



## **Animal Rescue and Community Development Projects in Ireland**



### **1. Animal Rescue program**

In this animal rescue program, you will have the opportunity to care for animals and take part in various tasks to support local teams. The shelters take in sick and orphaned animals that you will be responsible for looking after. Animal lovers who are hardworking and ready to get their hands dirty, you are more than welcome!

You can join this program in different cities such as Cork, Tipperary, Kerry, or Sligo.

This program can be combined with the community development program. Since the project requires a good level of energy and the working environment is usually noisy due to the many dogs in the shelter, the organization has been structured to ensure a pleasant experience for all. Volunteers participate in the shelter project three days a week (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays). On the other two days, they contribute to less demanding projects, mainly in community development.

### **Highlights**

- Authentic cultural immersion in an Irish community

- Opportunity to volunteer with international and local Irish people
- Volunteer work with different community projects
- Opportunity to be useful and make a difference
- Unique host family experience
- Friendly, safe, relaxed host communities

## Your role

**Volunteer work includes:** Feeding the animal, cleaning animal cages/enclosures, help with general maintenance (tidying, painting, fencing etc.)

Take part in additional program activities (city cleaning, sports center, charity shops, etc.). No specific skills are required to join these programs.

The shelter animals are mainly dogs, but also include cats, horses, pigs, and more!

## 2. Community Development program

This program is designed for flexible participants who want to experience more than one type of project. You will be assigned based on your profile and the current needs.

Your tasks will vary greatly from one project to another. Here's an overview:

- **Charity shop:** Assist with sales and customer interactions, ensure products are well displayed, sort donations, etc.
- **Community sports center:** Help maintain the building and sports facilities, assist with event organization.
- **Community transport service:** Support general administration, organize schedules, manage the database, etc.
- **Community cleaning:** Take part in community clean-ups with a local group to improve the local environment and make it a better place to live.

## Arrival and Orientation

Volunteers can arrive at **Cork airport** (well connected to Paris, London, Munich, Amsterdam and more). **Participants are picked up** by a driver who will be waiting with a sign displaying the participants' name.

Volunteers **stay at a pre-booked hostel for their first night in Cork city**. The hostel is located in the city centre, a very short walk from all the shops and attractions of the city.

After checking in, participants have some free time to rest and to discover Cork city. The hostel staff is very helpful and provides participants with information on what to do, where to eat etc. In the evening, participants will be brought to a local restaurant for a welcome dinner.

**On the morning of their second day**, participants meet the local staff at the hostel reception and will walk to the venue where the orientation workshop takes place. The orientation workshop lasts approximately 3.5h.

After the orientation workshop and their lunch, participants take part in a 2h walking tour of Cork City.

During the tour, they learn practical advice, cultural and historical information. At the end of the tour, participants are brought to the bus or train station and go to their project location. In some cases, depending on the location and availability of project mentor, the transfer could be done the following morning, after a second night in Cork city.

## **Departures**

Participants can leave either on their last **Saturday** or **Sunday**. The airports are well connected by public transport it is something participants find easy to do. **The cost of the return transfer is not included in the program.** We advise participants to book a flight **departing later in the afternoon** as it will take time to reach the airport by public transport.

## **Free Time and Excursions**

Ireland is a wonderful place to visit. From vibrant, exciting cities like Dublin, Cork or Galway or Belfast to breath-taking landscapes along the Wild Atlantic Way. Attractions include the world-famous sceneries of Connemara and West Cork, the ring of Kerry, the cliffs of Moher, the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin etc.

There is also a multitude of less touristic but equally interesting places to visit and activities to do such as whale watching in county Cork! CTL staff will give participants further information on visits and excursions during their orientation and in the welcome pack.

## **Accommodation**

### **Host family (up to 16 weeks)**

Staying with a host family allows participants to be fully immersed within the Irish culture. Every host family goes through a thorough selection process, we make sure our participants are placed with welcoming and supportive hosts. Host families comes in different shapes and sizes: e.g. parents and children with a spare room, a single host mother, or a retired couple. Families give participants an instant support system and help them learn the local language and culture. Most host family offer participants generally their own single room. On occasion participants might have to share a bedroom with another participant from the same gender.

Programs with host family accommodation are limited to 16 weeks. For participants willing to stay longer, a combination of 2 programs may be arranged.

### **Residential & Shared Houses**

Residential accommodation means that the participants are hosted in the project facilities. They are generally sharing the facilities with other international volunteers and can either have a single room or share a bedroom with other volunteers from the same gender. Volunteers find it enjoyable to share accommodations with likeminded people and they generally end up doing activities together during their free time.

# **SAMPLE ITINERARY**

## **Monday**

- Pick up and transfer (if arrival in Cork airport)
- Checking in at Sheilas hostel
- Welcome dinner

## **Tuesday - General Orientation Day and Transfer to Project**

- Pick up at hostel at 9.15am and transfer to the venue for the orientation
- Orientation workshop (3.5h)
- Lunch
- Walking tour in Cork city (1-3pm)
- Transfer to the project
- All meals included (breakfast at hostel)

## **Wednesday - Introduction to Project and Volunteer Work**

- Introduction to volunteer work with project mentor
- All meals included

## **During the rest of the program**

- Volunteer work continues 5 days/week
- 2 days off per week with free time
- All meals included except when volunteer leaves the project location during free time

## **Last day**

- Participant travels to the airport
- Departure transfer cost not included