



## Teaching Project Don Juan in Ecuador



With your support, experience the power of empowering children and young people in a vulnerable situation and experience the magic of life in an authentic fishing village in Ecuador.

### General information

This magical dream project at the beach started in 2016 after the big earthquake in Ecuador in 2016, where hundreds of people died and left thousands of people without a home. Their mission is to improve the lives of the most vulnerable population - girls and women and teenagers – in northern Manabí through formal and informal education programs. Empower them so they may explore their full potential. With education in the dream centre volunteers can support to empower children and (young) people to increase their level of life; to empower them so that they can create and fulfil their dreams. With art, music, sports, theatre, environment awareness (organic garden, recycling ideas and cleaning beaches from garbage) the volunteer can support without needing an average level of spanish. There is an english-speaking volunteer coordinator at the project.

This project offers a unique opportunity for volunteers to support and empower kids and (young) people in a vulnerable situation. The volunteer gets the opportunity to live in a lovely authentic fishers village where there is a lot of scarcity, however, there is an abundance of happiness.

**Location:** Don Juan

**Duration:** minimum 2 weeks

**Type:** social project

**Experience:** 1<sup>o</sup>time volunteer

**Level of language:** Advanced to Fluent Spanish

**Age:** +18 years old



## Volunteering

Some examples of the activities

- o Showcase gender equality in your demeanor and interactions with others at all times.
- o Remedial reading, in Spanish, for children that are caught behind.
- o Homework assistance, in Spanish.
- o English teaching at the local school.
- o Organizing inclusive dynamics and games in the local school's playground.
- o Help maintain our organic garden
- o Help organizing activities that include: sports, art, music, theater
- o Reading English and Spanish books to and with the kids
- o Conversation with kids/teenagers about their dreams
- o Beach cleanups with the kids/teenagers
- o Create activities regarding recycle

On the first day, the Project Coordinator will show you around a community that had to rebuild itself from the rubble. The residents of Don Juan have organized to offer volunteers a series of workshops in which they impart their knowledge.

The volunteers will be part of the Intercultural Program: Knowledge Exchange. That is, if you come to teach us to sew, to recycle; if you know English or are coming to form a theater group; in exchange for your knowledge, the community will teach you how to: handle the machete, fish in an artisanal way, make starch bread or fish.

We believe all knowledge is useful and deserves equal recognition. Besides this, you will have an orientation meeting where general information about the activities during the following days will be provided. We will discuss your expectations, talents and passions and how you would want to use these as a volunteer and contribute to the project.

Now it is time to work... take into consideration that not all the days will be the same, so your activities will be defined depending on the daily needs, we count on your flexibility to help at the project.

At midday, you will have a three-hour break for lunch. This is a great opportunity for you to get to know the people of the community and their lives.

For the following days, the schedule is similar, working 5 hours a day, Monday thru Friday. The coordinator will indicate where you will be most needed, and of course if you have ideas, these are always welcome!!

Weekends are free, and if you need any further assistance to coordinate excursions or short escapes nearby, we are here to help.

## **What to do in your free time**

The project is located in the lovely and authentic fisher's village Don Juan in Jama.

The climate is tropical dry, has very low humidity and a nice sea breeze for 7 months of the year. The temperature varies from 21°C to 35°C depending on the time of the year.

There are some breathtaking beaches in Don Juan where you can enjoy your free time.

You can also visit the impressive nature reserve of the Lalo Loor dry forest, go to the vibrant coastal village of Canoa or visit Manta. Take some time to enjoy the local food which is amazing!

## **Location & accommodation**

Accommodation is in a homestay, living with an Ecuadorian family is a great way to be in total immersion with the language and culture.

All volunteers will have a private bedroom and a shared bathroom.

## **About Don Juan**

The project is located in the lovely and authentic fisher's village Don Juan in Jama, located about 190km (5-hour drive) west of Quito, Ecuador's capital.

While the town itself doesn't have an access to the sea, it's surroundings are full of beautiful beaches and breathtaking views from cliffs.

The project is set on what once was the ancestral Jama Coaque culture, an indigenous population from pre-colonial times that was considered to be one of the more advanced people in America due to its advanced techniques in pottery and metal work; and its influence can still be appreciated in the decorations of the town itself. Jama culture used to live off long distance trading by land or sea, which is still the main activity in the area.

## **What is included?**

- Administration fee
- Orientation meeting
- Local support coordinator on the project
- Project donation
- Accommodation in homestay
- 3 meals a day

## **What is not included?**

- Flights
- Medical insurance (mandatory)
- Bus tickets from and to the project
- Personal expenses

## **What to consider**

- You MUST be fluent in Spanish
- You will be invited to a google meets conversation before being accepted to this project.
- Arrival airport: UIO
- Projects start on Mondays.
- Available all year round
- Longer stays are possible
- Wi-Fi
- Maximum of 5 volunteers
- Volunteers need to be disciplined, responsible, self-motivated, hardworking, flexible, patient, pro-active
- The nearest medical center is 20 minutes away from the Center.
- The closest ATM is 20 minutes away.
- We recommend a weekly budget of U\$ 30.

## **What to bring**

- Comfortable clothing (cotton, long sleeves, long pants)
- Flip Flops/sandals
- Hat
- Sunscreen (minfactor50)
- Towel
- Repellent
- Sunglasses
- Personal / prescription medicines