



2009 Volunteer in Latin America

Locations	Throughout Latin America with emphasis on Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru
Start Dates	All year round. Minimum 1-2 weeks to Maximum 1 year.
Program Fees	Differs per project and destination, but projects starting as low as: 1 week - US\$935. Discounts provided for long-term stays
What's Included	Volunteer placement & arrival orientation Housing and at least two meals a day Spanish/Portuguese language lessons for most destinations' minimum duration (additional weeks available for nominal fee) Textbook & Classroom materials Airport pick-up and transfer Comprehensive international traveler's health insurance Full-time pre-departure and local support
What's not Included	International transportation Visa fees (if applicable) Personal expenses
Projects Available	Orphanage/Street Children Teaching/Tutoring Social Welfare Community Development Medical/Health Environment/Ecology Building/Construction Wildlife Conservation
Accommodations	Varied with each project and destination. Typically shared basic, clean, and comfortable accommodations with other volunteers, staff or local host family. Shared bathroom. Family style meals typically served with vegetarian fare available upon request

Cultural Embrace partners with local humanitarian organizations to share more knowledge about the people and culture in Central and South America. Our goals are to assist the at-need and at-risk communities and to improve their standards of living. By contributing your time, energy and passion to others, you will gain a memorable and meaningful experience while traveling abroad.

PROJECTS AVAILABLE:

Orphanage Assistance/Street Children

Work in local orphanage homes or shelter for abandoned children. All of these children have come from poor families and suffer from malnutrition and neglect. Assist the limited staff to care for these children. Organize recreational activities, educational activities, sports, arts, crafts, and be the nurturing heart and helping hand that can encourage the children and local staff.

Teach/Tutor

Assist the local teachers at public schools and community centers with their English classes and other subjects, and provide an inspirational native tongue to the students. Or, act as a role model for struggling teenagers and adults through informal education classes. Most of these students have dropped out of school, but want to look at alternate opportunities to continue their education.

Social Welfare Development

Work in facilities that help the poor communities of an area. Provide support to at-risk and at-need women and children to learn values, manner, and life skills to become self-sufficient and obtain a higher level of education. Past projects range from tutoring, cleaning, carpentry, program development, sewing, cooking, childcare, business skills training, administrative, data entering,

Health/Medical Clinics

Work alongside community health and medical clinics. Be a friend to patients, assist medical staff, and organize health/nutrition classes. Knowledge of nutrition, health and medical field are preferred for these project.

Wildlife Conservation

Participate in wildlife conservation projects to help preserve natural habitats of the local area. Sample projects include sea turtle and bird conservation in Costa Rica, marine conservation in Ecuador.

Environment/Ecology Conservation

Learn and practice how to be a living example of nature conservation. Work on a private nature reserve and crop experimentation site. Duties include restoring and improving the grounds, plantations and facilities. Interact with the local communities and expand your knowledge with reasons, benefits, and ways to be more environmentally friendly.

Building/Construction Maintenance

Lend an extra hand with a variety of laborious jobs. Assistance for building, painting, gardening, and wiring are needed for a variety of projects. Experience and knowledge helpful but not required.

PROGRAM DETAILS & HIGHLIGHTS:

Volunteer in Latin America Offers:

- A first-hand experience to see and improve the communities in Latin America.
- A broader perspective on world views.
- Opportunity to learn Latin America's lifestyles and community initiatives as well as other cultural activities (ie: language, crafts, dance, etc)
- Memorable experiences while traveling and seeing exotic sites
- Lifelong friends from all around the globe
- International work and cultural experiences that strengthens your resume
- Support and development of self-confidence and personal skills

Cultural Embrace Offers:

- **Guaranteed volunteer placement**

A customized volunteer placement will be organized prior to your departure.

- **Accommodations**

Basic, clean & comfortable housing is included in your program. Most housing will be with carefully screened and selected local host families; or at volunteer housing at project sites

- **Meals**

At least two meals a day, six days per week are included with your program. Meal plans will depend per project and destination. Meals are safe and healthy with emphasis of local cuisine. Dietary and allergy restrictions will be met.

- **Language Lessons**

Spanish in Central America locations and Portuguese language lessons in Brazil are included during minimum duration (except South American countries-Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Peru) Additional lessons are available upon request before or during volunteer placement for nominal fees.

- **Arrival Assistance**

Airport or bus station pickup and transfer to your project site or housing are included with your program.

- **Comprehensive International Medical Insurance**

Cultural Embrace includes a comprehensive policy for all volunteer participants for the duration of your placement.

- **Orientation & Training**

You will receive training of your responsibilities and tasks, as well as local orientation of the area from our local coordinators.

- ***Cultural Embrace Cultural Kit***

You will receive useful information prior to your departure to prepare you for your adventure abroad

- **Full-time pre-departure and local support**

- **Visa assistance** (if applicable)

-*Cultural Embrace* will assist you with the process to obtain the proper visa, but we have no control or guarantees of government issuances and visa availability.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Volunteers must be at least the age of 18 (or with parent consent.)
 - Most projects minimum commitment for 1-2 weeks, maximum 12 months.
 - Basic Spanish skills. Most programs include Spanish language course, and additional classes can be added before or during your volunteer project.
 - Enjoy working and serving others in an underprivileged and struggling environment
 - Open to foreign cultures and living abroad.
 - Dependable and dedicated to full-term of commitment
 - Responsible and conscientious with volunteer projects and accommodations
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2009 PROGRAM FEES

Prices are customized per project and destination:

O-Orphanage/Street Children Assistance

T-Teaching/Tutoring

S-Social Welfare

M-Medical/Health

W-Wildlife Conservation

E-Environment/Ecology

C-Construction/Maintenance

<i>Country/City</i>	<i>Projects</i>	<i>Costs (US\$)</i>	<i>Benefits Included</i>
ARGENTINA			
Buenos Aires & Cordoba (Min. 2 weeks; Max. 12 months) -Starts every Monday	O, T, S, M, E	Buenos Aires 2 months - \$2515 Each add'l week - \$260 Spanish Lessons - \$195 per week Cordoba 2 months - \$2115 Each add'l week - \$215 Spanish Lessons - \$145 per week	-Private room in host family. -Meals: 1-2/day, 6 days/week
BRAZIL			
Rio de Janeiro (8 week program) -Starts every Monday	O, T, S	8 weeks - \$2450	-60 hours Portuguese -Private or shared room in host family. -Meals: 2/day, 6 days/week
CHILE			
Santiago (Min. 2 weeks; Max. 12 months) -Starts every Monday	O, T, S, M, E, C	8 weeks- \$2515 Each add'l week - \$260 Spanish Lessons - \$195 per week	-Private room in host family. -Meals: 1-2/day, 6 days/week
COSTA RICA			
San Jose, Manuel Antonio (Min. 1 week Max. 1 year) -Starts every Monday	O, T, S, M, W, E, C	1 week - \$1150 San Jose & MA Each add'l week - \$495 (with 20 hrs Spanish) Each add'l week - \$230 (without Spanish)	-1 st week 20 hours Spanish -Private room in host family. -Meals: 2 or 3/day, 6 days/week
ECUADOR			
Amazon, Andes, Coastal, Galapagos* (Min. 2 weeks Max. 1 year-varies/project) -Starts every Monday	O, T, S, M, W, E, C	2 weeks - \$1150 2 weeks - \$1245* (Galapagos location) Each add'l week - \$185 Each add'l week - \$235 (Galapagos)	-Housing at reserve site with 3 meals/day
GUATEMALA			
Antigua (Min. 1 week Max. 1 year) -Starts every Monday	O, T, S, M, E, C	1 week - \$935 Each add'l week - \$270 (with 20 hrs Spanish) Each add'l week - \$195 (without Spanish)	-1 st week 20 hours Spanish -Private room in host family. -Meals: 2 or 3/day, 6 days/week
HONDURAS			
La Ceiba (Min. 1 weeks Max. 1 year) -Starts every Monday	O, T, S, M,	1 weeks - \$1020 Each add'l week - \$335 (with 20 hrs Spanish) Each add'l week - \$235 (without Spanish)	-1 st week 20 hours Spanish -Private room in host family. -Meals: 3/day, 6 days/week

MEXICO			
Cuernavaca (Min. 1 week Max. 1 year) -Starts every Monday	O, T, S, M, C	1 week - \$1090 Each add'l week - \$370 (with up to 30hrs Spanish)	-1 st week up to 30 hours Spanish -Shared room in host family. -Meals: 2-3/day, 6 days/week
Guanajuato (Min. 4 weeks Max. 1 year) -Starts every Monday	O, T, S, M, C	4 weeks - \$2440 Each add'l week - \$495 (with 20+ hrs Spanish)	-4 wks 20 hours Spanish -Private room in host family. -Meals: 2-3/day, 6 days/week -Airport/bus pick-up
Oaxaca (Min. 1 weeks Max. 1 year) -Starts every Monday	O, T, S, M, C	1 week - \$1085 Each add'l week - \$380 (with 15 hrs Spanish) Each add'l week - \$275 (without Spanish)	-1 wk 15 hours Spanish -Private room in host family. -Meals: 2/day, 6 days/week
Puerto Vallarta (Min. 1 week Max. 1 year) -Starts every Monday	O, T, S	1 week - \$1055 Each add'l week - \$370 (with 15hrs Spanish)	-1 st week 15 hours Spanish -Shared room in host family. -Meals: 2-3/day, 6 days/week
Queretaro (Min. 1 week Max. 1 year) -Starts every Monday	O, T, S, M, C	1 week - \$1120 Each add'l week - \$395 (with 15 hrs Spanish)	-1 st week 15 hours Spanish -Private room in host family. -Meals: 2 or 3/day, 6 days/week
NICARAGUA			
Granada (Min. 1 weeks Max. 1 year) -Starts every Monday	O, T, S, M, C	1 weeks – \$1050 Each add'l week - \$355 (with 20 hrs Spanish)	-1 wk 20 hours Spanish -Private room in host family. -Meals: 3/day, 6 days/week
PERU			
Lima, Chiclayo, Cusco, Puerto Maldonado*, Trujillo (Min. 2 weeks, 4 weeks* Max. 1 year) Starts every 2 nd & 4 th Thursday of each month	O, T, S, M, E, C	2 weeks – \$1420 (Lima, Chiclayo, Trujillo) 2 weeks – \$1455 Cusco Each add'l week - \$250 Spanish lessons: \$160/week (10 hrs/wk in Lima or Cusco only)	-Housing with host family. -Meals: 2/day, 6 days/week -Guided excursions in Lima, discounted tours around Peru (ie: Machu Picchu)

-All Volunteer Projects include: room & board (as specified), traveler's insurance, airport/bus station pick-up & transfer (as specified), full-time pre-departure and local support

-Prices listed in US Dollars, and AUD\$, CAN\$, £, € accepted

-Please note-prices are subject to change according to world currency exchange rate.

-Spanish lessons not included in Peru or Ecuador, but can be organized

HOW TO APPLY

- 1) Read the instructions carefully and complete all forms.
- 2) Submit your completed application packet to:

CULTURAL EMBRACE
7201 Bill Hughes Road
Austin, TX 78745 USA

Completed packet should include

- Volunteer Application
- Signed Volunteer Program & Agreement
- Copy of your passport - information page only
- Copies of diploma or certificates related to field of interest (if applicable)
- Resume/CV
- Cover Letter explaining what you want to do and why you want to provide a service in Latin America.
- Two references: preferably professional references and/or character reference
- Doctor's certificate verifying that you are in excellent mental and physical health
- Police background security check
- Two 1½" x 2" official passport style photos printed on each photo
- One full-length picture of yourself
- US\$200 non-refundable deposit (credited towards your program fee)

Upon receipt of your application, a **Cultural Embrace** coordinator will contact you for a 20-30 minutes phone interview. Once we accept you in to our program, you will receive an invoice for the remainder of your program fee. In order for us to contact our local partners to start your placement process, we require at least 50% of your program.

We recommend submitting your application and program fee at least 12-16 weeks prior to your desired start date in order for us to organize and arrange your volunteer placement.

***Cultural Embrace** requires an expedited application fee for those applying 12 weeks or less before the desired date of departure. Applications received 8-12 weeks prior to desired departure date will be charged \$150. Applications received less than 8 weeks before the desired departure date will be charged \$250.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) *Why should I pay **Cultural Embrace** to volunteer?*

Cultural Embrace and our local partners specialize in arranging a guaranteed volunteer placement, housing and insurance prior to your departure. This will alleviate the troubles and stress of getting everything organized in a new country, so you will have more time and energy to spend on your volunteer project. Your time abroad will still be an independent and memorable one, but we are here to guide you to a safe, healthy and comfortable experience before, during, and after your adventure.

Fees vary according to project, destination, and length of stay. Most of the costs go toward operational project and field expenses, (ie: housing, food, transportation, supplies, etc) plus the administrative fees to cover office and local support (ie: legal, accounting, insurance, advertising, etc), but some of the fees will also go toward sustaining the volunteer project. **Cultural Embrace** does not add on any profits on their volunteer programs

2) *Where can I volunteer in Latin America?:*

Volunteer projects in Latin America are based on the area in which there is currently the most need. **Cultural Embrace** works with local projects and NGOs in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru. There are a variety of projects in each

destination, which are listed above; consisting of: orphanage assistance, teaching/tutoring, social welfare, medical/health, wildlife conservation, environment/ecology, and construction maintenance.

3) *Where will I stay?*

Depending on your destination, you will stay in either a carefully screened and selected host family, or at volunteer housing at or near the project site (Ecuador and Peru). Most meals will be included for at least 6 days of the week. Sundays are typically 'rest' days and most locals attend church, so many volunteers cook their own meals or enjoy a meal in town. There are many cafes and restaurants that serve inexpensive yet clean, safe and delicious meals.

4) *What type of visa assistance does **Cultural Embrace** provide?*

Most destinations, except Brazil, do not require many visitors with a visa for up to 90 days. If you wish to stay at a destination for longer than 90 days, our local partners will issue you an invitation letter for you to obtain a visa for your preferred duration. Please note, that any visa fees are the responsibility of the applicant. And, while **Cultural Embrace** can assist you during the process, ultimately it is your responsibility to ensure that you have obtained the appropriate visa for your volunteer experience. **Cultural Embrace** has no control over the visa process and cannot guarantee that your visa application will be accepted.

5) *Do I need to get shots before traveling to Latin America?*

Cultural Embrace requires a medical report for its application process, which would be a good time to talk to your doctor about which immunizations you will need to get before traveling. You should get your immunizations 4-6 weeks before traveling in order for the vaccines to take effect. Check out the [CDC's website](#) for the most current information on travel health.

6) *How long will it take to make my placement?*

We ask applicants to apply at least 12-16 weeks in advance of your desired start date. The placement may take less time than this, but we want to ensure that we have enough time to find a great placement for you! There are additional administrative fees if you apply less than 12 weeks in advanced, and we do not contact our local partners until we receive at least 50% of the program fee payment.

7) *What should I wear or bring to volunteer?*

Depending on the time of year and location of your placement, you will need to dress accordingly. Close-toed shoes are very important, as well as comfortable clothes. **Cultural Embrace** will provide you with more details in your **Cultural Embrace** pre-departure kit.

8) *Can I volunteer and/or live with a friend or partner?*

Yes, you can enroll in this program with other people, and we encourage it since it will enhance your experience and memories. Additionally, you will receive a discount for referring friends and family to join you on the same or other CE programs. Although you may state your preferences for shared housing, you will need to be flexible and respectful of local customs.

9) *When should I buy my plane ticket and does **Cultural Embrace** provide any resources to help with plane tickets?*

Plane tickets should not be purchased until after your placement has been confirmed. **Cultural Embrace** works with consolidators and discount travel agencies that can help find cheaper tickets than those that are available to the general public.

10) *What do I do when I get to my requested destination?*

Cultural Embrace will provide you with a handbook prior to your departure with the names and contact information of your local representative, company, and other useful resources for your time in India. Additionally, you will have a bi-lingual local representative that will serve as your mentor and help you get acquainted with your local surroundings and volunteer placement.

11) *What do I do if I have a problem or complaint within my volunteer placement?*

You must speak to your local volunteer coordinator or representative to give them an opportunity to explain or investigate the situation. If the complaint still exists, please let **Cultural Embrace** (Austin office) know so we can mediate on your behalf.

12) *Why should I pay to volunteer abroad, and where does my money go to with Cultural Embrace?*

Cultural Embrace and our local partners in Latin America specialize in arranging a guaranteed volunteer placement, housing, meals, and insurance prior to your departure. This will alleviate the troubles and stress of getting everything organized in a new country, so you will have more time and energy to spend on your internship and living abroad. Your time abroad will still be an independent and memorable one, but we are here to guide you to a safe, healthy and comfortable experience before, during, and after your adventure.

Your program fee includes your customized volunteer placement, comfortable and clean housing, most meals, comprehensive international traveler's insurance, and all of the administrative and logistical costs to set up your placement in the States and Latin America. **Cultural Embrace** also pro-rates the expenses for marketing, advertising, and site visits/communication among all of our programs within our fees.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@culturalembrace.com or you can call us at 1-512-469-9089 or 1-888-214-8570 (US toll-free)

*Discover the Similarities. . .
Share the Differences. . .*

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