



## **Horse Sanctuary Project – Argentina**

**Availability:** The project is available all year long.

**Project Start & End Days:** Sundays – Min duration: 2 weeks

**Project Workdays:** Volunteers work 30-40 hours per week.

**Age Requirement:** Must be 18 years or over

**Airport Pick Up:** Pick up at the Cordoba International Airport – on Sunday between 08:00 am. and 08:00 pm.

**Transportation:** Upon your arrival in Cordoba, we will arrange for your transportation from the airport to the hostel where you will be accommodated until Monday. During your stay at the hostel, you will have the opportunity to participate in a city tour and attend a cultural orientation session, which will familiarize you with the local customs and provide helpful information for your stay.

On Monday, a private transfer will be arranged to take you to the town where you will meet the volunteer coordinator for your project. The journey to the town is approximately a 2.5-hour ride. Upon reaching the town, you will be greeted by the volunteer coordinator, who will then accompany you on a 1-hour journey to the hills where the project is located.

This transportation arrangement ensures a smooth transition from your arrival in Cordoba to your final destination at the project site. We aim to make your journey comfortable and convenient, allowing you to focus on the meaningful experience that awaits you at the volunteer project.

## **Overview :**

In Córdoba, it is common practice to use horses to collect recyclable garbage such as cardboard and plastics from the streets, which are then sold to recycling companies.

Unfortunately, this job is often undertaken by individuals who lack the financial means or education to properly feed and provide adequate care for the horses. Consequently, many of these horses are found malnourished and in poor health.

## **The Project:**

In 2013, Fondation Franz Weber (FFW) established the Sanctuary in the hills of Cordoba, Central Argentina, as a response to the prevalent suffering experienced by horses throughout Latin America.

This sanctuary, situated on a 312-hectare property featuring green meadows, forests, mountain pastures, and a river, serves as a haven of peace, beauty, and freedom for animals.



The project aims to provide a refuge for horses that were previously used in rubbish collection, offering them much-needed medical care and ensuring their well-being. Through this campaign, significant progress has been made in liberating thousands of horses from their distressing conditions and replacing them with motorized vehicles across Latin America.

The sanctuary grants these horses a new lease on life, providing them with peace and dignity. 160 horses, 4 ponies, 7 donkeys, 3 pygmy donkeys, 2 mules, 14 cows, 1 buffalo, 23 goats, 11 sheep, 25 pigs, 3 wild boars, 4 llamas, 25 dogs and 10 roosters currently live at the Sanctuary. After a miserable existence knowing nothing but drudgery, suffering and mistreatment, they have begun a new life here. All the more now, our team loves and cares for these liberated animals.

The project team at our sanctuary consists of a dedicated group of individuals with diverse backgrounds and expertise. The team typically includes 5-6 permanent staff members, including biologists, scientists, and a veterinarian. Their knowledge and experience contribute to the overall management and care of the sanctuary.

In addition to the permanent staff, the team is supported by a group of 4-5 volunteers.

Yet, there is still so much to do. Tens of thousands of rubbish-collection horses are waiting to be freed in Argentina alone. There is great support for the movement within government and society. However, political progress often takes time, hence plenty of patience is required.

- ✓ We prioritize the careful and sustainable development of the sanctuary and its infrastructure to accommodate a larger number of horses.
- ✓ We actively collaborate with the authorities, particularly in the areas of confiscating and rescuing abused animals, as well as rehabilitating injured animals.
- ✓ We also collaborate with educational institutions to educate the public and raise awareness about animal welfare issues.
- ✓ Additionally, we create progress reports to serve as a pioneering model for the development of similar sanctuaries, showcasing our approach and sharing our experiences with others.

## **Roles and Responsibilities of the Volunteers:**

Volunteers at a sanctuary play a vital role in supporting the well-being and daily operations of the facility. Some common tasks that volunteers may engage in at a sanctuary include:

***Animal Care:*** Volunteers assist in the care and maintenance of the animals at the sanctuary. This can involve feeding, grooming, and providing clean water for the animals. They may also help with exercise and enrichment activities.

***Cleaning and Maintenance:*** Volunteers help keep the sanctuary clean and well-maintained. This includes tasks such as cleaning animal enclosures, sweeping or mopping floors, and tidying up common areas.

**Rehabilitation and Medical Care:** Depending on the needs of the sanctuary, volunteers may aid in the rehabilitation of rescued animals. This can involve assisting with physical therapy, administering medications, or providing specialized care under the guidance of veterinary staff.

**Environmental Enrichment:** Volunteers contribute to creating a stimulating and enriching environment for the animals. This may include creating and setting up toys, puzzles, or other forms of enrichment activities to keep the animals mentally stimulated and engaged.

**Construction and Repair Work:** In some cases, volunteers may assist with construction or repair projects at the sanctuary. This could involve building or repairing animal enclosures, fences, or other necessary infrastructure.

**Education and Outreach:** Volunteers may participate in educational programs and events aimed at raising awareness about animal welfare and the sanctuary's mission. Volunteers are provided with training and guidance to ensure the safety and well-being of both the animals and the volunteers themselves.

## REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY:

To volunteer at our horse sanctuary, please consider the following requirements:

- ✓ **A minimum commitment of 2 weeks** is required for volunteers at our horse sanctuary. This duration allows for meaningful involvement in the daily operations, bonding with the horses, and contributing to the overall mission of the sanctuary. It also provides an opportunity for volunteers to gain a deeper understanding of the work involved and make a significant impact during their time with us.
- ✓ **Tolerance and Respect:** It is essential to be tolerant of others and to respect individual differences within the sanctuary community.
- ✓ **Collaboration and Independence:** Volunteers should be comfortable working both in a team environment and independently when required.
- ✓ **Language Skills:** Proficiency in either Spanish or English, both spoken and understood, is necessary to effectively communicate with the sanctuary staff and fellow volunteers.
- ✓ **Minimum Age:** Volunteers must be at least 18 years old to participate in our program.
- ✓ **Proactive Attitude:** We value volunteers who are proactive and demonstrate initiative in their work, taking proactive steps to contribute to the sanctuary's operations and welfare of the animals.
- ✓ **Passion for Animals and Nature:** It is crucial that volunteers applying for this position genuinely love animals and have a strong appreciation for nature.

- ✓ **Good overall mental and physical health:** This ensures that you are capable of actively engaging in the volunteer activities and can handle the physical demands associated with working at the horse sanctuary. Prioritizing your well-being will allow you to contribute effectively and maintain a positive experience throughout your time as a volunteer.

Please keep in mind that these requirements are in place to ensure a positive and successful volunteering experience for both the sanctuary and the volunteers.

## **Accommodation & Meals:**

The volunteer house at the project site is equipped with beds and mattresses, with a capacity of accommodating up to 6 volunteers per room. However, it is advised that volunteers bring their own sleeping bag for added comfort during their stay.

Additionally, the volunteer house features a kitchen where volunteers can prepare their meals. There is also a private bathroom for the convenience of the volunteers.

Vegan Meals at the project are included, and both volunteers and permanent staff dine together at the main house. Volunteers also contribute to meal preparation and participate in cleaning duties within the houses.

By fostering a sense of shared responsibility, volunteers become actively involved in maintaining a clean and organized living environment while also fostering a sense of community through shared meals and collaborative tasks.

## **Extra Information:**

**Dress Code:** Long trousers and Bermudas, T-shirts and shirts with long and short sleeves: Choose breathable fabrics to stay comfortable in different weather conditions, Sweatshirt, Sturdy shoes, boots, or wellies: Opt for closed-toe footwear that provides stability and protection while working around the horses. Sunglasses, Hat or cap, Sunscreen lotion and Mosquito repellent

By being well-prepared with the suggested clothing and accessories, you can ensure your comfort, safety, and enjoyment throughout your volunteering experience at the sanctuary.

**The weather:** Cordoba experiences varying weather conditions throughout the year, with the potential for both hot and cold temperatures. During the summer months (September – April), temperatures can range from 29°C to 40°C, creating hot and sometimes sweltering conditions. In contrast, winter (May – August) temperatures in Cordoba can drop to as low as 2°C, with average temperatures ranging from 15°C to 18°C.

It's important to note that these temperature ranges are general and can vary depending on the specific location within Cordoba.



It is a common misconception that all Latin America has a consistently hot climate, but in the case of Argentina, including Cordoba, the weather can be quite cold during the winter season, particularly in mountainous areas where the project is located. It is advisable to pack clothing suitable for layering to adapt to changing temperatures and to ensure comfort throughout their stay.

### **Things to do in free time:**

The town's natural beauty, cultural richness, and holistic community make it a compelling destination for visitors seeking relaxation, connection with nature, and unique cultural experiences.

- Explore the Natural Beauty The area is known for its scenic beauty and natural surroundings. Take the opportunity to hike or walk along the various trails and enjoy the stunning landscapes, including mountains, forests, and beautiful rivers.
- Visit the Town Center: The town itself has a charming and laid-back atmosphere. Take a stroll through the town center, explore the local shops, boutiques, and handicraft markets, and immerse yourself in the local culture.
- Attend Cultural Events: The nearest town is home to vibrant arts and culture scene. Check out the local events and festivals that showcase traditional music, dance, and art. These events provide an excellent opportunity to experience the local culture first hand.

