



OCEANS 2 EARTH VOLUNTEERS

## Paying to Volunteer?

“Volunteers are not paid -- not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.”

~ Unknown

The concept of paying to volunteer becomes clear when explained. Volunteers do not pay to work. Responsible volunteer sending organisations supply opportunities and services to assist with the objectives of a specific organisation or project.

It is advantageous to both the volunteer and the project as both benefit from the use of a good volunteer program. The volunteer is able to offer assistance, share skills, learn from project partners and enjoy the many benefits of volunteering without having to worry about the logistical difficulties of self-travel in what is often a remote area of a developing nation.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and non-profit (NFP) organisations are able to achieve objectives that would otherwise not be possible given that resources and funding is such a challenge. Chances are, the organisation you will be working with has precious few resources and is not in a position to cover the costs of hosting you.

Most NGOs and NFPs are not prepared to deal with the logistics that come with having a formal volunteer program. It takes time to communicate with volunteers and to help them prepare their trip. Costs such as food, housing, supervision and transport for volunteers can also add up quickly. Projects would be better utilised in caring and feeding the animals. They would also like to create employment for local workers who have relevant language skills and longer term availability. Yet, they desperately need more helping hands and the support they bring. Intermediaries, such as O2E bridge this gap and do the work for them.

### So where does your money go?

Your money pays for the cost of your housing, food and transport, as well as your training, preparation and supervision on the project. The project decides how best to use the money.

Some projects require that the volunteer gives a donation to further the objectives of the organisation which O2E fully supports and donates to as well. Plus, organisations have their own administrative costs to cover, including:

- Rent or mortgages on the property where the project is situated
- Building and maintaining grounds and enclosures
- Food and medicines for the animals
- Veterinary hospital facilities
- Transport, equipment and machinery
- Paying the salaries of local staff
- Website management, office equipment and taxes

...and the list goes on.





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## What will O2E do?

O2E is a not for profit organisation. This means that all profits go back into the business to achieve the objectives of the company. The objective is to recruit and send volunteers to animal welfare and conservation projects and to support projects and wildlife communities.

### For the volunteer, O2E will;

- ❖ Locate and inspect ethically responsible and safe projects for volunteers
- ❖ Help you choose the best project to meet your needs
- ❖ Organise your placement from start to finish
- ❖ Provide project information prior to your trip
- ❖ Schedule airport pick-up, transfers and other logistics to get you to and from the project
- ❖ Assist with making travel arrangements
- ❖ Arrange side trips, tours, escorts, translators and other assistance if required
- ❖ Prearrange accommodations and meals provided as part of the program
- ❖ Provide an onsite representative who is familiar with the organisation, the work and the country
- ❖ Offer 24/7 support before, during and after your placement
- ❖ Provide emergency assistance when required



### For the organisation, O2E will;

- ❖ Market their organisation and project
- ❖ Create awareness and support for their cause
- ❖ Advertise, recruit and screen volunteers and prepare them for their placement
- ❖ Supply volunteers and resources
- ❖ Supply an intermediary who organises and liaises with the volunteers
- ❖ Ensure contributions are made to the project
- ❖ Donate supplies and assist the organisation in other ways
- ❖ Fundraise on behalf of the organisation, project or cause
- ❖ Cover all administrative costs
- ❖ Offer support in whichever way the organisation needs it

At O2E, all of our projects are vetted according to our and are created for the real purpose of animal and environmental conservation. We have visited every project personally.

We will make all of the arrangements for you so you can focus purely on the project at hand and make the most out of the experience. Volunteering projects can be hit and miss so it is essential that you have someone working for you who can ensure your experience is safe and meaningful while the organisation benefits.

If you choose to go it alone, you may be supporting a project that does not have the animals' best interests in mind or it may not be sustainable or beneficial to the organisation. You will have to arrange your own placement, accommodations and tackle the challenges of foreign transportation.

Why not leave it to us? O2E was created by volunteers, for volunteers so we know how to make it easy for you.