



VOLUNTOURISM OPTIONS

*For travelers who want to make a difference in the world...Travel with a purpose
...Work alongside local people to improve the quality of life through hands-on volunteer projects
...Philanthropic journeys...Transformational travel...Purposeful travel...Travel that feeds the soul*

VOLUNTEER VACATIONS

- **Global Volunteers:** (www.globalvolunteers.org) Est. 1984. Dubbed the “Granddaddy of the Volunteer Vacation Movement” by USA today. Serves 20 countries. Goal is to establish working partnerships with under-served rural villages striving to become self-reliant. Operates all of their own projects in 100 communities through in-country staff and grassroots partnerships. Organizes over 200 volunteer teams/year. Granted consultative status to work with UN agencies. Projects include caring for orphaned children in India, renovating an orphanage’s soccer field in Vietnam, teach people to read in the Cook Islands, work with disabled children in Poland, help at a women’s art coop in Costa Rica and assisting local nurses with outreach to young mothers.
- **I-to-I Meaningful Travel:** (www.i-to-i.com) Est. 1994. UK company now branching out to North America. 24 countries. Works with vetted, local NGOs on long-term projects. Options: Volunteer Challenges (all volunteer), Ultimate Adventures (½ volunteering, ½ adventure), Meaningful Tours (adventure with a taste of volunteering) and Group Challenges. Projects include construction in Honduras, turtle conservation work in Costa Rica, teaching surfing to turtle egg poachers in Costa Rica, nature conservation at a sheep ranch in Australia and community work helping clubs prep floats/costumes for Carnival in Rio. Also offers 120-hour online **TEFL/TESOL** training & job placement as learning English is a way out of poverty.
- **Earthwatch Expeditions:** (www.earthwatch.org/expedition) Est. 1971. Earthwatch Institute offers volunteers the opportunity to join field research and conservation projects all over the world. Collaborates with 50 global partner organizations. Recruits 4,000 volunteers/year to collect field data for rainforest ecology, wildlife conservation, marine science and archaeology. Tax-deductible. (Ages 16-80). 130 projects in 40 countries. Work on tracking ocelots in Mexico, cheetah conservation in Namibia, cave monkey project in China and whooping cranes reintroduction in Florida.
- **Sierra Club Outings:** (<http://www.sierraclub.org/outings>) Est. 1892 by John Muir. America's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. 1.3 million members with a goal of protecting our communities and the planet. 40 domestic volunteer vacation options such as invasive plant removal and whitetail deer counts at Valley Forge National Historic Park, paint buildings and restore trails at Haleakala National Park on Maui and fireproof the forest around the Sierra Club's Clair Tappan Lodge at Lake Tahoe. Offers women’s trips, 50+ trips and family trips (7+).
- **Cross-Cultural Solutions** (<http://www.crossculturalsolutions.org>) Est. 1995. Specializes in short-term volunteer programs in 12 countries, 4,000 volunteers/year. Granted consultative status to work with UN agencies. In-country staff coordinates volunteer placements with 300 grassroots community partnerships. Accepts children 8+. Work at a community center for people with special needs in Brazil, a health clinic in Ghana, teach English in Morocco, work at an orphanage in Russia and translate literature into English for a history museum in China. Offers **Intern Abroad** for students or recent graduates interested in an international internship or academic credit for 3-12 weeks. Offering **Teen Volunteer Abroad** starting Summer 2009 where teens (15-17) can travel independently or in a group. In-country staff will serve as chaperones for 9-14-day programs.

- **Habitat for Humanity** (www.habitat.org) Est. in 1976 as a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian ministry whose goal is to help eliminate poverty by providing simple, decent shelter to those in need. 300,000 houses have been built sheltering 1.5 million people worldwide. Prospective Habitat homeowner families make \$500 down payment and contribute 300-500 hours of "sweat equity" on the construction of their home or someone else's home. Programs include: **Global Village** (build affordable housing around the world), **Youth** (ages 5-25, their teachers/youth group leaders), **Women** (learn construction skills alongside other women in an unthreatening environment and do work for families in need), **Gulf Recovery Effort** (help hurricane-affected families), **RV Care-A-Vanners** (combines recreational vehicle travel with Habitat) and **Carter Work Project** (Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter give a week of their time. Held at different locations each year. November 2009 project is Mekong region - Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Yunnan Province in China).

TRAVEL WITH EMBEDDED VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

- **Tauk Tours:** (www.tauk.com) Est. 1925. Offers 130 different motorcoach and riverboat trips visiting 60 countries. On select Western US trips during the summer you may give several hours of vacation time (help maintain historic buildings, clean ranger stations, refurbish picnic areas, amphitheatres and trailways) in the **Tetons National Park**. @1500 people/year.
- **Classic Escapes** (www.classicescapes.com) Est. 1987. Offers nature and cultural journeys. Works with major zoos and Audubon Societies. **Global Philanthropy** program embeds 1-1.5 days of philanthropic work into their trips. In Morocco, spend a day in Casablanca volunteering at a community center offering education/medical programs for women & children. In Panama, carry dry food/clothing to a program protecting poor children from working and a foundation that provides food at school for 1,000 poor children.
- **GAP Adventures/Planterra Foundation:** (www.gapadventures.com) Est. 1990. Canadian company founded on the belief that other travelers should experience authentic adventures in a responsible and sustainable manner. Planeterra is G.A.P Adventure's non-profit organization arm developed to give back to the people/places they visit on their tours. Embedded projects include helping Peruvian street children, working at an organic farm in Ecuador, developing a daycare program for a village in South Africa and refurbishing an orphanage in Zambia. Book by July 15 and save \$200pp.
- **Holland America** (www.hollandmaerica.com) (<http://ww5.komen.org/Content.aspx?id=14314>) On Deck for the Cure® is a fundraising walk for breast cancer founded by Holland America Line in 2006 and now involves four more Carnival Corporation cruise lines – Carnival, Seabourn, Costa and Princess. It is a 5K walk @10-12 times around the ship's promenade deck, held on a sea day. Cost is \$15pp. Cruise lines donate 75% of registration fees to Susan G. Komen for the Cure. □□
- **Abercrombie & Kent** (www.abercrombiekent.com) Est. 1962. A & K provides luxurious travel experiences. 62 offices worldwide. Offers **Philanthropic Journeys** focusing on conservation and humanitarian efforts. Projects include delivering weather monitoring equipment to Mt. Kilimanjaro, helping out at a baby elephant sanctuary in Thailand and visiting a school for girls in Jordan as part of a school rehab project adopted by A & K. \$50 donation from trip cost buys a classroom space heater.

TRAVEL WITH DONATION OPTIONS

1. **Lindblad Expeditions:** (www.expeditions.com) Est. 1979. Offer expedition marine travel worldwide. Cruises to the Galapagos Islands that include time with experts from the Charles Darwin Foundation. \$250 of trip cost goes to foundation's giant tortoise breeding program.
2. **Micato Safaris:** (www.micato.com) Est. 1966. Safari operator in Africa. Harumbee Center in Kenya is supported by Micato's foundation, AmericaShare. It's a boarding school for children of Nairobi's slums. \$1500 sponsors a child for one year.
3. **KidCares:** (<http://www.nwa.com/corpinfo/aircares/feature/>) Donate 25,000 WorldPerks miles for one roundtrip Northwest Airlines ticket to fly sick children and their guardians for medical treatment.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF ABOUT A VOLUNTEER VACATION

1. Why do I want to do this?
2. What percentage of my trip do I want to dedicate to volunteering and to vacation?
3. What services would I like to perform?
4. What travel experience do I have?
5. What volunteer experience do I have?
6. How much money can I afford to spend?
7. How much time do I have?
8. What is my minimum accommodation requirement?
9. How sensitive am I to deprivation, poverty, starvation and health issues?
10. What climates can I tolerate – Extreme temperatures? Humidity?
11. What food preferences or aversions do I have?
12. Do I have personal health issues that would require me to be close to sophisticated medical care?
13. How good are my people skills?

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