



BELIZE

Project pages

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Nestled between Mexico and Guatemala is the English speaking, peaceful and ecologically diverse country of Belize. With more than 65% of the country covered by lush rainforest and a population of less than 300,000, it is the most sparsely populated country in Central America.

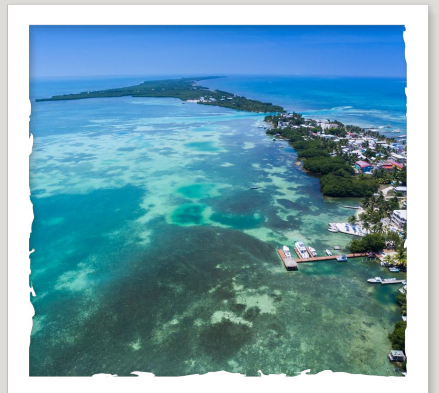
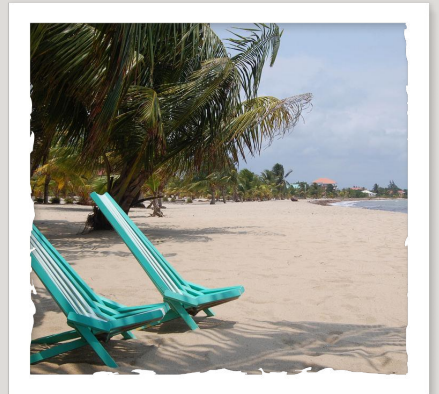
Biodiversity is vast for such a small country with 150 species of mammals, 540 species of birds and 600 species of freshwater and marine fishes. Spanning the length of the coastline is the second largest barrier reef on earth, which is a world heritage site. The ancient Maya ruins in the mountains date back to 500 BC, and the ethnically diverse population of Maya, Mestizo, Creole, Mennonite and Garifuna make for a unique and culturally rich experience.

Belize's fragile ecosystems are under threat from deforestation, improper agricultural practices, irresponsible tourism and development. The people are very conscious about conserving their natural habitat and have used ecotourism as a means of preserving their fragile ecosystems - which is very important to the communities as they need them for food, medicine, shelter and water. In a country where 25% live below the poverty line, this is a tough challenge.

Life outside of the project

Whether you are based on the coast or inland, Belize has so much to offer in terms of history and adventure. In San Ignacio, grab a burrito at any of the local cafes or street vendors and relax by the river. Meet up with other volunteers in the evening at one of the local hotspots to hang out, catch some live music, or possibly join the karaoke. On the coast, volunteers can organise weekend diving trips on the Cayes, visit Mayan villages and wherever you are based you can visit magnificent historical Mayan sites and even pop on a day trip to Guatemala.

Belize



Weather

Average Temperature: 26 °C

Wet Season: June - November

Dry Season: December - May

Hurricane season: June - November

Belize Spring Break Organic farming Volunteer Week

The project

Join this Belize Spring Break Organic farming volunteer week and do something different this year. You will work on a small farm, cultivating sustainable organic food for a home that supports abused and abandoned children. The project also supports children who, at 16, have to leave the state orphanage system by providing them with accommodation. The project uses traditional planting and irrigation methods to grow quality produce. Crops include cassava, corn, grapes, lemongrass, pine nuts and herbs. In addition to growing organic crops, the farm also has animals such as ducks, sheep, goats and chickens. There are two phases to the project, the first being a home for 10 girls aged 16-17, and the second a children's home. The aim is to provide a supply of fresh, nutritious food to the children's home on a regular basis. Be a part of this organic farming project through volunteer during your Spring Break and help some disadvantaged children of San Ignacio.

Role of the volunteer

Volunteers on this organic farming project will participate in a range of activities. You will be asked to dig, plant and irrigate the crops. You may also be required to help out with the local winemaking process as the proceeds from it are used to fund the project. There will be an opportunity for you to work in the aromatic herb garden, preparing plots and assisting with landscaping.

When you finish your work, enjoy an exciting caving trip to the Actun Tunihil Muknal.

This project is perfect for spring break students, who can contribute to the provision of a sustainable and organically-grown food garden for the children's home. Volunteers will gain valuable cultural insight and work closely within the local Belizean community.

Skills required

As a volunteer on this project in Belize, you should be prepared to get your hands dirty and have a real enthusiasm to get stuck in wherever you are needed. Volunteers with skills and experience in working with crops and an interest in organic farming and nutrition will find this project interesting

Most of all volunteers who can bring enthusiasm and a willingness to join in will have a great Spring Break experience. You will be asked to send your CV/resume before being accepted onto this project.

Why choose this project

- Share your enthusiasm to help support the organic initiative by providing an extra pair of hands required to keep the momentum up.
- Contribute to providing a regular supply of organic and nutritious fruit and vegetables to the children's home.
- Use your Spring Break constructively to contribute to this amazing food access and nutrition initiative and make your time away from university stand out from the crowd.

Project location

You will be based in San Ignacio and the surrounding villages. This project is on a farm 15 minutes outside of San Ignacio. San Ignacio, also referred to locally as Cayo, is located 2 hours from Belize City and is a tourist centre. The town and the surrounding communities consist of a diverse population of Creole, Maya and Mestizo. San Ignacio is located in pleasant tropical hills with a wide, shallow river running through the centre, a place where local families and volunteers love to swim. You can visit nearby Maya ruins and for the more adventurous take part in caving and swim deep into a cave system to see a 2000-year-old Mayan artefacts site and also many skeletons!

Project facts

Duration: 1 week

Requirements: Age 17+

Location: San Ignacio and Cayo District, Belize

Working hours: Monday-Friday, 6 to 8 hours per day

Project availability: Spring break

Arrival day: Saturday

What's included

Accommodation: Shared room or tent in a campsite on a farm

Meals: 3 meals a day

Airport: scheduled pick up and drop off at Belize City International Airport

Training: orientation and project induction provided

Support: 24-hour support

Excursion Planning: Actun Tunichal Muknal in the ultimate 1-day jungle and cave adventure

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check

Build a Sustainable Home for Orphans in Belize

The project

Volunteer in Central America where you can help to build a sustainable home for orphans in Belize using traditional methods. You will learn sustainable and local approaches such as sandbag walls and reed composting. You and the local team will be helping orphans who are desperately trying to find somewhere to live. The young people are referred to the project by the police and social services. This self-sustainable community farm is dedicated to the promotion of self-reliance, harmonious living and above all, provide a safe, stable and healthy home for abused and abandoned girls.

This development project is bringing a sense of community to the children abandoned by the legal system while immersing them in inspiring sustainable initiatives helping to preserve local resources while enabling them to be financially independent. Importantly, this farm aims to become a transition model to inspire other community building and sustainable farming initiatives throughout Belize. Additional initiatives currently being undertaken on this project including food security sustainable agricultural practices, and preserving biodiversity through land management. 1 small dome, 4 caregiver structures, the kitchen and shower blocks have been completed and work has started on a 2 storey dwelling for 4 children. Volunteer in Belize and help to develop the community to provide better futures for these vulnerable young adults.

Role of the volunteer

Volunteers will participate in construction initiatives to help finish the 2 storey structures as well as a further single dome. You will have the opportunity to assist in many aspects of construction such as tiling and building during which you will learn ecological architecture such as sandbag construction and feeder roads built with old tires. In addition, in order for the community to be sustainable, you will work on the gardens and animal activities which are being developed alongside the buildings, so that when the girls move into the home, they do not have to start these from scratch. We are constantly working to develop the farm which will in the future raise animals so you will also be involved in developing the areas to house the animals. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn about the world of sustainability!

Skills required

As a volunteer on this project, you should be prepared to get your hands dirty and have a real enthusiasm to get stuck in wherever you are needed. Volunteers with skills and experience in construction, carpentry, gardening, masonry, electrics or plumbing or farming will be very welcome but these skills are by no means essential. Once the building phase is further along you may be asked to run job training workshops for local community members or skills training with the orphans to help them to look after the gardens and animals. You will also need a fair level of fitness to complete the manual work involved in this project.

Why choose this project

- ✓ Give the practical support and manpower to help develop the much-needed centre for children up to the age of 18, who under Belizean Law have to leave the foster system at age 16.
- ✓ Benefit by gaining a sense of perspective about your own life and possessions,
- ✓ Acquire an understanding of more traditional and eco-friendly approaches to building and farming.

Project location

You will be based in San Ignacio and the surrounding communities. This project is a 15 minutes bus ride outside the town centre, where the volunteer house is located. San Ignacio also referred to locally as Cayo, is located 2 hours from Belize City along the Western Highway and is a tourist centre. The town and the surrounding communities contain a diverse population of Creole, Maya and Mestizo. San Ignacio is also an attractive market town set among pleasant tropical hills with a wide, shallow river running through the centre, where local families and volunteers love to swim. You can visit nearby Maya ruins and take part in caving adventures in your free time.

Project facts

Duration: 2+ weeks

Requirements: Age 17+

Location: San Ignacio and Cayo District, Belize

Working hours: Monday-Friday, 6 to 8 hours per day

Project availability: Project starts 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month.

Arrival day: Saturday

What's included

Accommodation: shared room in volunteer accommodation with access to a pool table and a bar

Meals: 3 per day; light breakfast, sandwiches for lunch and a cooked evening meal. Volunteers take turns once a week preparing something from their own country.

Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off at Belize City International Airport

Training: Orientation and project induction provided

Support: 24-hour support

Excursion Planning: Staff can help to plan weekend activities (extra fees apply). e.g. canoeing through jungle, caves, tubing, visit Mayan ruins, hiking and horse-riding.

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

Enchanted Forest Art Therapy Volunteering in Belize

Project Summary

Are you passionate about art and the positive effects it can bring in people? Join Kaya Enchanted Forest Art Therapy Volunteering in Belize!

The project takes place in a farm environment setup for abused children abandoned by the legal system. Indeed, the children are hosted in an eco-sustainable centre that provides them with a stable accommodation and food security while they recover and heal from their past. The purpose of the farm is to empower them to become financially independent and put them on a path of success, despite their hardship. In Belize, the government is responsible for orphans and foster kids until the age of 16. At that time, they are released from the legal system with little means to sustain themselves. As a result, many of the young girls are at risk of human trafficking and poverty. The farm provides them with a platform to live in a safe and secure environment, further their education and vocational training, as well as provide them with the mental support they need to rebuild themselves.

Coupled with conventional therapy, the Enchanted Forest project, will provide a place for the young girls and other local troubled children to explore their emotions, relieve stress and anxiety and cope with self-esteem and depression brought on by their past.

As part of the Enchanted Forest Art Therapy Volunteering in Belize works with a lead artist from Mexico who has created some artwork with road kills and natural materials. The initiative combines art and landscaping with the creation of artwork through natural resources, creation of a meditational area, bringing the forest area to life and allowing an escape to reality as a type of therapeutic treatment.

Why Choose this project?

- ✔ Contribute to a long lasting Art project making a positive impact on local troubled children.
- ✔ Develop your art skills and use your creativity towards a worthy project.
- ✔ Discover a new culture make new friends while learning about Belize.

Requirements

An open-mind, creativity and imagination are essential to make this Enchanted Forest Art Therapy Volunteering in Belize successful. Bring in your ideas and your entrepreneurship and contribute to a long term sustainable project that serve a purpose for the local troubled children.

Role of the Volunteer

At this stage of the project, we need participation from art students, landscape architects, sculptors and carpenters to create a magical realm where the imagination is assisted by the visual display of various animals. Working under the guidance of a lead artist, you will bring in your creativity and imagination to contribute to this therapeutic project.

Project location

As an volunteer, you will live in a volunteer house owned by a Belizean family. The Belizean family has been hosting volunteers from all over the world for many years and are true advocates of human justice and fairness in Belize. The Enchanted Forest Art Therapy Volunteering in Belize is based in San Ignacio's surrounding community. San Ignacio is located about 2 hours away from Belize City. The town is very diverse and a mix of Creole, Mestizo and Maya populations.

Your accommodation is located within a 5-minute walk from the market town of San Ignacio. Because there are plenty of other interns and volunteers, you may have to share your room with other like-minded individuals also working on local social justice projects.

During your free time, you will have plenty to explore in the surrounding area including Actun Tunichil Muknal Cave and other archaeological sites.

Project facts

Duration: 2+ weeks

Requirements: 17+

Location: San Ignacio, Belize

Working hours: Monday to Friday - 6 hours per day

Project availability: All year round

Arrival day: Saturday

What's included

Accommodation: double room in volunteer house

Food: 3 meals per day; light breakfast, sandwiches for lunch and a cooked evening meal. Volunteers take it in turns once a week preparing something from their own country.

Airport: pick-up and drop-off from/to Belize City International Airport

Transport: to and from project

Training: Pre-departure manual, learning reflection manual, orientation and project induction provided

Support: 24-hour support from local team

Excursion Planning: assistance with planning your weekend excursions from local staff (activity prices may be extra). Trips may include; canoeing through jungle, caves, tubing, visit Mayan ruins, hiking and horse riding.

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Police/Government Background Check: US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies); all other nationalities must provide local police check.

Christmas Volunteering Building a Home for Orphaned Teenagers in Belize

BELIZE

The project

Spend December this year doing something different and spend Christmas volunteering building a home for orphaned teenagers in Belize. You will learn traditional and sustainable building methods using resources such as sandbag walls and reed composting while contributing to the futures of children and young female adults in Belize. The project is located on a self-sustainable community farm dedicated to the promotion of self-reliance and harmonious living. Above all, you will help to provide a safe, stable and healthy home for abused and orphaned children. These children and young adults are referred to the project by the Police and Social Services Department when it is deemed that they have nowhere else to go.

By focusing on this project at Christmas time the Project hopes to drive forward this initiative to completion and enable 10 young girls to move in. Once that phase is completed the project will be able to move on to the second phase of its development, which is a children's home for abandoned and abused children. Help give the children and teenagers a safe home and the promise of a brighter future in the New Year.

Role of the volunteer

Volunteers will participate in construction initiatives to help create outbuildings and support the farm development's work. You will have the opportunity to assist in many aspects of the construction and learn ecological architecture such as sandbag construction and feeder road build with old tires. We are constantly working to develop the farm for the future of vulnerable local minors. The farm will raise animals so you will also be involved in developing the areas to house the animals. You will also be involved in the fencing of property, painting of buildings and landscaping. Groups and families are more than welcome and everyone will work together as part of a bigger project team.

Skills required

As a volunteer on this project, you should be prepared to get your hands dirty and have a real enthusiasm to get involved wherever you are needed. Volunteers with skills and experience in construction, carpentry, gardening, masonry or farming will be very welcome but these skills are by no means essential. Volunteers with animal husbandry and organic farming experience are particularly sought.

You will need a fair level of fitness to complete the manual work involved in this project and be willing to help with anything and everything. Bring a "can do" attitude and you will be welcomed with open arms.

Why choose this project

- ✓ Help complete the building of this sustainable home by providing extra support.
- ✓ Learn about the benefits that result from helping others while also improving your Spanish.
- ✓ Do something different this Christmas and put aside your plans to help those who really do need something special for Christmas.

Project location

You will be based in San Ignacio and the surrounding communities. This project is a 15 minutes bus ride outside the town centre. San Ignacio also referred to locally as Cayo, is located 2 hours from Belize City and is a tourist centre. The town and the surrounding communities consist of a diverse population of Creole, Maya and Mestizo. San Ignacio is also an attractive town located in pleasant tropical hills with a wide, shallow river running through the centre, where local families and volunteers love to swim. You can visit nearby Maya ruins and take part in caving adventures if you choose to during your free time. Christmas Day will be celebrated in Belize and you will be invited to participate in carol singing and a festive meal. New Year's Eve will also be marked with a party so there will be an opportunity to celebrate not only your achievements as a team on the project but also the end of year festivities.

Project facts

- Duration:** 2 weeks
- Requirements:** Age 17+, families welcome
- Location:** San Ignacio and Cayo District, Belize
- Working hours:** Monday-Friday 6-8h per day
- Project availability:** December
- Arrival day:** Saturday

What's included

- Accommodation:** Shared tent in a campsite
- Meals:** 3 a day
- Airport pick up:** Airport pick-up in groups from Belize City International Airport
- Training:** orientation and project induction provided
- Support:** 24-hour support
- Excursion Planning:** Help from the local coordinator (extra fee may apply depending on the activity)

What's not

- Flights
- Insurance
- Visas
- Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check
- Christmas and New Year's celebration (£13/\$23 additional per person for each celebration)

Counselling and Social Work in Belize

BELIZE

The project

Volunteer within the social services systems of the Cayo district, on a placement in counselling and social work in Belize. You will help under-staffed centres support young people and women who are in need. Dealing with issues ranging from domestic violence to behavioural problems, drugs and alcohol abuse, and especially incest and sexual abuse, there are many areas in which the children, young adults and women need the assistance of professionals and adults they can trust to deal with these highly emotional areas. Those in support come to the centre through referrals from the police or social services, or through seeking help in person. The project aims to give them a safe place to go, to provide them with the opportunity to build trust with responsible adults, access to counselling and ultimately to help them prepare for a new start in life. With limited trained counsellors and social work professionals working in this field, they are looking for help in building a base of trained and experienced volunteers.

Role of the volunteer

Volunteers will be placed according to their skills and experience and the current project needs. Initially, you will need to build trust with the clients and this may mean you spend time out of the centre going to the park and involved in other activities. Once you have built trust, you will be asked to draw on your counselling skills in either groups or one-on-one sessions. You will be able to discuss with clients alongside a locally trained supervisor. You may be asked to help counsel students who come from a range of backgrounds and looking for support with sexual, marital, health or mental health issues.

Education is an important aspect of this placement. You may be asked to conduct parental educational sessions about violence amongst students, drug and alcohol abuse, student support and more. You may also be asked to help design sessions for young children to help prevent abuse and improve their understanding of what is appropriate. Skills development is also important as well as assisting children with their homework, to develop CV/Resumes with young adults and to build self esteem. Your role will be varied and you must be prepared to be flexible.

Skills required

Volunteers should have a solid background in counselling (sexual abuse, domestic violence, mental health, child psychology, social work, career counsellors) and have a good ability to interact with people from different cultures. This can be a challenging placement. Long term volunteers of at least 6 months are highly sought after with the option of possibly extending this stay to a full year. Those with training skills are welcomed as educating the community is an important component of this project to reduce the number of abuse and support those who see or are indirectly affected by abuse. Business skills, training and teaching experience are useful. You will be asked to attend a telephone interview and send your CV/Resume before being accepted onto this project to ensure your suitability for working in such a sensitive area. It will also help us to best match your skills and match them to the needs of the project.

Why choose this project

- ✔ Provide extra assistance in an overstretched social service systems in Cayo to support children, young adults and women.
- ✔ Share your compassion, skills and time with vulnerable people who needs to talk about what happened to them and learn that there are people that can still be trusted.
- ✔ Supporting the project long term to achieve its goals, build relationships and gain invaluable insights which you can take home to your own work placements.

Project location

You will be located in San Ignacio and its surrounding communities. San Ignacio, referred to locally as Cayo, is located 2 hours from Belize City and is a tourist centre. The town and the surrounding communities contain a diverse mix of Creole, Maya and Mestizo populations. San Ignacio is also an attractive market town set among pleasant tropical hills.

Project facts

Duration: 4+ weeks
Requirements: Age 21+
Location: San Ignacio, Belize
Working hours: Monday to Friday, 6-8 hours per day
Project availability: All year round
Arrival day: Saturday

What's included

Accommodation: shared room in volunteer accommodation with access to a pool table and a bar
Meals: 3 per day; light breakfast, sandwiches for lunch and a cooked evening meal. Volunteers take turns once a week preparing something from their own country
Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off at Belize City International Airport
Training: Pre-departure manual, learning reflection manual, orientation and project induction provided
Support: 24-hour support
Excursion Planning: Staff can help to suggest weekend activities (extra fees may apply). Trips may include: canoeing through jungle, caves, tubing, visit Mayan ruins, hiking and horse riding.

What's not

Flights
Insurance
Visas
Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

Dance Therapy in Belize

BELIZE

The project

If you can inspire others to express themselves through movement, then volunteer on this wonderful project for dance therapy in Belize. Dance therapy is recognised by many as being very useful for children and young people who have been abused. It encourages them to become more self-expressive and, for some, develops self-worth and builds self-esteem. This helps children and young people to become more confident socially and can also overcome the feeling of being ostracised from the community. Dance therapy also enables them to learn more about dance and to have fun, which is often missing from their lives.

This placement is based at a community youth centre set up by a local foundation, and young people and children are either referred here by the police or Social Services or have built up the confidence to drop-in themselves. A detailed curriculum is in place and through movement, circle time icebreakers, and arts-focused on feelings, it is hoped that the young people of Belize will be able to express their emotions, enabling them to move forward to counselling. Bring your ideas, enthusiasm and experience and help integrate this dance therapy programme into the lives of those who are in need of an avenue to express their feelings as well as having fun.

Role of the volunteer

Volunteers on this dance therapy project will be asked to work with children and young people who have suffered abuse and need to develop their confidence through dance. You will show them different dance techniques and help them learn. You will also encourage them to express themselves through dance with the aim of increasing their self-worth.

The programme has been written into 7 chapters. The first 2 focus on building relationships through listening and communication skills, and the following 5 chapters focus on the Champions Through movement Curriculum, Relaxation and Focusing, Socialisation and Peer Skills, Anger Management and Coping Skills, Building Self-Confidence and Self-Esteem, and Reducing Self-Blame and Empowerment. You will continue to develop this through adding in your own ideas and experiences while taking into account local music and dance trends. This is a great opportunity to apply your own passion for dance therapy.

Skills required

This project placement requires volunteers to be very enthusiastic, love working with children and young people, and come up with ideas and knowledge that they are willing to share with others. Experience in dance therapy, performing arts or movement therapy or a degree in this field is required. This placement requires volunteers to be able to use their initiative, work without daily guidance and be confident enough when dealing with others. You will be asked to send your CV/Resume and attend a telephone interview before being accepted onto this project.

Why choose this project

- ✔ Benefit from sharing your skills, compassion and support while helping to foster a positive experience for everyone involved.
- ✔ Provide much-needed help to those dealing with the effects of abuse, as child abuse is common in Belize and many children are left in despair with low self-esteem and little self-worth.
- ✔ Add an interesting and unique experience to your CV/Resume and learn how dance therapy can be invaluable in helping others express themselves.

Project location

You will be based in San Ignacio and the surrounding communities. This project is in San Ignacio and is only a short walk from the volunteer accommodation. San Ignacio, also referred to locally as Cayo is located 2 hours from Belize City. The town and the surrounding communities contain a diverse population of Creole, Maya and Mestizo. San Ignacio is also an attractive market town set among pleasant tropical hills with a wide, shallow river running through the centre, where local families and volunteers love to swim. You can visit nearby Maya ruins and take part in caving adventures in your free time.

Project facts

- Duration:** 2+ weeks
- Requirements:** Age 18+
- Location:** San Ignacio, Belize
- Working hours:** 6 hours per day
- Project availability:** Project starts 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month, apart from in July and August when the schools in Belize are closed.
- Arrival day:** Saturday

What's included

- Accommodation:** shared room in volunteer accommodation with access to a pool table and a bar
- Meals:** 3 per day; light breakfast, sandwiches for lunch and a cooked evening meal. Volunteers take turns once a week preparing something from their own country.
- Airport pick up:** Airport pick up and drop off at Belize City International Airport
- Training:** Orientation and project induction provided
- Support:** 24-hour support
- Excursion Planning:** Staff can help to suggest weekend activities (Extra fees may apply). Trips may include; canoeing through jungle, caves, tubing, visit Mayan ruins, hiking and horse riding

What's not

- Flights
- Insurance
- Visas
- Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

Volunteer in Rural Health Clinics in Belize

BELIZE

The project

Volunteer in rural health clinics in Belize and lend a hand in clinics that serve the less affluent citizens of the communities surrounding San Ignacio. Community members often lack access to health professionals and treatments. The clinic is manned by an advanced nurse who provides many services to the 7 surrounding communities including medical outreach and home visits. The duties performed at the clinic include infant immunizations, deworming, controlling fevers, treating work-based injuries, sutures, pre- and post-natal care and supporting lupus sufferers. There can be as many as 20 patients per day at the clinic with a range of ailments. Anyone who needs more intensive or extensive treatment is referred to the local polyclinic for an assessment.

The villagers themselves are poor and community health awareness is a vital part of this placement. Prices are very high in Belize but wages are low so community healthcare is important as apart from a select, few many are struggling and their physical well being is often neglected. You can help to improve the situation for many by becoming a volunteer in this rural health clinic and assisting the local nurse.

Role of the volunteer

Your role as a volunteer depends largely on your skills and experience:

- Nursing students will be placed at the centre and will work alongside the nurse. Your activities will very much depend on your training and experience. The local nurse will decide on the appropriate activities for you.
- Qualified nurses will register with the Belizean Medical Council and will be involved in more in-depth consultations as part of the local team.
- Qualified doctors will register with the Belizean Medical Council and will be able to practice within the community and within their specialization, assuming it's in high demand.

All volunteers will gain valuable experience, and interact with people of all ages within the rural community. You may encounter minor ailments such as wounds that need cleaning, sores and infections. You may also be asked to take the lead in community health educational sessions, depending on the needs of the project at the time of your placement.

Skills required

Nurses, community health workers and midwives will be well-utilised within the rural clinic setting. All volunteers will be asked to submit a CV/resume and attend a Skype to establish interests and expectations. If you are a qualified medical professional, you will need to register with the Belizean Medical Council to be able to treat in line with your training. You will be asked to send your medical license to enable the local team to obtain the Temporary Employment Permit. Please note that resources are limited, so if you need any specialist equipment to perform your duties we do recommend you to bring it with you. A good supply of masks and gloves is recommended, as well as scrubs.

Why choose this project

- ✓ Help run the clinics from recording basic patient information, especially for young children, giving basic nursing care to more advanced treatment depending on your qualifications.
- ✓ Benefit from a well-rounded experience.
- ✓ Add this experience to their CV/Resume while, and as well from improving their Spanish.

Project location

Kaya's programmes are based in San Ignacio and the surrounding communities. San Ignacio is located 2 hours from Belize City and is known locally as Cayo. The town and the surrounding communities contain a diverse mix of Creole, Maya and Mestizo populations. San Ignacio is an attractive market town set among pleasant tropical hills. On this project, you will work in rural communities close to San Ignacio.

Project facts

Duration: 2+ weeks

Requirements: age 18+

Location: San Ignacio, Belize

Working hours: 6-8 hours per day, Monday - Friday. Shifts may vary.

Project availability: starting on the first or third Saturday of each month

Arrival day: Saturday

At least 2 months advance booking required to participate in this project .

What's included

Accommodation: shared room in volunteer accommodation with access to a pool table and a bar

Meals: 3 per day; light breakfast, sandwiches for lunch and a cooked evening meal. Volunteers take it turns once a week preparing something from their own country

Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off at Belize City International Airport

Training: Healthcare ethics & culture doc, pre-departure info pack, learning reflection manual, on-site orientation and project induction provided

Support: 24-hour support

Excursion Planning: Staff help organise weekend activities (Activity price may be extra)

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Fees associated with registration with Belizean Medical Council

Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

Marine Science Internship in Belize

BELIZE

The project

Join a Marine Science Internship in Belize and spend some time on a tiny island in Tobacco Caye. Just 10 miles off the coast of Dangriga in Belize, this marine conservation project works in partnership with Belize Fisheries Department. This internship is the perfect opportunity to learn about what is affecting the world's second-largest coral reef.

The first 10 days of the internship will be dedicated to a combination of lectures and practical reef snorkelling experiences. Lectures will focus around instruction on Coral Watch materials, Caribbean corals' identification, common Caribbean Reef Fish identification and marine hazard including coral bleaching.

Throughout your internship, you will have the opportunity to visit and snorkel in several "cayes" for species identification, surveying, data collection, spearing, amongst many other things. This will also include night snorkelling to get a wider spectrum on marine life at all hours!

The internship will give you an invaluable insight into marine conservation and marine science while enjoying living on a Caribbean island.

Role of the intern

The marine science internship will provide you with a real insight into marine conservation methodologies and hands-on conservation work experience, while also having lots of fun with great snorkelling on a beautiful Caribbean island. It is a great opportunity to get insight into the bigger picture of the issues surrounding marine ecology and conservation. More specifically, you will learn about the invasion of alien lionfish in the Belizean waters, including spearing, collecting and dissecting them. Also, you will contribute to reef cleaning, reef surveying, data collection and analysis. Not to mention that you will be involved and gain experience with chemical water sampling, seagrass spotter, macroalgae feeding, Caribbean king crabs, mangroves, making trash art from our beach clean ups amongst many other things! Finally, you will have the chance to tour the Carrie Bow Caye Smithsonian Research Institute to deepen your knowledge.

Skills required

Marine environment interest is of course a must! Experience studying marine biology, conservation, environmental studies or related field is preferable but not essential. To participate, you must be a confident swimmer with capable snorkelling abilities. You must also be comfortable at sea and being on boats. The marine science internship is meant for anyone wanting to work or study within a science or environmental field, or those passionate about conservation. An interview is required for acceptance into the internship. Finally, enthusiasm and the ability to work within a team and be flexible will be important to get accepted on the program.

Why choose this project

- ✓ Gain marine science research experience while working within a marine educational institution.
- ✓ Benefit from a well-rounded marine and conservation program and gain experience worthy of adding to your CV / Resume to help you stand out from the crowd.
- ✓ Advance your Caribbean reef fish, reef-associated organisms and coral identification knowledge as well as gain experience on conservation and ecotourism issues on a Caribbean island

Project location

Tobacco Caye is the perfect location to learn more about fish identification, coral reef surveying techniques and to get involved with our project at the marine station. Waters are generally crystal clear, with great visibility and are qualified as world class snorkeling! It is the ultimate turquoise waters wonderland for marine conservationists! The island is completely off-the-grid with sustainable living practices through rainwater collection and electricity generated from solar power. Everywhere you look, you will be able to enjoy some nice ocean views. You will be accommodated in dorm room cabana style housing that is clean, comfortable and charmingly rustic. The island will provide you with plenty of opportunities to relax and "unplug". Hammock time is a favorite pastime of many! During your time off the project, you have the opportunity to play volleyball, card games, snorkel some more, or get into diving if that's something of interest. You can also have access to Dangriga by boat to get back to some civilization, visit the nature and jaguar reserve of Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary or go down to Hopkins for more beach time with restaurants. Or if time permits, why not venture further out and learn about Mayan culture and history in Belize!

Project facts

Duration: 3.5 up to 8.5 weeks
Requirements: Age 18+
Location: Tobacco Caye, Belize
Working hours: Daily
Project availability: June 30th, 2021 start date
Arrival day: Wednesday

What's included

Accommodation: shared dorm room in bunk cabanas
Meals: 3 per day
Airport pick up: Airport pick up at Belize City Airport (PGIA)
Water taxi transport to Tobacco Caye
Training: Healthcare ethics & culture doc, pre-departure info pack, learning reflection manual, on-site orientation and project induction provided
Support: 24-hour support
Excursion Planning: Staff help organise weekend activities (Activity price may be extra)
Welcome Cocktail evening
Wi-Fi
Snorkel excursions by boat
At least three-nights of snorkeling
Snorkel gear including mask, snorkel and fins (if needed)

What's not

Flights
Insurance
Visas
Fees associated with registration with Belizean Medical Council
Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.
PCR Tests
Diving certifications add on

Medical Elective/ Rotation/ Internship in Belize

The project

Spend your final year of med school on this medical elective / rotation / internship in Belize and consolidate your studies. You will learn from local doctors and help in hospitals and clinics that serve the local citizens, regardless of their income. Free public hospitals and clinics are typically underfunded, understaffed and struggling to meet the needs of everyone they care for. Help is needed in all aspects of the running of the clinics, from basic nursing care to surgeries. Interns will gain valuable clinical experience, which will look great for future employers, and you'll be providing valuable help where it is needed most. You will work alongside a local qualified doctor who will mentor you during your stay. If you do have focus in a specific area of medicine, then please let us know and we will place you in line with that. This elective is designed to provide hands-on experience to students prior to graduating.

Role of the volunteer

The role of the volunteer depends largely on their skills and experience. Medical students, duties may include administering medication, giving vaccinations, taking vitals and providing general health care, shadowing lead practitioners and providing assistance on daily routines. Those with specialist skills can be placed as required in areas including: Urology, Gynaecology, Dermatology, Pharmacy, dentistry, ER, mobile clinics and General Practitioners.. Your competence will be monitored by the local team and feedback given to you regarding your progress. Please be aware that any treatment will be at the discretion of the local team and will be determined by the skills, aptitude and attitude displayed during your placement.

Skills required

All volunteers must be in their final year of medical school onto be accepted onto this placement.

Although Belize is an English speaking country many patients, doctors and nurses will speak Spanish so any Spanish speaking skills would be beneficial but are not essential.

You will be asked to send your CV/Resume and transcripts before being accepted onto this project so that we can send it to the team in Belize to review and select the best placement for you. All interns will be required to bring their own scrubs and appropriate shoes for working in a hospital.

Please bring a laptop with you to document your learning during your placement.

Placements for 3 weeks may be considered if this is in line with another elective in another country. Please speak to a Kaya advisor to find out more about this.

Why choose this project



The local hospital will benefit from additional pairs of hands when interns work alongside locally qualified doctors and medical staff. Medical students can get unique and valuable hands-on experience working with patients from communities in a developing country, and the practitioners will support and assess your work to feedback to your school body. It is a great opportunity for you to develop your CV/Resume.

Project location

Kaya's medical elective programmes is based in San Ignacio and the surrounding communities. San Ignacio, referred to locally as Cayo, is 2 hours from Belize City along the Western Highway. It is a tourist centre and market town. The town and the surrounding communities contain a diverse mix of creole, Maya and mestizo populations. Set among pleasant tropical hills it is a lovely location for volunteering. During your free time explore the local Mayan ruins or for those feeling a little more adventurous why not try your hands at cave tubing or horse-riding.

Project facts

Duration: 6 - 26 weeks

Requirements: age 20+

Location: San Ignacio, Belize

Working hours: 6-8 hours per day, Monday - Friday

Project availability: starting on the first or third Saturday of each month.

Arrival day: Saturday

At least 2 months advance booking required to participate in this project.

What's included

Accommodation: double room, including A/C, ensuite bath, mini fridge, purified water with dispenser, fan and high-speed internet

Meals: Welcome Dinner on arrival night + Breakfast & Dinner daily on Mon-Fri breakfast, lunch & dinner on Saturday and Sunday

Airport pick up: Private transfer on arrival at the airport & return drop off

Training: Healthcare ethics & culture doc, pre- departure info pack, on-site orientation and project induction provided

Support: 24-hour support

Excursion Planning: -

Assistance with booking weekend activities

Learning Reflection Document

Certificate on completion of Internship
Supervision from qualified professional

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Air conditioning is available for an additional cost of \$10 per day per room
Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

Excursions in additional weeks

Music Access and Development for School Children in Belize

The project

Volunteer abroad at state-run schools where music access and development for school children in Belize is for the affluent. Located within the Cayo District, the schools have a basic music programme within two local schools with very limited resources available to them. Music is a huge part of Belizean society and this project aims to improve access for more children to music, not only to playing instruments but also learning about composers. It also aims to increase children's ability to read music, expose them to different types of music and a variety of instruments.

The school is state-run and the music programme is a collaboration between the volunteer and the School Principal. The music programme is available to children aged from kindergarten through to grade 8 and lessons take place during the school day. The aim is to develop the creative skills of children through access to music. Life is expensive in Belize and access to musical teaching is definitely a luxury.

Role of the volunteer

In this programme, you will very much be taking a lead role. You will follow a set curriculum that has been designed by a former music volunteer and continue to develop it, involving the local staff. You will be teaching students how to read music, play basic instruments (if they have them) and develop their appreciation of classical musicians.

The school would love to set up a number of performances throughout the year for the whole school community so you will be responsible for putting together a show. This is where your skills and training will really come in to play as you will need creative direction over the class. Also, fundraising is a key element of this project as the school is desperate for more instruments. At the moment, they have very little access to anything beyond a flute, making their talents fairly limited.

Skills required

A background and passion for music are needed to participate in this project as well as bags of enthusiasm and a commitment to get the Belizeans to perform! Knowledge of helping to set up musical performances is also useful, but not necessary. A music related teaching background would be good (although not necessary) as you will be looking after groups of students and developing their talent. You should be able to read music. Ideally, we would love volunteers for a 6 month period as we are committed to providing an in-depth and consistent music programme. You must be able to work without supervision, be able to make decisions and lead others. You will be asked to send your CV/resume before being accepted onto this project.

Why choose this project

- ✓ Give access to music and music-related skills to children and young adults by teaching, but also helping them acquire more instruments as those are scarce in Belize.
- ✓ Connect with the students by providing them with a healthy medium by which they can express themselves and resolve some of the personal difficulties they face in their daily lives.
- ✓ Develop your fundraising skills and enjoy sharing your passion for music with others. Access to musical instruments is limited for the majority of children in Belize as they are very expensive, well beyond the means of most.

Project location

The dance programme is based just outside San Ignacio, referred to locally as Cayo, which is located 2 hours from Belize City. It is a well-known tourist centre. The town and the surrounding communities contain a diverse mix of Creole, Maya and Mestizo populations. San Ignacio is an attractive market town set among pleasant tropical hills and is a relaxing place to stay. The friendly people of San Ignacio enable rich cultural exchanges and productive development projects.

Project facts

Duration: 4 weeks – 1 year

Requirements: Age 17+

Location: San Ignacio, Belize

Working hours: Monday - Friday, in line with school opening hours

Project availability: Project starts 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. Project closed for the whole of July and August as well as December 19th – January 5th

Arrival day: Saturday

What's included

Accommodation: shared room in volunteer accommodation with access to a pool table and a bar

Meals: 3 per day; light breakfast, sandwiches for lunch and a cooked evening meal. Volunteers take turns once a week preparing something from their own country

Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off at Belize City International Airport

Training: Orientation and project induction provided

Support: 24-hour support

Excursion Planning: Staff can help to suggest weekend activities (extra fees may apply). Trips may include; canoeing through jungle, caves, tubing, visit Mayan ruins, hiking and horse-riding

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

Political Science Internship in Belize

The Internship

The Political Science internship in Belize is an exclusive chance to gain experience abroad in international relations, while witnessing first-hand how foreign government may differ from the one you are familiar with back home.

The political system in Belize is following a parliamentary representative democratic monarchy framework established by the British as a commonwealth country. Unfortunately, despite safeguard in place by the constitution, the system and all branches of the government are very fragile risking the government involvements and facing corruption.

The Political Science internship in Belize works with a group of people that has formed a minority party that believe in real democracy, freedom of speech and anti corruption practices. The party was founded in 2013, and therefore has enough support to be running in the next election.

Role of the intern

As a Political Science Intern in Belize, you will be working on one of the minority party's leader campaign towards the election of 2020. As the election approaches, the internship tasks will vary, but some major initiatives will involved collecting information from the local communities, looking at campaign strategy, and ways to fundraise in a limited resource country.

As the intern, you will be working directly with party executives advising them on your experience in your country, brainstorming new ideas, and conducting research for them as needed.

Skills required

An interest in politics is essential for this internship, as well as a level of maturity to be working with the party executives themselves. You will be required to submit a cover letter for this placement and undergo an interview prior to being accepted on the placement.

Why Choose This Internship

- ✓ Learn about the political system in Belize and the limitations minority parties face daily to push institutional reforms forward.
- ✓ Expand your international relations in your field while adding relevant experience to your resume / CV.
- ✓ Discover a new culture other than your own and make new friends as you get to learn about local foods and culture.

Project location

The Political Science Internship in Belize is based in San Ignacio and the surrounding communities for campaigning purposes. San Ignacio is located 2 hours from the capital, Belize City, and it is known locally as Cayo. The town is very diverse with a mix of Creole, Maya and Mestizo populations. San Ignacio is a vibrant traveler's destination set among pleasant tropical hills.

Your accommodation will be based within 5 minute walk away from the market town of San Ignacio. You will live amongst the family located on site, and will have the opportunity to socialize with them and learn about Belizean culture. The house has enough rooms to host other interns and volunteers, so there will be plenty of opportunity to socialize with like-minded individuals.

San Ignacio offers plenty of excursions to go explore during your free time. We suggest you check the Actun Tunichil Muknal Cave or plan a day to visit archaeological site like Xunantunich, Tikal amongst others in the area. Tubing is also a popular activity in the area if you enjoy relaxing while enjoying the scenery.

Project facts

Duration: 4+ weeks

Requirements: age 18

Location: San Ignacio, Belize

Working hours: 6-8 hours per day, Monday - Friday

Project availability: starting on the first or third Saturday of each month.

Arrival day: Saturday

What's included

Accommodation: double room in volunteer house

Meals: Welcome Dinner on arrival night + Breakfast & Dinner daily on Mon-Fri breakfast, lunch & dinner on Saturday and Sunday

Airport pick up: Private transfer on arrival at the airport & return drop off

Training: Healthcare ethics & culture doc, pre- departure info pack, on-site orientation and project induction provided, Learning Reflection Document, Certificate on completion of Internship Supervision from qualified professional

Support: 24-hour support

Excursion Planning: Assistance with booking weekend activities

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

Excursions in additional weeks

Teaching and Teacher Development Volunteering in Belize

BELIZE

The project

Support over-stretched local teachers in the classroom through interactive training sessions as well as teaching and teacher development volunteering in Belize. The classes in Belize are often overcrowded which makes it difficult to instruct students effectively. The class teachers' time is stretched meaning that it can be challenging being able to complete administrative tasks, correct school work, prepare materials while providing small group instruction. The teachers really need extra support to enable them to spend more time on lesson preparation and instruction in line with the state curriculum. Children in these state-run schools are aged 6 - 15 years old. Specific areas needing help are English programmes, arts and crafts lessons and physical education classes.

In addition to helping teachers in the classroom, there is a real need to work with the teachers themselves on their development. Volunteers can help by running training sessions and workshops on subjects such as classroom management, behaviour management and student motivation. In line with global standards, Belize banned corporal punishment from the schools and classrooms. Teacher's student management skills are very weak and help is needed to desperately enable them to manage the children appropriately while running effective classes. This is a great opportunity, not just to help with the classes, but to help motivate and develop the future of education in Belize.

Role of the volunteer

Volunteers on this teaching and teacher development project will be asked to become a teacher's assistant, may also be asked to cover classes (in a supply teacher capacity if needed), participate in arts and crafts lessons and run workshops to develop the skills of the teachers themselves if you have the necessary experience to do so. Teachers working in physical education classes may help with football (soccer), volleyball, basketball or baseball. As well as helping during the school day, volunteers may also be asked to help with after school activities.

Skills required

Teaching experience is needed for this project. Experience either through study or practical work is required to maximise your impact during your volunteering placement so education students are welcome to join us. Anyone with sports or arts teaching experience is also welcome.

Good organisational and communication skills are very important as you will be working closely with local teachers and children in need of one to one support. Obviously, a love of working and interacting with children is essential, as well as a passion for education. You will be asked to send your CV/resume before being accepted onto this project.

Why choose this project

- ✓ Assist in providing specific needs for students needing additional or specialized instruction.
- ✓ Provide much-needed assistance in the classroom and assist in fostering a positive learning experience for the children of the Cayo District as a teacher's assistant, supply teacher or teacher's trainer, depending on your experience.
- ✓ Develop your skills as a teacher as you will focus on areas and challenges that you may not encounter in your own classrooms, as a student or a professional.

Project location

Kaya's programmes are based in San Ignacio and the surrounding communities. This project is within a 15 minute bus ride outside the town centre, where the volunteer house is located. San Ignacio, also referred to locally as Cayo, is located 2 hours from Belize City along the Western Highway and is a tourist centre (relative, in Belize terms). The town and the surrounding communities contain a diverse population of Creole, Maya and Mestizo. San Ignacio is also an attractive market town set among pleasant tropical hills with a wide, shallow river running through the centre, where local families and volunteers love to swim. You can visit nearby Maya ruins and take part in caving adventures in your free time.

Project facts

Duration: 4+ weeks

Requirements: Age 21+

Location: San Ignacio, Belize

Working hours: Monday to Friday, 6 to 8 hours per day

Project availability: Project starts 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month, apart from in July and August when the schools are closed.

Arrival day: Saturday

What's included

Accommodation: shared room in volunteer accommodation with access to a pool table and a bar

Meals: 3 per day; light breakfast, sandwiches for lunch and a cooked evening meal. Volunteers take turns once a week preparing something from their own country.

Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off at Belize City International Airport

Training: Orientation and project induction provided

Support: 24-hour support

Excursion Planning: Staff can help to suggest weekend activities (extra fees applies). Trips may include; canoeing through jungle, caves, tubing, visit Mayan ruins, hiking and horse riding

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

Volunteer Camp For At Risk Youth: Putting Film Into Action In Belize

BELIZE

The project

Join this Volunteer Camp for At-Risk-Youth: Putting Film Into Action in Belize and share your film and photography skills. You can inspire the youth of Belize to inspire environmental socio-political changes and give them skills for a career. By sharing your skills and knowledge, volunteers can help empower students and guide them produce a film to be shared through online media. It really is a fantastic opportunity for these young people. The project aims to provide a free camp for the youth. Volunteers are needed to help drive the project forward and act as mentors during the camp. The project wants to involve international volunteers as this will also enable the students to make connections in the internationally and share more than filmmaking and photographic skills. The camp is split into 2 sections with the first two weeks focusing on filmmaking and the last 2 weeks looking at the photography element of media production.

Role of the volunteer

As a volunteer on this Youth Camera Action Camp, you will share your skills and experience with the youth of Belize and support local experts with the delivery of the following programmes:

Film Making (2 weeks)

The first week focuses on film evolution, telling a story, examining classic and contemporary tales and looks at the media landscape, critiquing meanings behind short films and clips. The students will be introduced to media literacy examining types of media, creators motivations and approaches to storytelling, reviewing documentary versus narrative filmmaking. The second week focuses on story creation, translating images into words, script development process, character development and screenwriting. Students write their own scripts using the skills and techniques learned, have an introduction to the photography process and on the final day design and deliver a photography project.

Photography (2 weeks, following on from the filmmaking camp)

The first week looks at camera operation and uses this knowledge to develop a topic-based photo essay. Students are introduced to storyboarding and the production process. In week 2, students learn about the creation of suspenseful scenes and the conveying of visual language. The 2 weeks culminates with a short film production in groups.

Your role will very much be determined by your own skills, experience and interests but primarily, you will be supporting the students with their work.

Skills required

The project is looking for volunteers who have hands-on experience in the film industry so that a balanced and detailed training can be given. Any of the following will be highly valued by the project: videographers, producers, scriptwriters, photographers or editors. You will be asked to send your CV/resume before being accepted onto this project and may also be asked to attend a Skype interview to discuss the specifics of the camp. Bring your passion for film and photography and inspire others!

Why choose this project

- ✓ Volunteer within a multicultural team and share your areas of expertise.
- ✓ Inspiring others to pursue their passions, and potentially create a future career for themselves.
- ✓ Bring a new perspective to the youth of Belize and be a vital element of this placement by giving them hope and a global perspective.

Project location

The camp is based in San Ignacio, also referred to locally as Cayo, and works with local experts. The town is the main tourist centre and there is plenty to do and see. The surrounding communities consist of a mix of Creole, Maya and Mestizo populations making it a fascinating place to visit. San Ignacio is a very attractive market town set among lovely tropical hills. You will have time to explore so make the most of your placement and add on a week or two extra, perhaps to do more volunteering in the film industry or to explore this amazing country.

Project facts

Duration: 2 or 4 weeks

Requirements: Age 18+

Location: San Ignacio, Belize

Working hours: 6 hours per day, Monday - Friday

Project availability: All year with one-month advance notice, please speak to a Kaya advisor

Arrival day: Saturday prior to camp start date

What's included

Accommodation: shared room in volunteer accommodation with access to a pool table and a bar

Meals: 3 per day; light breakfast, sandwiches for lunch and a cooked evening meal. Volunteers take turns once a week preparing something from their own country

Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off at Belize City International Airport

Training: Orientation and project induction provided

Support: 24-hour support

Excursion Planning: Staff can help to suggest weekend activities (extra fee may apply). Trips may include; canoeing through jungle, caves, tubing, visit Mayan ruins, hiking and horse riding

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

Work in Hospitals and Clinics in Belize

BELIZE

The project

Volunteer and work in hospitals and clinics in Belize serving locals while learning about the healthcare settings. Lend a hand in a public polyclinic or private hospital that serve local citizens, regardless of income or social standing. The polyclinic offers first line of care and gives local access to free medicines. Departments include public health, vector control, ER, dental, pharmacy, maternity and outpatients. The private hospital charges a fee for its services but many on lower incomes prefer to use the services of this centre. The private hospital offers ER, pediatric care, dentistry, gyn and a diabetes clinic. Both the hospital and the polyclinic refer more serious cases to Belmopan Hospital. Join as a medical volunteer and gain and support the local team of doctors, nurses and house staff with their daily duties while gaining an insight into the Belizean healthcare system.

Role of the volunteer

- Pre-medical volunteers with no experience will shadow local doctors and nursing staff at the polyclinic, getting involved where they are most needed with general hospital tasks. You will not be able to treat patients as you do not have the training to do so, but you will have a great opportunity to see many aspects of polyclinic, helping you to think more about your future career.
- Medical students (year 1 - 3) will be able to shadow local doctors and nursing staff at the polyclinic, gaining an insight into the healthcare system, local illnesses not so common at home and how to work in a cross-cultural team. Medical students will rotate departments getting an insight into different aspects of the Belizean healthcare system. If you are a 4th year medical student, you should consider the elective placement that is also offered as this is a better fit to your experience level.
- Qualified medical professionals, once the Temporary Work Permits obtained, will have 1 week of intense orientation. You will then work in either the hospital or polyclinic alongside a local team, providing support and expertise, treating patients in line with your training level. Trained professionals will be expected to practice and share their experience with the local team including the paramedics.

Skills required

You will be asked to submit a full CV/Resume and to attend a Skype interview with the Kaya team to ensure that your interests and expectations can be assessed. A positive attitude, and a willingness to help where needed are essential competencies.

If you are a qualified doctor you will be asked to provide your medical license and qualifications so that the local team can arrange your Temporary Employment Permit, for a small fee. Any qualified practitioners able to practice their own specialty in Belize will be asked to register with the Belizean Medical Council, as they would with their own governing body at home, to enable you to be the most help to the local community.

Resources are limited, so if you need any specialist equipment, we do recommend you to bring it with you. Everyone is asked to bring their own scrubs and suitable shoes for working in a clinical environment.

Why choose this project

- ✔ Contribute to a local polyclinic and local hospital needing assistance running all aspects of their operations, from basic nursing care to surgeries.
- ✔ Add some expertise and outside assistance to an over-stretched medical team depending on your qualifications, experience and willingness to help.
- ✔ Add the experience to your CV/Resume for career purposes, as working in a different context, with a cross cultural team is valuable in many settings.

Project location

You will be based in San Ignacio and the surrounding communities. San Ignacio, referred to locally as Cayo, is located 2 hours from Belize City. The town and the surrounding communities contain a diverse mix of Creole, Maya and Mestizo populations. San Ignacio is also an attractive market town set among pleasant tropical hills.

Project facts

Duration: 2+ weeks
Requirements: age 17+
Location: San Ignacio, Belize
Working hours: 6-8 hours per day, Monday - Friday. Shifts may vary
Project availability: starting on the first or third Saturday of each month
Arrival day: Saturday
At least 2 months advance booking required to participate in this project .

What's included

Accommodation: shared room in volunteer accommodation with access to a pool table and a bar
Meals: 3 per day; light breakfast, sandwiches for lunch, a cooked evening meal. Volunteers takes turn preparing something from their own country once a week
Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off at Belize City International Airport
Training: Healthcare ethics & culture doc, pre-departure info pack, learning reflection manual, on-site orientation and project induction provided
Support: 24-hour support
Excursion Planning: Staff help organise weekend activities (Activity price may be extra)

What's not

Flights
Insurance
Visas
Fees associated with registration with Belizean Medical Council
Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

Project Costs for Belize

| COUNTRY | PROJECT | 2 WEEKS PRICING | | 4 WEEKS PRICING | | EXTRA WEEKLY PRICING | |
|---------|---|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| | | Price GBP (£) | Price USD (\$) | Price GBP (£) | Price USD (\$) | Price GBP (£) | Price USD (\$) |
| Belize | Belize Spring Break Organic farming Volunteer Week | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Belize | Build a Sustainable Home for Orphans in Belize | £1551 | \$2421 | £2584 | \$4033 | £460 | \$717 |
| Belize | Enchanted Forest Art Therapy Volunteering in Belize | £1551 | \$2421 | £2584 | \$4033 | £460 | \$717 |
| Belize | Christmas Volunteering Building a Home for Orphaned Teenagers in Belize | £1551 | \$2421 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Belize | Counselling and Social Work in Belize | N/A | N/A | £2584 | \$4033 | £272 | \$424 |
| Belize | Dance Therapy in Belize | £1432 | \$2235 | £2118 | \$3306 | £359 | \$560 |
| Belize | Volunteer in Rural Health Clinics in Belize | £1606 | \$2507 | £2580 | \$4027 | £487 | \$760 |
| Belize | Marine Science Internship in Belize | N/A | N/A | £2469 | \$3855 | varies | varies |
| Belize | Medical Elective/ Rotation/ Internship in Belize | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | £594 | \$927 |
| Belize | Music Access and Development for School Children in Belize | N/A | N/A | £2584 | \$4033 | £272 | \$424 |
| Belize | Political Science Internship in Belize | N/A | N/A | £2195 | \$3427 | £359 | \$560 |
| Belize | Teaching and Teacher Development Volunteering in Belize | N/A | N/A | £2584 | \$4033 | £272 | \$424 |
| Belize | Volunteer Camp For At Risk Youth: Putting Film Into Action In Belize | £1432 | \$2235 | £2118 | \$3306 | N/A | N/A |
| Belize | Work in Hospitals and Clinics in Belize | £1606 | \$2507 | £2580 | \$4027 | £487 | \$760 |

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, and 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.

Program Agreement Terms and Conditions

NOTE: The current terms outlined include temporary accommodations made to address the current Covid-19 global pandemic. We have called these Kaya Amended Coronavirus Terms – Kaya ACT. These temporary terms are outlined alongside Kaya regular terms and conditions and may be amended at any time. These are all shown in red for easy identification.

Deadlines, Dates and Prices

Applications are accepted throughout the year and are subject to limited space availability. Programs are priced individually and displayed on the Kaya website alongside each project. Deadlines are based on the dates of the desired placement. Some programs and project placements fill up prior to their published application deadlines. Apply early to secure your space. 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 program specifics will commence 2-3 months prior to program start.

Application Deadline

Programs have varying deadlines. Most are around 3 months prior to the program start. Last-minute bookings will be considered on an individual basis. Last-minute bookings are advised that their placement arrangements may require more flexibility to accommodate.

Total Fee Due

60 days prior to program 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/\$60 basis.

Program Start and Finish Dates, Current Prices, and “What’s Included” are displayed on the Kaya website alongside each project. 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 US\$.

Application Instructions

Apply online: <https://www.kayavolunteer.com/book-now>

At the time of initial application, an application fee of GBP£75/ US\$95 is requested. This fee will be deducted from your total program fees. This is a non-refundable fee that enables us to process your application and ensures we work to match you with the best possible placement for your skills, interest, and needs. In the event that the application is rejected by Kaya, this payment will be returned in full. You will be provided the option to “speak to an advisor before submitting your fee”, but please note that your application may not be completed until payment of this fee is received.

Upon receipt of the application form and fee, we will contact you to arrange an online interview, work with our in-country teams to review your information, and offer you a placement in line with your request. Kaya will contact all applicants within 2 weeks of receipt of the application.

Confirming your placement: Once a placement is offered, you will have the option to confirm your placement and dates, and reserve your space with a confirmation fee of GBP£150/ US\$250. This fee will be deducted from your total program fees.

Kaya ACT: During the Covid pandemic, this payment will not be requested until travel to that country is possible (the host country borders open to you, and your home country is allowing travel to the host country). These will be deferred until confirmation of travel dates can be provided, at which time applicants may decide whether to proceed with, or cancel their application.

Until your confirmation fee is received we cannot guarantee your space on the program. See Trip Cancellation & Refund Policy below for further details.

Additional deposit fees: A small number of our programs have an additional deposit applied by our in-country project partners. You will be notified of this on initial inquiry if this exists for your program. Any payments made will be applied toward the total program fee. These additional deposits are non-refundable in all cases but can be applied to future participation for that specific placement if your placement dates need to be moved.

Trip Cancellation & Refund Policy

Kaya reserves the right to cancel any program 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 program. Kaya is not responsible for other costs incurred by applicants preparing for the trip. Should a program be canceled 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, minus application fees and bank charges.

For participants wishing to cancel or shorten their program, the following terms apply:

- Application fees are non-refundable in all instances for successful applicants. Unsuccessful applicants will be fully refunded.
- Additional deposits, where applicable, are also non-refundable in all instances.
- Confirmation fees: If you decide to cancel, for any reason, any time up to 61 days before travel, we will provide a 50% refund, less application fee, and bank fees.

If the travel status of your program changes prior to your travel dates, and those are likely to interrupt your travel at your booked program time, we will provide a full refund, less application fee, and bank fees. Cancellations made within 60 days before departure will make confirmation fees non-refundable.

- Program fee balance – Payment of all remaining program fees are due 60 days prior to your program start date. Payment of program balance fees prior to this deadline are fully refundable up to 61 days before departure (minus any bank fees incurred). Payments not received by this deadline may result in the cancellation of your program or a late payment surcharge of £35/\$60.

If the travel status of your program changes prior to your travel dates, and those are likely to interrupt your travel at the booked program time, we will provide a full refund, less application fee, and bank fees.

- Under our standard terms, if you decide to cancel or shorten your program within 60 days of your program start, no refunds will be provided.

Individuals who cancel or shorten their program, for any reason (including health, bereavement, and visa issues) less than 60 days prior to the program start or during the program will not receive any 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. Travel insurance with trip cancellation coverage is strongly encouraged for this reason.

- **Kaya ACT: Due to the impacts of Covid-19, for programs planned for 2021 we will be providing a more flexible cancellation policy. For programs with start dates in 2021, if you decide to cancel between 60-31 days prior to travel, a 50% refund less application fee and bank fees will be provided. Some programs are exempt from this flexible arrangement and you will be notified of this upon booking. After 30 days, no refunds will be provided.**
- **Date Flexibility – Participants will be permitted to change program dates any time until 2 weeks prior to departure, for any reason, for no additional fees. Last-minute changes will be considered on a case-by-case basis. New dates will be subject to availability. Programs being delayed to a future year may incur program fee increases. Dates must be changed prior to payment deadlines for “payment due” dates to be amended.**

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- 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 intern programs 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 program.
- Kaya strives to ensure sustainable projects and quality programs 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.

Date and Project Changes

Upon application, you will receive an interview in which your placement and program dates will be discussed. When you confirm your placement and pay your confirmation fees, we will agree program dates against which your placement will be held. We encourage you to stick to these as the projects plan around your participation. Under standard terms, one (1) date or program change made prior to 60 days before departure will be accommodated for, at no charge, subject to availability. Placements moved to the following year may be subject to price increases. After 1 change has been accommodated for, any future changes made will be subject to an administration charge of GBP£40 / USD\$70 – payable at the time of change. For project changes where the original project incurred an additional deposit, the additional deposit amount will NOT be transferable to your new project.

Date changes requested within 60 days prior to departure will be considered on an individual basis, the original payment deadlines will apply and changes will be subject to an administration charge of GBP£40 / USD\$70 – payable at the time of change. Placement changes within 60 days prior to departure are typically not accommodated for, due to project commitments made at that time.

Under Kaya ACT, the 60-day deadline outlined for changing program dates without a fee has been reduced to 14 days, with further flexibility considered as a result of travel bans and advisories in place at the time of your placement.

Age

Participants must be aged 18 years over at the time of pick up, unless expressly agreed in advance by Kaya. Kaya reserves the right to cancel any application or terminate any placement, without refund, if false proof of age is found to have been supplied.

For participants under 18yrs, who have been accepted onto a Kaya program, 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.

Program Flexibility

Kaya programs are different from travel or adventure programs. 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, local regulations 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 program. Part of the challenge and growth opportunity is in adapting to changing conditions and overcoming the obstacles they may present.

Legal Jurisdiction, Release of Liability and Assumption of Risks

UK and European Participants:

Participants from the UK and European countries 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.

Participants from North America and other Non-European countries:

Participants from North America and other Non-European countries booking their placements on kayavolunteer.com enter a contract with Kaya Responsible Travel Ltd, part of the Global Educators Inc consortium of 3 Ferry Street, Studio 3-West, Easthampton, MA, a company registered in the state of Massachusetts, USA. This contract is governed by the laws of the State of Massachusetts, U.S.A., excluding Massachusetts's conflict of laws rules, regardless of your location. You hereby expressly consent to exclusive jurisdiction and venue in the federal and state courts located in Massachusetts U.S.A., for all matters or disputes arising out of or relating to these Terms and Conditions or your access or use of the Website.

All Participants:

In organising and managing volunteer projects, work experience placements, group programs, 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 suppliers 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 program if he or she is deemed ill-suited for the program. Important program 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 program and project photos on a regular basis on the Kaya website. These photos and videos are available for participants, 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 traveling 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 program, agrees that participation is completely voluntary and assumes all risk associated with the program.

Kaya shall have no responsibility for any activities undertaken by the Participant outside the scope of those directly relating to the program, 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 program 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 program. Kaya reserves the right to refuse entry to programs if insurance details are not supplied.

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Behavioural Expectations

By joining a Kaya Program, the participant assumes certain obligations to Kaya, its community, and other program participants. If on-site program 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 program. Participants asked to leave under these circumstances will not receive a refund. In addition to other program responsibilities, as a program participant you are responsible for:

- Being in sufficient good health to undertake the program.
- Acting in an appropriate and respectful manner towards the local people, fellow travellers, program participants, and staff in accordance with the customs, laws, regulations, and ordinances of the country of placement.
- Following all health and safety protocols and precautions outlined by ground-team members.
- Communicating effectively your interests, skills, limitations, and needs to home community members and program staff members.

Disclosure

All participants must disclose at the 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 of which may be dictated by legal requirements 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 applications based on these disclosures, if deemed necessary for the safety of the participant and the project. Kaya operates a policy of non-discrimination and any information provided that may impact an application will be discussed with the applicant prior to any decisions being implemented to establish the basis for any concerns. Kaya reserve the right to cancel any 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 makes 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 program, 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 a 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 of events leading to their early termination, 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 program that were not reported during the program, 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.