

Costa Rica

WILDLIFE RESCUE

PUERTO
VIEJO

ENVIROMENTAL
PROJECT



CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE



THE ANIMAL RESCUE CENTER IS...

an animal rescue center is a temporary or permanent home for ill, injured, and orphaned animals. With a focus on monkeys, sloths, other mammals, birds and reptiles: the center provides veterinary services, round-the-clock care and comfort to animals that would otherwise be unable to survive in the Caribbean rainforest.



Puerto Viejo
Costa Rica



Minimum
4 Weeks



No
Spanish Needed



1° Time
Volunteer



minimun 18
years old

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

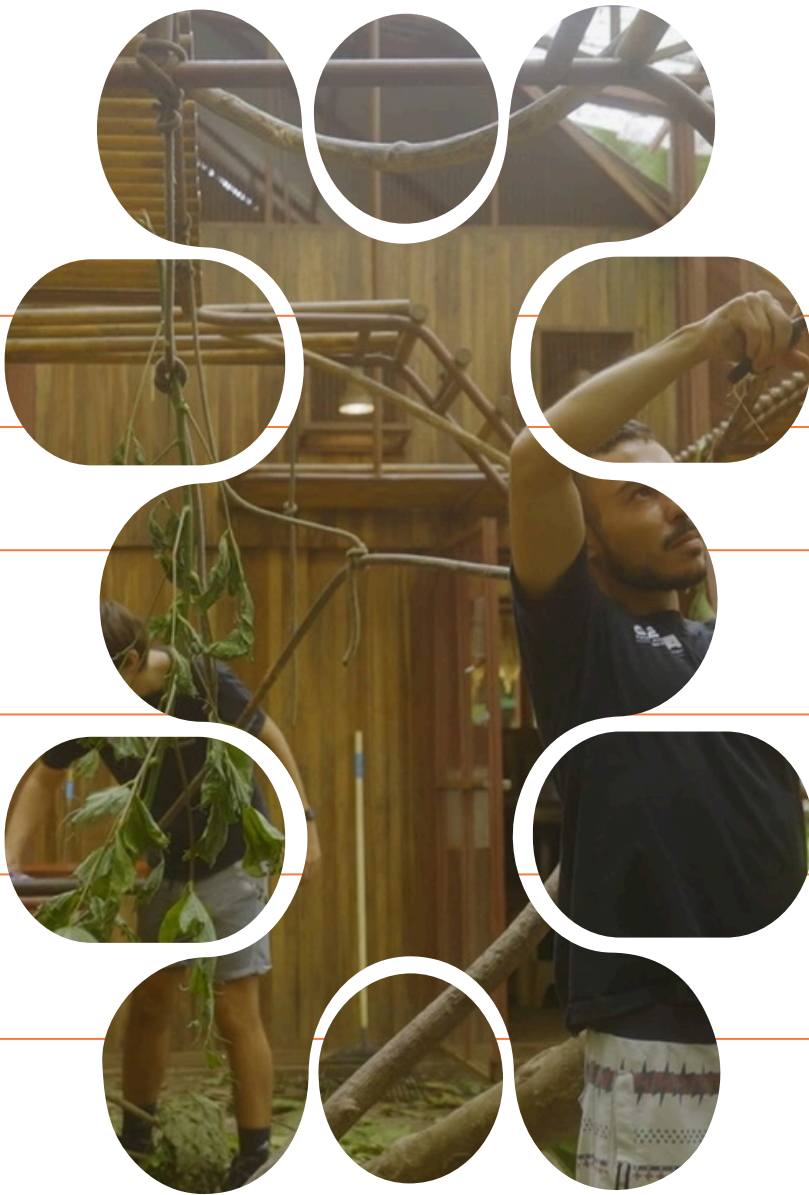
Founded in 2004 by a passionate European couple deeply moved by the lack of care for the wild animals in Costa Rica, the Animal Rescue Center in Puerto Viejo was established to make a meaningful change. After multiple visits to the country, they decided to create a sanctuary for the many animals in need. The center quickly became a refuge for reptiles, mammals, and even a baby jaguar, highlighting the urgent need for their rescue efforts.

To support their mission, the founders purchased a significant portion of private primary rainforest. This land provides a safe haven where animals can be gently reintroduced into their natural habitat. Unlike many similar organizations, the Jaguar Rescue Center operates independently of government funding and relies heavily on volunteers for both financial support and operational assistance.

Volunteers at the center are essential to the care of a diverse range of wildlife, including monkeys, wild cats, sloths, raccoons, anteaters, and marsupials. Daily tasks include preparing diets, cleaning enclosures, monitoring animal health, and assisting with their gradual release back into the wild. Each day is filled with new surprises and challenges, making the volunteer experience dynamic and profoundly impactful.



WHAT IS INCLUDED



PRE-DEPARTURE ONLINE ORIENTATION

DONATION TO THE PROJECT

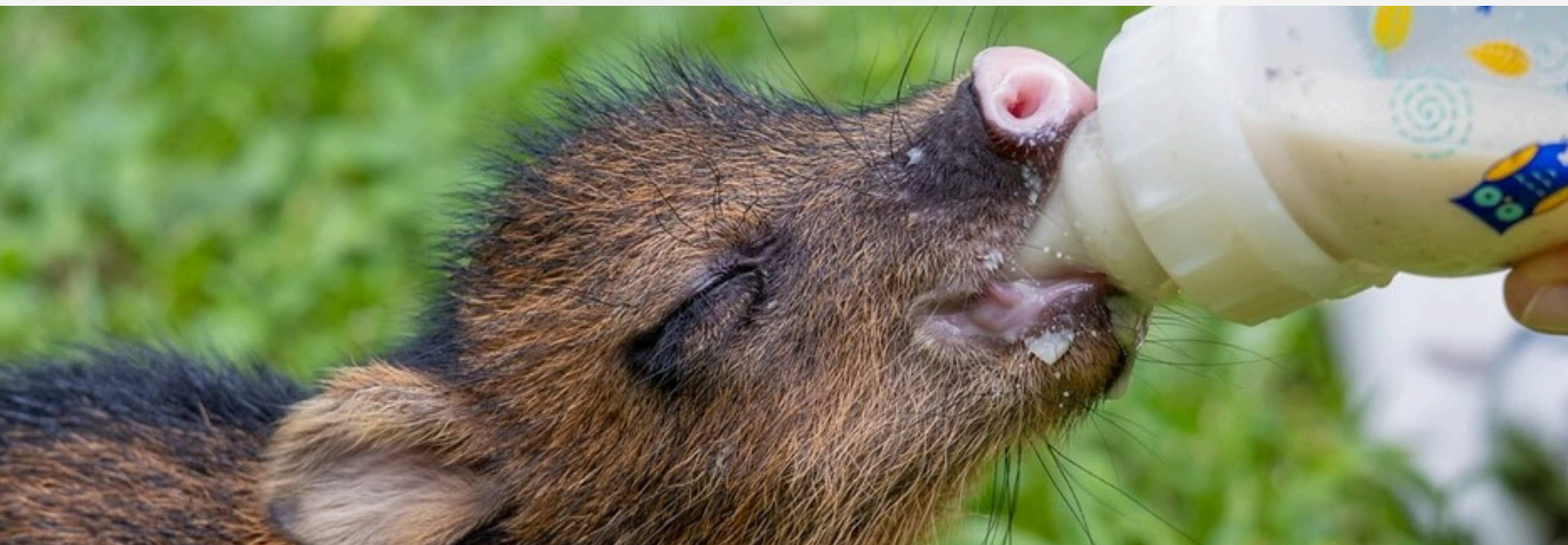
ONSITE ORIENTATION MEETING

DEDICATED LOCAL SUPPORT FROM A
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

28 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION IN DORMS AT
THE PROJECT

WHAT TO CONSI DER

- **Arrival Airport:** San Jose (SJO)
- **Location:** Near the town of Puerto Viejo
- **Projects Start:** Mondays; volunteers should arrive at the Center the Sunday before
- **Availability:** Year-round
- **Extended Stays:** Possible
- **Internet:** Connection signal may be unstable and poor
- **Physical Demands:** Work may be physically demanding
- **Volunteer Traits:** Must be responsible, disciplined, team-oriented, flexible, patient, and proactive
- **Insurance:** Travel and health insurance is mandatory
- **Health Requirements:** Tuberculosis test is mandatory
- **Facilities:** Kitchen facilities available
- **Maximum Volunteers:** 25
- **Healthcare:** Private clinic available in Puerto Viejo; nearest hospital approximately 1.5 hours' drive away
- **Budget:** It is recommended to bring cash from San José; suggested weekly budget is \$70-100 for meals and tours



WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

MEALS THAT ARE NOT MENTIONED
MEDICAL INSURANCE (MANDATORY TO CONFIRM THE RESERVATION)
TRANSPORT NOT PROVIDED UNLESS MENTIONED
PERSONAL EXPENSES

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES



¡Dive into an awesome experience at our wildlife sanctuary!

Here's a peek at the exciting activities awaiting you:

- **Hands-On Maintenance:** Help keep our facilities in great shape, ensuring a safe and cozy environment for our animal residents.
- **Pathway Patrol:** Tidy up pathways and areas around animal enclosures to keep everything neat and organized.
- **Diet Prep and Daily Care:** Assist with preparing diets and daily care routines alongside our dedicated animal keepers, gaining hands-on experience in animal husbandry.
- **Visitor Guide:** Share your passion for wildlife by guiding visitors through the sanctuary and sharing amazing stories about our animal residents.
- **Training Sessions:** Join in training to learn more about animal behaviors and care techniques, enhancing your knowledge and skills.
- **Compassionate Care:** Provide loving care to our animals through feeding, monitoring, and engaging with them, helping create a nurturing environment where they can thrive.

Make a direct impact on the lives of our animals and contribute to their health, happiness, and overall quality of life!



A TYPICAL DAY AS A VOLUNTEER

At Rescue Center, you will work five days a week, which may include weekdays or weekends, from 7:30 am to around 4:00 pm.

On your arrival day (Sunday), you'll meet other volunteers and some of the staff. You'll have the rest of the day to explore the town and get settled. Orientation and training start Monday at 11 am (attendance is mandatory). During this session, you'll be introduced to the other volunteers, join a 90-minute tour of the Center with tourists, and receive instructions from your volunteer manager.

In the following weeks, your work will include a variety of tasks. You might do dishes, clean animal areas (a constant task), assist with building and remodeling enclosures, or care for new arrivals to help them adjust to their new environment.

Your stay ends on Sunday, and if needed, we can help coordinate your transport back to San Jose or other destinations in Costa Rica.





You've got plenty of activities to choose from around Puerto Viejo:

- **Explore the Gandoca-Manzanillo Wildlife Reserve:** Hike, kayak, and snorkel in the tropical waters, or discover protected beaches where sea turtles lay their eggs.
- **Relax at the beach:** Visit Playa Cocles, Playa Chiquita, or Punta Uva, all just a short tuk-tuk ride away. Think coconut palms, golden sands, and pure paradise.
- **Snorkel the reefs:** Dive into the clear waters around Puerto Viejo and explore vibrant coral reefs teeming with colorful marine life.
- **Take a trip to Cahuita:** Just an hour away, this charming beach town offers stunning coastal views, a national park with shady hiking trails, and playful monkeys.
- **Enjoy fresh seafood:** Treat yourself to a delicious meal packed with Caribbean flavors and celebrate an evening off in the sunshine.

THE ACCOMMODATION



At the rescue center, the accommodation is set up to be cozy and practical for volunteers. Each room has four single beds with comfy mattresses, individual reading lights, and plugs to charge your gadgets. You've got your own bathroom with a toilet and a hot shower, so no need to share with a crowd.

We hook you up with bed linen and towels (just not for the beach), and there's Wi-Fi everywhere for staying connected. They keep things clean with regular cleaning, and you can do your laundry on-site for a small fee, which is handy.

There's a chill hangout spot called El Rancho where you can relax and hang out with other volunteers after your day's work.

While meals aren't provided, you've got access to a fully decked-out kitchen with everything you need to cook up your own grub—cutlery, pots, pans, stoves, ovens, and microwaves. You can stash your food in the fridges and even bring lunch to the center, where they've got more fridges and microwaves for your convenience.

All in all, it's a laid-back setup that makes sure you're comfortable while you're helping out at the center.

ABOUT PUERTO VIEJO

Puerto Viejo, nestled on Costa Rica's southern Caribbean coast, is a lively beach town celebrated for its laid-back vibe and vibrant Creole culture infused with reggae rhythms



Puerto Viejo is a vibrant beach town nestled along the Caribbean coast of southern Costa Rica! With its laid-back vibe, lively Creole culture, and non-stop reggae beats, you'll quickly find yourself immersed in this tropical paradise. The bohemian spirit is strong here, with surfers, hippies, and locals all living in harmony under the Caribbean sun. Expect a warm welcome amid a backdrop of tie-dye, dreadlocks, and genuine friendliness.

Just a short hop away, the Gandoca-Manzanillo Wildlife Reserve invites you to explore its hiking trails, try kayaking, or dive into snorkeling adventures in crystal-clear tropical waters. The nearby beaches—Playa Cocles, Playa Chiquita, and Punta Uva—offer golden sands and turquoise waves, just a tuk-tuk ride away. For a more peaceful escape, head to the charming town of Cahuita, right next to its national park.

The climate in Puerto Viejo is typically tropical, with warm temperatures year-round. You can expect occasional rain showers, especially during the rainy season from May to November, while the dry season from December to April brings more sunshine and slightly lower humidity. Average temperatures usually range between 24°C and 30°C, making it perfect for beach time and outdoor adventures.

WHAT TO BRING

- Hat
- Sunscreen (minimum factor 50)
- Towel
- Rain jacket
- Comfortable clothes that can get dirty, preferably fast-drying
- Long pants and long sleeves
- Rubber boots (if your shoe size is larger than 40, bring them with you)
- Padlock for locker
- Flashlight
- Insect repellent
- Sunglasses
- 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 Puerto Viejo. 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



Conservation Work Costa Rica
**THE ANIMAL
RESCUE CENTER**

CONTACT US

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