

Medical Program in the Galapagos Islands Isabela Island

Program Overview

The volunteer medical program developed in Isabela Islands (Galapagos) assist the local doctors that work at the public medical center to give the first medical procedures or treatments to the population (1.800 inhabitants approximately) before they go to a hospital. The public medical centre has a strong connection with the community; they work together with local schools on health prevention.



Location:	Isabela Island (Galapagos).
Accommodation:	Home stays, and guest houses.
Meals:	Full board Monday to Friday, Half board on weekends.
Dates:	The program is closed from Sept 1- Sept 15 th every year.
Program duration:	Minimum 2 weeks.
Requirements:	Minimum age 18. Intermediate Spanish level. Volunteers should have an enthusiastic attitude and knowledge on the medical field preferred. Doctors, nurses, and paramedics are welcome.

Program highlights:

- The location is one of a kind - The Galapagos Islands! Here you can swim with sea lions, float eye to eye with penguins, scuba dive with hammerhead sharks and stand next to the blue-footed booby.
- Volunteers will share medical knowledge with Ecuadorian doctors, and learn about the Ecuadorian health system.
- Help at different areas, according to the volunteer's knowledge.
- This is a great learning experience for people interested in primary health care in developing countries.

Included

- Airport pickup.
- Detailed orientation meeting in Quito, walking tour in the city.
- Accommodation at home stay - Full board Monday to Friday, half board on weekends.
- 24 /7 hour Emergency help.
- Airfare: Quito - Galapagos - Quito.

Not Included

- International flight
- Lunch: USD 7 per day approx.
- Personal travel insurance
- Galapagos National Park entrance fee USD 110.00.
- Transportation between islands USD 60.00 round trip.

Volunteer role

The public medical center in Isabela Island gives the following medical services where volunteers are welcome to participate:

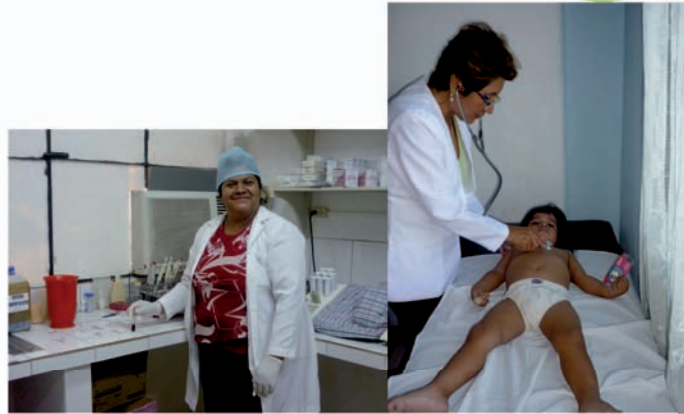
- Gynecology
- Pediatricians
- Nurses: assist nurses in daily patient's checkups.
- General medicine: control blood pressure, chronic diseases, administrating vaccinations, assisting nurses.
- Hypertension control.
- The public medical center has a high level of patients that show diabetes, and the creation of a group that supports them is a priority. Volunteers help on this objective is welcome.

Daily schedule:

7:00	Breakfast at home stay.
8:00	Work at the medical center. The duties will be assigned by a local Doctor.
12:30	Lunch
1:30-4:00	Follow up morning activities. Volunteers will be able to help on different areas during their participation on the program if desired.

Once a week the public medical center doctors visit the schools and give speeches on health prevention, and dental care for the children, as well as doing check ups. Volunteers' assistance is much appreciated.

Working hours: Monday - Friday / Part time or full time schedules available.



Please note: itineraries and activities are subject to change, according to the time of the year.

PROGRAM DETAILS (FAQ's)

ORIENTATION MEETING

You will attend an orientation session in Quito with our in-country team 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 in the city.

ACCOMODATION AND MEALS

Home stays option will give the opportunity to practice your Spanish skills and learn about the Ecuadorian culture. Families receive one to four volunteers at a time.

Hostels: If you want privacy and an upgrade on your accommodation, this option will be the best for you.

GETTING TO THE PROJECT / COMMUNICATION

During the orientation meeting in Quito you will receive your flight ticket to Galapagos, and detailed information on how to get to your project. Spanish lessons in Quito before your trip to the Galapagos are recommended.

Isabela offers internet options. For communication abroad we suggest to have a cell phone that you can buy at your arrival in Quito. (USD 48.00 approx).

TIME OFF

Quito is an excellent access point for weekend travel all around the country. There are also many museums, parks, commercial centers, cafes, restaurants and a lively nightlife (including salsa dancing!) in Quito.

Also, exciting adventure activities around Quito include daily guided treks up the Cotopaxi glacier, as well as ascending the new cable car the "Teleferico" to a height of 4500 meters to take-in the amazing views of the Andes Mountains and Quito in the valley far below.

Another must-see is "la Mitad del Mundo" at the equator just north of Quito where you can stand with one foot in each hemisphere. Spanish lessons are another option you have to improve your language skills before your volunteer placement in the Galapagos Islands.

Isabela Island

There are many activities to do in this beautiful Island during your time off, some of them include:

Giant tortoise breeding centre, two of the five sub-species of giant tortoises can be seen on the breeding centre cared by the park wardens. The centre was created to protect the individuals during the first few years of their lives as the introduce animals such as: dogs, cats, donkeys and pigs pose a threat to them on their natural habitat eating the eggs. The park wardens collect and incubate the eggs at the Breeding Centre. They are repatriated after five years, when they have grown to a size that they can survive on the natural habitat.

Volcan Sierra Negra, is the last volcano to have erupted in 2005 and it has the second largest crater on Earth. The visit to the volcano begins by car from the town taking you to the entrance, and then you can rent horses or practice hiking.

Las tintoreras, is a small island formed as a result of volcanic activity, cracks formed and is now where white-tip reef sharks come to rest and are easily visible.

Concha Perla, this is a small shallow bay located close to Puerto Villamil's docks. It is an attractive site where visitors can enjoy snorkeling or swimming in the calm clear water.

WHAT TO BRING

There are two main climate seasons around the Galapagos. The hot season is from December to May when temperatures are higher and there is occasionally heavy Rainfall. The cooler season is from June to November with more cloud cover and misty patches leading to lighter rains.

After June however trade winds can significantly affect ocean temperatures, which can dip as low as 15 degrees Celsius. With the exception of the slightly cooler weather in June and July, the Islands are favorable to visit during most of the year due to their latitude advantage.

- Sunscreen
- Summer clothing
- Books and pictures will help you show the local people about your country
- Medical apron

**If you wish to do a contribution to the project, you can bring articles for the medicine kit, or vitamins for elder people and children, this will be very much appreciated.