



Discover Corps

VACATIONS WITH PURPOSE



Nature & Wildlife Adventures

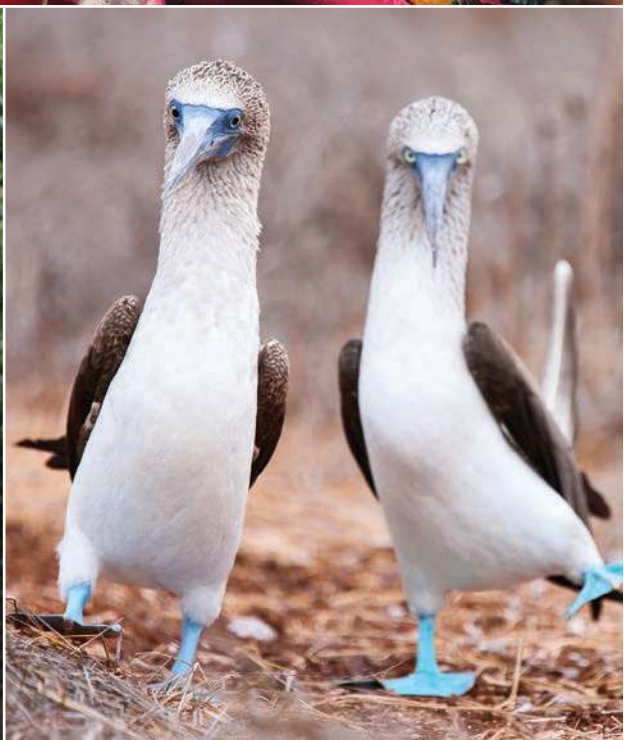
Volunteer Vacations

Cultural Explorations

2018 CATALOG

Our Mission

The mission of Discover Corps is to inspire travelers to become advocates for our planet's natural wonders, cultural treasures, and local communities. We accomplish this through immersive and sustainable travel experiences for families and adults.



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WHY DISCOVER CORPS?

Discover Corps offers families and adults purposeful, genuine engagement with communities around the world. We provide unparalleled access to people and projects that foreign visitors don't usually get to see. Our commitment to sustainable travel practices ensures that your journey improves the lives of the people you meet, and our small group sizes give you an authentic and meaningful experience.



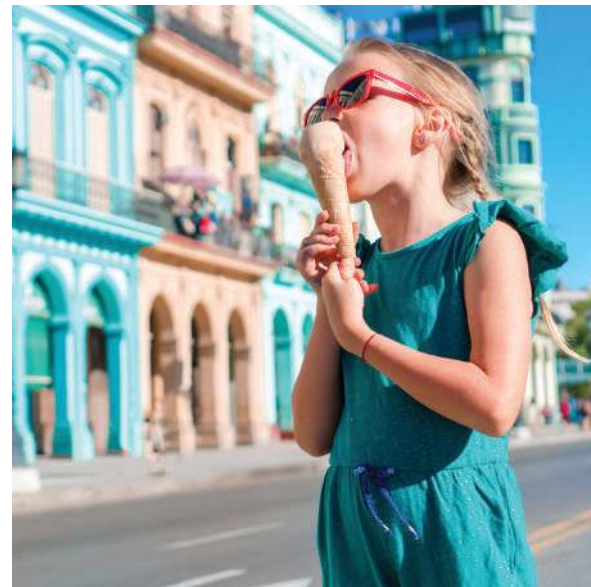
FAMILY FRIENDLY. All our itineraries are family friendly and offer fun, memorable experiences for a wide variety of ages. Our flexible programming allows grandparents, parents, and children to find the right mix of age-appropriate activities... or to simply relax together as a family.

PURPOSEFUL ITINERARIES. Every Discover Corps itinerary is designed around a unique purpose that connects travelers to local communities in a meaningful way, and gives them a deeper understanding of a unique and extraordinary part of the world.

ACCESS AND AUTHENTICITY. Because we partner with community-based organizations, you will experience authentic encounters with diverse cultures. Local people will share their stories of life as a teacher, conservationist, mother, student, or child in a different corner of our world.

SUSTAINABLE & RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL. We believe that responsible travel has the potential to positively impact the planet and its people. By working with community groups and conservationists, we create financial incentives to preserve the cultural heritage and natural wonders that make our world special.

TURNKEY SERVICE & PEACE OF MIND. Our experienced team makes planning your vacation simple and stress-free, and our all-encompassing pricing ensures you get an outstanding experience with no hidden charges. Our expert team hand picks each hotel, restaurant, and activity in order to provide a safe and unforgettable journey.



WHO TRAVELS?

FAMILIES. In addition to children's pricing and departures during school vacations, families value the opportunities for their children (including teens) to connect with young people from other countries. Some trips offer collaboration with local students, while other trips provide intimate encounters with native wildlife, but all promise to enlighten and inspire your children (or grandchildren) by offering them once-in-a-lifetime experiences. The best part? Your family will create memorable moments that last forever.

SOLO TRAVELERS. While all itineraries are family-friendly, adults also feel right at home on our trips. When private rooms are available, we pair you with another solo traveler of the same gender to keep lodging costs down. Alternatively, single rooms are available for an additional fee.

GROUPS. Traveling in a group of six or more? We can design a custom travel experience and departure date just for you. Corporate retreats, alumni associations, family reunions - you name it, we'll make it happen, all while preserving the authentic, inspiring moments that define a Discover Corps trip.

WOMEN ONLY TRIPS. Look for the "W" in the calendar inserted in the back of this catalog for our trip dates designated for women only. Connect with other mothers and daughters or solo women travelers looking for a unique experience with other like-minded women. There are dates available for all regions!



TYPES OF TRIPS

NATURE & WILDLIFE ADVENTURES

Join conservationists and researchers working to protect some of earth's most beautiful and endangered species. Go behind the scenes and learn firsthand about their efforts. Whether releasing baby sea turtles into the ocean in Costa Rica or using camera traps to record tiger movements in India, you'll experience intimate encounters with animals that you will never forget.

During these journeys, stay at beautiful eco-friendly properties nestled in areas with rich biodiversity.

NATURE & WILDLIFE ADVENTURES INCLUDE:

Australia: Beachside Wildlife Adventure	(See Website)
Belize: Wildlife Safari	p.38
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VOLUNTEER VACATIONS

Volunteer vacations offer a unique blend of activities that allow you to discover a country through its people. These trips combine a few hours per day of volunteering with cultural activities and visits to the must-see sites in each destination.

Our volunteer projects are driven by local communities, not us. While our trips are short, we strive for a long-term impact by partnering with nonprofit organizations that have ongoing relationships with the communities we visit.

Most trips include two to four half-days of volunteering, so you have plenty of time to explore and relax.

VOLUNTEER VACATIONS INCLUDE:

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Dominican Republic: Heart & Soul of the Caribbean	p.46
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CULTURAL EXPLORATIONS

More than a vacation, these creatively-curated journeys embrace the customs and culture of vibrant communities located in some of the world's most compelling regions.

Immerse yourself in the unique cultural heritage of a region with our expert local guides, our unique lodging in the heart of a community, and our insightful hands-on activities.

CULTURAL EXPLORATIONS INCLUDE:

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Japan: Cultural Odyssey	p.26
Thailand: Cultural Kaleidoscope	(See Website)

POST-TRIP EXTENSIONS

Some itineraries feature optional post-trip extensions that are designed to show you another part of the country or let you dive deep into an area of particular significance. These extensions can be added to the end of any program for an extra fee. With the exception of Cape Town (minimum 2), there is no minimum number of participants for our post-trip extensions. They are all guaranteed to run regardless of the group size.

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DISTINCTIVE ACCOMMODATIONS

Our accommodations are more than just places to sleep - they are an intrinsic part of the experience. Each property has a unique “wow” factor based on the purpose of the trip.

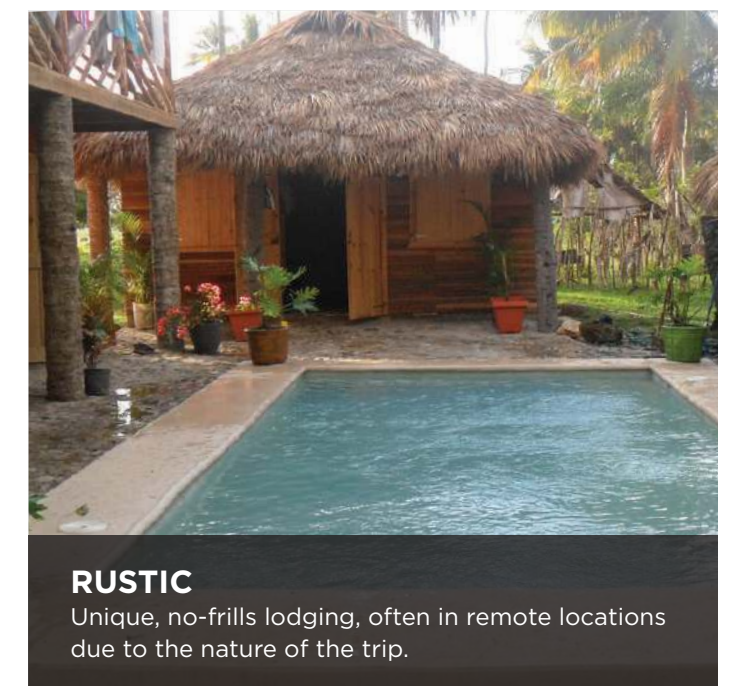
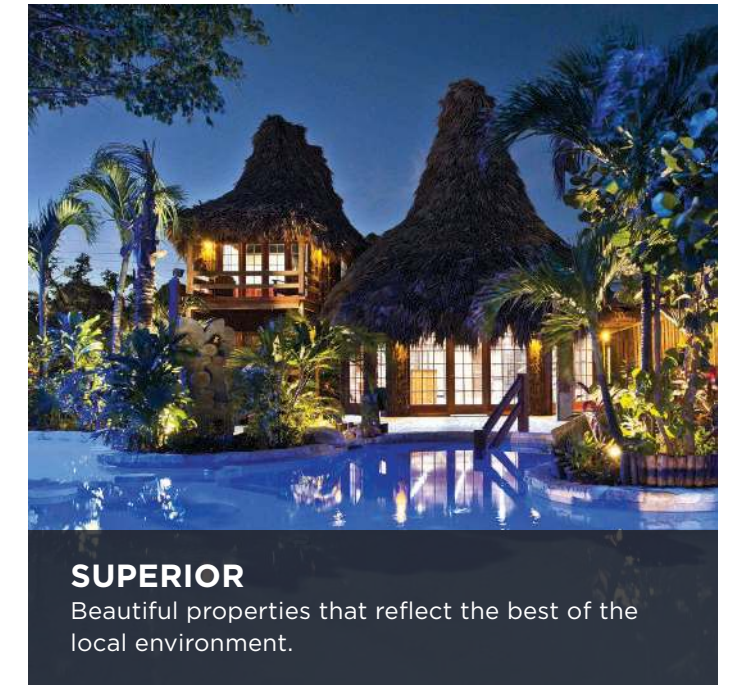
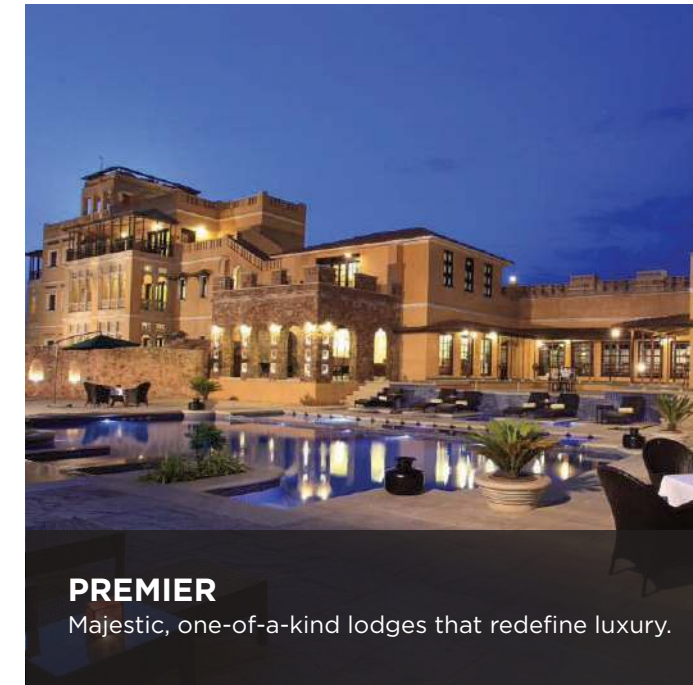


LEVELS OF ACCOMODATION

Our Nature & Wildlife Adventures include accommodations in elegant eco-lodges near wildlife viewing opportunities, while our Volunteer Vacations house you in simple yet comfortable properties that connect you with the soul of the local community. Finally, our Cultural Explorations place you right in the heart of the cities and communities you're experiencing, immersing you in the day-to-day lives of the people.

Whether it's a luxury tented camp on the African savannah, a rustic ranger's station in the jungle, or a modern apartment overlooking the sea, each property is clean, comfortable, and safe, and reflects the unique charm and character of the destination.

To help you select the trip that's right for you, our accommodation options have been assigned one of four categories:



KENYA: Safari & Conservation

Few trips to Kenya will bring you so thrillingly close to its spectacular wildlife. Over the course of 10 days, roam some of the country's most enchanting landscapes and meet its most famous animals. In turn, you'll be assisting local conservation efforts in monitoring and protecting these invaluable, exquisite creatures. By night, relax in your gorgeous luxury tent situated amongst the beautiful Kenyan plains.



- Get closer than ever to rhinos, lions, and cheetah
- Lend a hand with innovative, local conservation efforts
- Befriend indigenous Masai tribes on a visit to a traditional village
- Learn wildlife tracking skills such as identifying paw prints
- Unwind at the end of the day in luxury camps with panoramic views

OUR PURPOSE

Kenya's wildlife is world-famous, but it's also under threat from poaching, climate change and development. Team up with local organizations in observing and safeguarding these magnificent creatures on a trip where you'll get close to lions, cheetah, elephants, and more. You'll collect data on drives around game reserves, meet Masai herders who are heading up conservation efforts, and join anti-poaching teams as they work in the savannah.

ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2

Head straight from Nairobi International Airport to your luxury accommodation on the plains of Mt. Kenya in Ol Pejeta Conservancy. We kick off with an evening game drive, followed by a day dedicated to tracking the local lion population.

DAY 3

Join the wildlife protection squad as they cross the reserve to monitor rhinos. Lunch by the water hole is followed by a trip to the Ol Pejeta Chimpanzee Conservancy and an evening game drive with a local expert.

DAYS 4-5

We'll squeeze in a morning game drive before heading south to gorgeous Brackenhurst. These sprawling botanic gardens will be your home for the next two days as you join Plants for Life International in caring for the diverse ecosystem.

DAY 6

Mara Naboisho Conservancy - our next destination - sits on the edge of Masai Mara National Reserve. Here you'll work with a combination of tourism partners, conservationists, and Masai landowners in protecting the wildlife. Prepare to be dazzled by the diversity of wildlife on game drives through this protected, private region. End your day staying in your ultra-luxury tent, falling asleep to the soothing sounds of the bush.

DAYS 7-8

Get hands-on with the conservation projects in Mara Naboisho. Collect data on animals during drives around the conservancy, visit a Naboisho landowner village, and monitor cheetah while learning tracking skills. You'll also get the chance to dine with a Masai herder and experience the tribe's fascinating traditions.

DAYS 9-10

We'll maximize our time here, packing in three more game drives. This helps the local team of conservationists as you gather more information on the animals as you go. There's also a chance to help out around the conservancy before flying out of Nairobi the next day.

PREMIER LODGING

We stay in three different luxurious destinations, each in the heart of Kenya's stunning natural scenery. Our camp near Ol Pejeta faces a wildlife water hole so you can wake up and watch giraffes roaming the landscape. The hotel in Brackenhurst lets you unwind in peace, while the ultra-luxury tents in Mara Naboisho are geared for maximum comfort and wildlife viewing between your conservation expeditions.

Our experience in Kenya with Discover Corps was nothing short of profound. I wanted my children to get something from the experience - not just a standard vacation. We got exactly that. My kids were blown away by our guide and couldn't wait to wake up each day and track a new animal in the park. They are now raving about this to their friends and even want to work with wildlife when they are older! - Stephanie T.

DURATION

10 days / 9 nights

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Easy

GROUP SIZE

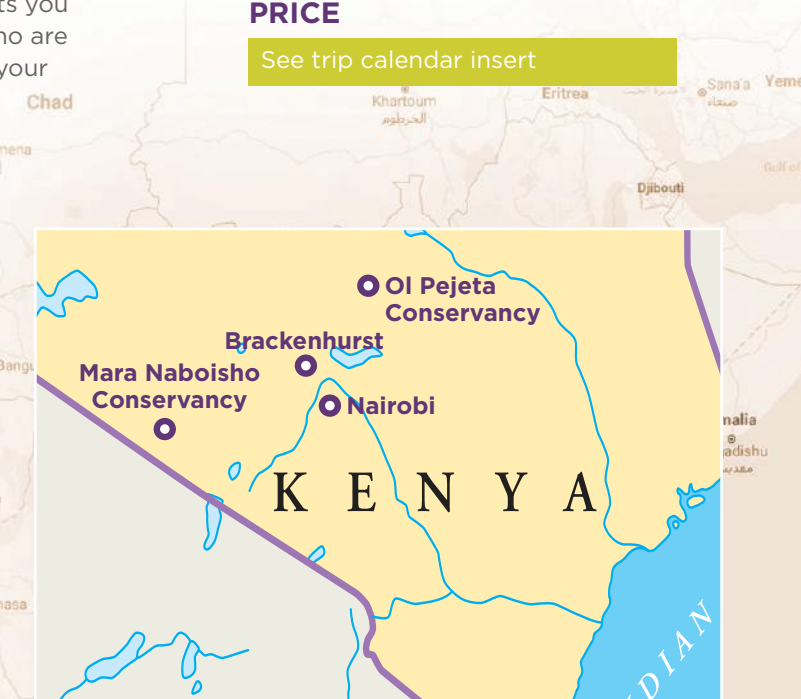
Average 6, Maximum 14

LODGING

Premier

PRICE

See trip calendar insert



SOUTH AFRICA: Wildlife Conservation Experience

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



- Track the “Big Five” on a game drive to Kruger National Park
- Feed orphaned baby rhinos at a wildlife sanctuary
- Practice English and play educational games with orphans at a local township
- Play a hands-on role in animal conservation by setting up camera traps to track leopards
- Wander through subtropical vegetation at the largest “green canyon” on Earth

OUR 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. Fortunately, 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.

ITINERARY

DAY 1

Gaze at the lush subtropical foliage of the Blyde River Canyon, the world's largest green canyon, as well as the Pinnacle, as we drive along the Panorama Route from Johannesburg. Experience striking lookouts such as the aptly-named God's Window and Wonder View. Settle in to your luxury-tented camp before a welcome dinner.

DAY 2

Wake up to the sound of singing birds in the heart of the African bush. Learn how to track leopards and wild cats by identifying paw marks, and if needed, set up camera traps to gather data about animal movements. We'll further introduce ourselves to this wilderness on a game drive and learn about *ingwe*, or leopards.

DAYS 3-4

Marvel at the beauty of the park on a morning game drive. Enjoy a free afternoon to swim, explore, or relax. After dinner, experience a nocturnal wildlife drive. On day 4, wander through mist-covered forests teeming with birdlife and majestic formations. Prepare for your upcoming visit to the community by creating educational activities for the children you'll visit.

DAYS 5-6

Embark upon an epic full-day game drive through the heart of Greater 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. Visit Jessica the hippo in afternoon. In the evenings, experience an African sundowner, or a glass of wine and scenic views while connecting to nature.

DAY 7

Engage in educational games with children and orphans from the townships while visiting with the Seeds of Light project. Read with the children and engage in arts and crafts while learning about life in South Africa. In the afternoon, visit Moholoholo, a rehabilitation haven for abandoned, injured, and poisoned animals, including the serval, a beautifully spotted wild cat.

DAYS 8-10

Visit a primate sanctuary and learn about the primates' role in the African bush before a free afternoon. Track the “Big Five” on a final game drive through Kruger National Park and meet with conservationists along the way. Feed baby rhinos and witness first-hand the conservation work being done to protect these endangered creatures at an inspiring local sanctuary.



PREMIER LODGING

Your home-away-from-home is a luxury tented camp on the banks of the Blyde River, situated on the edge of Greater Kruger National Park - the epicenter of wildlife in South Africa. The lodge features a communal center with a dining area and panoramic private deck, from which you can enjoy the sights and sounds of the bush. Rooms include crisp white linens, a plush bed, and a full private bathroom with hot and cold water, lockbox, and fan. You'll also be able to enjoy an infinity pool, wi-fi, and hiking trails. Truly an experience all of its own.

Optional Extension: Cape Town

5 days / 4 nights

After a relaxing evening in the city, hit the ground running with a Cape Town city tour of Robben Island, Greenmarket Square, Company Gardens, and Table Mountain. Enjoy a township bicycle excursion and lunch with the local community before heading to Boulders penguin colony, Cape Point, and Chapman's Peak. Choose between a whale watching tour or Winelands tour before your journey home the next day.

DURATION

10 days / 9 nights
(+Optional 5-day extension)

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Moderate

GROUP SIZE

Average 8, Maximum 16

LODGING

Premier

PRICE

See trip calendar insert



SOUTH AFRICA: Wildlife Volunteer Experience

Play your part in protecting the iconic wildlife of South Africa on an expedition into the nation's beautiful bushland. On this escape to nature, you'll get close to some of the country's most spectacular animals as you wander its majestic landscapes.



- Stay in a safari lodge in the scenic heart of a wildlife reserve
- Track and monitor South Africa's most impressive animals
- Scout for the famous "Big Five" on a game drive with the experts
- Visit a local NGO helping South Africa's most vulnerable people
- Travel across the country's jaw-dropping landscapes

OUR PURPOSE

In the vast Somkhanda Game Reserve, a small but dedicated conservation team is faced with the big task of monitoring and maintaining the wildlife populations. That's where you come in, helping the team in tracking rhinos, setting camera traps for leopards, and recording data on other animals including elephants, buffalo, and wild dogs. Some of your time will also be spent helping out NGOs serving the local population.

ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2

Your plane lands in the thriving city of Durban, and we start by exploring the area and visiting some of its amazing local organizations. Spend time speaking with families whose lives have been affected by the HIV epidemic and gain important insights into the community care and medical initiatives underway. Journey to the Zulu homestead, a traditional community outside of Durban, where you'll be greeted by a traditional Zulu dance.

DAY 3

Today, the journey is as important as the destination. Marvel at the stunning scenery of the KwaZulu-Natal Coast on the way to your lodge in Somkhanda Game Reserve. Once here, eat a big lunch and get comfortable in the reserve with an afternoon walk through the bush before setting out on an evening game drive.

DAY 4

Start your day off with an early morning bush walk with the Somkhanda team, identifying plants, studying animal tracks, and spotting wildlife. You'll join them in gathering information on different animals across the park using camera traps, radio tracking, and data collection. During the breaks, relax by the pool or enjoy a guided nature walk.

DAYS 5-6

Volunteer in the mornings at a nearby primary school, demonstrating to local children the importance of reusing plastics to create toys with imagination and creativity. Enjoy late afternoon monitoring drives with the Somkhanda research team before a dinner with a discussion on conservation.

DAY 7

Learn even more about the animals in Somkhanda with continued monitoring. Marvel at these stunning creatures and cross every corner of the reserve with the expert guides.

DAY 8

Say a fond farewell to the team at Somkhanda - we are heading into Nambiti Game Reserve. Take in the stunning views of KwaZulu-Natal as you drive through vast landscapes, with a stop at the Zulu battlefields along the way. Seek out the "Big Five" - lions, leopards, elephants, buffalo, and rhinos. A luxury camping experience in the park only sweetens the deal.

DAYS 8-10

Linger a little longer in Nambiti with a morning game drive across the 22,000-acre reserve. There's still time for an attraction-packed drive along the historic Battlefield Route, an afternoon safari, a farewell dinner, and one more night in the luxury camp before flying out of Durban on the final day.

SUPERIOR LODGING

Your accommodation spans several different South African landscapes. Two nights by Durban's sunny coastline are followed by a lodge in Somkhanda Game Reserve with expansive valley views. The trip ends with two nights in luxury en-suite tents in glorious Nambiti Private Game Reserve.

Optional Extension: Cape Town

5 days / 4 nights

After a relaxing evening in the city, hit the ground running with a Cape Town city tour of Robben Island, Greenmarket Square, Company Gardens, and Table Mountain. Enjoy a township bicycle excursion and lunch with the local community before heading to Boulders penguin colony, Cape Point, and Chapman's Peak. Choose between a whale watching tour or Winelands tour before your journey home the next day.

DURATION

10 days / 9 nights

(+Optional 5-day extension)

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Moderate

GROUP SIZE

Average 8, Maximum 20

LODGING

Superior

VOLUNTEER TIME

6 hours (3 hours/day)

PRICE

See trip calendar insert



TANZANIA: Safari & Service

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



OUR PURPOSE

In village schools in rural Tanzania, student-teacher ratios regularly reach 50-to-one, with overcrowded classrooms negatively affecting the quality of education. 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.

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.

DAYS 3-5

It's time to go back to school as our volunteering begins in the classroom. It's here that you will be teaching basic English and math through educational games as well as helping fix up the school by planting gardens and building classrooms. In the afternoon, visit a coffee farm to see first-hand how the beans are grown, processed, and sold in the local markets. Continue your work at the village school. In the afternoons, you'll have an opportunity to immerse yourself in local culture through visiting a local artist and a nearby orphanage run by a local woman in the community.

DAY 6

Embark on a nature hike around the base of Africa's most famous sky-skimming peak, Mount Kilimanjaro, stop at a waterfall, and experience the "Roof of Africa." Visit caves where the Chagga people hid from Masai raiders years ago.

DAY 7

Head out on the first leg of our 3-day safari excursion. Begin with a full-day safari drive in Tarangire National Park. Along the drive, encounter diverse wildlife including elephants, giraffes, buffalo, wildebeests, and other fascinating species.

DAY 8

Explore the world-famous Ngorongoro Crater, a remnant of Earth's tallest volcano that has since collapsed on itself. The crater floor is the most densely packed game area in the world, and is home to over 30,000 animals, including the black rhino and cheetah.

DAY 9

Rise early and head out on safari nearby Lake Manyara, one of Africa's most renowned wildlife-spotting sights. Search for elephants, giraffes, buffalo, and monkeys, and search for the famous tree-climbing lions.

DAY 10

Enjoy a relaxing morning before returning to the village to say our goodbyes. Have a final meal together before catching a flight home.

STANDARD LODGING

Tucked away into the narrow dirt roads that wind through the quaint Tanzanian village of Rau is your new home-away-from-home. Just outside Moshi, the large walled lodge boasts stunning views of Kilimanjaro in the distance, peaceful gardens, and a lively common area that serves as the perfect backdrop for your East African experience. All rooms include private attached bathrooms.

Optional Extension: Zanzibar Island

3 days / 2 nights

Over the course of 3 days, we'll compliment our time in Kilimanjaro's vast plains with an Indian Ocean island adventure. Explore the winding streets of Stone Town venturing through the former Slave Market, the Sultan's Palace and the Old Arab Fort on a guided tour. Along the way, experience modern-day island life in the coastal spice and fish markets. Venture offshore to idyllic Prison Island and scout for the island's famous giant tortoises at a sanctuary, relax on powder white beaches and swim in crystal blue waters.

- 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 that tumbles down Mount Kilimanjaro
- Meet the Masai tribes and learn about their fascinating nomadic culture
- Immerse yourself in village life and even pick up a few words of Swahili

DURATION

10 days / 9 nights
(+Optional 3-day extension)

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Moderate

GROUP SIZE

Average 8, Maximum 16

LODGING

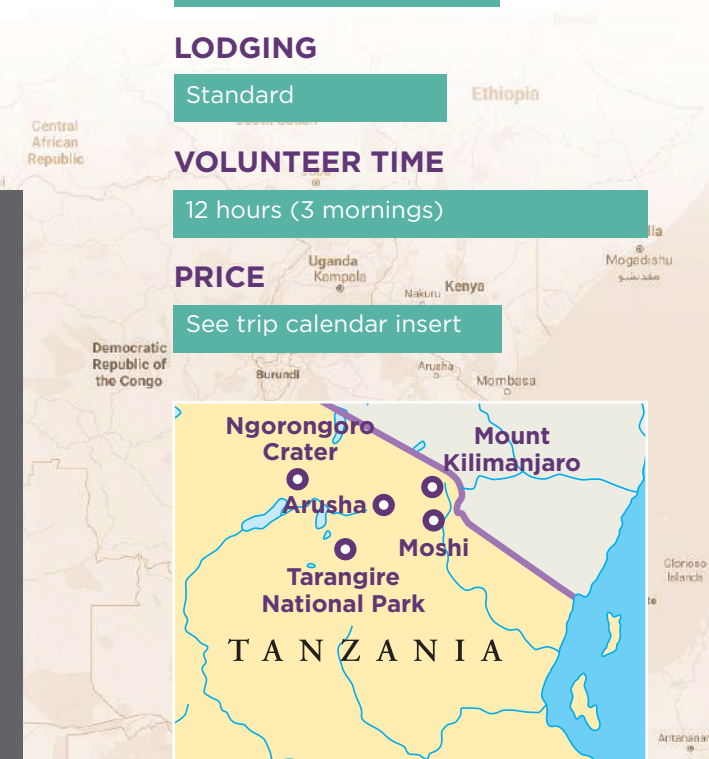
Standard

VOLUNTEER TIME

12 hours (3 mornings)

PRICE

See trip calendar insert



CHINA: Panda Conservation Adventure

Getting up-close-and-personal with the giant panda is a rare privilege. However, you'll be one of the lucky few, getting to meet the pandas at the panda research center as you support the conservationists in their important work. When not caring for pandas, you'll visit the Great Wall of China and two other iconic UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Enjoy a homemade meal with a local family.



- Venture behind the scenes of a panda rescue center for hands-on interaction with these gentle creatures
- Experience the unforgettable Great Wall of China
- Visit two other UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Leshan Giant Buddha and Beijing's Summer Palace
- Share a homemade meal with a local family in Beijing's traditional districts, or "hutongs"
- Zip through the bustling city of Beijing in an open-air rickshaw

OUR PURPOSE

Learn about the panda conservation and research efforts taking place in China while contributing to the protection of these magnificent yet vulnerable animals. Discover authentic Chinese culture, meet local Sichuan families, and draw inspiration from the nonstop buzz of Beijing.

ITINERARY

DAY 1

A warm welcome awaits at Chengdu International Airport. We'll then whisk you away to your four-star hotel in the bustling downtown of Chengdu to enjoy a traditional Sichuan Hotpot, a warm, flavorful broth for dipping meat and vegetables.

DAY 2

Spend the morning at Chengdu's Panda Breeding Research Center, learning all about China's most iconic animal and the crucial conservation work done here. After lunch, head to the world's largest stone Buddha statue at Leshan, overlooking the Yangtze River. In the evening, visit a traditional teahouse to take in some wonderful Sichuan Opera including Bian Lian, a mesmerizing Chinese face-changing act.

DAY 3

Hands-on interaction with the pandas begins today! We will introduce you to the conservationists at the panda research center, who will in turn introduce you to the pandas. Help clean the enclosures before experiencing the magic of hand-feeding the pandas.

DAY 4

Spend another morning bonding with the pandas at the center, where you'll receive a certificate of recognition for your efforts. In the afternoon, enjoy free time to explore the beautiful countryside with picturesque walking trails before spending the evening meandering through Chengdu's Tibetan quarter.

DAY 5

Today, we'll make the three-hour flight to Beijing where you'll check into your charming hotel in the heart of the city. Venture on a trip to the spectacular Summer Palace. After lunch, barter your way through the famous Panjiayuan Flea Market, before a traditional Chinese Peking roast duck dinner.

DAY 6

Start the morning with a Tai Chi session in the park before relaxing in the Temple of Heaven and enjoying a Chinese tea ceremony in a local teahouse. After lunch, visit Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. Take in the spectacular views of historic Beijing from Jingshan Park before watching an astonishing evening performance by Chinese acrobats.

DAY 7

Today, you'll experience one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Great Wall of China. We'll explore the Mutianyu section and take a cable car down from the wall before heading to Beijing's old streets and hopping in a Hutong rickshaw. Dinner brings something truly special as we introduce you to a local family who will invite you into their home for a hearty, homemade Hutong-style family meal.

DAY 8

If your Middle Kingdom adventure is over, we'll bring you to Beijing International Airport for your flight home. Or, if you're joining us on the Xi'an and Shanghai extension, you'll instead board a bullet train west to start building more incredible memories.

STANDARD LODGING

Enjoy a four-star hotel in the center of Chengdu before moving on to another four-star hotel in the center of all the action in Beijing. Both hotels offer air conditioning, wifi, TV, and hot water. Your hotel in Beijing offers breakfast in the morning and fine dining for dinner for those who do not want to venture out to the city after an action-packed day.

Optional Extension: Xi'an and Shanghai

6 days / 5 nights

Catch a bullet train to Xi'an and marvel at the famous Terracotta Warriors. Get creative and make your own clay warriors at a model factory before spending a free night exploring and taking in the local cuisine. Before an active afternoon bike ride along the top of Xi'an's ancient city walls, try your hand at a calligraphy workshop put on by local experts. After arriving in Shanghai, meander through the People's Square, Nanjing Road, and The Bund, or waterfront, on a walking tour. Enjoy another free night and end your trip with an evening cruise on the Huangpu River.

DURATION

8 Days / 7 Nights

(+Optional 6-day extension)

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Moderate

GROUP SIZE

Average 8, Maximum 16

LODGING

Standard

PRICE

See trip calendar insert



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.



- Care for elephants at a leading Thai 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

OUR PURPOSE

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

ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2

Explore the stunning southern Thai island of Phuket and learn more about local traditions and culture. Visit a fishing village, discover ancient temples, and visit the traditional Moken sea gypsy communities of Sirey Island.

DAY 3

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

DAYS 4-6

Visit an elephant sanctuary a short distance from the coast where you will be 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. Gather food, feed, and bathe the elephants throughout your time at the sanctuary. Watch the elephants reveling in their natural habitat as they socialize, forage, and roam free.

DAY 7

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 luxury oceanfront lodging.

DAY 8

Today is a free day - 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.

DAY 9

After a refreshing breakfast, hop on a speedboat back to Phuket and head to Phuket International Airport for your flight back home.

SUPERIOR LODGING

The journey will start in a stunning hotel walking distance to the beach in tropical Phuket. Relax poolside or venture into the bustling markets outside. Continue onto the elephant sanctuary where we stay in a beautiful hotel just outside the sanctuary. End the trip with two nights on Koh Phi Phi Island in a four and a half-star beachfront resort.

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 wellbeing. 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.

DURATION

9 Days / 8 Nights

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Moderate

GROUP SIZE

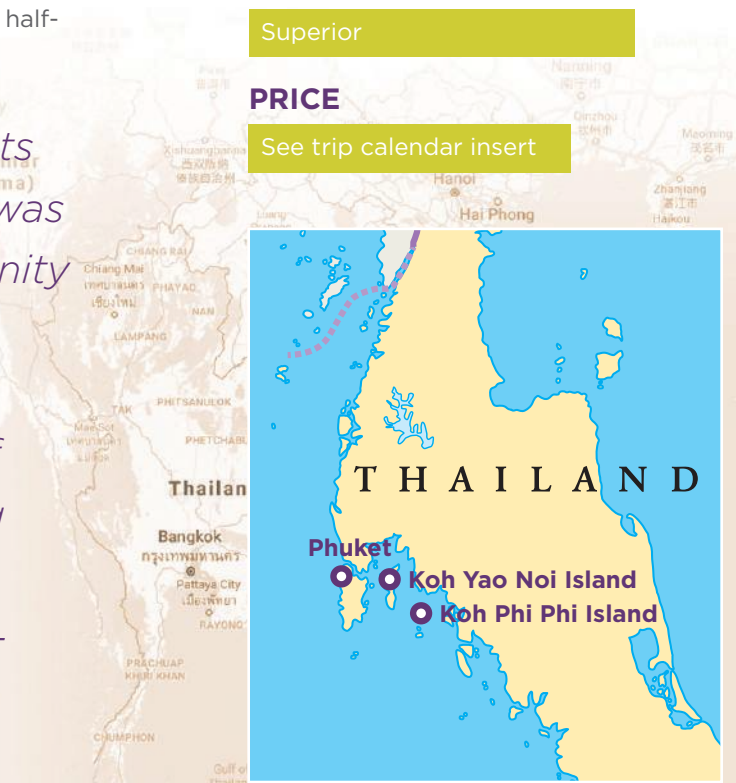
Average 10, Maximum 20

LODGING

Superior

PRICE

See trip calendar insert



THAILAND: Wildlife Safari

Experience the jungle and the coast of Southern Thailand, and witness up-close the spectacular wildlife which the region is known for. Bathe elephants in their natural habitat, assist conservationists with a sea turtle project, and learn from a center dedicated to introducing gibbons back into nature. When you're not spending time with wildlife, island hop across the crystal blue waters that make Thailand unforgettable.



- Get up close to elephants, sea turtles, monkeys and other wildlife
- Visit The Gibbon Rehabilitation Center and learn about their efforts to introduce gibbons back to nature
- Hike up to the Bang Pae waterfall, swim in the clear waters of Kata Beach, and watch the sunset over the Andaman Sea
- Visit Koh Yao Yai and learn about the lifestyle of the village from locals
- Snorkel in the crystal blue waters of James Bond Island

OUR PURPOSE

From elephants to gibbons to sea turtles, learn directly from local experts about the threats and efforts in place to conserve the wildlife and nature of the region. Lend a hand protecting these animals and leave your mark on the important work taking place in Thailand.

ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2

Land in picturesque Phuket for a relaxing night before embarking on the week's adventures. Experience lush rainforest at The Gibbon Rehabilitation Center and learn about their efforts to introduce Gibbons back to nature. Hike up to the Bang Pae waterfall, swim in the crystal blue waters of Kata Beach, and watch the sunset over the Andaman Sea. By night, immerse yourself in the spiritual heart of Phuket in the largest temple in Phuket, the Chalong Temple, and meander through the streets on a Phuket Old Town Discovery Walk.

DAYS 3-4

Venture off to the Sea Turtle Conservation Center (STCC) and learn about the important work being done to protect sea turtles before an afternoon of free leisure time. On Day 4, continue your work at the STCC changing water in the ponds, nursing injured turtles, and preparing meals for the turtles. Lend a hand at another conservation center, the Phang Nga Coastal Research and Development Center, for continued experiences with the sea turtles.

DAYS 5-6

Drive south to Kiang Koo Creek for a gentle rafting tour before freshening up in a waterfall for a free night. On Day 6, let your excitement run wild and explore Thailand with a completely free day. Our guides will be there to give excursion, shopping, and restaurant recommendations.

DAY 7

Wind through the hills of Thailand to the Elephant Jungle Sanctuary in Phuket. Learn more about these magnificent creatures and spend quality time with the elephants in their natural surroundings as you help bathe them with their caretakers. Enjoy a free night to reflect on your unique experience.

DAY 8

Zip along the blue waters on a speedboat to Koh Yao Yai where you will be greeted by the local people. Learn about the ecosystem and lifestyle of the village, experience the local cuisine, and try your hand at making soap or oil treatments with the help of the locals.

DAYS 9-10

Depart on a speedboat to Hong Island before doing some island hopping. Enjoy paddling, sightseeing, and trekking at the scenic James Bond Island, discover the secret nature of the Mangrove Cave & Diamond Cave at Panak Island, experience the Mangrove Forest, and enjoy swimming, snorkeling and relaxing at Lawa Island. On Day 10, enjoy a fresh breakfast before your flight home.

SUPERIOR LODGING

You'll first live in the heart of the city at your colorful 4-star hotel complete with an outdoor pool, spa, wifi, and 24-hour security before moving on to experience the island life of Phuket at your next 4-star hotel. When you're not working with wildlife or jetting off to new islands, relax with a poolside massage, or explore the vibrant city and delicious Thai cuisine.

What drew me to this trip was the variety of wildlife interaction while also being given free time to explore. I knew it would be necessary for my children to keep interested, and they absolutely loved it! Gibbons one day and sea turtles the next, I thought it was such a unique way to see Thailand.

- Lauren D.

DURATION

10 Days / 9 Nights

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Easy

GROUP SIZE

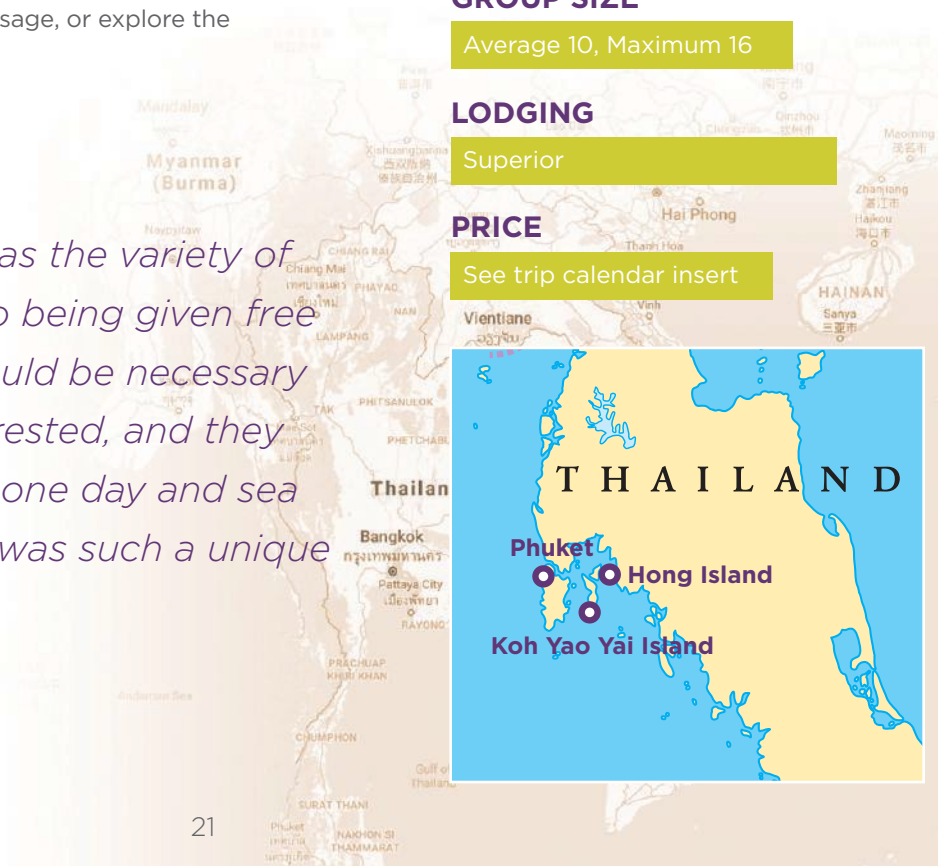
Average 10, Maximum 16

LODGING

Superior

PRICE

See trip calendar insert



INDIA: Tiger Volunteer Adventure

Join in with vital efforts to preserve and protect India's regal tiger population on a trip that incorporates hands-on involvement in a tiger sanctuary and with local communities and charities. Naturally, you'll also have a chance to explore exotic Jaipur and New Delhi throughout your trip.



- Volunteer with Tiger Watch and monitor the local tiger population using camera traps
- Roam through the eye-catching Pink City of Jaipur
- Meet women's empowerment groups doing innovative community projects
- Experience the infectious energy of India's capital city New Delhi
- Get to know members of the tribal communities that surround the park

OUR PURPOSE

You don't need to look too far into the past to find a time when tigers were on the verge of extinction in Ranthambore National Park. Although conservation efforts have restored their numbers, the fight is ongoing - and you get to be a vital part of it. You'll join the world-famous Tiger Watch, a renowned NGO, monitoring tigers through camera trapping as well as empowering the surrounding villages to benefit from the conservation efforts.

ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2

Fly into New Delhi, India's exuberant capital city. We'll kick off the trip with a stroll to sights such as the Chandni Chowk market, the Jama Masjid mosque, and the imposing Red Fort. This expedition is followed, of course, by a delicious Indian dinner.

DAY 3

Board a train to Ranthambore National Park. The journey takes a while, but it's all part of the thrilling Indian experience. Sip *chai* and watch the landscape roll past until you arrive at the park, where you'll be taken to your elegant heritage hotel.

DAY 4

Time to go searching for tigers! These magnificent creatures are famously elusive, but this is one of the best places to see them in the wild. In the afternoon, join the Tiger Watch team as they share their wisdom on conservation and lay camera traps outside the park for monitoring the big cats.

DAYS 5-6

Keep exploring Ranthambore; even if you don't spot a tiger, you could easily encounter deer, crocodiles, and leopards. We will scatter the drives to better spot tigers

while checking their camera traps outside the park. We'll also visit the organization's local youth and women empowerment projects.

DAY 7

Bid a fond farewell to Tiger Watch after one last round of tiger spotting in the National Park. The rest of the day is all about relaxation, visiting the local communities again, and taking one last drive through the spectacular national park.

DAY 8

Jaipur's nickname is the "Pink City" - and today you'll find out why. Tour the iconic buildings of this striking desert city, including the City Palace and the Royal Observatory. Use your free time here to explore the markets before watching a dance performance with your dinner.

DAYS 9-10

Gape in awe at the UNESCO-protected Amber Fort, a mammoth structure that overlooks Jaipur. After our guided tour we'll grab lunch in the city and travel back to New Delhi. You will still have time to see sights here such as the Lotus Temple before your flight home.

SUPERIOR LODGING

Start in a hotel in the heart of central New Delhi before voyaging out to a picturesque heritage hotel with a peaceful balcony overlooking Ranthambore National Park. Here, and in your grand Jaipur hotel, you'll experience the unfailing hospitality of the Rajastani people.

Optional Extension: Agra & Taj Mahal

4 days / 3 nights

The heart of the experience will be the guided sunset and sunrise visits to the Taj Mahal. Experience one of the seven wonders of the modern world and learn about the history of this iconic landmark with your expert guide. The contrasting times of day will provide two unique views of the monument as the sun reflects off the marble. Scale the imposing turrets and gateways of the Agra Fort and soak in the views of the Yamuna River and the adjacent Taj Mahal from above. Explore the remarkable complex of palaces known as Fatehpur Sikri.

DURATION

10 Days / 9 Nights

(+Optional 4-day extension)

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Easy

GROUP SIZE

Average 8, Maximum 16

LODGING

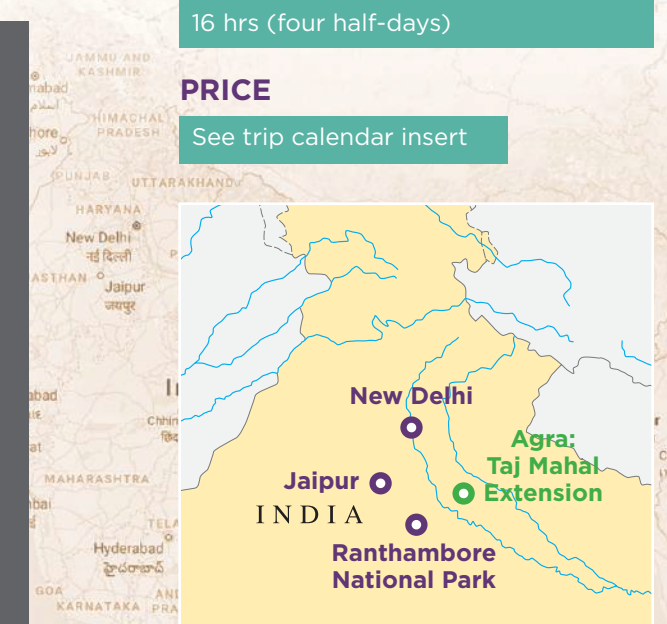
Superior

VOLUNTEER TIME

16 hrs (four half-days)

PRICE

See trip calendar insert



INDIA: Tigers, Temples & Taj

Experience both the remote wilderness and the exhilarating cities of India on a trip that ventures across India. Search for the stunning, elusive Bengal tiger with local experts before marveling at iconic sights such as the Taj Mahal and the historic center of Delhi.



- Step into *The Jungle Book* while exploring Kanha National Park
- Accompany experts searching for elusive tigers in Bandhavgarh National Park
- Visit a bear rescue center and an elephant conservation organization
- Explore the Elephanta Caves, a UNESCO-listed collection of cave temples in Mumbai
- Watch the sunset and sunrise over the Taj Mahal
- Stay in Kings Lodge, a luxury tented lodge nestled between wild forested hills

OUR PURPOSE

Seeing tigers in the wild is an increasingly rare opportunity in the modern world, and preservation of these creatures and their habitats is a conservation priority. You'll be joining teams on the frontline of this work in regions where tiger populations are slowly growing. While you're in India, you'll also be immersed in the unique culture of the communities surrounding the tiger reserves, giving you a real insight into the people and the place.

ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2

Land in the thrilling city of Mumbai and spend some time experiencing its dizzying array of sights, sounds, and flavors. We'll stop by the Elephanta Caves from the 6th Century, feast on fine Indian cuisine and visit the colorful cultural attractions of the city.

DAY 3

After a short flight and a slightly longer drive, we arrive in Kanha National Park, the forest depicted in Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*. It is home to Bengal tigers, sloth bears and more than 100 Indian leopards. After dinner in our luxury jungle resort, an expert guide will talk us through the challenges of conservation.

DAY 4

Your best chance to see a tiger in the wild could be today. An expert naturalist will guide us in an open-air four-wheel drive Jeep, so watch the undergrowth for a sight of these elusive creatures. We'll also visit a local community to experience a little of their distinctive culture, art, and traditions.

DAYS 5-6

Another game drive through Kanha, another chance to see tigers, leopards, monkeys, deer, and wild boar. Then it's onto Bandhavgarh National Park. This area has one of India's highest concentration of wild tigers, so we'll spend our stay here learning about their habitats and trying to spot them in the wild. There's also time for local community and school visits.

DAYS 7-8

Squeeze in another game drive before flying to New Delhi. India's energetic capital city offers the towering Red Fort and a spice market of a thousand colors. We'll meet up with the Salaam Baalak Trust, a groundbreaking nonprofit organization that empowers local children.

DAYS 9-10

No trip to India is complete without seeing the Taj Mahal. We'll stop by bear rescue and elephant conservation centers on the way to dig deeper into the conservation efforts of India before experiencing the iconic palace at both sunset and sunrise. We'll conclude our tour with a trip to spectacular Agra Fort before flying home.

PREMIER LODGING

After all your explorations in the cities and wildernesses of India, you'll return to an array of luxurious hotels and lodges. Wherever you are in the country, this trip promises total comfort in stunning locations in four and five star hotels and lodges.

India has been on my bucket list for decades and I could never quite choose the right experience. Discover Corps' 10-day program was a perfect blend of sightseeing, cultural immersion and relaxation. They also did a phenomenal job at balancing time in the cities with time in nature. And the lodging was absolutely superb. Traveling is tiring so coming home each night to a comfortable, well-located hotel was a huge plus! - Courtney S.

DURATION

10 Days / 9 Nights

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Easy

GROUP SIZE

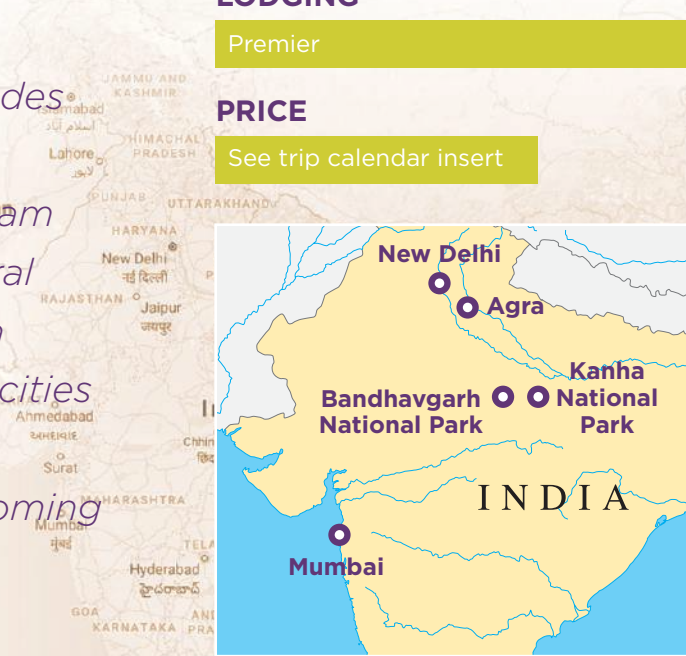
Average 6, Maximum 12

LODGING

Premier

PRICE

See trip calendar insert





JAPAN: Cultural Odyssey

Discover an electrifying clash of modernity and history on an interactive trip to Japan that will take in some of its most famous sights. You'll pick up new skills, explore vibrant cities and find time to pause in peaceful temples.



- Experience iconic Tokyo sights such as Shibuya Crossing and Tsukiji Fish Market
- Gaze in awe at Mount Fuji on a relaxing boat ride
- Learn traditional Japanese arts such as sushi making and calligraphy
- Take a moment to reflect in Kyoto's spectacular Buddhist temples
- Enjoy traditional Japanese comfort amongst natural springs and ancient inns

OUR PURPOSE

The world becomes a richer place when you better understand its diverse cultures, traditions, and values. On this action-packed trip, you will be immersed in Japan at its most modern, while experiencing many of its time-honored traditions at historic sights. Learn new skills, visit iconic destinations, and meet the friendly locals on a behind-the-scenes trip into this endlessly-fascinating country.

ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2

Fly into Tokyo and throw yourself into the unique experiences of this energetic city. Feast on traditional dishes such as *gyudon* (a beef-and-rice staple), visit the Sumo Museum, and visit the Buddhist Sensoji Temple in Asakusa. We'll also take time for some iconic Tokyo experiences, such as calling in at the batting cages, visiting Shibuya Crossing, and exploring atmospheric Harajuku.

DAY 3

A fish-filled morning encompasses a trip to Tsukiji Fish Market, a sushi-cooking masterclass, and a fascinating history lesson at the Edo Tokyo Museum. Relax after a busy morning by strolling around scenic Shinjuku Gyoen garden, then end your evening in the hugely entertaining Robot Restaurant.

DAY 4

Mount Fuji is calling. Choose your activities in Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, where your day could involve mountain railway journeys, boat rides, and black egg tasting. Feel every muscle unwind in a volcanic *onsen*, or hot spring, before heading to bed in a traditional *ryokan* inn on *tatami* mat floors.

DAY 5

Board a Japanese bullet train to Kyoto and cover 270 miles in just over two hours. Join a Zen Buddhist monk in guided meditation and take part in a traditional tea ceremony. Afterward, we'll visit one of Kyoto's finest temples, Kinkaku-Ji, famed for its golden pavilion, before cycling to the Imperial Palace.

DAY 6

Next up, it's Osaka. You'll be in awe of Osaka Castle, with its nine-level donjon and double moat. Here, you also get to sample the local food (including *okonomiyaki*, a delicious savory pancake), shop in famous Shinsaibashi district, and spend an evening at a nine-level gaming arcade.

DAYS 7-8

Dive deeper into Japanese culture in Arashiyama, on the outskirts of Kyoto. We'll visit another famous temple, Tenryu-Ji, as well as meet the mischievous inhabitants of Arishiyama Monkey Park. There's also time to visit the Manga Museum, watch a traditional Geisha performance, and take a calligraphy class before flying home.

STANDARD LODGING

Our hand-picked accommodation will immerse you in Japanese culture old and new. Enjoy a stylish hotel in central Tokyo, a traditional ryokan inn in Hakone on night four, and luxurious rooms with a spa in Kyoto.

Optional Extension: Hiroshima and Miyajima

3 days / 2 nights

Spend more time in Kyoto at the Fushimi Inari Shrine before arriving in historic Hiroshima. Visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park & Museum and learn from locals and experts about how Hiroshima recovered from the atomic bomb. In the afternoon, explore Miyajima, an island where tame deer accompany you as you explore the stunning shrines, beaches, waterfalls, and watch the sun set over the holy Torii Gate.

DURATION

8 Days / 7 Nights

(+Optional 3-day extension)

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Easy

GROUP SIZE

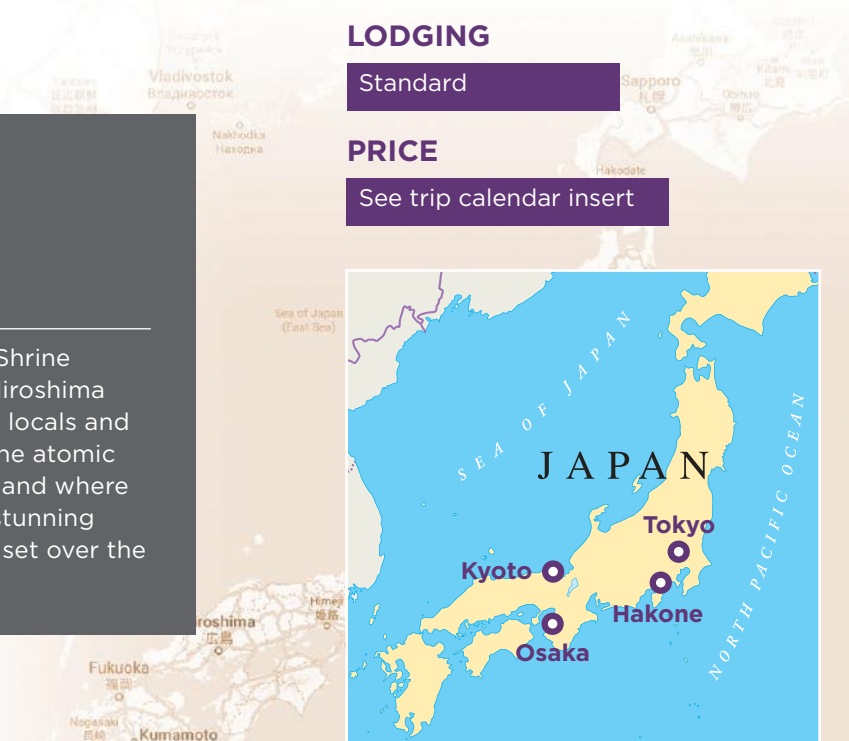
Average 8, Maximum 16

LODGING

Standard

PRICE

See trip calendar insert



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 improving diplomatic relations. While in the capital Havana, we'll engage with local children in a pioneering community project.

OUR PURPOSE

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

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 accommodations, 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 creating colorful ceramic tiles for the community. We'll learn more about the history of Havana and enjoy a lesson in Cuban salsa dancing. There will 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 United States and Cuba.

DAY 5

To understand the background behind U.S.-Cuba hostilities, we'll 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, a Cuban guitar ensemble will treat us to a 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.

DAYS 7-8

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

STANDARD LODGING

You will have the unique opportunity to stay in casas particulares, or private homes, while in Cuba. Casas are similar to family-run bed & breakfasts (think AirBnB with breakfast in the morning) and all include private bathrooms, air conditioning, and security. On the Building Bridges trip, you'll stay in a neighborhood on the outskirts of Havana called Lawton near the community center before heading to Cienfuegos where you'll feel the old French Colonial influence.

Everything was so memorable but I would have to say that the opportunity to go down into the rainforest in Havana was very unexpected on this art and culture itinerary. On our panoramic tour of Havana, we stopped at this lush rainforest. Coincidentally, some people were performing a Santeria cleansing ritual with chickens at the riverbank. This local, authentic ritual was mesmerizing and unique. The timing was coincidental and the visuals are unforgettable.

- Gina K.

- Inspire children to revitalize their neighborhood through art and music 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

DURATION

8 Days / 7 Nights

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Easy

GROUP SIZE

Average 8, Maximum 16

LODGING

Standard

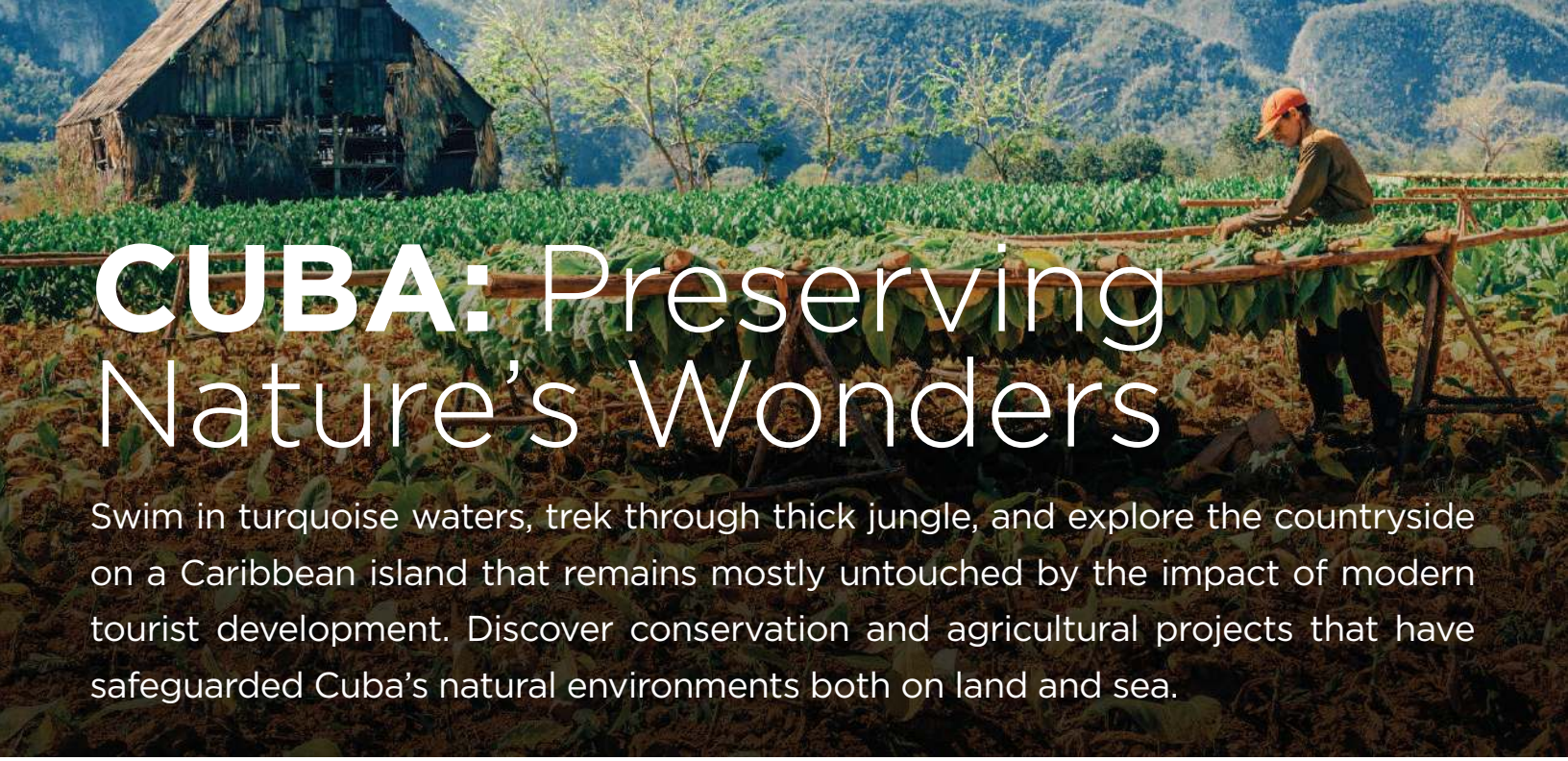
VOLUNTEER TIME

8 hours (3 mornings)

PRICE

See trip calendar insert





CUBA: Preserving Nature's Wonders

Swim in turquoise waters, trek through thick 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.



- 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 pristine landscape
- Explore historic neighborhoods and the atmospheric cobbled alleyways of Havana

OUR 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 landscapes of this region and meet the people who work to preserve it.

ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2

Venture into the heart of this untouched wilderness as we soak in waterfalls and natural swimming pools hidden amid the undeveloped Cuban countryside of Las Terrazas, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Visit one of Cuba's first coffee plantations, chat with artisans from the Las Terrazas eco-village, and sample coffee and vegetables sourced from the valley. One morning, visit the famous San Juan River.

DAY 5

Trek through the Viñales Valley, where a blossoming landscape of coffee, tobacco, sugar-cane, and banana plantations support a population of around 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 dinner together.

DAY 3

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.

DAYS 6-7

Take the chance to absorb Havana's infectious energy, listening to the sounds of salsa that echo through its alleyways. We'll waste no time getting started as we explore Havana's cobblestone streets, visiting the city's main sites, including Revolution Square, the Malecon seaside boardwalk and a tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Learn to make mojitos with the bartenders at a famous restaurant. After a last-minute shopping session at a craft market, enjoy a dinner before bidding our farewells.

DAY 4

Relax for an entire day on the paradise island of Cayo Levisa. After a 45-minute boat ride from the mainland, we'll be surrounded by its stunning 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 8

Travelers will depart from Havana throughout the day.

STANDARD LODGING

You will have the unique opportunity to stay in casas particulares, or private homes, while in Cuba. Casas are similar to family-run bed & breakfasts (think AirBnB with breakfast in the morning) and all include private bathrooms, air conditioning, and security. On the Preserving Nature's Wonders trip, spend your time on the west side of the island amongst beautiful limestone cliffs, or "magotes" within the town of Viñales. Think tobacco fields and nature all around.

DURATION

8 Days / 7 Nights

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Easy

GROUP SIZE

Average 8, Maximum 16

LODGING

Standard

PRICE

See trip calendar insert

I have traveled alone without a guide throughout the world and I thought the experience with Discover Corps in Cuba gave me a very good flavor of this country. The schedule, activities, free time, casa particulares, meals and guides gave us a combination of structure and immersion into Cuba. I never felt disconnected from the people and their everyday lives. - Denzil M.



CUBA: Celebration of Arts & Culture

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

OUR 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.

ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2

Jazz and salsa beats will immediately invade your ears upon arriving in Havana. There will be no time to waste as we set about exploring the maze of back-streets, 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 José Fuster. There will 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 your 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 provides 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 with a Cuban guitar ensemble. After a seaside lunch, we'll hit the road again, arriving in Havana in time for dinner.

DAYS 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 will be a chance for some last-minute exploring and shopping before we recall the highlights of the trip at a farewell dinner.



STANDARD LODGING

You will have the unique opportunity to stay in casas particulares, or private homes, while in Cuba. Casas are similar to family-run bed & breakfasts (think AirBnB with breakfast in the morning) and all include private bathrooms, air conditioning, and security. On the Celebration of Arts & Culture trip, stay in the business center of Havana before heading out to Trinidad where you'll stay in a quaint home surrounded by beautiful cobblestone streets, colorful buildings, and old colonial architecture.

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.



- 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

DURATION

8 Days / 7 Nights

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Easy

GROUP SIZE

Average 8, Maximum 16

LODGING

Standard

PRICE

See trip calendar insert

CUBA: Havana Weekend Getaway

Choose to 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.



- 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

DURATION

4 Days / 3 Nights

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Easy

GROUP SIZE

Average 8, Maximum 16

LODGING

Standard

PRICE

See trip calendar insert

OUR 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.

ITINERARY

DAY 1

Arrive in 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

Venture out to Cojimar, the seaside town that was home to one of Cuba's most famous residents, Ernest Hemingway. Tour Hemingway's home and contemplate the surroundings where he wrote some of his most famous novels. Find out more about Havana's thriving music and arts scenes with a presentation from a local Afro-Cuban dance troupe. We'll wind our way through the narrow streets, squares 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. Then, after breakfast the following morning, we will head back to the airport for our flights home.

STANDARD LODGING

You will have the unique opportunity to stay in casas particulares, or private homes, while in Cuba. Casas are similar to family-run bed & breakfasts (think AirBnB with breakfast in the morning) and all include private bathrooms, air conditioning, and security. On the Havana Weekend Getaway trip, stay in central Havana in the neighborhood of Vedado, just a 10 minute walk to the Malecon and 10 minute drive to the hustle and bustle of Old Havana.

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



BELIZE: Wildlife Volunteer Adventure

Encounter coral-fringed islands, picture-perfect 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.



- Monitor manatee & dolphin populations alongside conservation groups
- Explore ancient Mayan ruins nestled deep inside 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 & discover untouched silver-sand beaches

OUR 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.

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 Mayan ruins before sampling local cuisine, playing traditional instruments, and learning to make tortillas at the home of a local family. Watch the sun set over 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're working alongside. After lunch, we'll board a boat, which will take us through Payne's Creek National Park to our rustic ranger's station accommodation tucked deep in the forest.

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

Spend the morning collecting data on manatees along the beautiful Frenchman Cayes, then head out to the sugar-sand beaches of the coral-edged island of West Snake Caye. 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 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.

RUSTIC LODGING

In the picturesque seaside town of Hopkins, start your journey with one night in a coastal hotel before splitting your time between two of Belize's unique ecosystems. Stay first at a rustic guesthouse tucked into the Payne's Creek Nature Reserve with a wonderland of natural beauty at your doorstep. Move on to an oceanfront hotel in the laid back coastal town of Punta Gorda.

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 coast, reefs, and mangroves.

- Lisa S.

DURATION

8 Days / 7 Nights

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Moderate

GROUP SIZE

Average 10, Maximum 16

LODGING

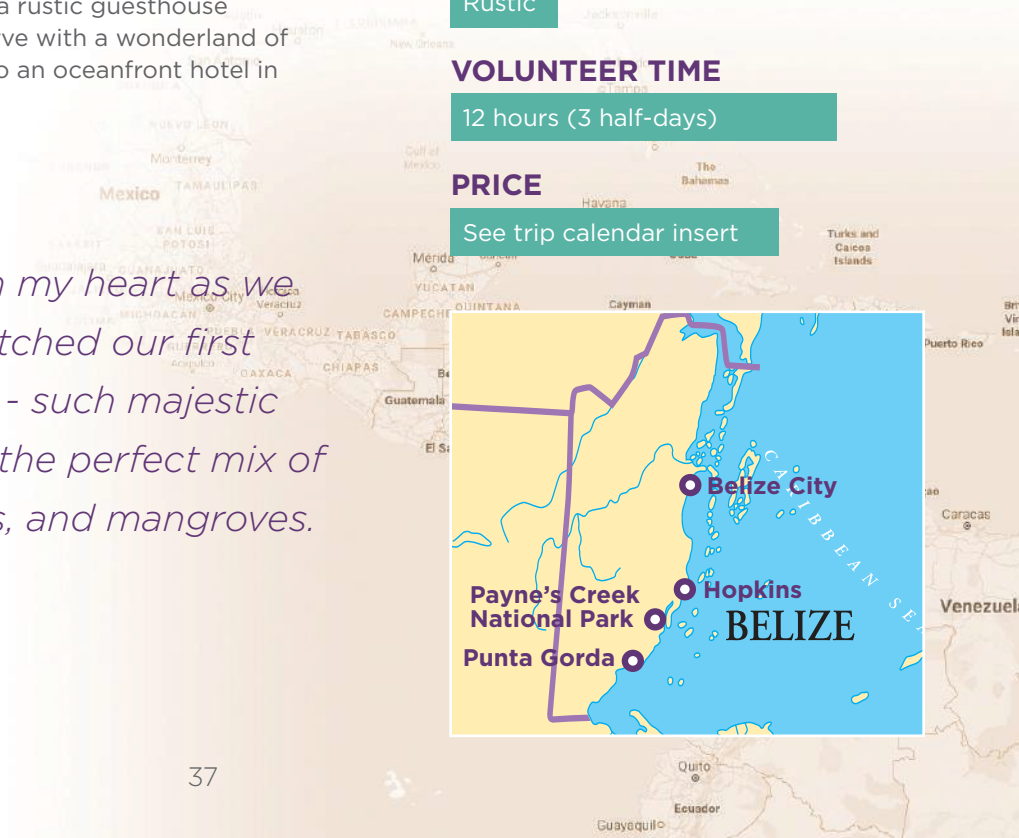
Rustic

VOLUNTEER TIME

12 hours (3 half-days)

PRICE

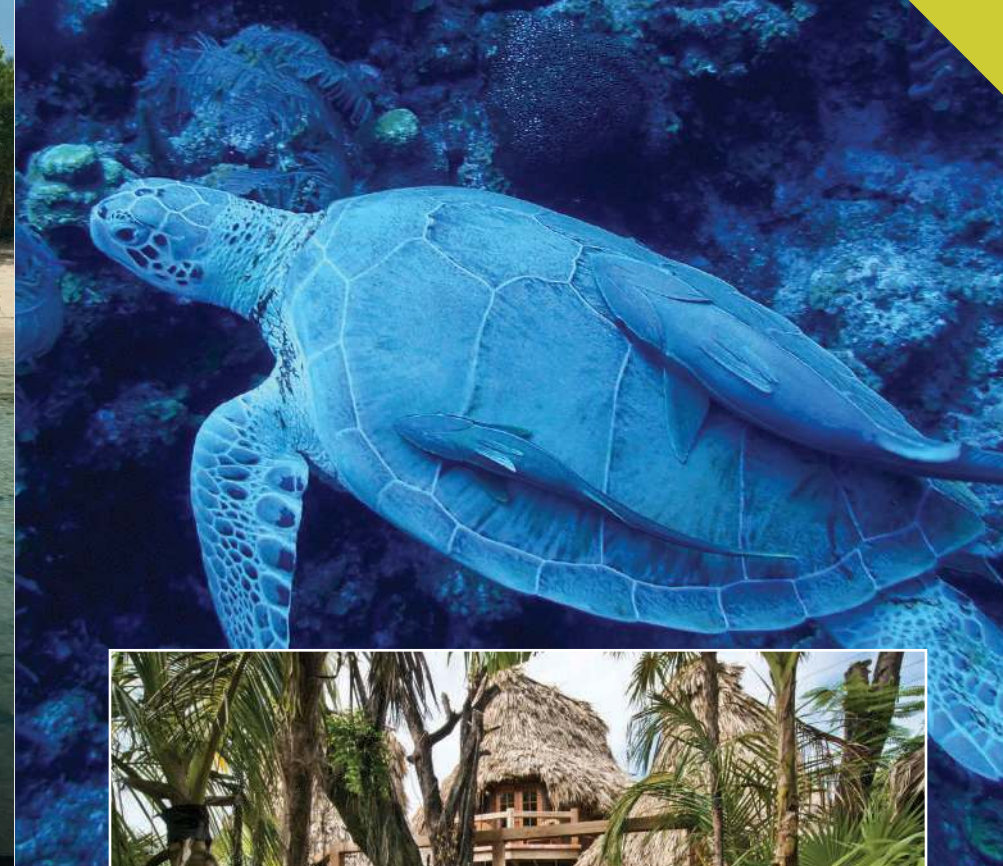
See trip calendar insert





BELIZE: Wildlife Safari

Belize may be small, but it packs a multicolored punch. This phenomenally biodiverse country explodes with color, which you'll encounter on a trip that encompasses wildlife watching, cave exploring, and coral snorkeling. Bring your family to create lifelong memories in the jungles and seas of Belize through this jungle to reef experience.



- Hold rare iguanas and butterflies in hands-on breeding centers
- Track manatees on a research expedition
- Trek through and live in the wildlife-rich jungles of Belize
- Snorkel in one of the world's longest barrier reefs teeming with colored fish
- Take time to unwind on the beaches of Ambergris Caye

OUR PURPOSE

Tourism, development, and deforestation are hitting the biodiverse nature of Belize in a big, negative way. This eco-friendly trip introduces you to the organizations seeking to preserve and protect the wildlife of this dazzling country. Scout for manatees, look after iguanas, and care for rare butterflies to meet these creatures first-hand and to learn about the challenges facing the animals of this beautiful nation.

ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2

The moment you land in sunny Belize, you'll be whisked off to San Ignacio in the heart of the jungle. The wildlife experiences begin almost immediately, with guided walks introducing you to the flora and fauna of the area, as well as a trip to an enchanting butterfly farm.

DAY 3

Head underground into Mayan history at the Actun Tunichil Muknal (ATM) cave. This sacred destination is a geological marvel that houses a museum of ancient artifacts. The trek to get here is equally exciting as you traverse a rainforest and wade through pools. Experience a "Creatures of the Night" hike with an expert naturalist guide in the evening.

DAY 4

Feed and bathe endangered iguanas at a local breeding project in the morning; search for manatees on a boat in the afternoon. Along the way, you'll learn about the

habitats and lives of these beautiful creatures. If that wasn't enough, we also fly to the idyllic Ambergris Caye to stay in a beachfront hotel.

DAY 5

Hop on a private boat and sail over one of the longest barrier reefs in the world. Of course, we have to stop for snorkeling sessions at Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Shark Ray Alley. These are protected waters, so sea life is thriving here. Take a break on a postcard-perfect beach for a barbecue.

DAYS 6-7

Relax, unwind, and do what you wish for a free day on Ambergris Caye. Our hotel is surrounded by unrivalled natural beauty, so you can just linger by the beach and catch some sun. Alternatively, there's shopping, swimming, and snorkeling to suit every traveler's taste. Finally, you get a lazy morning before flying home from Belize City.

PREMIER LODGING

The beauty of Belize is matched by the elegance of your accommodations during this trip. This luxury jungle eco-lodge blends natural beauty with modern comforts, including outdoors pools and beautifully arranged double rooms. On Ambergris Caye, think beachfront hotel with pool and restaurant. Everything is in place to guarantee your comfort. There is even on-site childcare, which will help allow you to truly relax after a long day viewing wildlife or snorkeling.

Optional Extension: Tikal Archaeological Ruins

3 days / 2 nights

Arrive in Flores, Guatemala. Hit the ground running with a visit to Yaxha, one of the largest Maya sites in Guatemala. Be one of the few to experience the ruins of Tikal National park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, before venturing into the ruins of sacred temples and palaces deep in the heart of the jungle. End the journey exploring Ixpanpajul Nature Park.

DURATION

7 Days / 6 Nights
(+Optional 3-day extension)

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Easy

GROUP SIZE

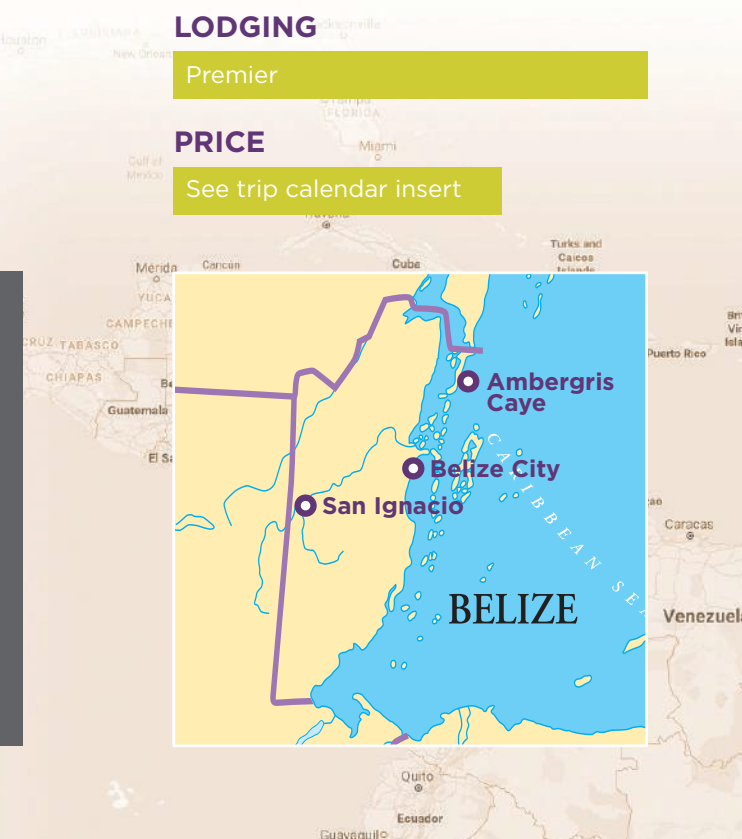
Average 8, Maximum 18

LODGING

Premier

PRICE

See trip calendar insert



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'll also venture inland into the heart of the rainforest for wildlife-spotting and to participate in a series of adrenaline-fueled adventures.



- 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 zipline adventure
- Tube or raft along a jungle river bordered by lush vegetation
- Relax on pristine Costa Rican beaches

OUR PURPOSE

Costa Rica's sea turtle population has declined by a devastating 90 percent over the past 35 years due to a host of factors, including climate change, increased boat traffic, and a growth in the amounts of trash clogging up their habitats. We'll spend three days volunteering with a turtle conservation organization conducting night patrols, collecting eggs, and aiding researchers.

ITINERARY

DAYS 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 night 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 hatching season, you may have the chance to release hatchlings into the ocean, and while in the nesting season, search for turtles nesting along the coast.

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

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

DAY 6

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, butterfly farm, and serpentarium.

DAYS 7-8

Carren over the treetops on a zipline and ride an inner tube down the Rio Negro during an action-packed day. You may choose to jump into the Canon de la Vieja, man-made pools with access to the Colorado River, to cool off. Enjoy a final afternoon relaxing or exploring before reflecting on the trip at a farewell dinner.

STANDARD LODGING

Spend your first evening at a lodge outside the northern city of Liberia before heading down to the tropical coastline for the next four nights. Relax in quaint bungalows by night, all boasting ocean views. Venture to the mountains for your final two nights and stay in a mountainside retreat that puts you at the doorstep of Rincon de La Vieja National Park.

Sea Turtle Calendar

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER:

Hatching Season

JULY-OCTOBER:

Nesting Season

DURATION

8 Days / 7 Nights

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Moderate

GROUP SIZE

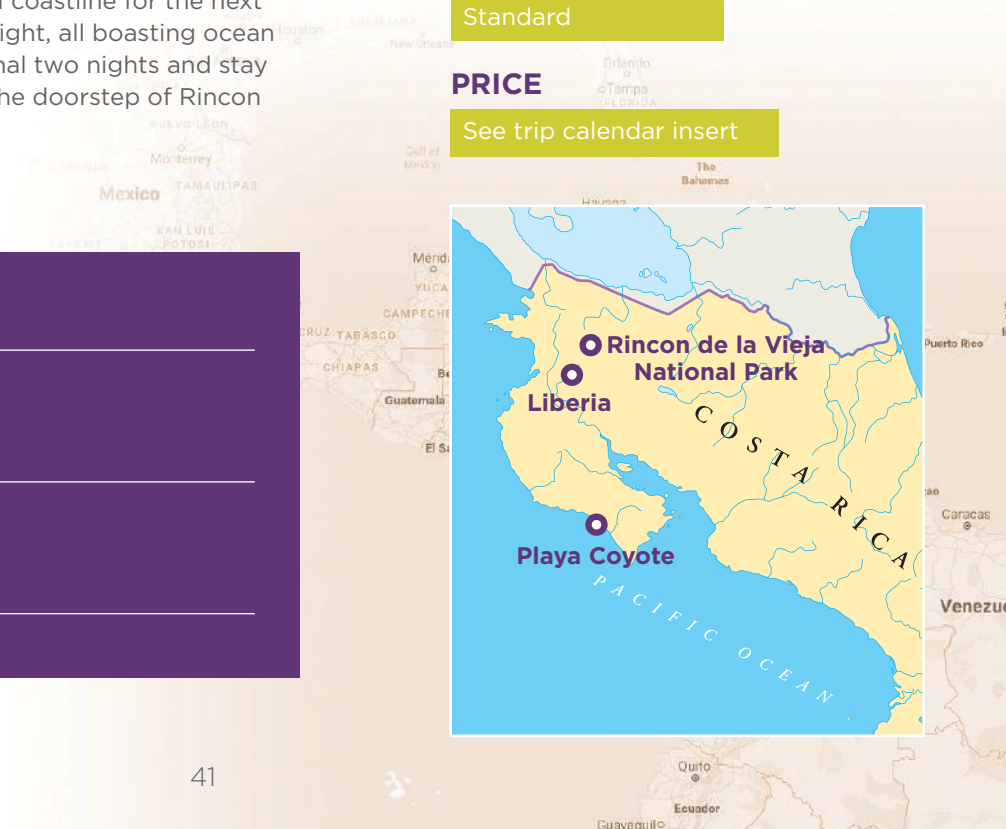
Average 8, Maximum 20

LODGING

Standard

PRICE

See trip calendar insert



COSTA RICA: Family Volunteer Adventure

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.



- 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 firsthand how artisanal chocolate is made

DURATION

8 Days / 7 Nights

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Easy

GROUP SIZE

Average 10, Maximum 24

LODGING

Standard

VOLUNTEER TIME

8 Hours (two mornings)

PRICE

See trip calendar insert

OUR 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 their 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.

ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2

Experience a traditional way of life within a rural community in the highland town of La Fortuna. Local school children 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 beans' pivotal role in Costa Rican history, as well as finding out how it is harvested and produced. Then, it's time for a soothing soak in the natural hot springs at the base of Arenal Volcano, before exploring 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 and optional ziplining. 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 our coastal bed and breakfast.

DAYS 7-8

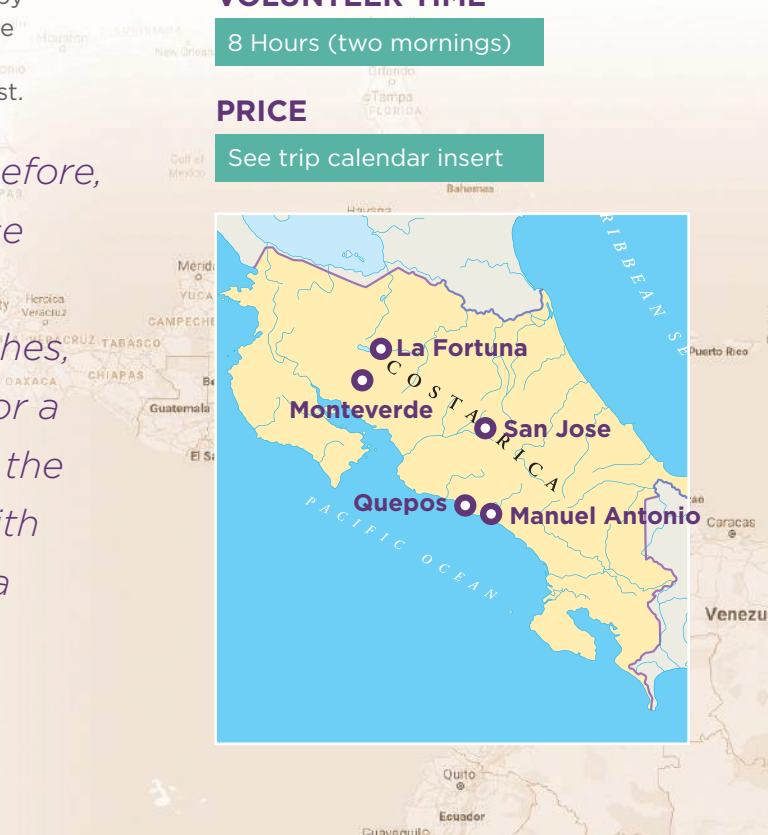
Spend the morning hiking through Manuel Antonio National Park looking for monkeys, sloths and all manner of birds. For those seeking a more intense adrenaline hit, there is the opportunity to add on an exhilarating rafting excursion along Class II rapids, suitable for first-timers. Lounge on the park's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

STANDARD LODGING

Located at the base of the towering Arenal Volcano, unwind in a charming, centrally-located hotel that boasts a pool overlooking an adjacent forest that is home to iguanas, butterflies, and the occasional sloth. Move on to a mountainside hotel surrounded by cozy gardens and lush green landscapes. End the trip with three nights at a locally owned hotel near the beach surrounded by rainforest. Fall asleep as you listen to the symphony of the forest.

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 experiences for all of us!

- Allison M.



COSTA RICA: Wildlife Safari

Venture to the lush Caribbean coast and experience the array of wildlife that inhabits one of the most biodiverse countries in the world. This extraordinary trip will take you right to the front line of conservation and get you up close to sloths, jaguars, turtles, and other amazing animals.



- Come face-to-face with howler monkeys and sleepy sloths in local sanctuaries
- Protect nesting sea turtles on atmospheric night patrols
- Watch wildlife from the Sarapiquí River on a rafting expedition
- Join jungle researchers at the exclusive La Selva Biological Station
- Snorkel amongst Costa Rica's multicolored, wildlife-rich underwater world
- Join conservationists that care for jaguars, toucans, monkeys, and baby sloths

OUR PURPOSE

The wonderful wildlife of Costa Rica faces threats from every angle, as developers, global warming, and poachers attempt to diminish the nation's rich biodiversity. Meet the people working to protect some of the nation's most at-need species and join in their conservation efforts. You'll help by patrolling turtle nesting beaches, shadowing conservationists that care for rescued animals, and learning about the local environment in private ecological centers.

ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2

Leave the airport in San Jose for a scenic two-and-a-half-hour drive across a mountainous continental divide. Kick off the adventure at La Selva Biological Station, an internationally-recognized research station that's normally closed to the public. After a long morning, walk with a naturalist spotting sloths and monkeys and visit a nearby pineapple plantation. Those who opt for the Adventure option will spend the afternoon rafting down the Sarapiquí River for some wildlife watching in their natural habitat.

DAY 3

Head to the laid-back Caribbean coast and visit the Jaguar Rescue Center. Join conservationists on a tour of the sanctuary that cares for jaguars, toucans, monkeys, and baby sloths. Spend the evening enjoying the colorful and musical local culture.

DAY 4

Time to meet some sloths! Learn from the experts at a local sloth sanctuary with an in-depth talk followed by one-on-one time observing these peaceful creatures. Your afternoon will be equally magical, spent snorkeling, walking, and horse-riding on a pristine Costa Rican beach.

DAY 5

Your next destination is known by locals as Tortuguero, the "Place of Turtles", reached by a water taxi journey through rivers and lagoons. Upon arrival, visit a sea turtle conservation organization and join locals in a beach cleanup while learning all about these magnificent creatures.

DAY 6

Explore Tortuguero on an unforgettable early-morning canoeing expedition, watching the water for otters, kingfishers, and parrots. Prepare a feast in the afternoon in a fun cooking class, before embarking on a night patrol to protect turtle nesting beaches from poachers and predators. Your role on these patrols varies throughout the year.

DAYS 7-8

Experience more of Costa Rica's stunning scenery on a breathtaking drive to a toucan rescue center. Prepare food for these endangered animals such as jaguars and get expert insight on the conservation efforts in the area. After a farewell barbeque together, it's time to fly home.

STANDARD LODGING

Naturally, you're going to be staying in lodging that is eco-friendly and enhanced by the surrounding scenery. Ara Ambigua Lodge is a family-run jungle retreat, while Suizo Loco is a comfortable eco-hotel hidden in the grounds of volcanic Cahuita National Park. End the trip at Casa Cielo, a mountain retreat surrounded by lush green coffee plantations.

It was our family's first time in Costa Rica and I cannot even put into words how thankful I am that we found Discover Corps. The Caribbean coast is a hidden gem - tons of animals, beautiful beaches and a fascinating culture. Our guide, Karla, was like family to us. She did everything in her capacity to show my kids the wildlife of Costa Rica while making the experience smooth and comfortable. - Michelle R.

DURATION

8 Days / 7 Nights

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Moderate

GROUP SIZE

Average 12, Maximum 20

LODGING

Standard

PRICE

See trip calendar insert



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.



- 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 development
- Volunteer in bateyes, underprivileged villages of Haitian sugar cane workers
- Hike along dense jungle trails to reach secluded villages

OUR 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.

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 volunteering on a variety of community projects, which will make a huge difference to the surrounding towns. Our projects will revolve around boosting the use of recyclable materials by constructing schools and health clinics out of discarded plastic bottles.

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

Explore the untouched side of the Dominican landscape after the volunteer work concludes for the day. Spend the afternoon lounging on the island's undeveloped beaches or breathlessly climbing through the mountainous interior where we will uncover cool swimming holes and trails leading through dense jungle.

DAY 6

After a morning volunteering alongside the community on our projects, 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 pristine 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 a last opportunity to lounge on the beach, before a farewell dinner.

RUSTIC LODGING

Live in a cluster of beautiful, rustic thatched-roof chalets around a swimming pool and walking distance from the beach. This unique eco-lodge was constructed using sustainable building techniques, and the design reflects that of the indigenous Taino community from the region.

This was exactly what we wanted - an up-close and personal experience of the real Dominican Republic. Our guide 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 C.

DURATION

8 Days / 7 Nights

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Easy

GROUP SIZE

Average 12, Maximum 20

LODGING

Rustic

VOLUNTEER TIME

16 hours (4 half-days)

PRICE

See trip calendar insert



GALÁPAGOS: Family Volunteer Adventure

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 Galápagos Islands promises activities including kayaking, hiking, and volunteering – as well as a healthy dose of relaxation.



- Get 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 the seas in search of the famed blue-footed booby bird

OUR PURPOSE

By the time the Galápagos National Park was established in 1959, the islands' giant tortoise population had been decimated, with only 11 of the 14 original populations remaining. We aim to reverse this terrible trend. 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 Galápagos' most emblematic native species.

ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2

Tour the cobblestone streets of Quito's UNESCO-listed colonial center, then 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 Galápagos and hop aboard a boat to Isabela Island. Spend the evening exploring the idyllic coastal town of Puerto Villamil, the third largest town 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 blue-footed boobies (marine birds with distinctive bright blue feet) and snorkel in quiet coves known to house turtles, friendly reef sharks, and beautiful 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 up into 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 these creatures' 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.

STANDARD LODGING

As you hop from island to island in the Galápagos, you'll move around to different accommodations throughout your journey. Experience the charming town of Puerto Ayora, the cosmopolitan Ecuadorian capital of Quito, and take time to relax by the pool and gardens along the way as you take in the slow pace of life on the islands.

Optional Extension: Amazon Basin

4 days / 3 nights

Venture to "El Coca" and stay in a 5-star jungle eco-resort. Learn how the basin operates from naturalist guides as you stand amongst 400 year old Mahogany trees, and climb 120 ft above the forest for an unforgettable aerial view of the rainforest, spotting colorful birds and primates in the distance. Explore the beautiful lagoon of Mandi Cocha alive with giant otters, monkeys, and birds. Witness an Amazonian sunset from the water in the canoe before a night of stargazing. Ride to the clay lakes and learn about the Kichwa culture from a community member. Travel to Garzacocho Lagoon and Ceiba Trail before a nocturnal walk through the jungle.

DURATION

10 Days / 9 Nights

(+Optional 4-day extension)

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Moderate

GROUP SIZE

Average 10, Maximum 15

LODGING

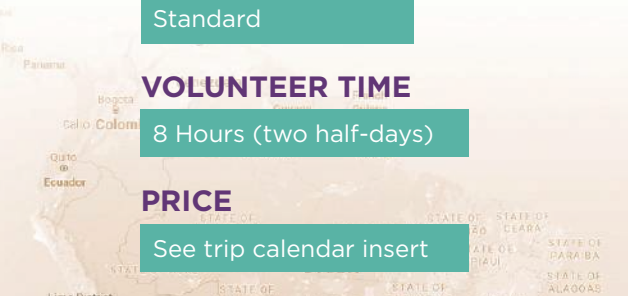
Standard

VOLUNTEER TIME

8 Hours (two half-days)

PRICE

See trip calendar insert



PERU: Children of the Andes

Hike to the summit and explore the ruins of one of the world's most iconic sights; the fabled Inca citadel of Machu Picchu. Delve into the local culture as you journey through the Andes and help children achieve their potential by assisting in after-school programs in a rural Andean community.



- Hike to the ancient Inca citadel of Machu Picchu
- Help Peruvian school children develop their 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

OUR PURPOSE

Education is key to unlocking economic doors in the small Andean villages 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.

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 3-5

Head to a small Andean village tucked in the mountains outside Cusco and meet a mystic shaman who will explain ancient Incan 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 handmade Peruvian dolls internationally. Visit the women's houses for a cooking class before continuing our education program with the children.

DAY 8

Head back to Cusco for a tour of the city and shop 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

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 Incan remnants scattered around the Sacred Valley in Pukapukara, Genqo, 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 unique street atmosphere of Cusco by drinking coffee, listening to the church bells, and picking up some final souvenirs, before a farewell dinner and flights home.

STANDARD LODGING

Set amongst the soaring Andes Mountains, stay in a hacienda complete with vegetable gardens (which we use for meals). Our in-house chef will prepare authentic Peruvian cuisine. While in Cusco, spend the evenings in a locally-owned 3-star bed & breakfast.

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.

DURATION

10 Days / 9 Nights

14 Days / 13 Nights

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Moderate

GROUP SIZE

Average 12, Maximum 20

LODGING

Standard

VOLUNTEER TIME

20 Hours (5 afternoons)

PRICE

See trip calendar insert



More Trips

ON OUR WEBSITE

Galápagos: Wildlife Odyssey
(Nature & Wildlife Adventure)

Australia: Beachside Wildlife Adventure
(Nature & Wildlife Adventure)

Guatemala: In & Beyond the Classroom
(Volunteer Vacation)

Dominican Republic: Global Health Initiative
(Volunteer Vacation)

Thailand: Cultural Kaleidoscope
(Cultural Exploration)



TRIP CALENDAR ENCLOSED

Find up-to-date prices and departure dates for all of our trips.

To download more detailed day-to-day itineraries, visit: discovercorps.com/itineraries

OUR COMMITMENTS

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 inspiring.

To The People

We work with small-scale entrepreneurs in order to channel resources to their local communities and offer 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, and inspiring experience.



2018-19 TRIP CALENDAR



Discover Corps

VACATIONS WITH PURPOSE

TRIP CALENDAR

Dates & Fees

As seen in:

Los Angeles Times



Inc.



International Business Times



2018-19 TRIP CALENDAR

Nature & Wildlife Adventures | Volunteer Vacations | Cultural Explorations



Trip Details				Mar '18	Apr '18	May '18	Jun '18	Jul '18	Aug '18	Sep '18	Oct '18	Nov '18	Dec '18	Jan '19	Feb '19	Mar '19	Apr '19	May '19		
Cuba	Price	Extension	Type																	
Cuba Building Bridges Duration: 8 days Optional SRS*: \$400 Lodging: Standard	\$2595 Adult			3/17 to 3/24	4/7 to 4/14	5/12 to 5/19	6/9 to 6/16	7/7 to 7/14	8/4 to 8/11		10/6 to 10/13	11/17 to 11/24	12/22 to 12/29	1/12 to 1/19	2/2 to 2/9	3/16 to 3/23	4/20 to 4/27	5/18 to 5/25		
	\$1995 Child			3/24 to 3/31			6/23 to 6/30	7/14 to 7/21								3/23 to 3/30				
				3/31 to 4/7												3/30 to 4/6				
Cuba Celebration of Arts & Culture** Duration: 8 days Optional SRS*: \$400 Lodging: Standard	\$3295 Adult			3/10 to 3/17	4/7 to 4/14		6/2 to 6/9	7/28 to 8/4	8/11 to 8/18		11/17 to 11/24	12/26 to 1/2	1/5 to 1/12	2/9 to 2/16	3/16 to 3/23	4/13 to 4/20	5/4 to 5/11			
	\$2795 Child			3/24 to 3/21			6/30 to 7/7											1/26 to 2/2	2/23 to 3/2	3/30 to 4/6
Cuba Havana Weekend Getaway Duration: 4 days Optional SRS*: \$200 Lodging: Standard	\$1995 Adult			3/2 to 3/5		5/11 to 5/14	6/15 to 6/18	7/5 to 7/8	8/3 to 8/6	9/21 to 9/24	10/12 to 10/15	11/22 to 11/25	12/21 to 12/24	1/18 to 1/21	2/8 to 2/11	3/15 to 3/18	4/19 to 4/22	5/24 to 5/27		
	\$1695 Child			3/9 to 3/12															2/22 to 2/25	3/29 to 4/1
				3/30 to 4/2																
Cuba Preserving Nature's Wonders Duration: 8 days Optional SRS*: \$400 Lodging: Standard	\$2995 Adult			3/3 to 3/10	4/7 to 4/14	5/5 to 5/12	6/2 to 6/9	7/7 to 7/14	8/11 to 8/18		11/24 to 12/1 W	12/22 to 12/29	1/12 to 1/19	2/9 to 2/16	3/23 to 3/30	4/13 to 4/20	5/11 to 5/18			
	\$2495 Child			3/24 to 3/31			6/23 to 6/30	7/21 to 7/28										1/26 to 2/2	2/23 to 3/2	
				3/31 to 4/7																
Latin America	Price	Extension	Type																	
Belize Wildlife Safari Duration: 7 days Optional SRS*: \$600 Lodging: Premier	\$3595 Adult	3-Day to Tikal Ruins Adult \$1995 Child \$1795		3/11 to 3/17	4/15 to 4/21	5/19 to 5/25	6/10 to 6/16	7/1 to 7/7 FF			11/18 to 11/24		1/13 to 1/19	2/10 to 2/16	3/31 to 4/6	5/19 to 5/25				
	\$2995 Child			3/25 to 3/31			5/27 to 6/2	6/24 to 6/30									7/22 to 7/28			
Belize Wildlife Volunteer Adventure Duration: 8 days Optional SRS*: \$200 Lodging: Rustic	\$2995 Adult			3/18 to 3/25	4/1 to 4/8		6/3 to 6/10	7/1 to 7/8	8/5 to 8/12		11/18 to 11/25	12/26 to 1/2		2/23 to 3/2	3/23 to 3/30	4/20 to 4/27				
	\$2495 Child						6/17 to 6/24	7/8 to 7/15									7/1 to 7/8	7/22 to 7/29	8/19 to 8/26	
Costa Rica Family Volunteer Vacation Duration: 8 days Optional SRS*: \$300 Lodging: Standard	\$2395 Adult			3/3-3/10		5/12 to 5/19	6/9 to 6/16	7/7 to 7/14	8/4 to 8/11		11/17 to 11/24	12/26 to 1/2		2/2 to 2/9	3/23 to 3/30	4/20 to 4/27				
	\$1995 Child			3/10-3/17			6/23 to 6/30	7/21 to 7/28												
Costa Rica The Sea Turtle Initiative Duration: 8 days Optional SRS*: \$450 Lodging: Standard	\$2995 Adult						7/14 to 7/21	7/1 to 7/8	8/11 to 8/18	9/15 to 9/22	10/20 to 10/27	11/17 to 11/24	12/26 to 1/2							
	\$2495 Child						7/21 to 7/28	7/28 to 8/4												
Costa Rica Wildlife Safari Duration: 8 days Optional SRS*: \$350 Lodging: Standard	\$2695 Adult			3/10 to 3/17	4/14 to 4/21	5/19 to 5/26	6/2 to 6/9	7/1 to 7/8	8/4 to 8/11	9/1 to 9/8	10/13 to 10/20	11/24 to 12/1			3/9 to 3/16	4/6 to 4/13	5/11 to 5/18			
	\$2295 Child			3/24 to 3/31			6/16 to 6/23 W	7/21 to 7/28										6/30 to 7/7	3/23 to 3/30	4/20 to 4/27
Dominican Republic Global Health Initiative Duration: 8 days Optional SRS*: \$200 Lodging: Rustic	\$2295 Adult			3/31 to 4/7 STS		5/12 to 5/19 STS	7/7 to 7/14	8/25 to 9/1	10/13 to 10/20 STS		1/19 to 1/26 STS			3/16 to 3/23	5/25 to 6/1 STS					
	\$1995 Child																			
Dominican Republic Heart & Soul of the Caribbean Duration: 8 days Optional SRS*: \$200 Lodging: Rustic	\$2195 Adult			3/24 to 3/31 STS	4/7 to 4/14 STS	6/9 to 6/16	7/14 to 7/21	8/11 to 8/18	9/15 to 9/22 STS	10/20 to 10/27 STS	11/17 to 11/24	12/26 to 1/2		2/2 to 2/9 STS	3/23 to 3/30	4/6 to 4/13 STS				
	\$1795 Child						6/30 to 7/7 STS	7/28 to 8/4 STS								4/20 to 4/27 STS				
Guatemala In & Beyond the Classroom Duration: 8 days Optional SRS*: \$200 Lodging: Rustic	\$1995 Adult				4/14 to 4/21 STS		6/2 to 6/9 STS	7/14 to 7/21	8/11 to 8/18			12/26 to 1/2		2/16 to 2/23 STS	3/23 to 3/30	4/13 to 4/20 STS				
	\$1595 Child																			

2018-19 TRIP CALENDAR

Nature & Wildlife Adventures | Volunteer Vacations | Cultural Explorations



Trip Details				Mar '18	Apr '18	May '18	Jun '18	Jul '18	Aug '18	Sep '18	Oct '18	Nov '18	Dec '18	Jan '19	Feb '19	Mar '19	Apr '19	May '19	
South America	Price	Extension	Type																
Galápagos Islands Family Volunteer Vacation Duration: 10 days Optional SRS*: \$400 Lodging: Standard Required Supplement†: \$600	\$3995 Adult	4-Day to Amazon Basin †† \$1595 Adult \$1495 Child		3/17 to 3/26	4/7 to 4/16			6/16 to 6/25	7/14 to 7/23	8/18 to 8/27			11/17 to 11/26	12/26 to 1/4	1/19 to 1/28	2/9 to 2/18	3/16 to 3/25	4/13 to 4/22	
	\$3395 Child			6/30 to 7/9	7/28 to 8/6														
Galápagos Islands Wildlife Odyssey Duration: 10 days Optional SRS*: \$600 Lodging: Superior Required Supplement†: \$600	\$4895 Adult								8/4 to 8/13			10/20 to 10/29		1/12 to 1/21			3/23 to 4/1		5/25 to 6/3
	\$4395 Child																		
Peru Children of the Andes Duration: 10 days Optional SRS*: \$250 Lodging: Standard	\$2895 Adult			3/18 to 3/27	4/1 to 4/10	5/27 to 6/5 W	6/10 to 6/19	7/8 to 7/17	8/5 to 8/14	9/16 to 9/25 STS	10/21 to 10/30 STS		12/23 to 1/1	1/20 to 1/29 STS	2/10 to 2/19 STS	3/17 to 3/26	4/14 to 4/23	5/19 to 5/28 STS	
	\$2395 Child								7/22 to 7/31										
Peru Children of the Andes Duration: 14 days Optional SRS*: \$350 Lodging: Standard	\$3695 Adult			3/18 to 3/31	4/1 to 4/14	5/27 to 6/9 W	6/10 to 6/23	7/8 to 7/21	8/5 to 8/18	9/16 to 9/29	10/21 to 11/3 STS			1/20 to 2/2 STS	2/10 to 2/23 STS	3/17 to 3/30	4/14 to 4/27	5/19 to 6/1 STS	
	\$2995 Child								7/22 to 8/4										

All trips are designed to be family friendly. Dates don't work? Contact us for custom departures.

W = Women-only travel dates

STS = Solo Traveler Savings. There is no additional cost for a single room supplement (SRS)

Child Price = Applies to those 16 years and younger

*Optional SRS = Single Room Supplement. If you do not choose this option, we will place you with someone of the same gender. SRS prices for extensions available upon request

**Cuba: Celebration of Arts & Culture is recommended for families with children 15 years and older

*** \$150 one-way domestic flight supplement required for the Cape Town Extension

*India Tigers, Temples & Taj: You are required to pay the SRS if we are unable to find a suitable roommate

†† \$300 domestic flight supplement required for the Amazon Basin Extension

‡ Galápagos Vacations: The required supplement fee covers a round trip flight from Quito to Galápagos and the Galápagos tax and entrance fee. This cost varies based on local regulations and will be added to your invoice. Currently, the cost is \$600/person

Register in 3 Easy Steps

1) Fill out our online form

- Visit our website discovercorps.com and click the "Book a Trip" link at the top of the page.
- Fill out the online registration form indicating trip choice, dates, and number of travelers.
- Provide basic information on each traveler joining.

2) Submit a \$395 deposit

- For each traveler, there is a \$30 registration fee and a \$365 deposit.
- This is processed through our secure credit online credit card portal after completing the registration.

3) You're all set!

- Our team of Travel Specialists will be there to help you until the day you depart.
- Our partners at STA Travel can help you book flights if needed. Just call on our dedicated line at 1-800-465-4129

Special Offers & Fine Print

Returning Alumni? We like to reward those who travel with us again and again. Enjoy a \$250 discount off your trip if you're a returning Discover Corps traveler.

Early Booking Discount: Book your trip at least 9 months prior to departure and save \$200 per person (\$100/person for the 4-day Cuba: Havana Weekend Getaway trip). Not valid for trip transfers.

Linked Trips: Register for two or more trips at the same time and receive a 10% discount off each trip. Many of our trip dates link with other trips in the region. This discount cannot be combined with other discounts.

Have a group of six or more? We can create a custom trip for your group and offer you a discount of up to \$350 per person! Whether it's a family reunion, corporate group, alumni association, or a professional or student organization, we'll make it easy for your group to have an incredible experience. Just call us at the number listed below.

Terms & Conditions

Although unlikely, prices, dates, and accommodations subject to change with a 60-day notice from Discover Corps.



Discover Corps

VACATIONS WITH PURPOSE

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OUR DESTINATIONS

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