



2009 Volunteer in New Zealand

Location	Throughout New Zealand in urban, regional, and remote locations					
Start Dates	All year round. Minimum 1 weeks. Maximum 6 months. Volunteer projects start every Monday with 2 nights Welcome Package included (Saturday arrival)					
Program Fees		1 week	2 wks	3 wks	4 weeks	6 weeks
	Auckland	US\$860	US\$990	US\$1100	US\$1235	US\$1375
	For each additional week > 6 weeks: US\$200					
What's Included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-arranged volunteer placement • All meals at volunteer site • Basic accommodation • Project-related travel • Airport pick-up • 2 nights starter arrival package with meal & excursions • Orientation & Training • Comprehensive International Traveler's Insurance • Volunteers t-shirt or wildlife guidebook • Pre-departure and local support 					
What's not Included	International airfare Visa fees (if applicable)					
Projects Available	Tree planting Seed collection Endangered species protection Weed control Fencing			Walking trail construction Flora and fauna surveys Heritage restoration Environmental monitoring		
Accommodations/Meals	This varies according to project and location. Typical accommodation can include caravans, hostels, shearers' quarters, bunkhouses, and camping (tents supplied). Volunteers should bring a sleeping bag and mat. All food provided. Breakfasts and lunches are typically self-made. Dinner is usually group effort in preparing and cleaning.					
Country Facts:						
Capital city	Wellington					
Population	~4.1 million					
Currency and exchange rate	New Zealand \$NZD			http://www.xe.com/ucc/		

Program Details & Highlights

There are up to 10 volunteers in each team arriving from all over the world. They include students, backpackers, families, retirees – anyone with an interest in undertaking voluntary conservation projects! Each team is led by an experienced Team Leader - they are trained in the safe management of projects, and they are an enthusiastic expert in the practical conservation projects.

- 🌐 Projects normally run for 5 days per week, with one or two days free per week to relax and sightsee.
- 🌐 Volunteers will be picked up from the Auckland airport and transferred to a local hostel for a 2-nights included Jet-Lag Recovery starter package, including breakfasts and a cultural excursion.
- 🌐 Volunteers can arrive on any Saturday throughout the year.
- 🌐 Volunteers need to arrive at the Volunteer Office by 8am on Monday. Transfers are not included, however, detailed directions to the office will be provided.
- 🌐 Project hours are from 8am–4pm daily, although this varies on some projects when required by seasonal conditions or project activities.
- 🌐 Volunteers will travel to a different project location every week or two. This means that in a 6-week project, volunteers will generally visit at least 3 different project locations, and will usually undertake 2 or 3 different types of project activities. We incorporate as much variety into our program as possible, while achieving our essential conservation outcomes. We do not offer volunteers a choice of projects, as these vary according to seasonal conditions and conservation priorities. We do our best to ensure an assortment of projects or locations during each project.
- 🌐 Volunteers should be prepared to live and work as a member of a team, including sharing accommodation and helping with domestic chores.
- 🌐 Although good health and a positive attitude are essential, volunteers do not need any prior skills or experience, as we will provide all training required.

Projects Available

Each placement will vary since there are so many different conservation projects across New Zealand. Projects include:

- Tree planting
- Erosion and salinity control
- Seed collection
- Construction and maintenance of walking tracks
- Endangered flora and fauna surveys
- Weed control
- Habitat restoration
- Heritage restoration

Volunteer in New Zealand Offers:

- A first-hand experience to see and improve New Zealand's natural environment.
- A broader perspective on world views.

- Opportunity to learn the New Zealander's lifestyles and community initiatives as well as opportunity to travel and have hands-on experience of the local destination
- 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 Prior to Departure**

Cultural Embrace pre-arranges your volunteer project before you leave home to ensure an easy and hassle-free transition to your new life abroad.

- **Housing & Board**

Accommodations vary with each project and location. Typical housing includes caravans, hostels, shearers' quarters, bunkhouses, and camping (tents supplied). You should bring a sleeping bag and mat. All food provided. Breakfasts and lunches are typically self-made. Dinner is usually group effort in preparing and cleaning.

- **Airport Pick-Up & 2 nights Jet Lag Recovery Starter Package**

Airport shuttle pick-up and transfer to a local hostel (typically shared 4-roomed door) for 2-nights. Most site includes a meal and excursion; plus have access, information and discounts to other activities in New Zealand.

- **Volunteer Orientation & Training**

Training about the local community, communities, project duties, and lifestyle will be provided by your experienced Team Leader.

- **Volunteer Materials**

Volunteer t-shirt and/or guidebook will be provided on-site.

- **Project Transportation**

Transportation to and from volunteer sites is included throughout the program. Please note transportation is not available to project office on the first Saturday. Detailed map instructions will be provided, and most offices will be public transportation and/or walking distance accessible.

- **Travel Insurance**

Cultural Embrace includes a comprehensive international traveler's insurance available for all nationalities.

- ***Cultural Embrace Kit***

Useful tips, advice, and information to prepare you for the amazing adventure of living and volunteering abroad.

- **Full-time Representation**

Cultural Embrace provides representation in the United States and New Zealand prior to, during, and after your placement.

Program Requirements

- Volunteers must be between the ages of 18 to 70. Or, if younger than 18, you must have parental or guardian consent
- Good physical health

- Committed to project duration
- Be a good team player
- Enjoy working and serving others outdoors
- Open to foreign cultures and living abroad.
- Responsible and dedicated to full-term of commitment

2009 Program Fees

Projects located throughout New Zealand

	1 week	2 wks	3 wks	4 weeks	6 weeks
Auckland	US\$860	US\$990	US\$1100	US\$1235	US\$1375

**Extra weeks US\$200*

***Prices listed in US Dollars*

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

How to Apply

- 1) Obtain Volunteer Program Information and Application Forms.
 - Download the forms on our website. - OR -
 - Fill out our easy online application request form and the forms will be e-mailed to you within 2-3 days. - OR -
 - Call 1-512-469-9089/1-888-214-8570 (US toll-free) to have the forms mailed to you in 7-10 days.
- 2) Read the instructions carefully and complete all forms.
- 3) 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
 - Cover Letter explaining what you want to do and why you want to provide a service in New Zealand.
 - Two references: preferably professional references and/or character reference
 - Doctor's certificate verifying that you are in excellent mental and physical health
 - Copy of Police Clearance (obtainable from your community's local police station)
 - Two 1½" x 2" official passport style photos signed on the back.
 - One smiling 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 minute 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 fee.

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 fewer 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).

2) *What are the living conditions like?*

Accommodations vary with each project and location. Typical housing includes caravans, hostels, shearers' quarters, bunkhouses, and camping (tents supplied). You should bring a sleeping bag and mat. Upon arrival, you will also have a 2-nights 'jet lag' recovery starter package included, where you will share a 4-person dorm room.

3) *What do I do about food?*

All food during the volunteer project is provided. For breakfast, cereal, bread, toast, tea, and coffee are supplied. Lunch is typically a self-made sandwich and fruit, and in the evening a meal is prepared by the whole group. Volunteers help with the preparation of meals and cleaning up of dishes, plus some domestic duties are required. We rely on every volunteer to participate fully in the program, and the evening meal is a popular part of the day. We can cater for vegetarians, but if you have very specific dietary requirements (or food allergies), you may need to provide your own food. Please advise any special dietary requirement on your application. For your two-nights Jet Lag Recovery package, breakfast is included.

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

A visa must be obtained before you go to New Zealand. A tourist visa can be used for this program, and is very easy to get. Applications for a New Zealand tourist visa can be obtained the traditional paper application way, or applied on-line. Visas are typically granted in 90 days increments, and

valid for up to 12 months.

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.

4) 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.

5) What should I wear and bring to New Zealand?

Depending on the time of year and location of your placement, you will need to dress accordingly. Since space is limited at volunteer sites, we ask that you keep your luggage to a maximum of 15kg. We strongly recommend safety work boots with protective toe caps, and clothes that are loose and comfortable that will also fight out the harsh sun rays, and sunscreen. **Cultural Embrace** will provide you with more details in your **Cultural Embrace** pre-departure kit.

6) 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.

*7) 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** volunteers with consolidators and discount travel agencies that can help find cheaper tickets than those that are available to the general public.

8) What do I do when I get to New Zealand?

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 New Zealand. Your two-night Jet Lag Recovery package includes an airport shuttle pick-up and transfer to your pre-booked hostel. Since all volunteer projects start on Monday, we recommend that you arrive at least on a Saturday. If you need additional nights or assistance in New Zealand, please contact your CE coordinator, and we will pre-arrange everything for you. Additionally, you will have an on-site local supervisor for any questions.

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.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@culturalembbrace.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. . .*

◆ **CULTURAL EMBRACE** ◆ 7201 Bill Hughes Road ◆ Austin, Texas 78745 USA ◆
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