

## CHANGE LIVES AND VOLUNTEER IN BRAZIL 2011 - 2012



### Brazil

Volunteer in Foz, home to the famous Iguassu Falls, a wall of over 275 waterfalls over nearly two miles long. For film fans, the film The Mission was filmed here with Robert DeNiro and Jeremy Irons. Whilst not admiring the falls and exploring the tropical park, get involved with the special needs school or teaching English in children's homes and community schools. No experience is needed for this placement.

Volunteers can choose to help out on a part or full time basis according to their preference. At the special needs centre, volunteers assist the local teacher, giving support to individual students with their work or art classes and most volunteers start here. An alternative option is teaching English to small classes in and around Foz, again no experience is required just lots of positive energy and ideas for fun ways

to teach English. Foz offers a great volunteering experience in a little-visited corner of Brazil. With Paraguay and Argentina on the doorstep waiting to be explored Foz makes for something just a little bit different. You can walk over the Friendship Bridge in Foz straight into Paraguay and with our Paraguay project only 4 hours by direct coach, volunteers will often combine the two.

## Highlights

- Combination of two very different projects
- The Iguassu Falls
- Paraguay and Argentina on your doorstep

# Volunteer in Brazil / General information for volunteers

## Your role as a Volunteer

There are two options when volunteering in Brazil. Either teaching English or helping in day centres. Your role in the day centre will be to help the children study, relax and feel at ease and develop much needed life skills. You can do many different activities, from playing with the children, setting up or getting involved with arts and crafts, or sports and music, supervising work set by the local teacher, and much more. Volunteers also help the staff with their English, so that the staff are better able to communicate with the volunteers that come and work in the day centres. Your help here will be greatly valued. Teaching English in schools will be lots of fun as you see the children progress. Usually volunteers teach one class in the morning and another in the afternoon.

## Skills and experience

No experience is necessary for helping in Brazil. When teaching English, as long as you can speak English, you will be fine. Volunteers may be nervous the first day, but after only a few short days you will find you have more confidence and enjoy the help you are giving. Helping the children in day centres does not need any experience, just bring enthusiasm and you will find you have fun working with the children there.



## Overview On arrival

Most volunteers fly straight into Foz after transfers in Sao Paulo or Rio. An airport pick-up is provided for all volunteers flying straight into Foz. A few volunteers each year take the long distance coach from Rio, but at 36 hours, is not for anyone in a hurry! For overland travellers coming from the Argentina or Paraguayan projects a pick-up from the coach station can be easily organised if we have your arrival time in advance.

## Local support

The volunteer accommodation used in Foz is a backpackers hostel, used by both volunteers and backpackers. The hostel staff will support you during your stay and organise all your volunteering through a local coordinator for you. Trips and excursions can also be booked.

## Accommodation included

Volunteers stay in a comfortable hostel situated in the centre of Foz. The hostel has many facilities which include: swimming pool, kitchen and lounge area. Situated in the centre of Foz (McDonalds is opposite!) you have many of the usual amenities nearby including shops, restaurants and good transport links.



## Food

Brazil is a self-catering project. There are plenty of shops nearby where you can buy food to take back to the accommodation and prepare in the communal kitchen.

## Getting around

Most of the amenities and facilities that you need are situated close to your accommodation. But if you did want to travel out further taxis and buses are easily available.

## Project resources and advice

For people teaching English in Brazil, teaching books are a good idea as they will help you with lesson plans and ideas of how and what to teach, these are good for the volunteers that may be nervous due to lack of experience. Also, some volunteers tend to bring different activity books and colouring books etc.



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## Free time

Although a fairly sleepy town, there are a number of local attractions to visit in your free time. The Iguassu Falls are best visited over two separate days, visiting the Brazilian and Argentinian side of the Falls. The Bird Park is the next most-visited tourist attraction and offers the chance to walk in large enclosures surrounded by tropical plants and birds.

During the week, close to the hostel, there is a bowling alley where many volunteers tend to go. There is also a local cinema that plays films in English and a few nightclubs, lots of restaurants and bars.

## Local facilities

Volunteers stay in the centre of Foz, which has all the local facilities of any modern town that are needed, including banks, doctors, shopping malls, cafes and other amenities.

## Health

There is a hospital nearby and should you need the use of one, the project co-ordinator will help you with getting there.

## What to take

Once you have applied and registered with Original Volunteers, you will receive an Information Pack via email that will have further details on the project in Brazil; in this email there will be a list of items to take.

## Not on your own

Although some volunteers travel with friends, the bigger majority travel alone. It is possible to get in contact with other volunteers before your travel, and a lot of people tend to do this. Some volunteers even plan to travel together and set this up themselves before they depart.



## How to apply

It is quick and easy to register with Original Volunteers. You can either do it online via our website [www.originalvolunteers.co.uk](http://www.originalvolunteers.co.uk) or you can call us on 01603 627 007 and register over the phone.

It costs £125 to register and this registration lasts a whole year; which means you can go to as many placements as you want within that year without having to pay the £125 again. The registration fee also instantly books and reserves your place in any month you choose. We are very flexible however and you can always change your mind. Just let us know if dates change and spaces permitting we will put you on another list.

## When to pay for this project

This project will need to be paid in full before departure.

## Things that you will need to organise yourself

- Flights to Brazil
- Travel Insurance
- Any resources you wish to bring
- Food

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## Fast Facts

### Project Information

- Project Duration: Min 1 week - Max 12 weeks
- Location of project: Foz do Iguazu
- Arrival Airport: Sao Paulo or Rio Airport
- Activities: General day-to-day care of the children and teaching English
- Working Hours: 5 days a week. Weekends free
- Getting to the project: Airport pick-up and transfer to the volunteer house is automatically arranged for all volunteers, once flights have been received.
- Requirements: Minimum age 18

### What's Included

- Accommodation: Volunteers stay together in a comfortable hostel.
- Airport Pickup: Airport pick up from Foz is available.
- Training: During your stay you will be trained on the job informally via in-country orientation

### What's not included

- Flights
- Insurance
- Return Airport transfer
- Local Transport during free time
- Meals

### Brazil

Brazil is the largest country in South America. It is the world's fifth largest country. Brazil is bordered from the north by Venezuela, Guyana, and Suriname. From the northwest it is bordered by Colombia, from the west by Bolivia and Peru and the southwest by Argentina and Paraguay.

### Climate

There is a wide range of weather conditions in Brazil. Over central Brazil, rainfall is more seasonal. The highest average temperature is 30 Celsius and the lowest is 10 Celsius.

