



The Adventure of a Lifetime

You can do so much more than look.
Immerse in a culture and help those in need.



What is a Volunteer Vacation?

It's a chance to change your life -- and to have a real impact on a community in need. It's about sharing a cup of tea in a dusty market, laughing with a family over a bowl of rice, getting a hug from an orphan.

A Volunteer Vacation is about so much more than a sterile hotel room and a luxury bus. It's about giving of yourself, learning about the lives of others, and getting back a huge amount in return.

People all over the world are finding the biggest adventure they've ever had is living and working in local, sustainable, wonderful projects that provide real help.

United Planet and ICYE

As an international non-profit organization (501c3), United Planet strives to create a world in which all people understand, respect, and support one another. For the past decade, United Planet has been providing services to communities and building cross-cultural understanding.

United Planet is the U.S. and Canadian member of the International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE) Federation. Founded in 1949 after World War II as part of an international reconciliation program, ICYE is well established in the field of cultural exchange.

Turn your vacation into an amazing adventure

"I had an amazing time volunteering in Tibet. The people were extremely warm, kind, and welcoming, always ensuring that I was content with my experience. I really felt like I was a Tibetan! I got to hang out with monks, ride motorcycles, cook Tibetan food, walk freely around the town, and even spoke a little Tibetan to local townspeople. It felt great to know that I was able to help a community in need and also have an experience that I will remember for the rest of my life."

—Ethan Barhydt, United Planet Volunteer

"I had a great experience with United Planet in Jordan. I enjoyed the volunteer work I was doing, but more than that I loved getting to know the people there. My coworkers, friends, and random acquaintances were all great hosts, eager to make me at home in their country. What's more, my host family was wonderful and really made me feel like a valuable part of their lives: I miss them already! Jordan is a beautiful country with a rich history to explore, but the personal relationships I formed were by far the best part of my experience."

—Daniel Foster, United Planet Volunteer



The Adventure of Immersion

Live in a home, work in a community.
From 1 week to 1 year in any of 40 countries.



What Will Your Volunteer Vacation Be Like?

You can choose the type of work you want to do. Work with orphans and street children; teach English; contribute to environmental preservation; help with reconstruction; empower women; provide healthcare; and more.

But your trip won't be all work!

You will also take part in wonderful cultural activities, depending on where you are: salsa dance lessons, language classes, cooking classes. And you will tour significant sites in the country: Petra, Machu Picchu, Dracula's Castle, rain forests, volcanoes, and more.

And you can choose to add on major excursions. Tour the Galapagos in Ecuador, hike the Inca Trail in Peru, visit a Crocodile Park in Ghana – and more!

Why Volunteer?

As the world gets smaller with each advance in telecommunications, tourism in its traditional sense starts to feel empty of meaning. Volunteering is one way to travel responsibly. Immersing oneself in a culture by living with a host family and working at local community centers can be both amazing and challenging at the same time.

If this is the kind of authentic experience you are searching for, please contact us for more information.

Oscar winner Hilary Swank on a United Planet Volunteer Abroad Program in India.

Who Can Participate

Short-term programs (1 to 12 weeks) are open to citizens of any country. Long-term programs (six months or a year) are open to citizens of the U.S. and Canada.

Some knowledge of a language is helpful, but not necessary.

What You Can Do

Teach. Care for orphans, street children, or the elderly. Participate in programs to empower women and girls. Conserve and protect the environment. Build and renovate homes and schools. And much more!

Where You Can Go

Choose from over 40 countries in Europe, Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, and the Pacific. See the website for a full list.