

Medical Program in Ecuador

Public Hospital in Galapagos (San Cristobal Island)

Program Overview

The public hospital based in San Cristobal Island was founded in September 1968 by the Franciscan Mission to help the local community by providing many different medical services to the island. It hosts specialists, general surgeons, emergency services, and first - aid attention, among others.

The population of San Cristobal is approximately 6400 inhabitants, and at least 90% has received care from the public hospital. The hospital is looking for medical volunteers of all abilities and backgrounds to facilitate and run the daily programs for patients.



Location: San Cristobal Island (Galapagos).

Accommodation: Home stays, and volunteer residences upon request.

Meals: Half board, 7 days a week.

Dates: Year round depending on availability.

Program duration: Minimum 3 weeks.

Requirements: Minimum age 18.
Intermediate Spanish level.

Volunteers should have an enthusiastic attitude and knowledge on the medical field. Doctors, nurses, and paramedics also 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. Puerto Baquerizo Moreno is the capital of the Islands. Many residents work for the government or in fisheries (the second largest income source for habitants of the Galápagos).
- 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 - half board.
- 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

Volunteer role

Depending on the volunteers' skill level they may participate in a variety of tasks. Volunteers with no previous medical background will work one-on-one with doctors, preparing charts for patients, handing out medications, and assist in medical examinations, among other tasks.

Nurses and Doctors will have more independent jobs throughout the hospital, depending on their individual work history.

Daily schedule:

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

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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.

Volunteer residence: for independent travelers, flats and volunteer residence option available upon request.

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.

San Cristobal offers very good internet options in the Galapagos Islands. You will have all the services required during your stay.

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.

San Cristobal

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

Surfing: there is a good spot at Playa Punta Carola (enter through the coast line trail) for experience surfers. Playa Mann is another option for those who are looking to bask on a beach.

La Loberia, is just 20 minutes walk South of town, a point where you will observe sea lions, marine iguanas, many exotic bird species and even tortoises. It is also possible for volunteers interested in viewing wildlife to discover where the Frigates nest, northeast of the Interpretation Center, into scrub-forest. Another beautiful 35-minute walk will take you to the beautiful cliff areas of Cerro Tijeretas.

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.

