

CHANGE LIVES AND VOLUNTEER IN PARAGUAY 2012 - 2013



Paraguay

Get off the beaten track in South America, with a variety of projects and activities to involve yourself in during the week; you will never be lost for something to do when volunteering in the quirky capital city of Paraguay, Asuncion. The main role of the volunteer is to bring fresh new ideas for activities with children from disadvantaged

backgrounds. Whether you show the children how to play Connect 4, UNO, traditional card games or teach the months of the year or counting; it couldn't be easier. From working at nurseries, helping at street kid's projects, teaching English to setting up or assisting in activities, volunteers will have plenty to do.

With very few tourists, be one of the few people to not only visit Paraguay but get to know its hidden customs and unique culture. There is no pressure here, volunteer at your own pace with a friendly support team to help you settle in.

Highlights

- A varied schedule is organised for you
- Bringing new much needed ideas and energy
- A unique visit to a unique country

Volunteer in Paraguay / General information for volunteers

Your role as a Volunteer

Your local co-ordinator organises a weekly schedule for the volunteer group. With many opportunities available at different times; there is usually a good variety of different placements. Volunteers travel together escorted by a co-ordinator. Occasionally, the volunteer group will make a trip further a field which might require a full day's volunteering or an overnight stay. Times and schedules vary according to local demand and group preferences. 12-20 hours a week is the usual amount excluding travel times.

Skills and experience

You do not need any experience to help in Paraguay. As long as you are able to give compassion and care to the children, you will be fine. Enthusiasm is a great tool for working with the younger children in the nursery.

Overview

On arrival

The nearest airport to the project is Asuncion. Once you arrive at Asuncion airport, there will be a local co-ordinator waiting to pick you up and take you to the volunteer accommodation. When you arrive at the placement, the co-ordinator will place you all together in different groups of volunteers; this way you are never alone and will make lots of new friends. For volunteers arriving by bus from Argentina or Brazil, directions are provided before arrival.



Local support

A local support team are always on hand and available when needed.

Accommodation included

Accommodation is a shared volunteer apartment on the outskirts of Asuncion. There are three dormitory style bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen, lounge and outdoor space.

Food

Paraguay is a self-catering project. Most volunteers tend to eat out as it is very affordable there. A basic meal in a local café can cost 40p. Cafés and shops are close by and are easy to get to. There are also food stands selling things from chicken to hotdogs.

Getting around

Buses are the main form of transport in Asuncion. The volunteer house is situated on the main road into the city, buses pass frequently. A trip into town will cost approximately 30p each way.



Project resources and advice

Any extra resources that volunteers wish to bring are welcomed and appreciated from activity books, colouring books to basic education books, any arts and crafts materials and games.

Free time

Only 4 hours away via coach, volunteers can take their free day off to visit the Falls in Foz. To the south, the most popular place to visit is the Jesuit ruins. It is easy to book a tour here via the local tourist office after arrival. In hotter months, the local custom is to get into the countryside, to local beauty spots and spend a weekend camping, swimming in the streams that usually run through the campsite. Your local co-ordinator will be able to make suggestions and help you organise.

Local facilities

Large modern supermarket, cafés, internet are all within walking distance from where you will be staying. Shopping centres, cafés, bars, restaurants, shops and banks are available in the centre of Asuncion and are all easy to reach by bus, which pass frequently outside the volunteer apartment.



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One of the local support team. Happy to meet you at the airport

Health

There is a doctor close by and a hospital should you need the use of one, the co-ordinators will help you with your transfer 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 Paraguay; 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.

When to pay for this project

There is no charge for participating volunteers in Paraguay. The project, airport pick-up and accommodation are provided to the volunteer without charge.



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 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.

Things that you will need to organise yourself

- Flights to Asuncion
- For overland travellers, pick-up from bus station is not available. Easy to follow instructions that direct you to the meeting point are provided before arrival
- Travel Insurance
- Any resources you wish to bring
- Food



Fast Facts

Project Information

- Project Duration: Min 1 week - Max 4 weeks
- Project Costs: Free accommodation provided
- Location of project: Nemby and surrounding areas
- Arrival Airport: Asuncion
- Activities: General care for children, supervising, one-to-one praise and affection
- Working Hours: Full time. 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

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What's Included

- Accommodation: Volunteers stay together in a shared apartment
- Airport Pickup: Airport pick up is provided for all volunteers flying directly into Asuncion
- 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 around Paraguay
- Meals

Paraguay

Paraguay is a landlocked country in South America. Argentina borders Paraguay to the south and southwest, to the east and northeast Brazil and to the northwest Bolivia. The capital and largest city in Paraguay is Asuncion.

In 2009 the population in Paraguay was estimated at 6.3 million. The official language in Paraguay is Spanish.

Between 1904 and 1954, Paraguay had thirty-one presidents.

Climate

In Paraguay, summer months are from November to March and temperatures typically reach 30 Degrees Celsius, winter is June to September, although temperatures can still reach 25 Degrees Celsius.