Work Project Placement Profile

ACICRC02-20

Turtle conservation in Montezuma

ASOCIACIÓN COSTARRICENSE
DE INTERCULTURALIDAD

Project Description:

The sea turtle conservation program is a scienti fic-based conservation activity in which the orga nizations involved try to increase the amount of sea turtle hatchings in order to give higher survi val 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 and monkeys. The main goal of these projects is to help the recovery of sea turtle populations. The species of sea turtles that you can find on the Montezuma beach are Leatherback (very rare), Olive riddle (most common), Black turtle (more in December) depending in which season you visit.

Montezuma is a little village surrounded by a lot of nature (beaches, rivers, waterfalls), animals (monkeys, iguanas, birds, whales, sea turtles, coatis, racoons). The turtle hatchery is about 5 minutes away from the house where the volunteers live. In the village are 2 supermarkets, the next ATM and the next pharmacy are located in Cobano.

Some activities for volunteers to do in their free time would be surfing, hiking, horse-riding and going to Isla Tortuga. There is also a National Park called "Parque Nacional Cabo Blanco" located close to the project (about 9 km)

Main Goals for all ASVO Sea Turtle Projects:

- To patrol at night
- To build hatcheries
- To supervise hatcheries
- To count baby turtles and to release them
- To assist in the collecting of scientific data- To maintain infrastructure
- To clean the accommodation
- To clean the beach
- Community work

Contact person in the project:

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Main tasks:

- Monitoring the ocean turtle nesting at Montezuma beach.
- Signaling of the beaches and construction of the hatchery of the sea turtle projects.
- Night patrols for protection and collection of information about the sea turtles.
- Construction and reparation of the trails for public use at Montezuma beach.
- Maintenance of the infrastructure of the project.
- Cleaning of the beach.
- Support in environmental education activities and communal protection.
- Night patrols: 6 days a week, 3-6 hours per night (depends on how many volunteers are here)
- Community work (Schools education workshops, building community spaces, street signs).

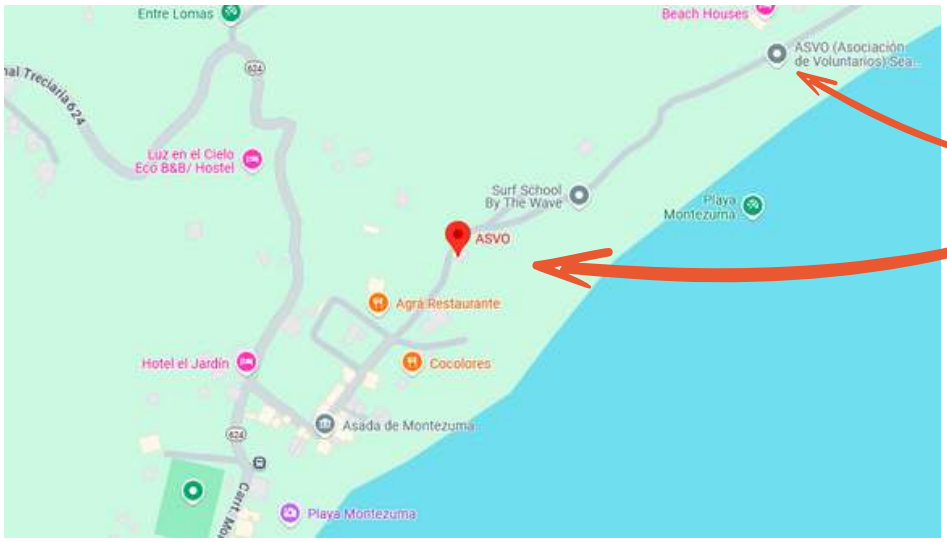
Main skills:

- Has to be an organized, structured person. (Very important).
- The volunteer needs to like it/needs to have the willingness to work in a natural tropic forest and beach and to work physically.
- Basic Spanish Level and/or basic English
- 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
- Interest in environmental issues.
- The volunteer should enjoy working with people and foster good human relations.
- Proactivity is a must.
- Volunteers 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.
    - Optional skills: cooking, carpentry, electricity-skills etc.

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/dk1xhkpw1EYY4dJ48

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, of course you will still be having your own bed.

Work schedule:

6-8 hours of work a day, most of it in the night.
3-6 hours in the night.

During the day you work on various things (working hours depend on activities and needs of the project).

One day a week is off, but it is not always Sunday. The turtle season is from June to December (maybe until February or March). From April to June there are not a lot of turtles. In the turtle season the majority of work is in the night, this period is also the rainy season.

Vacation and/or free time:

There are no stipulated vacations; Christmas, easter and other holidays are working days.

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

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

Emergency Protocol:

There is a first aid kit at the project. The nearest clinic is in Cóbano (Clínica de Cóbano), where the volunteer will be taken in case of an emergency.

All coordinators are trained and able to provide first aid in basic emergency situations.

Other important information:

- You should bring a lot of motivation to the project.
- If there is any doubt or question about anything ask the coordinators.
- Good communication with everyone is very important.
- Group activities will also take place from time to time, for example: having a pick-nick at the beach, visiting different places together, etc.
- Long terms volunteers will be considering as part of the "staff" depending on their proactivity and motivation, these means ASVO expect a really good attitude from volunteers.

What to bring:

- bedlinen (2 bed sheets, 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)