasion on the way to Cienfuegos, where a guide will reveal the secrets behind the town and a local artist will show us his work, before moving on to Trinidad.

Day 5

A town historian will guide us through the Spanish-style cobble alleyways and plazas of Trinidad. Learn to salsa like a local as a Cuban instructor pro-

vides a step-by-step private lesson. Spend the evening in Plaza Mayor, which bursts to life with live music.

Day 6

On the journey back to Havana, we'll stop to see an inspirational private performance from the Cienfuegos Choir, a group dedicated to preserving the heritage of Cuban choral music. After a seaside lunch, we'll hit the road again, arriving in Havana in time for dinner.

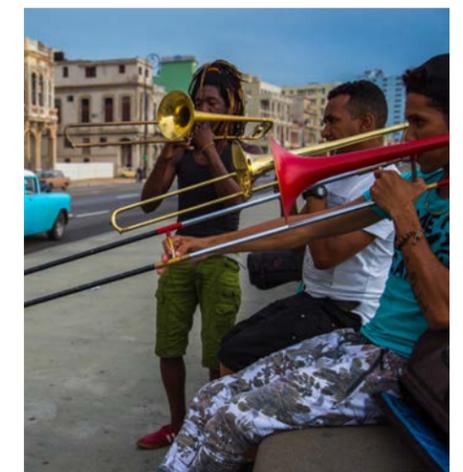
Day 7 + 8

Learn about the life of Ernest Hemingway and find out why he became such an icon in Cuba, as well as the United States. There'll be a chance for some last-minute exploring and shopping before we recall the highlights of the trip at a farewell dinner.

Your Purpose

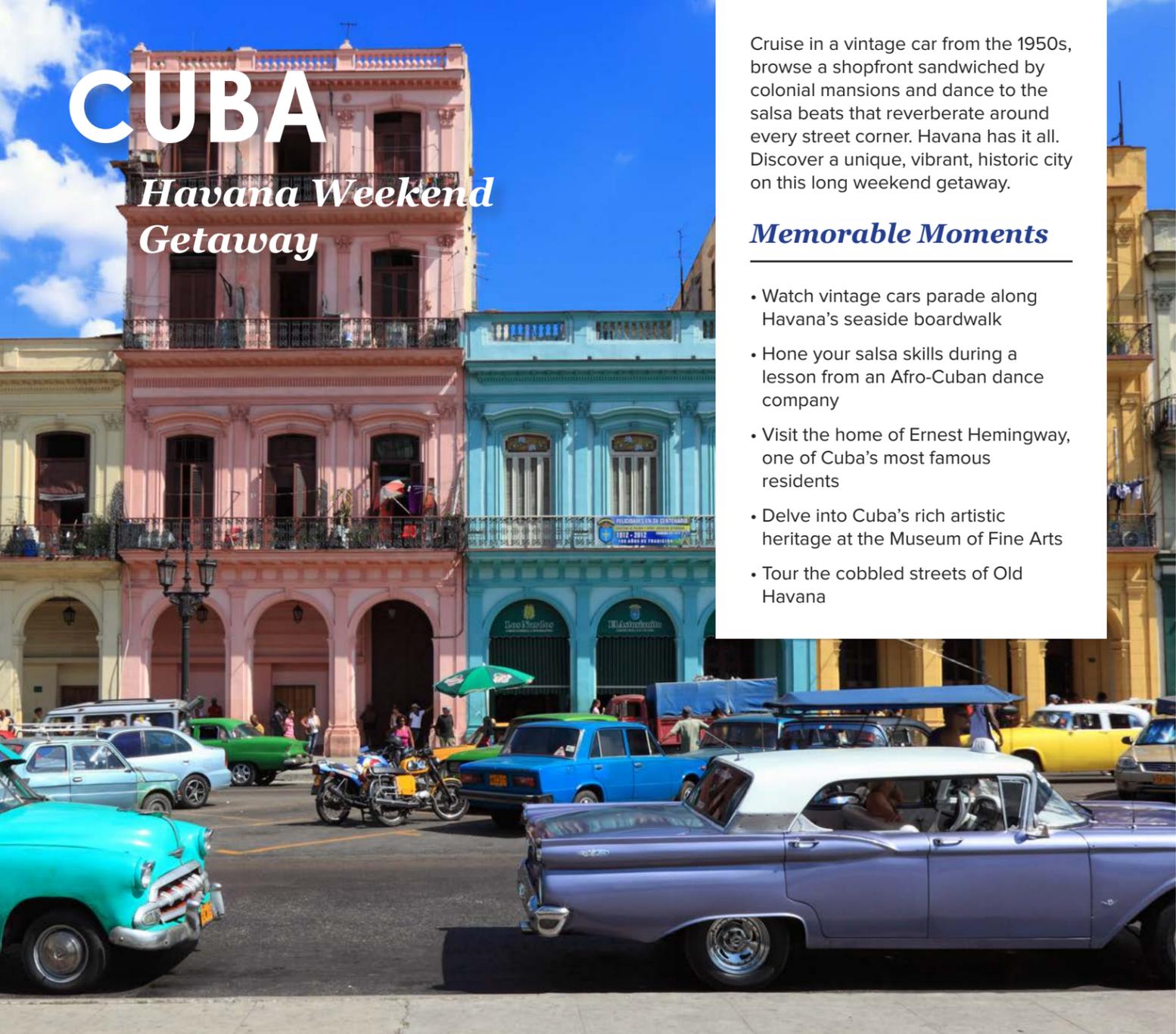
A love for music and art is ingrained in Cuban society and has been a common theme throughout the island's fascinating history. We'll connect with Cubans and learn about the island's evolving culture, both in the alleyways of Havana and further afield in the stunning colonial towns of Trinidad and Cienfuegos. We'll also delve into Cuba's culinary scene, visiting family-run paladar restaurants.

“Traveling in Cuba, I quickly discovered that *art and music are around every corner*. Whether it's walking through the vibrant streets of Old Havana or discovering the cafes of Trinidad, Cuba is truly the *most colorful place I have ever visited*.” - Jeff C.



CUBA

Havana Weekend Getaway



Cruise in a vintage car from the 1950s, browse a shopfront sandwiched by colonial mansions and dance to the salsa beats that reverberate around every street corner. Havana has it all. Discover a unique, vibrant, historic city on this long weekend getaway.

Memorable Moments

- Watch vintage cars parade along Havana's seaside boardwalk
- Hone your salsa skills during a lesson from an Afro-Cuban dance company
- Visit the home of Ernest Hemingway, one of Cuba's most famous residents
- Delve into Cuba's rich artistic heritage at the Museum of Fine Arts
- Tour the cobbled streets of Old Havana

Trip Details

- Duration** 4 days
Lodging Standard
Physical Demand ■■■■■
Group Size Max 16 Avg. 6
Volunteer Time None
Family Friendly No

See [Trip Calendar](#) in back pocket for dates and prices.



Itinerary

Day 1

Begin your Cuban experience by visiting Cojimar. This seaside town, which lies just a few minutes east of Havana, was once home to Ernest Hemingway. Tour Hemingway's home and contemplate the surroundings where he wrote some of his most famous novels. We'll head on to Havana and take a tour of the city's main sights, including the Malecon coastal boardwalk, Revolution Square and the vibrant Vedado neighborhood. After dinner at a beautiful restaurant overlooking the city, we'll explore a once-derelict factory that has been transformed into a center for Cuban arts and music.

Day 2

Find out more about Havana's thriving music and arts scenes with a presentation from a local Afro-Cuban dance troupe. Learn some basic salsa moves and gaze in awe at the pros in action. We'll wind our way through the narrow streets, square and grand cathedrals of Old Havana, as a guide accompanies us around this UNESCO World Heritage site where history oozes out of every corner. Sample mouthwatering Cuban cuisine at a family-owned paladar restaurant and spend the following hours at one of the city's jazz cafes.

Days 3 + 4

Our tour of Havana's plazas and galleries continues. We will make our way to the legendary Sloppy Joe's Bar. Recently reopened after 48 years, Sloppy Joe's served Americans during the prohibition era. The bartenders will give us a crash course in how to make their famous cocktails, including the mojito. The afternoon will focus on Cuba's art scene, with a visit to the Museum of Fine Arts and a private gallery in central Havana, where there will also be opportunity for souvenir shopping. Following a farewell dinner, we'll enjoy live music at Havana's famous Hotel Nacional. After breakfast the following morning, head back to the airport for our return flights home.

Your Purpose

Times are fast changing in Cuba and Havana lies at the cusp of this new era. This could be a final chance to view a city largely preserved in time, before the onset of increased tourism. Over the course of four days, we'll get a taste of life in Havana and the art, music and history that makes the city burst with such intense energy.

“Havana is a place that **epitomizes Cuban joie de vivre**, or joy of life. Whether it's the music, art or the depth of history, Havana **never ceases to amaze me**. In the streets, **life just emanates out of every corner**. I cannot wait to come back.” - Mimi A.



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