

Gap Year



With over 200 projects in 26 destinations worldwide, why not become a responsible traveller and build volunteering into your gap year plans?

What do people mean when they talk about taking a gap year? It's a phrase that's often used, but can mean different things to different people.

Gap year can mean taking any extended time out of work or studies, or taking a break between school and college, college and work or between jobs.

Basically it's your chance to do something a little different from the norm, gain life experience, expand your horizons and CV/Resume while sharing your own skills and passions with local communities. It can be exactly what you make it.

As a gap year traveller, the world is your oyster. Whether you want to travel for 3 months, 6 months or a whole year, Kaya can provide you with great gap year ideas, for a once in a lifetime opportunity.

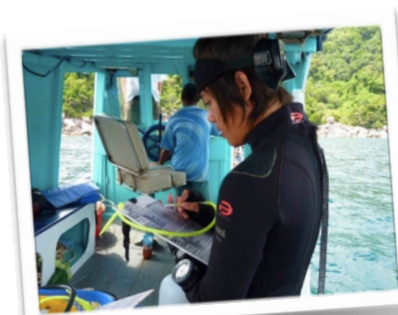
With gap year itineraries in Asia, Latin America and Africa this is your chance to get to see the real world, interact with locals, learn languages and understand cultures. Taking a Gap Year with Kaya will give you opportunities to

make lifelong friends, in depth cultural understanding and the knowledge that as you have travelled you have given back to communities along the way.



Whether you are interested in wildlife and conservation, community development, working with children, sports initiatives or getting your hands dirty on a building project, we can tailor the gap year to suit your skills, passions and interests. You can share your experiences and knowledge to help build the capacity of sustainable grass roots projects globally whilst having a great adventure.

Our gap year programs are flexible to suit your travel needs and personal schedule, so challenge yourself today and do something different with your time out.



Gap Year Profiles



Planning your Gap year with Kaya

Gap Year Packages

Gap Year: Round the World on a Budget

Gap Year: Community Volunteering in Asia

Gap Year: Wildlife Volunteering in Africa

Gap Year: Environmental Conservation in Latin America

To find out more about volunteering and the hundreds of project placements that Kaya can offer, visit www.KayaVolunteer.com or telephone **0161 870 6212** or **1.413.517.02.66**.

Gap Year volunteering



At Kaya, you can tailor your gap year by combining projects in any of our locations to suit your own needs and interests. This gap year brochure contains example itineraries and can also be modified to suit your needs. Projects can be completed in any order, for a longer or shorter period of time, and at any time, as long as the project allows. Kaya encourages volunteers to build in travelling time in between their placements, to take the opportunity to explore more of the place they are visiting and neighbouring countries .

At Kaya we can help you to build your personalised program and are able to offer a range of popular packages to provide you with inspiration at a great price. Here are some tips to help you get started.

What do I need to consider?

As you start to think about your gap year, there are a number of considerations such as:

🕒when you want to go - how long will it take you to save up, make plans get organised and be available to start travelling.

🌍where you want to go. Are there a set of countries you already have in mind or are you open to any location depending on the activities? If you are considering multiple locations, take a look at a map and set a route that makes the most sense

🕒what you might like to do. Consider the types of projects you want to get involved with, and if you want time off between projects to do some independent travel alongside your volunteering

💰what is your budget? Some countries are more expensive to visit and some project activities more to take part in. Can you spend longer in cheaper locations to stretch your budget?

Different approaches include:

🌍One country, One project: committing to one project for an extended period, getting fully immersed in the project work, community and location

🌍One country, Multiple projects: visiting 1 country, working on a couple of different projects with time off in between to explore

🌍Multiple countries in one region/location. visiting a couple of countries in a region / continent,

participating in several projects, with time off in between to explore

🌍Multiple countries around the world: booking a round the world ticket and choosing a volunteer placement in each continent, giving you an opportunity to find your feet and potentially meet other travellers.

Choosing your Gap Year package

We have some pre-designed gap year packages that have been put together that take into account popular choices and destinations, or you can create your own customised gap year package by speaking to one of our placement advisors . We will be able to discuss the options available at the time of year you are intending to travel, as well as having in-depth knowledge about the projects and destinations. At Kaya, most of our projects are available year-round making it very easy for us to create a package that suits your needs.



Next steps

Once you have decided on the gap year placement that most appeals to you, and have spoken to Kaya Advisor about availability, secure your place by completing the online booking form using the Book Now button on our website and paying your deposit.

Throughout the process Kaya's placement advisors will be on hand to help you to plan your gap year adventure. Also, they will be able to support you by providing information about a range of important facts such as visas, packing lists, spending money, excursions and more. So start planning your gap year adventure now and call one of Kaya's Placement Advisors to discuss your options.

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Gap Year: Round the World on a Budget

Project facts

- Duration: 12 weeks, 4 weeks on each
- Cost: £2690 / \$4708 for 12 weeks
- Requirements: age 18+
- Location: La Paz - Bolivia, Accra - Ghana, Rural Nepal
- Project activities: depending on your projects choice may include preparing activities & lessons, leading tours, road building, tree planting, running workshops, running a mobile library
- Working hours: Hours vary but Monday - Friday in all locations, some Saturdays in Ghana
- Project availability: Projects available all year round except school holidays, Christmas
- Arrival days: Saturday for all projects

What's included

- ☒ Accommodation: Shared room in a volunteer house in all locations, communal spaces, kitchens in Ghana and Bolivia
- ☒ Food: 3 meals per day in Nepal, dinner each week night in Ghana, self catering in Bolivia
- ☒ Airport pick up and drop off: Pick up El Alto airport in La Paz, Bolivia, pick up Kotoka International Airport, Accra, Ghana, Kathmandu airport in Nepal
- ☒ Training: Pre-departure information pack, on-site orientation and project induction provided.
- ☒ Support: 24 hour on site support and 24/7 emergency number for volunteers and families

What's not

- ☒ Flights to any destination
- ☒ Airport drop off in Ghana
- ☒ Meals not stated above
- ☒ Insurance
- ☒ Visas for all locations
- ☒ Daily transfers to and from your projects in any location
- ☒ Police background check: US and UK citizens processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

The projects

Travel the world and volunteer for less on your gap year by choosing our Round the World on a Budget package and combine fantastic volunteering opportunities, diverse destinations and cultures in Africa, Asia and Latin America to make the most of your gap year. Kickstart your gap year by volunteering on our fantastic [children's centre](#) or [sports coaching](#) projects in the Bolivian Andes. By volunteering on these rewarding projects you will be able to support the development of local children from underprivileged backgrounds, develop their self-esteem and improve their general well-being or help develop sports skills as well as integrating girls into sport. This is a brilliant opportunity to encourage gender equality and play by sharing your passion and knowledge for children who need a little extra care.

Volunteers can really help make a difference on [our mobile literacy project](#) which is a great way to generate interest in reading and learning, as well as providing access to materials in areas where none is available. By volunteering you can be sure that you are contributing the betterment of these children's futures. Alternatively participate on [agriculture for education programme](#) and support the education of adults and children by assisting with the planting and growing of crops to feed a school and generate an income.

On your last stop around the world help contribute to the [relief and construction](#) effort in Nepal, after the earthquakes that caused so much damage in 2015. By volunteering you will support local community development which focuses on women who do not have a place in society. You can choose to focus on an [agriculture initiative](#) or help on our [teaching project](#) by working with the children and local teachers. Whatever combination projects you choose you will have the opportunity to experience an eclectic mix of destinations, cultures and and invaluable volunteering experiences on your round the world gap year.

Role of the volunteer

As a volunteer your role will depend on the needs of the project. In Bolivia volunteers may work alongside teachers, care for the children, run football coaching sessions including lessons for children with special needs and participate in community environment work once a week. In Ghana volunteers may assist local educators, or get your hands dirty by helping with maintaining crops. In Nepal you can support local teachers with their own learning or provide homework assistance to children. Alternatively, help the women with their livestock or contribute to efforts with the rebuilding of homes and roads.

Skills required

Volunteers with all levels of experience are welcome to join us on these projects. Volunteers must be able to speak basic Spanish (level A1 Basic User of CEFR / and those wishing to help with homework will need level B1 or above). Spanish lessons to develop your skills can be arranged for an additional fee. Specific skills the projects are looking for are:

- Bolivia - trained teachers , experience working with children with special needs or those with a background in sports coaching.
- Ghana - no specific skills are needed, some prior teaching is useful or being physically fit
- Nepal - experience/study within training or teaching will be an advantage, positive attitude

All volunteers are asked to submit a copy of their CV/Resume and a phone interview.

Destination Overview

On this round the world gap year you will have the opportunity to experience the best of all the world has to offer in three distinctly different countries spanning Africa, Asia and Latin America. While in Bolivia you step outside of your own culture and become immersed in the indigenous Aymara culture for a truly authentic experience off the gringo trail. Make the most of the incredible natural landscape whilst in South America and visit the incredibly beautiful Salar de Uyuni Salt Flats, the largest in the world or the Cordillera Real, a six peak mountain range, which is one of the least trekked routes in the Andes. Next head out to Ghana, a politically stable, English speaking country on Africa's west coast and enjoy Ghana's bustling capital Accra and meet its warm friendly people; listen to live music at one of the many live music venues or sit down to delicious meal or plantain or other typically Ghanaian food. Ghana is renowned for its natural diversity and there are fantastic opportunities to check out the surfing culture at Cape Coast, visit the Ashanti capital or visit the mountains on the border with Togo. Finally arrive in Nepal, home to Mount Everest. Explore the remains of the ancient ruins in Kathmandu and gain an understanding of the impact of the quakes. Your gap year adventure is sure to provide you with an amazing cultural, food and language experience not to mention all the new friends you will meet along the way!

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Gap Year: Community Volunteering in Asia

Project facts

- Duration: 12 weeks (4 in each location) at specified times during your gap year
- Cost: £3315 / \$5801 for 12 weeks, 4 weeks spent in each location
- Requirements: age 18+
- Location: Jaipur, Himachal or Goa in India, Chiang Mai - Thailand, Tacloban, Philippines
- Project activities: English lessons, workshops and games, environmental, environmental conservation, building, chopping vegetables or dealing with patient notes
- Working hours: Varies from project, Monday - Friday in all locations
- Project availability: All year around.
- Arrival day: Monday - India, Thailand - Saturday, Saturday Philippines

What's included

- ☒ Accommodation: Shared room in a volunteer house in India, guest house during orientation followed by home-stay in Thailand, home-stay in the Philippines
- ☒ Food: 3 meals per day in India and Thailand, 2 meals per day in the Philippines
- ☒ Airport pick up and drop off from: destination airport in India, Chiang Mai airport in Thailand, Tacloban airport in the Philippines
- ☒ Training: Pre-departure pack, on-site orientation and project induction in all locations
- ☒ Support: 24 hour in each location
- ☒ 24/7 emergency number for volunteers and families
- ☒ Transport to and from your project each day in India

What's not

- ☐ Flights & connecting flights
- ☐ Insurance
- ☐ Visas for each country
- ☐ Transfers to your project site in the Philippines
- ☐ Police background check: US and UK citizens processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

The projects

Grab the opportunity during your gap year travels and spend some of your time volunteering on a range of fascinating community projects in India, Thailand and the Philippines. By choosing our community volunteering route not only can you take the opportunity to visit some amazing places but also immerse yourself in local culture and help the communities in which you will be living. It's a truly fantastic opportunity to take your gap year beyond the normal travel experiences.

Begin your gap year by travelling to India and select one of three locations; the hills of Himachal, the hustle and bustle of Jaipur or the beaches of Goa. Take in the country's amazing culture and all the sites and sounds whilst volunteering. You can choose a number of options and even combine some so pick from working on [women's empowerment](#), [childcare](#) or [teaching placements](#). All work with slum areas and poorer disadvantaged communities so you will really get to the heart of India's people.

Next head to Thailand to volunteer on our grass roots [community and conservation initiative](#) based in rural Chiang Mai. The project aims to support the local government in developing basic healthcare provisions education, a community based agroforestry project and ultimately to reduce poverty to the members of the community including ethnic Thais, Hmong, Lahu Lisu and Karen peoples. Volunteers can really make an impact by sharing their skills or by lending a hand to aid development of community services in this culturally and geographically rich Thai province.

Finally, head to the Philippines where you will be welcomed with open arms. Tacloban was one of the communities hit by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. Communities have been focusing their efforts of rebuilding and the city has rebuilt and repaired many of its structures, although many will not be replaced. Join us and participate in a [community nutrition project](#), helping to make and distribute nutritious meals, assist carers at a [childcare centre](#) or if you have the skills and interest help in [rural clinics](#). Whatever your interest, you are sure to gain an amazing insight into different cultures in Asia and the community initiatives taking place to support them.

Role of the volunteer

As a volunteer your role will depend on the needs of the project and your skill set. In India volunteers may be responsible for planning and leading classes for adults and children, running awareness sessions covering basic hygiene or playing games. In Thailand volunteers may get involved in a variety of activities including environmental conservation, community health awareness and education support. In the Philippines volunteers may be involved in preparing and delivering meals to poorer communities, assisting with the daily care of young children or helping nurses in rural clinics with paperwork and general clinic duties, if their skills permit.

Skills required

Volunteers with all levels of experience are welcome to join us on these projects. Specific skills the projects are looking for:

- India - teachers, childcare workers and volunteers with experience of special needs support are highly sought after, however, no skills or experience are required.
- Thailand - an ability to be flexible and help where the project needs it, team work and people skills are required.
- Philippines - volunteers should have a positive attitude and be able to work as part of a team

All volunteers are asked to submit a copy of their CV/Resume

Destination Overview

Use your community gap year to explore three distinctly different but equally wondrous Asian cultures. In India you'll head to one of 3 destinations, depending on your interests and availability at the time of your booking. Jaipur, the pink city, has a fascinating market to explore and is overlooked by the stunning fort, Goa has the beaches and is a good point to explore Mumbai on a weekend, and Himachal has the stunning mountains and tea plantations. There are plenty of opportunities for independent travel including trips to the Taj Mahal, Pushkar for a camel safari or Mumbai to see Bollywood. In Thailand travel to gorgeous national parks, go trekking through the jungle and island hopping in search of your own piece of undiscovered paradise. In the Philippines spend your weekends heading to the beaches where you can learn to dive. This Asian experience is sure to tantalise all of your senses and show you the diverse range of people, cultures and landscapes on this fascinating continent.

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Gap Year: Wildlife Volunteering in Africa

Project facts

- Duration: 12 weeks
- Cost: £5195 / \$9091
- Requirements: age: 18+
- Location: Port Elizabeth, South Africa, Livingstone, Zambia, Zanzibar, Tanzania
- Project activities may include: habitat conservation activities, meal preparation for wildlife, lion enrichment activities, lion monitoring, beach conservation, monitoring marine species
- Working hours: Hours vary depending on the project
- Project availability: All projects begin on 1st and 3rd Monday of the month with some closures over the christmas period
- Arrival day: Monday in all locations

What's included

- ☒ Accommodation: Shared room in a luxury dorm in South Africa, a volunteer lodge in in Zambia, beach bungalow in Tanzania. Communal areas in all 3 locations (pool in South Africa!)
- ☒ Food: All projects include three meals per day except Wednesdays in Tanzania
- ☒ Airport pick up and drop off: From Port Elizabeth Airport in South Africa, Livingstone International Airport (time restrictions) - Zambia, Zanzibar International Airport in Tanzania
- ☒ Training: Pre-departure information pack, on-site orientation and project induction provided
- ☒ Support: 24 hour support from on-site coordinator in each location
- ☒ Cap and t-shirt in Port Elizabeth
- ☒ 24/7 emergency number for volunteers and families

What's not

- ☒ Flights
- ☒ Transfers to Zanzibar island
- ☒ Insurance
- ☒ Visas
- ☒ Daily transfers to and from your project. in Tanzania
- ☒ Police background check: US and UK citizens processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

The projects

Spend your gap year in Africa helping to preserve some of the world's most magnificent but endangered species by participating in wildlife volunteering projects through Kaya. Join our projects in South Africa, Zambia and Tanzania and gain an insight into the many animals that live in this stunning continent.

Begin your adventure by volunteering alongside conservation and wildlife experts on a game reserve in South Africa. Here you will be able to see [Africa's big 5](#), the lion, African elephant, Cape Buffalo, rhino and if you are really lucky a leopard. In addition, you will have the opportunity to see birds, reptiles and plants that also live alongside these impressive animals. The reserve aims to enable wildlife to live in it's natural habitat.

Continue your wildlife adventure in Zambia by volunteering on a local project that aims to protect and rehabilitate one of Africa's best known and loved species - [African lions](#). As a volunteer you will contribute to the rehabilitation process and greatly increase the chances of these animals being released back into the wild as well as collect data which is used in important research. The project also has a community education focus which volunteers may also get involved with, which educates local people about the local wildlife and how humans and animals can live in harmony, the aim being to create a sustainable future for Zambian wildlife.

Your final destination, in on the beautiful white shores of Zanzibar in Tanzania. Here you'll volunteer on a [marine and dolphin conservation](#) project in one of Africa's best diving spots. This project differs from most marine conservation projects as it aims to manage dolphin tourism but in a sustainable way, in which dolphin welfare comes first. In order to do this the project needs volunteers to undertake general conservation duties, collect data, and work to educate the public on conservation issues regarding Zanzibar's fragile marine life and the role tourism plays in it. Volunteering on this project will ultimately contribute in determining the path of dolphin tourism and marine conservation in the future.

From elephants, to lions to dolphins, this gap year volunteering project is an incredible opportunity for you to meet some of the world's most popular species and contribute to their longterm preservation.

Role of the volunteer

As a volunteer your role will vary from project to project. Depending on the needs of the project at the time of your placement, in South Africa you may assist the team of guides, handlers and scouts, care for the animals, conduct field research, or help on community programs such as conservation or health education. In Tanzania volunteers may monitor dolphin behaviour, dolphin tourist interaction, research and monitor whales research on coastal activities like seaweed farming, teach english to local tour guides and develop and maintain the local resource centre. In Zambia, volunteers may give general support in the care of the animals and prepare food for the lions, assist the lion handlers in other duties and take part in the conservation work of the project.

Skills required

No specific skills are needed on any of these projects although a decent level of fitness is required. In addition an interest in wildlife and conservation is essential as well as a willingness to undertake the tasks required by the project. Cultural sensitivity is also essential as is respecting cultural and religious norms. Volunteers will be required to adhere to health and safety rules, and follow guidelines regarding animal interaction at each placement.

Destination Overview

Africa boasts some of the most incredible wildlife in the world and the destinations in this gap year volunteering placement really highlight the diversity and beauty of Africa's natural world. In South Africa volunteers may wish to explore the coast on the weekends in Graham's Town or Port Elizabeth, taking in some of the local music and arts scene too. There are opportunities to explore the famous Garden Route too, if you want to build int time between your volunteering placements. Head north to Zambia where you'll also find a huge range of activities to fill your free time and ideas for independent travel including trips to Nchanga open cast mine, abseiling on the Zambezi River, walking safaris in the renowned South Luangwa National Park as well as bungee jumping and to witness the largest fruit bat migration in the world. After taking in all Africa has to offer on dry land it's time to head to the stunning island of Zanzibar where volunteers can relax on the beach go scuba diving, or swim with whale sharks. Alternatively, visit the city of Zanzibar and explore the markets and sprawling passageways, or travel to Stone Town and learn about Zanzibar's tragic slave trade history. Further afield there are opportunities to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, go on safari in the Serengeti or see the Kolo-Kondoa Rock Art sites. There is so much to see you may even want more than your gap year to explore it all!

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Gap Year: Teaching and Childcare Volunteering in Latin America

Project facts

- Duration: 12 weeks
- Cost: £3295 / \$5766
- Age Requirements: 18+
- Location: San Jose or rural Costa Rica, Quito - Ecuador, La Paz - Bolivia
- Project activities may include: Preparing lessons, social activities, teaching English, supporting staff
- Working hours: Hours vary project to project, Monday-Saturday
- Project availability: 1st and 3rd week of the month, Bolivia, Ecuador, school projects open all year round except school holidays in all locations
- Arrival day: Saturday - Bolivia, Friday - Ecuador, Sunday - Costa Rica

What's included

- ☒ Accommodation: Home-stay or dorms depending on the project, Costa Rica, home-stay in Ecuador, shared room in a volunteer house in Bolivia,
- ☒ Food: 2 or 3 meals per day Costa Rica, 2 meals per day in Ecuador,
- ☒ Airport pick up and drop off: San Jose International Airport, Costa Rica, pick up and drop off from Quito International Airport - Ecuador, pick up from El Alto airport or bus station in La Paz, Bolivia
- ☒ Training: Pre-departure information pack, on-site orientation and project induction provided
- ☒ 1 week of intensive Spanish classes (20 hours) at a language school in Costa Rica
- ☒ Support: 24 hour support or on-site coordinator in each location
- ☒ 24/7 emergency number for volunteers and families
- ☒ Stay in a hostel in Quito including breakfast
- ☒ Local SIM card (deposit required) and mobile phone to use in Ecuador
- ☒ Transport by public bus to project in Costa Rica
- ☒ Cooking and dance classes on some projects in Costa Rica

What's not

- ☒ Flights
- ☒ Airport drop offs: In Bolivia
- ☒ Insurance
- ☒ Visas
- ☒ Daily transfers to and from your project in Bolivia, Ecuador and home from your project in Costa Rica
- ☒ Food: No meals in Bolivia
- ☒ Police background check: US and UK citizens processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check

The projects

Travel through South and Central America on your Gap Year and simultaneously combine three awesome destinations with three rewarding teaching and childcare volunteering projects to make the most of your time in Latin America.

For your first destination head to Costa Rica, famed for being one of the most diverse and protected areas on the planet, to undertake your first volunteering placement as an [assistant teacher](#) in either the hub San Jose or coastal regions. In these educational settings volunteers will be utilised as an additional resource to help facilitate learning in what are often under-resourced and overcrowded learning environments, offering aspiring teachers experience in a developing country.

After saying goodbye to the children in Costa Rica, why not travel before heading to your second placement in Ecuador. The slightly less conventional but by no means less effective [Education Outreach for Child Workers in the Markets of Ecuador](#) will be your project. Many children as young as three often work 10 or more hours a day in markets and the streets to financially support their families. This fantastic project brings education to the children in the markets in tents where educational activities are offered. The children can attend, whilst project staff simultaneously discuss the importance and benefits of education with parents. The project has proved to be hugely successful in recruiting children into schools and equally important reducing their working hours. Volunteers are needed to continue the work that the project has achieved to give children in Quito their right to education and help to end child labour.

Your final destination is Mallasa, a semi rural town close to La Paz the capital of Bolivia. Here you will begin your exploration of this tremendous continent and also undertake your first volunteering placement in a [local community childcare centre](#) by helping care for up to 90 disadvantaged children. There are endless activities for volunteers to get involved and assist in keeping the children happy and healthy as well as giving the children the love and attention they deserve. Volunteers are also helping the project to empower mothers by freeing up their time so they are able to find employment and generate an income. This can make a massive difference to the well being of all those in this impoverished area. The opportunity to spend time during your gap year contribution to the future of the next generation is one not to be missed.

Role of the volunteer

As a volunteer your role will depend on the needs of the project. In Costa Rica you volunteers will attend intensive Spanish classes during the first week of their placement. Subsequent weeks will be spent assisting local teachers, teaching English, helping with cultural classes, planning playtime activities. There may also be scope to get involved with the wider community. In Bolivia at the children's centre volunteers may work alongside teachers in the running of the centre and caring for the children. Every volunteer is expected to participate in community environment work once a week. In Ecuador you may visit two markets per day and assist staff with preparing lessons and teaching and uses creative methods by setting up pop up tents. Bring ideas, activities and enthusiasm to make the most of your placements.

Skills required

To undertake these projects a B1 Independent User level of CEFR Spanish is required. In Costa Rica you will spend 1 week attending intensive Spanish classes - perhaps make this the first of your placements?

- Costa Rica - some experience in teaching whether through study or practical work is preferred
- Ecuador - no specific skills or experience are needed, an interest in childhood education is needed
- Bolivia - trained teachers or those with a background in working with children

A CV/Resume will be requested for acceptance onto these projects.

Destination Overview

Latin America has some of the greatest biodiversity and spectacular landscapes on earth and should not be missed during your gap year. Costa Rica is the perfect place to rest and relax with a warm climate, postcard perfect beaches on the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean, although there are vivacious cities like the capital San Jose by night-owls who want to get there full of reggae-ton whilst in South America. Based in Quito, Ecuador, volunteers will be able to enjoy all of the amenities of a capital city. There are great options for independent travel; Mount Chimborazo, paragliding or biking in the Andes, exploring the cloud forests, snow capped mountains and coasts, and the Galapagos Islands, a must see for any visitor.

Your final destination, Mallasa, in the Bolivian Andes has a rich indigenous Aymara culture, which will provide a truly authentic gap experience off of the gringo trail. La Paz only 30-45 minutes away, has museums and cultural institutions if you are craving the city attractions. Travel further afield to the Salar de Uyuni Salt Flats, the largest in the World, the Cordillera Real, a six peak mountain range and one of the least trekked areas of the Andes or Lake Titicaca, South America's biggest lake. With so much to offer, Latin America is a must for your gap year.

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Gap Year: Environmental Conservation in Latin America

Project facts

- Duration: 12 weeks
- Cost: £4635 / \$7639
- Age Requirements: 18+
- Location: Caribbean and Pacific coastal locations - Costa Rica, Mindo Cloud Forest, Ecuador, Manu Biosphere Reserve - Peru.
- Project activities may include: night beach patrols, counting baby turtles, beach cleaning, research, data entry, amphibian and reptile surveys, support restoration of trails, plant seeds
- Working hours: Hours vary but may include early starts and late nights
- Project availability: All year round, except in January for the Costa Rica project.
- Arrival day: Costa Rica - Sunday, Ecuador - 1st & 3rd Friday of the month, Peru - Monday or Tuesday (speak to an advisor)

What's included

- ☒ Accommodation: Shared accommodation, Costa Rica. shared rustic house, Ecuador, shared room in forest eco lodge, Peru.
- ☒ Food: 2-3 Meals per day, Costa Rica, 2 meals per day, Ecuador, 3 meals per day, Peru.
- ☒ Airport pick up and drop off: Pick up and drop off in all locations and transfer to project site.
- ☒ Training: Pre-departure information pack, on-site orientation and project induction provided
- ☒ Intensive Spanish Lessons (20hrs) in Costa Rica
- ☒ Support: 24 hour support or on-site coordinator in each location
- ☒ 24/7 emergency number for volunteers and families
- ☒ Local SIM card and phone in Ecuador (deposit required and must be returned)
- ☒ Hostel in Cusco for two nights
- ☒ 2 nights in Quito, including breakfast
- ☒ EFR first aid and technical scientific training in Peru

What's not

- ☒ Flights
- ☒ Airport transfers
- ☒ Insurance
- ☒ Visas
- ☒ Transfer to project site in Costa Rica
- ☒ Daily transfer to the project in Ecuador
- ☒ Police background check: US and UK citizens processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

The projects

Informally known as the forgotten continent use your gap year to explore some of the world's most uncharted rain-forests and coastlines in Latin America on our environmental conservation gap year programme. In doing so, volunteers will be able to contribute to innovative initiatives, which incorporate environmental conservation work with interaction with local communities to find sustainable solutions to environmental issues in the region.

You will first travel to Costa Rica to volunteer on our [sea turtle conservation project](#), which are an endangered species due to poaching, introduced and natural predators. This project aims specifically to protect female turtles, their nests and eggs to ensure the survival of the species. Volunteers can actively contribute to their conservation by undertaking a number of activities on this project including nest patrols and releasing hatchlings into the sea. Volunteers may assist in the collection of scientific data into turtle behaviour to aid conservationists improve techniques that will protect the species in the future.

For your next destination you'll be heading into the heart of the Ecuadorian rainforest to take part on our [agro forestry and environmental conservation project](#) in the Mindo Cloud Forest. Human activities as well as global warming have ruined large chunks of Ecuador's rainforest. This project aims to achieve sustainability through agriculture and eco-tourism and focuses on maintenance and restoration of natural ecosystems.

Finally you will be heading for the world renowned UNESCO world heritage site Manu Biosphere Reserve in Peru to participate on a [biodiversity monitoring initiative](#). This project is truly sustainable, and it simultaneously works to protect and monitor the natural world whilst working with local communities on environmental education and environmental issues facing local people. It is the perfect way of examining the human impact on the environment and to look for sustainable environmental solutions whilst being surrounded by spectacular natural beauty and local culture. This diverse gap year programme really offers you a great insight into the challenges and solutions facing wildlife today.

Role of the volunteer

As a volunteer your role will depend on the needs of the project. In Costa Rica following one week of intensive Spanish lessons, volunteers will head to their project where they may collect eggs, go beach patrolling, maintain the beach, collect research and data amongst other activities. In Ecuador volunteers may undertake activities linked to conservation and sustainability through education, collection of seed, work in a nursery and the management of trails. In Peru volunteers may get involved in pit falling, mist netting, mammal transects, bio-gardens, agroforestry, camera traps, vegetation mapping, biomass project participation, amphibian bamboo trapping, sustainable land management and other tasks.

Skills required

To undertake these projects a B1 Independent User level of CEFR Spanish is required. Volunteers will attend 1 week of intensive lessons in Costa Rica at the start of their gap year. Additional classes can also be arranged in Quito and Cusco before your placement for an additional cost.

- In Costa Rica the project will require volunteers to be in close contact with turtles, and volunteers must be comfortable with this.
- In Ecuador those with a strong background in natural sciences are sought
- In Peru a basic level of fitness is required as well as an interest in conservation.

Destination Overview

Latin America is home to the most diverse and incredible natural landscapes on the planet as you will see on your volunteering projects, but there is so much more to see and do while on the continent. Trekking through Parque Nacional Corcovado, a biologically rich coastal rainforest, in Costa Rica is famed for wildlife spotting opportunities as well as a visit to Arenal volcano, one of the western hemisphere's most active volcanoes. There are fantastic cities in which to sample urban life with a mix of bars and restaurants in San Jose with cultural attractions such as Museo de Oro Precolombino, which houses over 2,000 pre-Colombian gold pieces. In Quito, Ecuador, the second highest capital in the world, there is a unique blend of urban and indigenous cultures. Volunteers may also find snow covered Cotopaxi, one of the highest active volcanoes in the world appealing or visiting the Galapagos Islands where Darwin was inspired to write his theory of natural selection. Outside of Manu Biosphere Reserve in Peru, volunteers can undertake rainforest canopy walks, make a visit to the Uros Islands and see these ancient floating villages, the Ballestas Islands, Peru's answer to the Galapagos. Why not take in the glacial mountain range or Cordillera Blanca, the lost Incan city Machu Picchu or soak up some high culture in the capital Lima. An amazing adventure for your gap year,

To find out more about volunteering and the hundreds of project placements that Kaya can offer, visit www.KayaVolunteer.com or telephone **0161 870 6212** or **1.413.517.02.66**.

Program Agreement Terms and Conditions

Thank you for choosing to apply for placement on a Kaya programme. We are committed to providing you the best support as you prepare for the experience of a lifetime, which is why we have laid down the following terms and conditions. By checking the agreement of these terms and conditions you have accepted to abide by the rules laid down in this agreement. We suggest that you read the details carefully and speak to us if you require any further clarification. Please note there may be additional conditions that apply to individual placements.

Application Instructions

Apply online: <http://www.kayavolunteer.com/projects/book>. Upon receipt of the application and deposit, we will secure the position on the Program for successful applicants. Deposits will be refunded for all unsuccessful applicants. Kaya will contact all applicants within 2 weeks of receipt of the application. Applications will not be considered without a programme deposit.

Deadlines, Dates and Prices

Applications are accepted throughout the year and are subject to limited space availability. Placement deadlines are based on the dates of the desired programme. Some programmes and project placements fill up prior to their published application deadlines. Apply early to secure your placement. Important deadlines for the Kaya Programs are:

Early Application

Application can be made up to 1 year in advance, however arrangement and communication of the programme specifics will commence 2-3 months prior to programme start.

Application Deadline

3 month prior to programme start. Last minute bookings will be considered on an individual basis. Last-minute bookings are advised that their placements arrangements may require more flexibility to accommodate.

Total Fee Due

8 weeks prior to programme start - unless specified for a particular project.

Late Payment

Payment deadlines are displayed on the invoices provided. It is important to meet these deadlines to secure your placement, and missing these deadlines may result in the cancellation of your placement. Where a payment extension is requested, this will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will incur a late payment fee of £35/\$60basis and will incur a late payment fee of £35/\$60 .

Date and Project Changes

Upon application you will receive an interview within which your programme and program dates will be confirmed. We encourage you to stick to these as the projects plan around your participation. If you request a change in programme or start dates, and it is prior to your final payment deadline (usually 8 weeks before departure, but earlier for some placements) we can generally accommodate for this at no extra charge, subject to availability (programmes moving to the following year may be subject to programme price increases). After 1 change has been accommodated for, any future changes made will be subject to an administration charge of £40/\$70 - made payable at time of change.

If a programme or date change is requested after your final payment deadline, the original payment deadline will remain the same, and changes will be considered on an individual basis and any changes will be subject to the administration charge of £40/\$70 - made payable at time of change. For project changes where your original project deposit was hithan £180, only £180 of your deposit will be transferable to your new project. Program Start and Finish Dates, Current Prices and What's Included are specified in each project page of the Kaya website. Details shown on printed materials are subject to change.

Projects prices are reviewed annually and bookings for the following year may differ from those listed. Payments may be made in GBP or USD. We are able to provide you with a quote in either currency with a set conversion rate of £1=\$1.75.

Refund Policy

The standard programme deposit is £180 (\$315) per person, per programme. Some Kaya programmes have an additional deposit amount due to additional programme booking requirement. All deposits paid will be applied towards the total programme fee. The programme deposit is non-refundable for Participants who have been accepted into the programme. The programme deposit will be fully refunded to unsuccessful Participants. If the Participant cancels for any reason, the Participant must notify Kaya in writing. The cancellation will be effective upon receipt of the written notification by Kaya to info@kayavolunteer.com. Careful planning goes into developing volunteer and work experience programmes for every individual applicant. As a result, Kaya and our host communities and partners incur substantial administrative and planning costs, including accommodation reservation fees, prior to the start of each programme. Participants who cancel more than eight (8) weeks prior to the programme start will receive a refund on any programme fee paid, less the deposit. Individuals who cancel or shorten their programme, for any reason (including health, bereavement and visa issues) less than eight (8) weeks prior to the programme start or during the programme will not receive a refund, and we encourage you to approach your travel insurance to seek compensation in this instance. We are happy to provide proof of payment and cancellation if required.

Kaya strives to ensure sustainable projects and quality programmes for Participants. The Refund Policy is defined in an effort to protect and accomplish these goals. Kaya deals with each situation fairly, in consideration of well-established policies, and with the best interests of community members and Participants in mind.

Program Flexibility

Kaya programmes are different from travel or adventure programmes. Each development project and work experience placement is unique and often cannot be implemented exactly as planned for a variety of reasons. Itineraries shown are a guide and the order of activities may be shifted in line with factors, including, but not limited to the weather, changing project needs and individual situations. Project activities shown cover most areas that you may be asked to get involved, but additional activities may arise that require your assistance and not all activities shown may be carried out in the period of your stay. Applicants are advised that these variables may require changes before or during a programme. Part of the challenge and growth opportunity is in adapting to changing conditions and overcoming the obstacles they may present.

Trip Cancellations

Kaya reserves the right to cancel any programme if there are insufficient registrants (where minimum numbers apply) or if Kaya determines it is in the best interest of the applicant's safety and quality of programming to cancel the programme. Kaya is not responsible for other costs incurred by applicants preparing for the trip. Should a programme be cancelled by Kaya, for any reason, applicants will be offered the option of positions in other Kaya Programs or a full refund on all fees paid.

Legal Jurisdiction, Release of Liability and Assumption of Risks

Participants booking their placements on kayavolunteer.com enter a contract with Kaya Responsible Travel Ltd of The Arches, North Campus, Sackville St, Manchester, a company registered in England and Wales (company number 6885700). This contract is governed by English law under the exclusive jurisdiction of English courts. In organising and managing volunteer projects, work experience placements, group programmes, and courses, Kaya, its agents, employees, and staff give notice that they act solely on behalf of and for the benefit of the participants, on the express agreement that Kaya shall not be liable, financially or otherwise, for non-performance or unsatisfactory service; for the injury to persons including death, for loss of or damage to property, for accident or delay, and/or for expenses arising from strikes, weather, quarantine, sickness, government regulation, civil unrest or war, or from any act or omission of Kaya agents or employees, and/or airline, mail services, rail, bus company, vehicle rental entity, hotel, restaurant, or other supplier of service.

By submitting this application form the participant assumes all of these risks and agrees to indemnify Kaya, its officers, directors, and employees harmless for any and all liability that may arise in connection with participation in the Kaya Programs. Kaya reserves the right to refuse any applicant admission to any programme if he or she is deemed ill suited for the programme. Important programme information will be sent to the email address provided on the application. Photographs, videotapes, and/or statements of participants may be used in promoting Kaya. Kaya publishes programme and project photos on a monthly basis on the Kaya website. These photos and videos are available for participant, friends, family, and interested individuals to download, email, or print for personal use. Photography usage for distribution purposes will be considered on an individual basis on application to Kaya.

Participants accept that they will be subjected to various physical and emotional demands and accept that the standard of living, including food, hygiene and accommodation in the relevant country may be below the general standards of their own country. The Participant also understands that certain risks may arise, including, but not limited to, hazards of travelling in remote areas; travel by automobile, van, bus, airplane, boat, train or any other means of conveyance; the forces of nature; civil disturbances; national or international conflicts; terrorism; arbitrary itinerary changes made by foreign governments or vendors; dive related accidents, boat accidents; interacting with dangerous wildlife; personal injury or illness from the local environment; accident or illness in remote locations without immediate evacuation or medical facilities; or negligent acts of third parties. The Participant asserts that they know, understands and appreciate these and other risks inherent in the programme, agrees that participation is completely voluntary and assumes all risk associated with the programme.

Kaya shall have no responsibility for any activities undertaken by the Participant outside the scope of those directly relating to the programme, including activities that may have been recommended by Kaya staff, or it's partners, within the location. For all excursion activities Kaya acts as an agent, not a principle of the activity. Any information provided by Kaya, including but not limited to information about visas, vaccinations, healthcare, climate, group sizes and packing requirements is given in good faith for information and educational purposes only but without responsibility on the part of Kaya or it's partners.

Travel Documents and Insurance

All participants must possess a valid passport for their Kaya trip. Participants are responsible for any costs associated with visas, airport taxes, obtaining the proper travel documents for their trip, and changes to flight itineraries. All participants must have valid, comprehensive health and travel insurance during the time of their programme covering risks associated with a 'Force Majeur' event, medical emergencies and repatriation. Details of insurance must be supplied to Kaya prior to commencement of any programme. Kaya reserves the right to refuse entry to programmes if insurance details are not supplied.

Behavioural Expectations

By joining a Kaya Program, the participant assumes certain obligations to Kaya, its community, and other programme participants. If on-site programme directors determine a participant fails to meet the behavioural expectations set out in this contract and within Kaya's Code of Conduct document, that participant will be asked to leave the programme. Participants asked to leave under these circumstances will not receive a refund. In addition to other programme responsibilities, as a programme participant you are responsible for:

- Being in sufficient good health to undertake the programme.
- Acting in an appropriate and respectful manner towards the local people, fellow travellers, programme participants, and staff in accordance with the customs, laws, regulations, and ordinances of the country of placement.
- Communicating effectively your interests, skills, limitations, and needs to home community members and programme staff members.

Age

Participants must be aged 18 years over at time of pick up, unless expressly agreed in advance by Kaya. Kaya reserve the right to cancel and application or terminate a placement without refund if false proof is found to have been supplied. For participants under 18yrs, who have been accepted onto a Kaya programme, parental consent is required and participants agree to our Code of Conduct, which includes strict policies about alcohol consumption. Where accepted, participants under 18yrs will not be offered any different or additional service or treatment to other participants. All participants under 18yrs must participate in an interview and require a reference from a professional person who has known them for over 2 years.

Disclosure

All participants must disclose at time of application any pre-existing or existing medical conditions (including depression and eating disorders) and disabilities. Some placements may require doctor's notes as a requirement for participation - some which may be dictated by legal requirement or liability purposes. Any medical conditions arising after Application and prior to Placement must be disclosed to Kaya prior to placement commencement. Kaya reserve the right to refuse Application based on these disclosures if deemed necessary for the safety of the participant and the project. Kaya reserve the right to cancel and application or terminate a placement without refund if false information or lack of disclosure is found to have been supplied. Kaya is not held responsible for the administration or monitoring of any medication. While Kaya make every effort to establish safety conditions and risk assessment, Participants are warned that the general standards of health, safety and hygiene in many countries visited may not be of comparable standard to Western countries and hence a risk of injury and illness is inherent to this venture.

Some placements may require a police criminal background check, conducted by the government. This check shall be carried out at the applicant's expense with guidance from Kaya. Some placements require proof that volunteers are clear of certain medical conditions, through the provision of a health certificate. This check shall be carried out at the applicant's expense.

Complaints

If a Participant wishes to lodge a complaint in relation to their programme, they shall first bring the complaint to the attention of the in-country coordinator, who will make reasonable efforts to deal with and, where possible, resolve the complaint within a reasonable time. If a Participant feels that complaint is not being dealt with adequately by their in-country coordinator they should then contact the Kaya placement advice team to escalate the issue. If the coordinator is unable to resolve any serious complaint, and the participant chooses to terminate their placement early and depart the project, they shall provide the coordinator with a written version on event prior to departure. Refunds cannot be provided for early departure unless extreme circumstances are found, which will be determined at the sole discretion of Kaya. Issues reported after the end of a programme which were not reported during the programme, giving the site team an opportunity to address the issue in country, will not be considered for any compensation. Participants agree that Kaya shall not be liable for damages or compensation relating to any claim regarding inconvenience, disappointment, discomfort or loss of enjoyment.