



Puma's natural reserve



Program Highlights:

Volunteers have come from all over the world with open hearts ready to lend a hand. In return, we offer training in areas such as construction with alternative materials, nutrition and wild animal handling, tourism, conservation, etc. We invite the volunteer to share an unforgettable experience in Puma's Natural Reserve.

Overview:

You join a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of the environment. The main objective is to create a connection between man and nature; through this connection people develop compassion and a sense of responsibility towards Mother Nature.

The puma is our emblem. We strive to create awareness of the puma's condition in Córdoba as well as the rest of the country. Through education and investigation, we have created different programs to improve the status quo of the flora and fauna that enrich the puma's habitat. The puma being not only an umbrella species is a keystone species, the biodiversity and abundance of other species is directly linked to its presence.

We received animals that were trapped, while others were part of the exotic pet traffic. Some of them are injured and have to live at the reserve forever but some others can live free in their natural environment.

We also have other rescued animals such as the indigenous Eagle (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*), ferrets (*Galictis cuja*), monkeys (*Alouatta Carayá*), Llamas, *Myocastor coypus*, peacocks, rabbits, hens, owls, ducks, parrots, etc.

The reserve is located in a beautiful area about 90 km's southwest of the city of Cordoba, looking towards the Andes. Our dream is to restore the mountain range to a more natural state. After 20 years of working alongside Mother Nature we are going to take on a transforming task.... This small piece of mountain range has been affected by forest fires and urbanization. It will be restored to include native species of flora and fauna that aims at maintaining our slogan alive "one that looks after with the stealth of a puma"

We are open to tourism. This allows us to establish direct communication with people and hopefully create a connection between them and their environment. "We care for what we love, we love what we know, and we know what we are taught". We also offer courses and workshops year-round on different topics such as large felines, birds of prey, snakes and arachnids, Córdoba's Mountain range forests, etc.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Volunteer:

- **Environmental education:** Guided tours through the reserve for the tourist, Environmental education, Talks and workshops.
- **Environmental preservation:** Exotic species control, Seed Bank (recollecting and selecting seed of the different native species).
- **Environmental enrichment** (activities carried out for the animals' welfare), Organic gardening, Animal handling
- **Investigation:** Help the investigator, Check trap cameras.
- **Maintenance:** Trails and posters maintenance, Cleaning, Waste management for recycling.

The volunteers will be working 9 hours per day having 1 day off per week.

Requirements to apply:

- You must be in general good mental and physical health to be able to participate. In addition:
- You must be respectful of other cultures.
- You must be tolerant towards others and respect the differences.
- You must welcome team work but also be able to work alone.
- You must be able to speak and understand Spanish or English.
- You must be at least 18· You have to be a proactive person; we welcome volunteers with initiative.
- It is very important that volunteers who apply for this position love animals and Nature.
- Vaccines required by your home country and Argentina. The project additionally requires that the volunteer have the tetanus vaccine.
- Health insurance.
- Clean Bill of Health signed off by your healthcare provider stating that the volunteer is cleared to work

Dress Code:

Simple and comfortable clothes, long trousers, bermudas, T-shirts & shirts with long and short sleeves, sweatshirt, sturdy shoes, boots or willies, sunglasses, hat or cap, sunscreen lotion, mosquito repellent. Flashlight, Binoculars (optional), Work gloves (example: garden gloves), Dishwashing gloves (are useful when feeding carnivores). You can buy them when you arrive to Córdoba City.

Transportation

Transportation to the project is not included in the program. You will have to take a 2,5-hour bus ride (8 €).

Accommodation

Volunteers sleep onsite in the communal accommodation provided for them. Each bedroom has 5 beds with mattresses; you will need to bring your own sleeping bag. The bathroom is a shared space. In winter, temperatures are below zero; our homes are rather cold as compared to homes in Europe.

It is a good idea to bring warm clothing! In summer temperatures are above 30°C. You will need to have comfortable clothes. The volunteer will have the possibility of access to a washing machine once a week.

Airport Transfers

We will pick you up upon arrival; our transfer service will be waiting for you with a sign with your name. It is very important that you send us your flight information beforehand.

All participants arrive over the weekend. We'll pick you up at the airport and take you to the hostel. Please note that meals are not included at the hostel.

The transfer back to the airport is not included, you will need to take a taxi or a bus when you finish your project.

Orientation/Induction

On Monday at 9am we will meet for the cultural orientation meeting and the city tour. If you book Spanish lessons, you will also take a placement test that day and you will be assigned to a group of your level.

The Spanish course includes 4 daily hours of group Spanish lessons (20 hours per week). If there is not a group of your level you will take 10 hours per week of individual lessons. If you don't take Spanish lessons, we will coordinate your arrival to the project. The volunteer tutor will be waiting for you there.

Money

The monetary unit of Argentina is the Peso. On your first day on the city tour, the tour guide can show you where the banks and ATMs are, so that you can take money. Credit cards are normally accepted, especially VISA and MasterCard. Bank hours: Monday through Friday: 8am to 1 pm.

Things to do during your free time

This beautiful town (Villa Rumipal) has the privilege of combining two of the most characteristic components of the Cordoba landscape: beautiful white sand beaches, with crystalline rivers and a majestic lake. This town was extended to the side of a dam Embalse Río III, where you can practice nautical sports by sailing and fishing silverside. The lake offers tourists the charm of its river, the Santa Rosa River that meanders between its surroundings, forming a beautiful sandy beach under the imposing look of the small mountains.

One of the favorite pastimes of many visitors is to climb the hill where the famous tower stands. Only 2,5 hours away you can get to Córdoba Capital, which is the second largest city in the country. Its Jesuit heritage and its strong Spanish vividness result in a fascinating blend of past and modernity.

Córdoba is also a university city, home to several colleges and universities which endow it with a youthful and forward-looking environment in many different aspects. This is the reason why people from Córdoba are kind, friendly, and open-minded, and easily integrate their visitors and students, a really valuable distinctive feature.

The people of Córdoba are known as fun-loving folks with a fondness for cuarteto music, rally car racing, and the drink of Fernet and Coke. Feel free to linger over a long lunch, relax in the square with a coffee or ice cream, and meet a few of the laid-back locals.