

ANIMAL RESCUE CENTRE - AMAZON REGION -

Overview

The program helps wild animals that have been rescued from mistreatment, abuse, traffic, sickness, and saves them from certain death due to horrible conditions. This program is focused on saving an animal's life, care, helping them to recover and, if possible, let them return to the wild.

All saved animals come from illegal circumstances, and are rescued by the environmental police department. They have become victims of human vanity. They suffer from hunger, stress and illness. Some of them die on the process of being captured; they are kept in small cages, alone and apart from their environment, and are mistreated, living in terrible conditions. It is a sad reality. However, there are always those who want to make a difference - that is why we have this project.



It has been established to help rescued animals recover from the above mentioned abuse, to take care of them, and give them the most natural environment possible.

At the moment, the animal rescue center is housing over 110 animals, and of a wide range of species. To name a few, we currently care for:

- Capuchin, Woolly, Spider, and Tamarind monkeys
- Ocelots and Margays
- Kinkajous, Coatis and Tayra
- Ant Eaters and Porcupines
- White-lipped Peccaries
- Macaws and various parrots
- Spectacled Caiman and Boa constrictors

These animals are under constant supervision from staff and volunteers to ensure they are eating and drinking well. They appear to be in good health; their behavior is normal and they do not demonstrate typical stress-related activity. Should anything seem to be wrong with any of the animals, the center's vet is contacted immediately, arriving as quickly as possible to examine and treat sick animals. Excluding emergencies the vet normally visits the center every week to check up on each animal's health condition.

It may seem surprising, but it is not just animals that are illegally trafficked. There is also a large illegal market for plant species, especially orchids. Occasionally, we also receive plants at the center that have been confiscated from traffickers. These plants are returned to the patch of jungle belonging to the center or are planted in the orchid garden.

Location: Puyo (Rainforest), five hours from Quito, approximately and at an altitude of 900 meters above sea level. Because of this, the temperature is very comfortable, and not too hot. The temperature generally ranges between 18 and 24 degrees centigrade. The rainiest months of the year are between December and March. The rain does not cause too much of a problem, as it is quite warm; it is often a welcome respite from the blazing sun.

Accommodation: Volunteers house, shared rooms. The capacity is for 14 participants at a time.

Dates: All year round.

Program duration: Two weeks minimum - 12 weeks maximum.

Requirements: Minimum age 17

No Spanish level is required.

Willing to help animals and contribute to the conservation of various amazing species of the rainforest and other areas of the country.

Program highlights:

- Puyo is located near important natural attractions, as the Napo River, where you can enjoy rafting trips, visit natural caves, cascades, and share with local communities on your free time.
- The opportunity to contribute to the conservation of the rainforest, and the species in danger of extinction.
- The willing to help planet conservation, love animals, and the strength to deal with emotional situations, and have all it takes to make a difference helping our world and its beings.

Included:

- Airport pickup.
- Detailed orientation meeting in Quito, and walking tour in the city.
- Accommodation at the project.
- 24 / 7 hour Emergency help.

Not Included

- International flight
- Meals. Approximately. USD 25 a week.
- Personal travel insurance.
- Transportation from Quito to the project - USD 6.00 (one way).
- Visa extensions, over 90 days.
- Personal items.

Volunteer role

There are different areas in need of help; it will depend on the duration of your stay, and your personal interests.

- Prepare animal food
- Daily feeding and cleaning duties.
- Assist in construction and maintenance work to improve animal living conditions.
- Provide care and support to animals.
- Report to supervisor any kind of unusual situation you have notice regarding animals.

Daily schedule:

7:30	Breakfast, volunteers eat together before setting of to their daily tasks.
8:00	Volunteers and staff have a brief meeting to allocate groups to different activities and the diurnal animals' food is prepared.
12pm	Volunteers prepare lunch together.
	After lunch, volunteers have until around 3pm to rest and play.
3:00	Volunteers and staff meet to arrange the afternoons' activities and prepare the nocturnal animals' food.
5:00	Volunteers are free to do whatever they please, whether it be resting in the hammocks, watching the setting sun, or heading into Puyo for a beer or a bite to eat.

Working hours: Monday to Friday (8:30 - 5:00pm) Saturday morning, until the animals have been fed.

Please note: Itineraries and activities are subject to change, according to the time of the year, and according to the Animal Rescue Center needs. Feel free to offer new ideas. Your help and advice will be very much appreciated.



PROGRAM DETAILS (FAQ's)

ORIENTATION MEETING

You will attend an orientation meeting in Quito with our in-country team. This is to cover important safety and security information. You'll also get some tips about sight-seeing options for your time off and a walking tour to the surrounding tourist area to help you get familiarized with the city where you can find Internet cafés, restaurants, the post office, etc.

ACCOMODATION AND MEALS

Volunteers live in a comfortable guesthouse. The capacity is for eight people, some with facilities such as: comfortable beds with mosquito net, a kitchen, living area, working area and hot showers.

Food costs are not included, Volunteers go to buy groceries together and take turns to prepare evening meals. The volunteer house has a social environment and will give volunteers the chance to relax and unwind as well as getting to know volunteers from other schools and what is going on in different communities. Although the house is available for use at the weekend many volunteers choose to go to nearby Puyo or Baños, a very nice tourist town. A regular bus/taxi service also runs to Puyo giving volunteers easy access to internet and local facilities.

GETTING TO THE PROJECT / COMMUNICATION

You will receive all information on bus routes at the Orientation meeting in Quito. Regarding communication, Baños or el Puyo offer internet service. You can also buy or rent a cell phone and receive assistance at our office in Quito.

TIME OFF

On weekends, they are welcome to stay at the center and relax, or play on the rafts at the center's lake, hang out on the rope swings like Tarzan, explore the jungle behind the center or visit nearby rivers and waterfalls. Not being too far away from bustling Puyo, volunteers may like to explore the town, and its surrounding areas during the day, or go for a night on the town on Saturday night, visiting Puyo's many bars for a dance. Equally, there are other Amazonian and Andean cities not too far away that have much to offer. Baños is one hour away on bus, Tena is two hours, and Macas is three hours away. Along with Puyo, these towns offer much in the way of tourism and adventure sports.

WHAT TO BRING:

The following items are necessary:

- Valid passport and visa
- Light working clothes for working (long trousers, t-shirts, long-sleeved shirts) that dry quickly
- Long sleeved clothing for cool nights
- Long trousers, t-shirts, and long sleeved shirts (preferably in light fabrics that dry quickly)
- Sun block
- Insect repellent
- Rain gear
- Mosquito net
- Small rucksack or daypack for daily activities
- Any medicines you need
- Good flashlight (with spare batteries)
- Rubber boots

We recommend that volunteers bring waterproof gear and at least three changes of work clothes, as they will get wet and dirty. When the sun is out it is very hot here so it is important to bring light clothing like shorts and t-shirts. It is recommended to bring a mosquito net, although there are normally very few mosquitoes.

Rubber boots are easier to find and also cheaper to buy in the town of Puyo when you arrive. USD 10.00.

If your shoe size is (USA 9+) please bring your own or comfortable working boots.

The following items are also recommended:

- Sleeping bag
- Dictionary: Spanish/your language, your language/Spanish
- Pocket knife
- First aid kit
- Sunglasses and cap to protect against sun
- Alarm clock
- Plastic / waterproof bags to protect your clothes and luggage
- Camera and film
- Binoculars
- Pictures of friends, family, and home. These will help explain what makes the place that you are from unique when you talk with local people.

The center provides clean sheets and blankets in the volunteer *cabañas*. However, it may be useful to bring a light sleeping bag with you should you wish to camp in the forest for a night or two.

** The center has a very restricted budget, all donations are appreciated, such as veterinarian supplies, sport equipment, board games, or camping and trekking gear. If you wish to make a donation, let us know, and we will send an updated list of the items needed.