



SOCIAL PROJECT CARTAGENA



Support different programs that change the life of the people of La Boquilla... Experience the other reality of the touristic destination of Cartagena .

The Dream Center Cartagena is made up of several projects that support the inhabitants of La Boquilla. This is a fishing village with Afro-Caribbean roots located in the northernmost point of Cartagena, for tourists it is a beach and rest area, while for its impoverished inhabitants it is the place where they work every day to try to bring food and money to their families.

Although exclusive hotels and luxurious apartments are also located in La Boquilla, there is a marked contrast between the part where people have invested the most and the part where its inhabitants have been forgotten by the government and have to subsist mainly on fishing.

In La Boquilla people have joined and formed foundations and projects to try to help the most vulnerable population. Some of these foundations receive external help, but all of them aim to give tools, support and care to children, youth and adults so that they have a better life and future. They carry out different programs where the volunteers could help.

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- Project donation
- Administration fee
- Orientation meeting
- 24/7 Local Volunteer coordinator emergency contact by Phone / Mail / WhatsApp
- Transfer from Cartagena airport to accommodation
- 20 nights accommodation in homestay
- One additional local experience per week

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

- Meals (they can be included upon request)
- Transfer to the airport in Cartagena on the last day (upon request)
- Flights
- Medical insurance
- Personal expenses

WHAT TO CONSIDER...

- Work starts on Mondays; you need to be in La Boquilla the Sunday before
- Longer stay is available upon request, bear in mind that 3 months is the valid time for the volunteer's visa
- Available all year round, except the projects that work with kids that close during school holidays in June and December
- Max of 4 volunteers at the same time
- Basic/Medium level of Spanish is needed to respond some tasks and to interact with locals
- Travel/Health insurance is highly recommended
- We recommend a weekly budget of 90 USD for meals, tours and mototaxis to go to the projects (each way cost between COP 2.000 and COP 3.000, less than a dollar). All the projects are located between 10 - 20 minutes ride from the accommodation.
- Work can be physically and/or psychological demanding sometimes. Volunteers need to be disciplined, responsible, self-motivated, hardworking, flexible, patient, pro-active

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

During your time of volunteering, you will have the chance to help in different projects. Two weeks before your arrival, we will schedule a meeting with the Project Coordinator. This meeting is the perfect opportunity for the coordinator to know you a bit better and manage your expectations. According to your needs, passions, talents, skills, interests, experience, and level of Spanish the coordinator will suggest which are the projects that will suite you better and then a draft weekly plan will be made.

Some of the projects where you could work are:

- Drumming Workshops, African Heritage Workshops, Parades and Cabildos (representatives of the community). In this project you can also help with Drum Manufacturing.
- Coconut Workshop and Community Work. Some of the activities you can do in this project are: Help to update their social networks where they sell the products made of coconut and help in making process of bracelets, earrings, bags and other products.
- Life Centre for elderly people which organizes doctors' and physiotherapists' days, domino games, breakfasts and lunches, walks, reading sessions, talks and much more. In the center you can organize and participate in the activities for the elders.
- Center of stray dogs and cats. In this project you can help washing all the animals, feeding them, adoption processes, socialization, and awareness talks.
- Rehabilitation and restoration of young people, awareness and prevention of psychoactive substances, development schools for parents, care of children with craft workshops and talks with games to sensitize 35 children and 30 young people.
- Children of church, where you can help to prepare and distribute lunch for the kids.
- Work with the children of La Boquilla, between 3 and 12 years old. Through education and support of the youngest members of La Boquilla, you will help to increase opportunities in this marginalized neighborhood. You can also teach English, music, art, drama or other things to the children, and organize games and practice sports.
- To work in the projects with kids it is necessary to have previous experience
- working with children and a medium level of Spanish
- Also, to work in the projects with kids you should have an insurance against risks and accidents, this can be purchased locally with your Project Coordinator and the price is around 1 USD per day.

A NORMAL DAY AS A VOLUNTEER

You will arrive in Cartagena during the weekend, and we will be waiting for you to take you to your accommodation, once you've settled in you will have the rest of the weekend to enjoy on your own.

On Monday, your first working day you will meet the Project Coordinator. You will talk a bit more about the following days, task, projects, schedules and of course about how to move in the city. You will have time to go around La Boquilla and the mangroves. On this day you will finish the week work plan. The coordinator will indicate you where you will be most needed, and of course if you have ideas, these are always welcome!!

The rest of the week you will assist to the designated projects. The working schedule will be arranged by the Project Coordinator. Depending on your interest and disposal you could work 4, 6, or 8 hours per day from Monday to Friday.

Weekends and national holidays (in case there are any during your stay) are also free. And remember we have one surprise activity prepared for you. The coordinator will give you the details. And if you need any further assistance to coordinate excursions or short escapes nearby, we are here to help.

LOCATION

Arrival airport: Cartagena (CTG)

This city overflows with romanticism and is shrouded in history from when the Spanish first discovered gold in the tombs of Sinu to the five dreadful sieges on the city by pirates in the 16th century, including the most famous (or infamous) one which was led by Sir Francis Drake!

The city is perfect to just stroll around and soak up the relaxing and sensual atmosphere. La Boquilla is a community of Afro-descendants dedicated mostly to tourism and fishing, is in what could be called the “entrance” of the Ciénaga de la Virgen.

The average temperature in Cartagena and La Boquilla is 27°C.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation is at the Project Coordinator’s house.

Depending on the availability you will have a private room with bathroom and AC. The other room is private but with shared bathroom and a fan.

You can buy food and leave it at the house, you can use the refrigerator and the kitchen to cook your own meals in case you did not include the meals package that we offer.

The Project Coordinator can host 2 people at the same time. If her house is not available, you will stay at a family hotel owned by one of the collaborators of the Dream Center. There you will have your own room with private bathroom and AC. This family hotel is located at 10 minutes walking distance from the Projects Coordinator’s house and 10 – 20 minutes by mototaxi to the projects.

WiFi is available at the homestay and the family hotel.

WHAT TO DO IN YOUR FREE TIME

During your free time you can enjoy the beach in La Boquilla, you can visit Cartagena’s old center on your own or do an optional activity such as:

City tour by bike: Enjoy a guided city tour by bicycle through the historical center (the walled city) and Getsemaní.

- Visit the Rosario Islands: Located off the coast of Cartagena, at 100 Km you will find the Rosario Islands. An archipelago made of 28 islands approx. in the middle of the Caribbean Sea. You can visit one of the islands relax on the white sand beaches, bath in the crystal waters and enjoy a lunch full of Caribbean flavors.
- Bay tour of Cartagena: Savor the warm, calm waters of the Bay of Cartagena and enjoy the breathtaking sunset in the Caribbean Ocean and the beautiful night view over the downtown area and the historic center of the city. With a cocktail in your hand and the fresh breeze in your hair you can enjoy the Caribbean atmosphere at its best.
- Kitesurf in La Boquilla: On the Kite Beach, our kite school staff will be waiting to teach you the basics of one of the coolest and funniest water sports in the world. Kite, SUP, windsurfing and surf lessons are offered. The courses take place in private lessons or in a group. If you already know how to kite, surf or SUP, you can borrow the equipment at the school.

- Street food tour in the old center: The 2-hour tour will get you up close and personal with the real Cartagena as the street sellers fill our bellies with their delicacies and warm our hearts with their hospitality.

You can book the optional activities on spot with your Project Coordinator.

Taxis from la Boquilla to the old center costs between COP12.000 and COP 15.000 (USD 4 approx.)

WHAT TO BRING

- Small backpack to carry around your personal belongings
- Comfortable clothing (shorts, t-shirts, shirts)
- Flip-flops / sandals
- Tennis shoes
- Hat
- Sunscreen (min factor 50)
- Towel
- Bathing Suit
- Sunglasses
- Insect repellent
- Personal / prescription medicines. Do take in consideration that although there are pharmacies in town, you must bring your personal medication (to last the duration of your stay) if you need any

Experience is not something that happens to you, it is what you do with what happened to you.