



Overview

MINIMUM AGE: 17

PRE-REQ: Basic Spanish

DEPARTS: Feb / Sep

LENGTH: 4 to 5 months

ROLES AVAILABLE:

- Community Worker
- English Teacher

Why Mexico?

Built on the ruins of the Aztec city Tenochtitlan, Mexico City is currently the world's third largest metropolis after Tokyo and New York City. Mexico has an extremely vibrant culture. There are murals on many public buildings and Aztec and pre Aztec remains are located within Mexico City. In the south you will find magnificent Mayan archeological sites, some set deep in the rain forest. There is plenty for volunteers to see and do in their spare time and public transport is cheap and efficient.

Where are the placements?

Our placements are based in a wide variety of locations, many of them rural. The main sites for volunteers are Tulancingo, Puebla, Guadalajara and Mexico City. The climate is enormously varied - it is hot and humid along the coastal plains and inland at higher elevation the climate is drier and more temperate.

Placement Locations



Is it for me?

With English Teaching placements you could be teaching children or students at university level. You will need to be fairly well organised, as you'll be responsible for leading many English classes on your own. Most of the students level of English is basic to intermediate. The major emphasis will be on the conversation classes. Most of the Community placements involve working with disadvantaged children from a variety of backgrounds. You would be helping with their care on a day to day basis as well as some English teaching. You may also be helping out with extra-curricular activities such as arts and craft, music and sports.

Accommodation and Food

You will either be placed with a host family or live on the premises where you are volunteering. You will be given two very full meals a day however you will have to pay for your food on the weekends. Ensure you respect local customs and beliefs and behave appropriately, especially when living with a host family.

Travel

When travelling, it is usually sensible to travel by first class bus as they cost little more than economy buses and you will have a seat and air conditioning. You will have an opportunity to visit many of the great sites of Mexico on short breaks from your placement, otherwise allow time after your placement to explore

Need to know

- Pre Departure Briefing: All volunteers will be invited to a group briefing prior to departure .
- Language Requirements: . Some placements require a good standard of spoken Spanish - the more Spanish you know, the more your experience will be enriched. Coping with life in a totally Spanish-speaking environment is a great challenge. Some volunteers will undertake a one week Spanish course upon arrival (cost of \$100).
- On Arrival: Volunteers will have four days of orientation in Mexico City before travelling to their placements. The orientation includes information about Mexican culture and visits to tourist attractions.

What's included

- Interview
- Pre-departure briefing
- Teaching skills course if required
- Airport pickup
- Accommodation and food
- In-country orientation and support
- 24/7 emergency support

Costs

The costs shown are for Lattitude placements departing in 2011. (Please note that these prices may change for placements departing in 2012.)

Lattitude Fees (these are exact costs)

Lattitude application fee	\$125
Lattitude contribution fee	\$2900
Lattitude Teaching Skills Course	\$370
Lattitude In-country Orientation	\$370

You will also need to budget for the following (these are approx costs)

Travel Insurance (12 months)	\$620
Return Airfares (approx cost of group flight)	\$2500
VISA	\$41
Police Check	\$43
Total Cost (approx)	\$6969



"I have just come back after spending five months working as a volunteer in an orphanage and I loved it so much that I went back there for my last few weeks, after going travelling! It was an amazing experience and I thoroughly enjoyed my time there! The orphanage where I worked was called Casa Del Sol and was located in the city of Puebla. I was working mainly with the babies and younger children up to three or four."

Madeline Newell, Community Worker, Casa Del Sol, Puebla