



## Project Details

**NAME:** HACIENDA TRANQUILA  
**PROJECT PERIOD:** 1 week minimum & 12 weeks maximum  
**PROGRAM:** Volunteer Abroad Program  
**COUNTRY:** Ecuador/ San Cristobal Island, Galapagos

1. GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION	
Name and Address:	<p><b>GEOVANNY SARIGU</b>            General Manager of Hacienda Tranquila S.A            San Cristóbal Galápagos            Vía a playa Mann, La casa verde.</p> <p><b>Phone:</b> 593 52-521-732  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:haciendatranquila@gmail.com">haciendatranquila@gmail.com</a></p>
Project Information:	<p>Volunteers will be met at the airport by the program director and travel to the main office of Hacienda Tranquila for a brief introduction to the program. Following a quick tour of the port town, where they will be able to purchase groceries, they will travel to the highlands, where the reforestation project and lodging is located. The bio station is located in the highlands of the island on a 50 hectare site, where there is still native vegetation. One of the objectives of this new station will be to develop the technology to reconstruct native habitat in the highlands on San Cristobal, and to serve as a centre for similar projects in the highlands of other populated islands in the Galapagos chain. The remaining native highland forests on the populated islands are quite limited due to farming activities in general, and the introduction of useful, but very invasive, species from the mainland. Volunteers work to reverse the negative effects of invasive or introduced species, restoring the native and endemic forests of San Cristobal. They collaborate with organizations such as the Instituto Nacional del Nino y la Familia (INFA) to promote environmental conservation among young children from the island as well as motivate community members to plant local, rather than introduced vegetation.</p>
Volunteers' Primary Responsibilities:	<p>Volunteers work in a controlled plot of land to eliminate introduced/ invasive plant species and to restore native and endemic species, growing the plants first in a greenhouse, and then transplanting them to their permanent locations. Volunteers also assist in community projects, such as installing a new water pipeline for the local community. In addition,</p>

	they mentor children from INFA, working with them in hippo-therapy, gardening, environmental education, and fieldtrips to the Hacienda. Hacienda team-members are always on-hand for assistance and guidance in volunteer projects.
Work Schedule:	Volunteers will work from Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12 and 2:30- 5:00 p.m. Volunteers are free to explore the port town and discover the island's many tourist attractions on the weekends.
Project Life:	You will live and work on the station itself. Nature takes over when working in a place such as this, so you will get up early each morning to start work and usually have a break in the middle of the day to relax and recuperate, before continuing with the work in the afternoon. The jobs you will be involved in are numerous and most of the work is on reforestation, research and community-based projects. You will be involved in the restoration of habitats, as well as assisting with the organic agriculture component of the project. Volunteers usually work for five days each week, with weekends off. Days are long and hard and volunteers should be prepared for hot, physical yet rewarding work. Evenings are quiet and usually spent lounging in hammocks, chatting, listening to music, writing in your journal or reading. Sometimes you will find that you are one of only two or three volunteers. At other times however, there will be large groups, so be prepared for variety in the people you will meet and work with.
<b>2. LOCATION INFORMATION</b>	
Accommodations:	The house at the Hacienda Tranquila bio station offers a full kitchen, bathroom, and shower with hot water. Volunteers are divided two to each bedroom. Beds are prepared with sheets and mosquito nets and the Hacienda provides cleaning and maintenance supplies for the house. However, volunteers are responsible for toiletries (bath towels) and food/drinks. One advantage of living on the station is the abundance of fresh fruit, milk, and coffee from the surrounding area, all at the disposal of the volunteers.
Electricity:	24/7
Water:	The shower has hot water 24/7. It is necessary to purchase purified drinking water.
Time and Distance to Nearest Towns:	The town of Progreso is a 30 minute walk or 10 minute taxi ride from the Hacienda and the port is 20 minutes away in taxi.
Distance to Nearest Bus Stop and Commercial Airport:	Volunteers can catch a bus in El Progreso, the nearest town to Hacienda Tranquila bio station, and either takes a plane or small speed boat to neighboring islands at the local airport, located in the port town.
Distance to the Nearest Phone/ Internet Café:	The port town, Baquerizo Moreno, is home to numerous internet cafes and international calling

	booths. However, such services are also available in El Progreso, the closest town in the Hacienda Tranquila bio station.
Nearest Medical Services for Minor Ailments:	The Hacienda Tranquila staff is trained for medical emergencies, but in case of something more serious, there is a nearby clinic in El Progreso.
Nearest Medical Services for Major Emergencies:	The port town is home to a more advanced clinic that offers superior medical service and is located just 20 minutes from the farm.
Distance from the Volunteer House to Project Sites:	Most projects are a 5-10 minute walk. Monitoring introduced species requires a 15-20 minute.

Suggested Packing List:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comfortable shoes</li> <li>• Sandals</li> <li>• Socks</li> <li>• Pants</li> <li>• T-shirts</li> <li>• Short-sleeved shirts</li> <li>• Long-sleeved shirts</li> <li>• Shorts</li> <li>• Bathing suit</li> <li>• Baseball cap</li> <li>• Bath towel</li> <li>• Beach towel</li> <li>• Sunscreen</li> <li>• Sunglasses</li> <li>• Camera</li> <li>• Insect repellent</li> <li>• Toiletries</li> <li>• Rain gear</li> <li>• Rubber boots</li> <li>• Gardening gloves</li> <li>• First Aid Kit</li> <li>• Reusable water bottle</li> </ul>
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<p>What Difference Does This Project Make?</p>	<p>This is the only project in the Galapagos that combines environmental, community and social initiatives to improve the sustainability of the islands. The Biological Station opened on San Cristobal in 2005. Since its inception, the station's field lodging and a significant nursery operation have been constructed. The Foundation has worked towards the development of reforestation, habitat re-composition, and agro forestry activities during its 5 years on the island. In virtue of this, one of the objectives of this station is to develop methodological practices for natural system reconstruction that will serve as a model for similar projects in other reserves. Volunteers have begun reforestation work with Hacienda Tranquila staff, replacing exotic, invasive plants with native species. Furthermore, volunteers collaborate with organizations such as the Instituto Nacional del Nino y la Familia (INFA) in Hippo-Therapy to promote environmental conservation among young children from the island as well as motivate community members to plant local, rather than introduced vegetation. Plans include the construction of a native plant corridor from the dry forest portion of the lowland reserve to the moist forest above. Reforestation with native plants will be emphasized as a plant production center is developed.</p>
<p>Highlights</p>	<p>Participating in the restoration of habitats in the Galapagos Islands, work with local community; visiting ecologically important sites; teaching visitors about ecological issues; exploring the island and marveling at the unique wildlife.</p>
<p>Additional Information:</p>	<p>The director of activities will meet volunteers at the airport, wearing the Hacienda Tranquila shirt and holding a sign so that arriving volunteers can recognize him.</p> <p><b>Volunteers are given a warm welcome to the enchanted Galapagos Islands.</b></p> <p><b>For any questions or concerns, please contact:</b></p> <p><b>La casa verde, San Cristóbal Galápagos: Via a Playa Mann. Geovanny Sarigu or Fabian Andi. General Manager of Hacienda Tranquila S.A</b></p> <p><b>Phone:</b> 593 52-521-732 <b>Urgent call:</b> 593 52-521-732 (24/7)</p> <p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:haciendatranquila@gmail.com">haciendatranquila@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:geosarigu@gmail.com">geosarigu@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>3. NOTES</b></p>	
<p><b>Volunteers should bring a copy of their passport and a wallet-sized photo for registration with Hacienda Tranquila.</b></p>	