



Volunteering & Internships

About the program

Volunteering is adventure, hard work, getting to know yourself and making a difference, all in one. Volunteering projects are meant to be done as an extension of the language learning experience exclusively after the course. Students should relocate to the project location (with the exception of social projects in Coronado).

Types/categories of projects

Please check the following pages for specific details on projects:

- Nature Conservation
- Turtle Protection
- Animal Rescue
- Organic Farming
- Social Institutions

Requirements

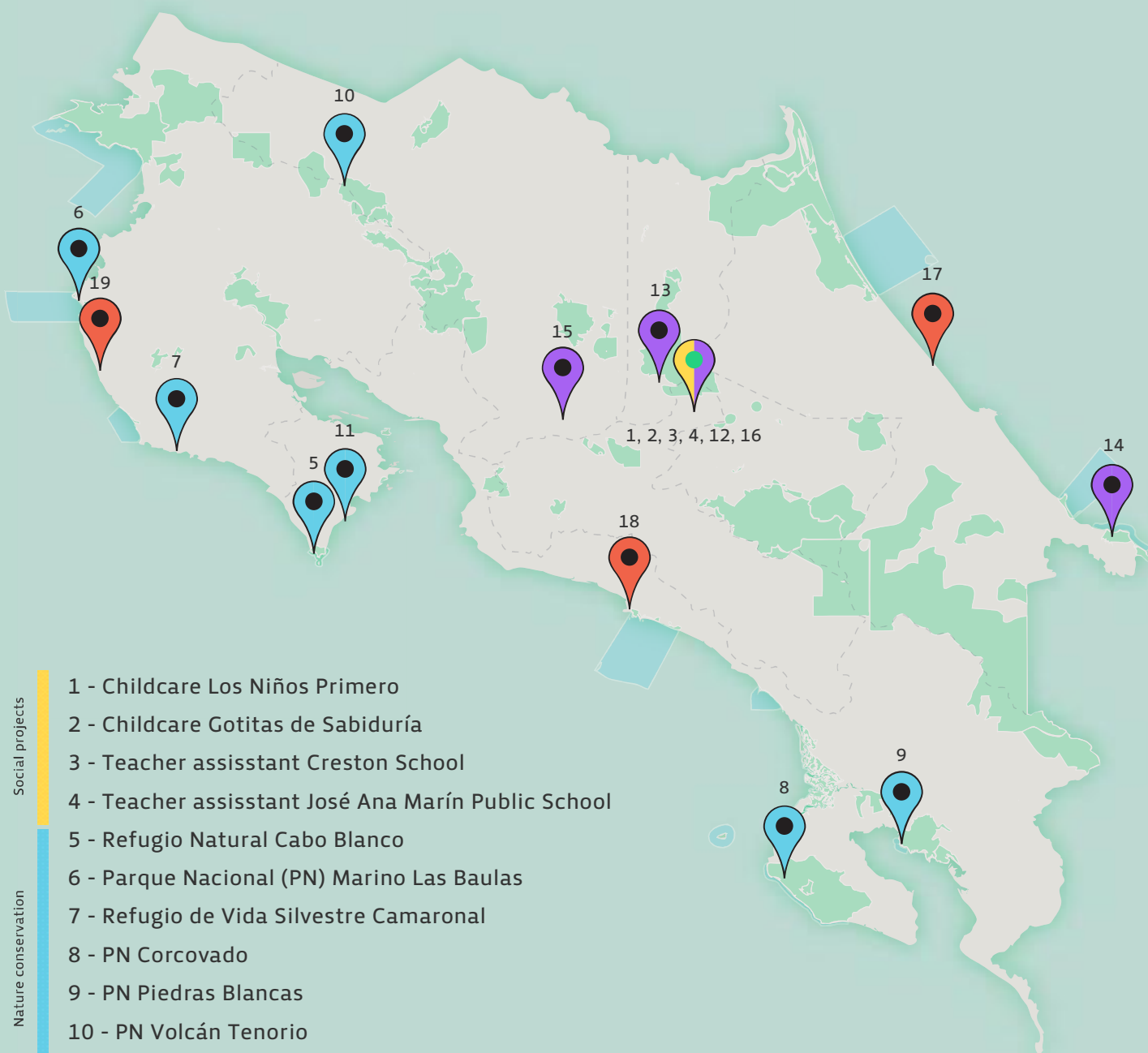
- **Spanish course:** 2-week Spanish course
- **Language level** social institutions: B1
- **Language level** nature projects: A1/A2
- **Age:** 18 years old
- **Min. stay:** most projects require 2-4 weeks.

- **Health:** volunteers should be in good health and willing to work in humid and hot weather. **All volunteers should come with medical insurance and communicate any medical condition or allergies.** Animal related projects may require vaccinations.

Registration

- Students willing to attend social institution projects must send a CV and an intention letter stating: why they want to participate in the selected project, what kind of institution or what kind of work they seem themselves performing during their volunteering period.
- All volunteers should fill out and send the **Volunteering Application Form**.
- Academia Tica staff will use the information in the Application Form to recommend the best projects for the student and proceed in the registration.

Volunteering projects map



- | | |
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| <p>Social projects</p> <p>Nature conservation</p> <p>Animal Rescue</p> | <p>1 - Childcare Los Niños Primero</p> <p>2 - Childcare Gotitas de Sabiduría</p> <p>3 - Teacher assistant Creston School</p> <p>4 - Teacher assistant José Ana Marín Public School</p> <p>5 - Refugio Natural Cabo Blanco</p> <p>6 - Parque Nacional (PN) Marino Las Baulas</p> <p>7 - Refugio de Vida Silvestre Camaronal</p> <p>8 - PN Corcovado</p> <p>9 - PN Piedras Blancas</p> <p>10 - PN Volcán Tenorio</p> <p>11 - Refugio de Vida Silvestre Romelia</p> <p>12 - Casita Azul: centro de adopción de perros</p> <p>13 - Toucan Rescue Ranch</p> <p>14 - Jaguar Rescue Center</p> <p>15 - Costa Rica Animal Rescue Center</p> <p>16 - Organic farm</p> |
| <p>Turtle protection</p> | <p>17 - Tortugas de Pacuare</p> <p>18 - Tortugas Matapalo</p> <p>19 - Junquillal</p> |

Nature conservation projects

Description

There are great, very different natural attractions at each of the seven locations available and it is a chance to work side-by-side with park rangers. These parks have been selected for their excellent approach to work with volunteers and the opportunities available for them.

Required skills

Hard working nature, creativity, ecological sensitivity, willingness to learn about new cultures and most importantly: enthusiasm. No experience is necessary but good health and the ability to adapt to new environments are required.

Common tasks

Trail cleaning and maintenance, teaching English to park staff, assisting park visitors, infrastructure maintenance, control walks around the park.

Details

The selection of the project in question will be done after a presentation at the volunteer's office in San José where the student will be explained the details of each project.

Food and accommodation are provided in the park's volunteer shelter and is not

included in the volunteering fee. A daily cost of aprox. \$25 to \$35 will be charged in advance (non-refundable). This includes 3 meals per day.

Volunteers have one free day a week, which they can choose and use to explore the park, relax or visit nearby towns.



Turtle protection projects

Description

There are three projects in both shores that work with the five types of sea turtles that visit Costa Rica (leatherback, hawksbill, green, loggerhead and olive ridley). These projects are not only about turtles themselves, but also about the surrounding communities. And they could use some help!

Required skills

Hard working nature, creativity, ecological sensitivity, willingness to learn about new cultures and most importantly: enthusiasm. No experience is necessary but good health and the ability to adapt to new environments are required.

Common tasks

Night beach patrols, beach cleaning, finding turtle nests, identifying and recording turtle trails, counting and relocation of eggs, building and maintaining nurseries, monitor turtle nests, aid baby turtles in their return to the ocean, aid in taking biometric measures of turtles, support and maintenance of infrastructure.

Details

The selection of the project in question will be done after a presentation at the volunteer's office in San José where the student will be explained the details of each project.

Food and accommodation are provided in the project's volunteer shelter and is not included in

the volunteering fee. A daily cost of aprox. \$25 to \$35 will be charged in advance (non-refundable). This includes 3 meals per day. Costs may vary from project to project, please ask our representatives for detailed quote.

Volunteers have one free day a week, which they can choose and use to explore the area, surf or visit nearby towns.



Social institution projects

Description

We believe that we don't have to go very far to find populations in need. Coronado and Jacó Beach (our home communities and also other nearby towns) are comprised of hard-working people living in places that are developing rapidly. We should pay attention to those who need it most. Our projects are aimed for those with a true vocation for helping and those who have a strong will.

Required skills

Hard working person, sensitive, willing to learn about new cultures and enthusiasm. Social workers or teachers are good candidates for these projects although some projects allow volunteers without experience. Also, being creative is really important since you're likely to be asked to create your own tasks or implement your ideas, which are always welcomed.

Common tasks

Volunteers will assist in many tasks from serving food and cleaning to teaching, playing games, helping with homework and supporting social workers or teachers on their jobs.



Organic farm work

Description

“La Esperanza” is an integrated organic farm that produces vegetables, eggs, cow and goat milk, cheese, pork meat and high-quality compost for sale in the national market. A true Costa Rican business born from necessity and vision.

Many institutions and experts visit the farm to learn about the processes that are implemented in there, always in constant innovation. The farm is owned and managed by Anselmo Rodríguez and his family. He started producing organic products in 1992. Nowadays, the operation is shared with his wife and daughter.

Anselmo's farm is truly a model for farmers all over the world and he is the first 100% organic farmer from Costa Rica. He wastes almost nothing (his motto is “sell more, buy less”) and his products are high-quality. He has been awarded farmer of the year in Costa Rica and is recognized for his role as an example as the future of farming.

The farm property includes a river along which there is a trail used for walks and educational purposes.

Common tasks

Some activities the volunteer will perform are: milking, harvesting, stable cleaning, working on the trail, seed sowing, gardening, animal feeding and nursing, tree planting, tool or machinery maintenance.



Animal rescue projects

Description

Volunteers will work with animals that arrive to the rescue centers for different reasons: injuries, orphans due to accidents, sickness or rescued from captivity. Most rescue centers have scarce resources and the work is very time consuming, plus, veterinary costs are extremely high for wildlife.

Besides from dealing daily with beautiful wild and domestic animals, the volunteers will be immersed in a natural environment and learn a great deal about the Costa Rican and tropical fauna.

Some animals the volunteer may work with (depending on where they go): small birds, owls, toucans, macaws, sloths, monkeys, iguanas and other lizards, felines, deers, anteaters and raccoons. All the animals need help and loving care!

Required skills

Hard working nature, seriousness and discipline, creativity, ecological sensitivity, willingness to learn about new cultures and most importantly: enthusiasm. No experience is necessary but good health and the ability to adapt to new environments are required.

Common tasks

- Animal feeding and food preparation
- Help cleaning enclosures

- Help in research and exploration
- Facilities maintenance and cleaning
- Nursing, rehabilitating and basic care
- Monitoring and collecting data
- Working in the garden
- Attention to visitors

Details

Students should fill out the Volunteering Application Form from Academia Tica and upon submission, our staff will specify further information to continue the process depending on the criteria entered by the student:

- Timing requirements
- Costs
- Living and work expectations
- Health requirements

Tuberculosis test and medical insurance are required for most projects. Some animal rescue projects require 4 weeks of minimum work. Most projects require an extra fee per week.

Food and lodging expenses differ from one project to another. Some projects require payment of these fees to reserve the space, specially important in the high season.