

Project Infosheet

ACICRC01-20

Turtle conservation
in Buena Vista



ASOCIACIÓN COSTARRICENSE
DE INTERCULTURALIDAD

Project Description:

The sea turtle conservation program is a scientific-based conservation activity in which the organizations involved try to increase the amount of sea turtle hatchings in order to give higher survival rates.

The camps are located within walking distances from the beach. Apart from the sea turtles, you will also have high chances of seeing tropical birds, iguanas, monkeys... The biodiversity is a very important point of these places. The main goal of these projects is to help the recovering of sea turtle populations. The species of sea turtles that you can find on these beaches are Olive riddle, Leather-back, Black or green sea turtle, Loggerhead, Hawksbill turtle depending on which project and season you visit.

The ASVO Buena Vista Project is located about 2.5 km from the center of Sámara, in the middle of Buena Vista Beach.

In order to get to the project, the Buena Vista River has to be crossed (with a kayak or by walking through the river when there is low tide). Behind the project are private properties with local people which can be helpful in an emergency case. The beach (which is in a bit of an incline) is limited by Río Taranta (in the west) and by Río Buena Vista (in the east).

Another prominent aspect of the project is a lot of flora and fauna (cows, horses, crabs, birds, snakes, insects (i.e., purrujas), etc.).

The hospital is about 2 hours away (in Nicoya), so be especially careful when swimming in the ocean and working with certain tools, etc.

The hatching space (turtle nursery) is located between the beach and the accommodation. The kitchen, the bodega (storage space), the toilets and the shower are located downstairs, the dorms (with 21 beds) upstairs. Additionally, a volleyball field can be found in the project.

The sea at the Buena Vista Beach is not very calm, that is also the reason why you must wait for the right moment to swim in the ocean, and if you swim you have to be careful, because otherwise it can be dangerous (i.e., a lot of tree trunks).

The project is not very close to a village, so it is very quiet and secure, and the environmental pollution is also less in comparison to other places.

Electricity is limited as it is supplied by solar panels and therefore depends on the sunlight. The electricity powers a couple of light bulbs and is also used for charging phones.

Contact person in the project:

Name: Javier Camacho

Position: National coordinator

Tel: (+506) 8843-2322

Main tasks:

- Maintenance of the infrastructure and surroundings. - Cleaning of the beach. -Transport of alimentation from the river to the project (1-2 days per week). - Collecting of the information about the nesting activity (collection and measures of the eggs in the hatchery, marking of females).
- Monitoring and watching over the hatchery.
- Liberation of the babies.
- Collection of information about the nests
- Exhumation of the nests of the hatchery.
- Night and morning patrols (every day a week, the duration depends on how many turtles are around, and the time to patrol is determined by the ocean tide).
- Working with the community.
- Cooking (with coordinators).

Main skills:

- Has to be an organized, respectful person (Very important).
- Volunteers are needed with a strong desire for collaboration (teamwork), good attitude, and adaptability to coexist with certain conditions, those volunteers who have prior knowledge in biology or conservation of turtles (not a must) are preferred, it is considered an advantage if the volunteer has expertise in construction or carpentry.
- Basic Level of Spanish and/or English (not necessary, but it helps personally)
- To be respectful towards the internal rules of the project
- To love nature, as the main goal of these projects is the protection of turtles
- To be in good physical condition as the patrols imply long walks along the beach at night
- To be open to share accommodation and bedroom with other volunteers
- To be very flexible and to do different tasks during the day which may involve cooking and cleaning as volunteers may be also responsible of taking care of the camp
- The volunteer should enjoy working with people and foster good human relations.
- Proactivity is a must. (Initiative)
- Volunteer must be ready to work independently even when the coordinator is not present.
- Honest, responsible, punctual, positive person.
- Leadership Skills, good attitude.
- Open to flexibility of schedules

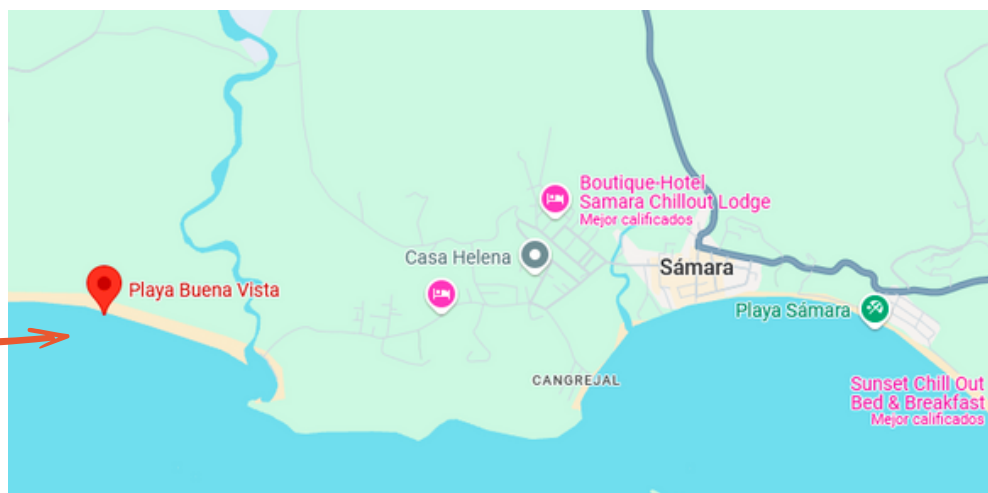


How to get there?

In a separate document explained in both English and Spanish.

For LTP Volunteers: During the Welcome Seminar you will get the instructions.

Location on Google Maps:
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/ESDjERktqhYrAByjZ>



Host situation:

Host family

In the project

The accommodation is very simple and not a luxurious hotel. You will be sharing your room with several volunteers (shared dorm with 21 beds), of course you will still be having your own bed.





Work schedule:

The work schedule is 6 to 10 hours per day depending on the intensity of nesting activity and other types of jobs more focused on community support. It depends on the weather season, turtle season and on how many volunteers are there at the moment.

The work is done mostly during the night. The daytime schedule will depend on the type of activity and on the time of the rain (depends partly on the season). Every week, volunteers have a day off (Sundays).

If there is nothing more to do, Thursdays are also free (depends on the coordinator).

Vacation and/or free time:

Holidays for Long-Term Volunteers: 6 weeks for a year period volunteer 3 weeks for 6 months period volunteer.

Low season: work without turtles (general work: mainly maintenance) High season (July – January): more work with turtles.

For Short-Term Volunteers: Negotiable with the project depending on the duration of the program.



Emergency Protocol:

If it is a minor accident, first aid will be given in the project. If it is more serious, they will call **911**.

They also have contacts with people who can help (for example neighbors with cars). There is an EBAIS (small local clinic) in Sámara. The next hospital is in Nicoya, which is open 24/7, but is about an hour away from Sámara.

If the situation allows it, the volunteer will be transported by kayak. But if not (for example in the case of a back injury or a lot of blood) he/she will be taken a different way by car.



Other important information:

What to bring:

- bedlinen(2sheets, blankets)
- insect repellent/after bite cream
- sunscreen
- water bottle
- dark clothing with long sleeves
- closed and comfortable shoes for evening walks (waterproof)
- hat
- flashlight with red filter (mandatory)
- mosquito net

Please report the following things to ACI before going to ASVO Buena Vista:

- Allergies
- Sickneses, certain conditions
- Food preferences (vegan, vegetarian)
- There is a LACK OF PRIVACY in the project, which might be a problem for some people (shared dorm with 21 beds, everyone living, eating, and sleeping in the same location, on an isolated beach).
- There is NO WIFI
- NO Fridge
- Very little electricity.
- You can have access to internet with your phone data.