

*volunteer with*



*Protect unique wildlife*

*Teach English*

*Empower communities*

*Improve your Spanish*



**GALAPAGOS  
CUBA  
COSTA RICA**

INTERCULTURAL OUTREACH INITIATIVE



*nice to meet you*

## WHO WE ARE

IOI, Intercultural Outreach Initiative, is a Miami-based non-profit organization operating in Cuba, Costa Rica and the Galapagos Islands.

Our core mission is to support local communities and organizations in their efforts to protect their environments. We focus on areas of exceptional natural beauty and ecological significance.

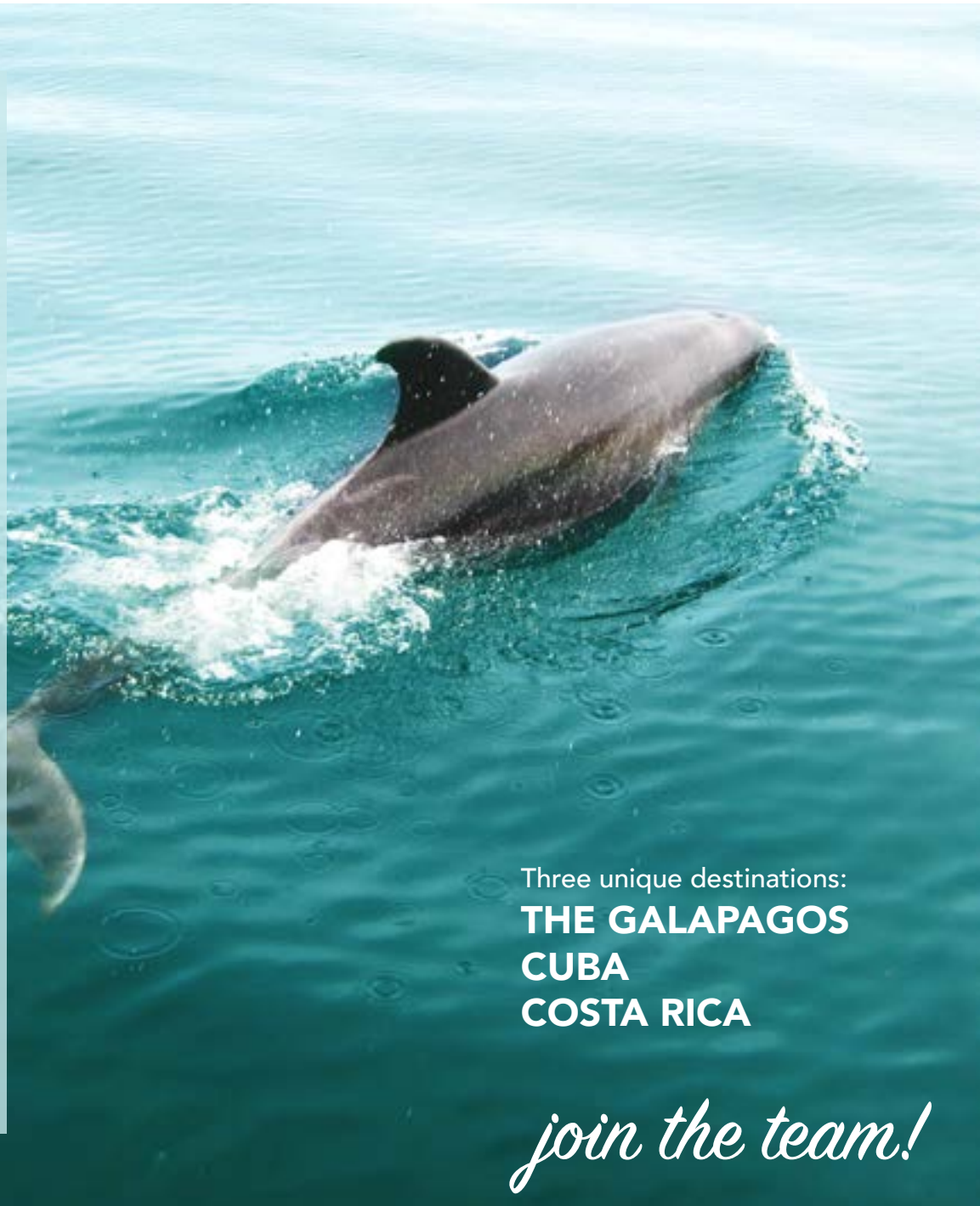
## WHAT WE DO

We run international volunteer-and study-abroad programs to support local conservation projects. We design these programs in collaboration with local communities and their institutions, creating or supporting conservation, education and social development projects.

Not only do these programs directly contribute to the conservation of the local environment, they also raise the quality of life of the communities, which is the underlying requirement to make any conservation work sustainable.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Join us on a life-changing adventure!  
This is your chance to have a real impact on the environment alongside their local communities.  
We offer three incredible locations and many projects to choose from.



Three unique destinations:  
**THE GALAPAGOS**  
**CUBA**  
**COSTA RICA**

*join the team!*

MORE ABOUT US ON OUR WEBSITE

**ioi.ngo**



# GALAPAGOS

The Galapagos Islands have long been steeped in ecological lore. Vast, sweeping beaches, rare, endemic species, all wrapped-up in a set of volcanic islands that straddle the equator.

The Galapagos were created between three and five million years ago by underwater volcanoes. Three major oceanic currents converge at the Galapagos, which contribute to the vast diversity of marine wildlife found in the archipelago.

Thanks to substantial protection efforts, 95% of Galapagos' original pre-human biodiversity remains intact, despite recent increases in tourism—making it one of the best protected areas in the world.



## *what we do there*

We assist the Galapagos National Park that manages the protected area which represents 97% of the archipelago.



Our continuous education program aims to increase gender equality and environmental awareness. Our participants act as multipliers of these concepts in their communities.

We work with the formal education sector, providing the leaders of tomorrow with the tools they need to protect their islands.



MORE ABOUT OUR OPERATION IN THE GALAPAGOS

**[ioi.ngo/galapagos](https://ioi.ngo/galapagos)**

# *pick your adventure*

## GIANT TORTOISES

In this position, you will work with the Galapagos National Park as a member of the staff at the Tortoise Breeding Center. You will feed and care for the tortoises and their eggs, assist the Park Rangers with the breeding program, and work directly with the public to educate visitors.

## TEACH ENGLISH

As an English Teaching Assistant, you will work with students in the local schools. You will support and collaborate with the teachers, and assist with everything, from teaching to lesson planning, to facilitating games.



## ECOTOURISM

As an eco-tourism intern, you will help the Galapagos National Park in tasks related to the management of nearby visitor sites. According to your specific skills and experience, your tasks may involve creating English language visitor information and educational material, monitor visitor sites and run satisfaction questionnaires, as well as generate statistical databases from your surveys, etc. The information collected will help the National Park make decisions in tourism management that might be crucial for Galapagos wildlife preservation and sustainable eco-tourism.

## TRAIL MAINTENANCE

You will assist Park Rangers out in the field with maintenance of visitor sites, trails and protected areas, clearing brush and weeds, cutting new trails, as well as replacing and maintaining signage. According to the needs of the National Park at the time, you will support in ecosystem-conservation and restoration activities such as controlling introduced species and protecting endemic species out in the field. Some tasks will require the use of basic tools (shovels, hand tools, etc.) and this position requires the physical ability to work outdoors with high sun and temperature exposure!

**MORE >>**

Volunteers can participate in several projects, schedule allowing.  
Contact our volunteer coordinator - **[volunteer@ioi.ngo](mailto:volunteer@ioi.ngo)**





## TURTLE MONITORING\*

In this role, you will handle critically important nesting baseline data designed to identify species, determine nesting patterns and monitor nest sizes. Such information is used by the Galapagos National Park to determine conservation zones and development policies.

\* ALSO AVAILABLE IN CUBA AND COSTA RICA  
DURING NESTING SEASON

Galapagos: Dec-May

Cuba: May-Oct

Costa Rica: year round



*this could be you!*

## AGRICULTURE

Support sustainability in the Galapagos by helping on a local farm. Learn local techniques for sustainable tropical agriculture, and help provide the population of Isabela with fresh local organic products. We are assisting the farms to optimize production year-round, reduce invasive species and carbon footprint and increase food sovereignty. You will seed, plant, harvest, do ground prep, water plants, pull weeds, etc.

## SPREAD THE WORD!

As the IOI social media volunteer, you will be in charge of generating content (photo/film/text) that accurately and meaningfully captures the nature of IOI's international presence and impact. You will work across the organization and collaborate with different team members in all departments.



## REGISTER TODAY

VISIT OUR [WEBSITE](#) or

EMAIL OUR [VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR](#)

# CUBA

Thirty air-minutes from Cuba's mainland lies an island with an amorphous historical identity and a vast array of endemic species. From treasure-seeking pirates to a booming marble industry, this 7th largest island in the Caribbean hides intriguing political, cultural and ecological secrets. Today, it is known as the Isla de la Juventud, the island of youth, and its reefs and protected waters are some of the most vibrant ecosystems in the Caribbean.

The small community of Cocodrilo with a population of 320 has been, to these days, essentially cut off from the world by a National Park—it is the forgotten part of a forgotten island! This separation from the world offers a unique experience for the rare visitor (only 8 to 10 visitors a month!).



Coral reefs are threatened worldwide by oceanic warming and acidification, as well as pollution, causing thermal stress, bleaching and die-offs.

Cocodrilo's reefs are especially important because they are so well-preserved. They are a window into the Caribbean of a century ago.

The currents from Cocodrilo towards the Yucatan Channel transport coral larva north thus feeding most reefs in the Continental US.



## *you can volunteer in*

### **REEF AND COASTAL HABITAT CONSERVATION**

As the Reef and Coastal Habitat Conservation volunteer, you will contribute to an ongoing initiative to improve and monitor marine and coastal-ecosystem health.

The data collected will help guide the environmental planning of this protected area.

Volunteers will snorkel to conduct this work, with the exception of the coral gardening and lionfish monitoring, which will require volunteers to scuba dive (certification required).

The rest of your volunteer time will consist of other habitat restoration work such as invasive species removal, reforestation, and conduct sea turtle monitoring on a nesting beach near Cocodrilo during sea turtle season (May-October).



# COSTA RICA

Costa Rica is a small, stunningly beautiful country with approximately five percent of the world's biodiversity. It is a land of native, free-roaming monkeys, hundreds of species of colorful birds and a multitude of diverse microclimates. El Jobo, located on the North Pacific coast, is on a small peninsula and was once a remote fishing town. Today, with the addition of a large resort and a general influx of tourism to the country, things are starting to change.



To ensure that the Green, Olive Ridley and Hawksbill sea turtles remain protected from poachers, critical information regarding their behaviors and precise locations is much needed. Information is key to long-term sustainability, and along IOI, volunteers play a pivotal role when it comes to spreading the word.



## *you can volunteer in*

### **MARINE CONSERVATION**

As a marine conservation volunteer, you will assist in ongoing sea-turtle and ray monitoring projects.

This will include:

- looking for nesting sea turtles
- monitoring the local ray populations by snorkeling and collecting data on the species, and occasionally tagging them to better understand their migratory patterns
- night patrols on the beach with members of the local community
- collecting data and tagging the turtles
- possibly sea-grass and coral-reef monitoring.

Your time will be divided among the activities and each day will vary.

# about your stay

We encourage all volunteers to stay as long as possible to maximize local and personal benefit. We encourage longer commitments by heavily discounting each additional week stayed. Minimum stay is 1 to 4 weeks depending on the position, maximum stay is 3 months.

Accommodation is provided by one of our carefully selected host families or in our volunteer housing. Our host families have experience with foreign culture yet provide an amazing local immersion experience.

## **GALAPAGOS** / Puerto Valamil, Isla Isabela

When staying in our volunteer housing, breakfast is not included, but you have access to our fully equipped kitchen facilities to cover your needs. Lunch and dinner are provided from one of the various restaurants in town. You simply sign for your meal and we'll pick up the bill at the end of the month.

When living with a local family, you will have breakfast and dinner with them. Lunch is provided at one of the local restaurant of your choice.

## **COSTA RICA** / El Jobo, Guanacaste

We offer host family accommodations only and all meals will be provided to you by the family.

## **CUBA** / Cocodrilo, Isla de la Juventud

We offer volunteer housing only. All meals will be prepared for you in-house, by your private local chef!



## **PARTICIPATION FEE**

*The program fee is necessary to cover logistics and your cost of living. Our overhead expenses are covered by other means, and thus, 100% of any funds that exceed your direct cost will go towards the project you are volunteering for.*

### **GALAPAGOS**

\$1,400 per week for first 2 weeks, \$300 per additional week

### **COSTA RICA**

\$700 for the first week, \$500 per additional week

### **CUBA**

\$850 for the first week, \$450 per additional week

*Discounts are available for couples, families and returning volunteers.*

## **REQUIREMENTS**

*Basic level of Spanish.*

*A genuine passion for conservation.*

*Ability to work independently as well as within a team.*

*Ability to adapt your schedule depending on the day-to-day needs of the local institutions.*

*Physical ability to work outdoors with potentially high sun, elements and temperature exposure.*



# why you should join us

- 1 It is a unique opportunity to gain insight and experience into the world of hands-on conservation and environmental management.
- 2 You'll be working collaboratively on projects that actively strengthen local ecosystems and empower local communities.
- 3 Breathtaking turquoise waters, long sandy beaches, amazing sunsets, incredible nature and wildlife. All at your fingertips!



## THANK YOU

Our volunteer opportunities, coupled with our study-abroad programs, allow us to support and develop projects in partnership with local organizations and institutions, which encourages the growth of the local communities. None of this would be possible without the engagement and support of our network of volunteers, students, partners and supporters.

100% of your donations go to the local communities via conservation and social development projects, and everything we do at IOI is focused on helping these communities to grow in a sustainable way.

To donate, please visit our website:  
<https://www.ioi.ngo/donate/>

*ask away!*

**What is the minimum age requirement for volunteering?**

The minimum age for IOI volunteers is 18 unless traveling as a family.

**What support will I have while abroad?**

While abroad, you will have all the resources and support you need. IOI is a small, friendly, family-like team who will be your support system before, during and after your trip. We are able to address any question or concern you may have, and we work quickly to take care of any problem that may arise during your time abroad. We are always here to help, and are on call 24/7.

**What's included?**

The participation cost includes food, full room and board, permits, visas, local coordination and training at each facility, local transportation, full access to our facilities, etc.—everything minus personal expenses and airfare.

**Is this different from voluntourism?**

"Voluntourism" is a new type of vacation that's rapidly growing in the travel industry. It is usually "tourist" focused, and the volunteering projects are often of limited impact on the environment and the local population. It is still a better way to travel than classic tourism, but IOI takes it one giant step further, to what we call "volunteerism." The volunteers take part in an existing project that has an actual and sustainable impact. Volunteerism is not a profit model, it's an impact model, and it results in sustainable, lasting improvements in our host communities.

*more questions?*



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