

Nicaragua  
**COMMUNITY WORK  
& SPANISH SCHOOL  
GRANADA**

**COMMUNITY  
SOCIAL PROJECT**

**INTERCULTURAL  
EXPERIENCES  
FOR FUTURE  
CHANGEMAKERS**



# IN GRANADA...

we support vulnerable youth by providing educational opportunities and a safe haven outside of school hours. We offer care and shelter to children and adolescents aged 7 to 20, creating a vibrant hub for cultural exchange alongside Granada's top Spanish Language School



Granada  
Nicaragua



Minimum  
4 Weeks



No  
Spanish Needed



1° Time  
Volunteer



minimun 18  
years old

# GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

## Empowering Youth in Granada: Your Role in Supporting Vulnerable Children

In Granada, our project is dedicated to supporting vulnerable youth by providing educational opportunities and a safe space beyond school hours. We offer before- and after-school care, as well as shelter, to underprivileged children and adolescents aged 7 to 20. Partnering with Granada's leading Spanish Language School, our center acts as a vibrant hub for cultural exchange.

Volunteers are essential to our mission, assisting youth with homework, hygiene education, and offering motivation and support. We cater to about 30 children, divided into primary and adolescent groups attending either morning or afternoon sessions. Each child enjoys a nutritious lunch and is encouraged to practice good hygiene, reinforcing the role of education in breaking cycles of poverty and violence.

Our goal is to empower these young individuals to bring positive change to their lives, families, and communities. The center provides scholarships for primary, secondary, and university education, along with learning materials, homework help, English classes, arts and crafts, sports, games, excursions, and recreational activities. We also offer workshops on teamwork, leadership, and gender equality, with volunteers encouraged to propose their own ideas.

Funding for the program mainly comes from fees for Spanish classes taken by foreign students. By volunteering and participating in these classes, you contribute directly to creating a brighter future for local children.



# WHAT IS INCLUDED



PRE-DEPARTURE ONLINE ORIENTATION

DONATION TO THE PROJECT

AIRPORT TRANSFER UPON ARRIVAL

ONSITE ORIENTATION MEETING

DEDICATED LOCAL SUPPORT FROM A VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

14 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION IN A HOMESTAY (PRIVATE ROOM WITH SHARED BATHROOM)

MEALS PROVIDED (BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AND DINNER)

TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN HOMESTAY AND SCHOOL (BY TAXI OR BICYCLE)

DAY TOUR TO LAGUNA DE APOYO CRATER LAKE (INCLUDING HIKE AND SWIM)

COOKING CLASS EXPERIENCE

FOR THE VOLUNTEER AND SPANISH PROGRAM ONLY: HALF DAY SPANISH LESSONS (VOLUNTEERS WILL WORK DURING HALF OF THE DAY AND HAVE SPANISH CLASSES THE OTHER HALF.

FOLLOW-UP ONLINE SESSIONS (MINDFULNESS AND PROGRAM UPDATES)

# WHAT TO CONSIDER

- **Arrival Airport:** Managua (MGA)
- **Location:** Granada
- **Arrival Date:** Participants must arrive in Granada by Sunday to begin work on Monday (extra homestay nights can be arranged for early arrivals)
- **Availability:** Year-round (except from the second week of December to the second week of January, Easter, and two weeks of school holidays in July)
- **Days Off:** Weekends and National Holidays
- **Extended Stays:** Possible
- **Wi-Fi:** Available at the project, not at the homestay
- **Emotional Challenges:** Work may be emotionally challenging
- **Spanish Proficiency:** Intermediate Spanish required for volunteering with primary school children; Advanced level required for working with adolescents
- **Spanish Classes:** Can be arranged at the project if your language level is not sufficient; a Spanish Placement Test will be required



## WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- MEALS THAT ARE NOT MENTIONED
- MEDICAL INSURANCE (MANDATORY TO CONFIRM THE RESERVATION)
- DEPARTURE AIRPORT TRANSFER
- PERSONAL EXPENSES

# VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES



Your involvement creates a safe, supportive environment where kids can learn, grow, and thrive!!

Here's a look at the impactful and fun activities you'll be involved in:

- **Positive Attention:** Give kids and teenagers the encouragement and support they need.
- **Homework Help:** Assist with homework for those who need a little extra help.
- **Fun and Games:** Organize sports, art, and music activities that make learning enjoyable.
- **English Classes:** Teach English and run engaging workshops on various topics.
- **Activity Setup:** Plan and set up games and activities for breaks or after homework time.
- **Hygiene Education:** Teach important hygiene practices like hand washing and dental care.
- **Unexpected Support:** Be there for any unexpected needs, like accompanying kids to the doctor or dentist.



# A TYPICAL DAY AS A VOLUNTEER

Welcome to Granada! When you first arrive, you'll get settled in with your host family. They'll fill you in on how to get to the project—either a short walk, bike ride, or taxi trip—starting on Monday (unless it's a National Holiday).

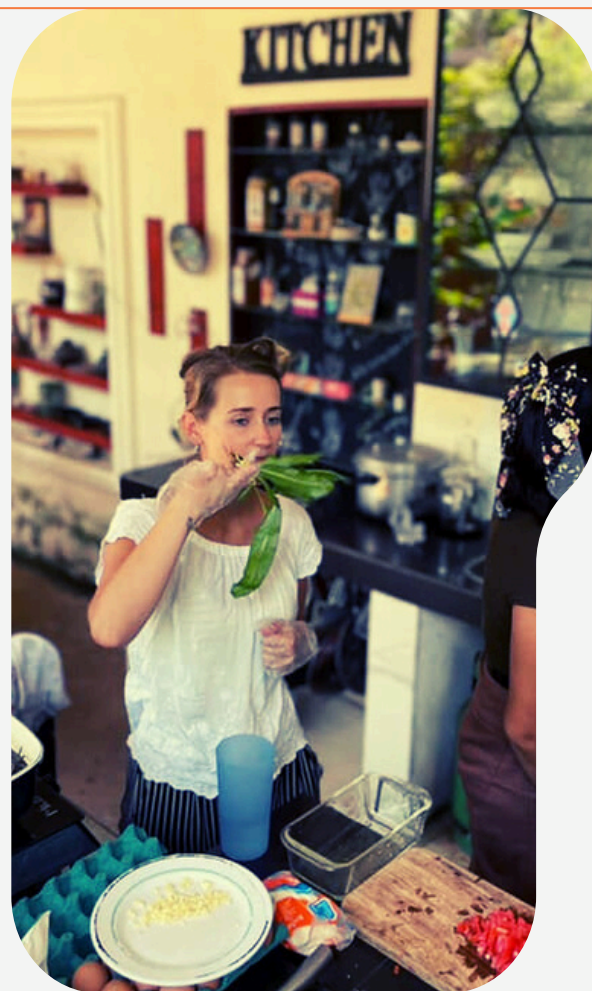
On Monday at the project, you'll kick things off with an orientation meeting. You'll learn all about the project's rules and get the lowdown on what's happening in the days ahead. This is also your chance to share what talents and passions you want to bring as a volunteer. Think about cool activities like arts and crafts, sports, games from your home country, health talks, or even a fun presentation about where you're from! If your activity needs specific stuff, remember to bring it along.

Now, let's talk about a typical day as a volunteer. You'll spend around 4 hours each morning or afternoon hanging out with the "chavalos" (that's what the local kids are called). Some days might have you helping with schoolwork, while others could be all about sports, art, or music. You might also assist with English classes, lead workshops, or organize fun activities for break time.

Around noon, it's back to your host family's place for lunch. If you're combining volunteering with Spanish classes, you'll head to class in the afternoon. Otherwise, you're free to enjoy the city or join optional excursions.

Days can vary, so flexibility is key. The coordinator will guide you on where your help is needed most. Remember, things might move at a different pace here—it's all part of the cultural experience! Stay patient, embrace the differences, and enjoy this opportunity to make a difference.

Your volunteer work is super important. You'll be a role model for the kids, showing them new cultures, values, and languages. Show that you're ready to dive in, work hard, and spread positive vibes—you'll see how much joy and energy the chavalos bring out in you. It's a chance to reconnect with your inner child and make the most of your time here as a volunteer!



# WHAT TO DO IN FREE TIME

Granada is Nicaragua's hotspot for tourists, buzzing with old-school charm, relaxed vibes, and a lively mix of locals and expats. Here's what you can dive into:

- **Epic Views:** Climb the Merced Church tower for stunning views over Granada and beyond.
- **Isletas Adventure:** Explore the tiny islands of Lake Nicaragua by bike or boat for a serene escape with unique wildlife and a laidback atmosphere.
- **Masaya Volcano:** Check out the fiery glow of Masaya volcano at night and explore the vibrant crafts market in Masaya town.
- **Weekend Escapes:** Spend your weekends visiting Ometepe island's twin volcanoes or relaxing on the Pacific beaches of San Juan del Sur.
- **Historical Highlights:** Discover Leon's impressive architecture and energetic university scene.
- **Volcano Boarding:** For an adrenaline rush, try volcano boarding down Cerro Negro's black sand slopes—it's a wild mix of thrills and natural beauty.

Granada and its surroundings offer a perfect blend of culture and adventure, making it a must-visit spot in Nicaragua.



# THE ACCOMMO DATION



You'll be staying with a local host family in a private room with a shared bathroom that has a cold water shower. Getting to the project is easy with bike or taxi options provided (included). Please note that Wi-Fi is usually not available, so plan accordingly. Your stay includes towels and three meals a day.

# ABOUT GRANADA

Discover Granada: A Colorful Tapestry of History, Vibrant Culture, and Scenic Bliss



Nestled along the shores of Lake Nicaragua, Granada is a city bursting with vibrant colonial architecture, lively markets, and a rich history that dates back to its founding in 1524. Stroll through picturesque streets lined with pastel-colored buildings and dive into the local culture. Explore historic landmarks like the Granada Cathedral and the Convento San Francisco Museum, which offer a glimpse into the city's captivating past.

Granada is also a hotspot for outdoor adventures. Kayak through the islets of Lake Nicaragua, hike up Mombacho Volcano, or zip-line through the lush rainforest canopy. If you're looking for a more laid-back experience, you can enjoy a serene boat tour on the lake or relax at one of the many charming cafes and restaurants.

The city's vibrant nightlife has something for everyone, from energetic bars and clubs to more relaxed spots where you can enjoy live music and dance the night away. Granada's friendly vibe and varied entertainment options make it a fantastic destination.

The climate in Granada is typically warm and tropical, with average temperatures ranging from 24°C to 33°C throughout the year. You can expect a wet season from May to October with frequent, brief showers, while the dry season runs from November to April, offering more consistent sunshine and pleasant conditions for exploring.

# WHAT TO BRING

- Small backpack for personal belongings
- Quick-drying or lightweight cotton clothes (Nicaragua's weather is hot and sunny, with occasional heavy rain; evenings and mountainous areas can be cooler)
- Sweater or sweatshirt and a light scarf for cooler moments
- Comfortable shoes like sneakers (sandals are better than flip-flops)
- Personal hygiene items
- Rain jacket
- Sunscreen
- Cap or hat
- Flashlight
- Power converter for 110v sockets
- Travel documents (passport, copy of medical insurance, personal medication information, vaccine card)

Please remember to bring enough of your own medications for the entire duration of your stay in Granada. While pharmacies are available, having your personal prescriptions with you is essential.





# VOLUNTEERING

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

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

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

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



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