

A woman with dark hair, smiling, is holding three brown howler monkey babies. One baby is on her left shoulder, one is on her right shoulder, and one is in her arms. The background is a blurred green forest. The text 'Ecuador' is written in a white script font above 'AMAZON RESCUE CENTER', which is in a bold pink sans-serif font.

Ecuador
**AMAZON RESCUE
CENTER**

PUYO
ENVIROMENTAL
PROJECT

CONSERVATION
& WILDLIFE



THE ANIMAL RESCUE CENTER IS...

A unique jungle experience dedicated to caring for injured animals, nursing them back to health, and preparing them for a return to their natural habitat. Founded in 2006, this center is committed to safeguarding Amazonian wildlife through the rescue and rehabilitation of local flora and fauna.



Puyo,
Ecuador



Minimum
2 Weeks -14
nights



Basic
Spanish



1st Time
Volunteer



Minimum
18 years old

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Immerse yourself in a unique jungle experience dedicated to caring for injured animals, nursing them back to health, and preparing them for a return to their natural habitat. Founded in 2006, this center is committed to safeguarding Amazonian wildlife through the rescue and rehabilitation of local flora and fauna.

The animals at the center have faced abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Many were orphaned when their parents were killed by hunters, rescued from traffickers, or removed from captivity where they were kept as pets. Sadly, most have endured physical or psychological trauma.

Some animals are handed over by government authorities, while others arrive voluntarily from families who realize that wild animals do not belong in domestic settings. Currently, the center cares for at least 40 different species, including ocelots, tayras, capybaras, parrots, Red and Yellow Macaws, Red Titi Monkeys, White-bellied Spider Monkeys, tortoises, and caimans.

Open to tourists with a small entrance fee, the center also relies on this income for support. This project provides a unique opportunity for volunteers to work hands-on with wild animals while living in the stunning Amazon rainforest.



WHAT IS INCLUDED



PRE-DEPARTURE VOLUNTEER
PREPARATION SESSION

DONATION TO THE PROJECT

ONSITE ORIENTATION MEETING

DEDICATED LOCAL SUPPORT
FROM A VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR

ACCOMMODATION IN SHARED
CABINS AT THE PROJECT SITE.

THREE MEALS A DAY, MONDAY TO
FRIDAY, WITH A BASIC MENU.
SATURDAY BREAKFAST IS INCLUDED.

NOT INCLUDED

- PRE & POST STAY IN QUITO
- MEALS DURING WEEK END.
VOLUNTEERS CAN USE THE SHARED
KITCHEN OR ENJOY LOCAL
RESTAURANTS IN PUYO.
- TRANSPORTATION TO/FROM THE
PROJECT
- PERSONAL EXPENSES OR OTHER NOT
METIONED

WHAT TO CONSIDER

ARRIVAL & STAY

- **Arrival Airport:** Quito (UIO).
- **Start Day: Monday;** volunteers should arrive at the project on Sunday.
- **Location:** Puyo, approximately a 5-hour drive from Quito.
- **Minimum Stay:** 2 weeks.
- **Availability:** Year-round.
- **Capacity:** up to 35 volunteers.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

- **Age:** 18+
- **Physical level:** High – you should be comfortable working in humid conditions, walking and performing hands-on activities.
- **Climate:** Hot, humid Amazon climate with frequent rainfall
- **Profile:** Responsible, hardworking, flexible, patient, proactive & team-oriented

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- **Internet:** Limited connection may be unstable
- **Suggested budget:** USD 80/week
- **Health:** Tetanus, Hepatitis A & B and Yellow Fever vaccines recommended
- **Insurance:** Travel & health insurance strongly recommended



VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES



Each activity contributes to the well-being of the animals and the smooth operation of the center!

Here's what you might be doing:

- **Daily Animal Care:** Attend to the everyday needs of the animals.
- **Diet Prep and Feeding:** Cut up fruit, prepare diets, and feed the animals.
- **Help New Arrivals:** Assist new animals in adjusting to the center.
- **General Maintenance:** Take care of maintenance and cleaning tasks around the center.
- **Construction Work:** Repair and build new enclosures to improve facilities.
- **Enrichment Activities:** Enhance cages and enclosures to keep animals engaged.
- **Training:** Train animals that cannot be released to reduce stress, especially during medical checks.
- **Vet Assistance:** Support the vet when needed.
- **Additional Tasks:** Engage in gardening, improve trails, and create signs for visitors.



A TYPICAL DAY AS A VOLUNTEER



On your first working day, you'll have an orientation meeting where we'll outline the activities for the upcoming days. We'll also discuss your expectations and explore your talents and passions to ensure your volunteer work is impactful for both the project and yourself.



After the orientation, it's time to get to work. Be aware that no two days will be the same, and your tasks will vary based on daily needs. We appreciate your flexibility to assist wherever necessary.



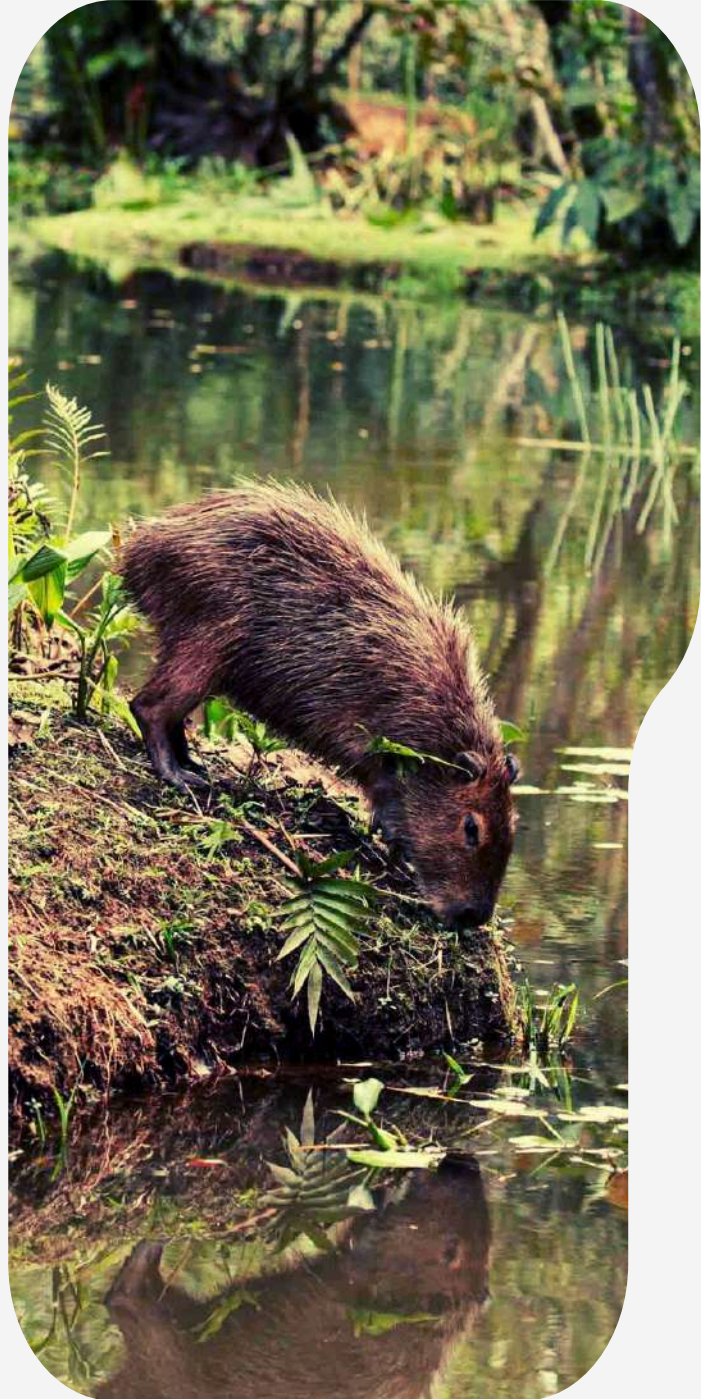
Lunch is served at the project from Monday to Friday, providing you a break around midday. You'll continue with your duties until approximately 5 pm. The rest of the day is free for you to enjoy.



Your schedule will follow a similar pattern for the rest of the week, with work from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. The coordinator will direct you where you're needed most, and we welcome any ideas you may have!



On Saturdays or Sundays, once every two weeks, volunteers work a few hours in the morning to feed animals. The remaining weekend days are free for you to explore and relax.



YOUR ACCOMMO DATION



The Animal Rescue Center offers simple yet comfortable dorm-style accommodation for up to 35 volunteers. The cabins feature shared bathrooms and a fully equipped communal kitchen, where you can prepare meals and enjoy the experience of cooking.



After a rewarding day at the project, the cozy social area—with a TV, DVD player, hammocks, and a selection of books—offers the perfect place to relax, unwind, and connect with fellow volunteers while enjoying the unique community atmosphere.

WHAT TO DO IN FREE TIME

Here's how you can unwind after volunteering:

- **Relax and recharge:** Kick back with a book in a hammock or play board and card games with fellow volunteers.
- **Explore Puyo:** Just 15 minutes away by car, Puyo offers a quick getaway for some local flavor.
- **Adventure in Baños:** About 1 hour and 20 minutes by bus, Baños is a hotspot for extreme sports and fun. You can enjoy thermal baths, dance the night away, or try mountain biking, rafting, canopying, and exploring waterfalls near the active Tungurahua volcano.
- **Jungle tour in Tena:** Venture 2 hours to Tena for an authentic jungle experience.



ABOUT PUYO

A vibrant gateway to the Ecuadorian Amazon



Puyo is a relaxed jungle town, easily accessible from Baños and surrounded by lush rainforest, rich biodiversity, and Indigenous cultures, including the Waorani, Kichwa, Zápara, and Shuar. The Zápara are recognized by UNESCO for their exceptional oral and cultural traditions.

With a warm and humid tropical climate, temperatures average 25–27°C, with frequent rainfall throughout the year—part of what keeps the Amazon rainforest so green and full of life.

During your time in Puyo, you can also explore places such as:

Omaere Ethnobotanical Park: Discover medicinal plants, Indigenous traditions, and Amazonian biodiversity.

Las Orquídeas Botanical Garden: Explore a 7-hectare sanctuary featuring orchids and native Amazonian flora.

Boayaku Malecón: Enjoy riverside views, local handicrafts, gardens, and Amazonian wildlife sculptures.

Ethno-Archaeological Museum: Learn about the history, traditions, crafts, and heritage of Amazonian cultures

WHAT TO BRING

- Comfortable clothing (at least 3 changes of work clothes)
- Rain jacket (rain trousers also recommended)
- Rubber boots (you can buy them in Quito; if your shoe size is over 40, bring them with you)
- Insect repellent
- Mosquito net
- Sunscreen (min factor 50)
- Pocketknife
- Sunglasses
- A hat for sun protection
- Flashlight/headlight
- Sleeping bag (not necessary but recommended)
- Useful items for the center (e.g., fabrics, old clothes, brushes, medicine for animals and humans, gloves for handling animals)
- Personal hygiene items (including toilet paper)
- Power converter for 110v sockets
- Travel documents (passport, copy of medical insurance, personal medication information, vaccine card)

Please remember to bring enough of your own medications for the entire duration of your stay with us. There are no pharmacies close by and having your personal medication with you is essential.





VOLU NTEER ING

Volunteering is an exciting journey to personal growth and self-discovery. When you dive into mindfulness volunteering, it's not just about helping others—it's about exploring, learning, and really understanding yourself and the world. It's all about staying open-minded, living in the moment, and being tuned in to what's happening around you.

Mindfulness practices aren't just for yoga class—they're about developing a mindset that boosts both your personal and professional life. They help you accept things you can't control and build up your own trust. Plus, they teach you to be generous and thankful for every bit of life's goodness.

Remember, changing the world starts with changing yourself. So jump in and see where this journey takes you!

You cannot change the world if you don't change yourself

A stylized, layered purple flower or leaf graphic, rendered in various shades of purple, positioned behind the text.

Ecuador **AMAZON RESCUE CENTER**

CONTACT US

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