

PROGRAM FOR VOLUNTEERS

"Thanks to your support, more turtles will be born in the Pacific. The community values your contribution for it will benefit future generations"



Come to Junquillal Beach and live an unforgettable experience.

Junquillal Beach is a community in the Guanacaste Province in the northern region of the Pacific Coast in Costa Rica. It has a population of 220 inhabitants (40% foreigners). Stretching over 5 Km and an extensive mangrove fed by the Nandamojo River, the beaches of Junquillal are its main attraction. Junquillal is situated 34 Km from Santa Cruz and 260 Km from San Jose. The Liberia International Airport is approximately one hour away and is accessible via well kept roads.

WHAT IS PLC ?

The Pacific Leatherback Conservation Project, or PLC, has worked on the conservation of marine turtles since 2005 in Playa Junquillal. This is an unprotected beach and one of the most important areas of secondary nesting of the critically endangered leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and black turtle (*Chelonia mydas agassizi*). Our main objective is to prevent the poaching and theft of turtle eggs in order to increase the number of turtles that successfully make it to the sea. For the last five years we have worked alongside the local community. Junquillal is proud of the accomplishments and of being an example to other coastal towns..



In our project you will be able to help :

- The leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*).
- The black turtle (*Chelonia mydas agassizi*).
- The olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*).





What is our volunteering program about ?

Our volunteers become active participant in the conservation of marine turtles while sharing memorable experiences and enjoying the local culture and the warmth of our people .

Our program for volunteers seeks to help people interested in the conservation of marine turtles and living an enriching experience with the habitants of Junquillal. Our volunteers assist with night patrols in typical turtle nesting areas. In addition, volunteers monitor protected nests and once the turtles are born, they ensure that they make it to the sea alive.

Volunteers not only demonstrate their environmental awareness, but also have the opportunity to assist with local social projects designed to improve the quality of life. This

is accomplished by carrying out small projects according to their skills, knowledge or professional experience.

This program is directed towards those who love nature and to proactive and creative individuals interested in working in the field. Previous knowledge is not necessary, the only requirements is a desire to learn.

Participation in the program can take place anytime throughout the year. Volunteers will assist the patrolling group with all of their

activities. Their responsibilities include cleaning of beaches, night surveillance, beach exploration to find turtle eggs (mainly at night), data recording, care for nesting areas, hatchery monitoring, environmental education and turtle liberation.

Many hands can do more than one.

For the last five years volunteers have focused in scientific and social investigation seeking knowledge to strengthen our activities. We have also received help from young volunteers who only stay for a few days but take charge of beach Cleaning projects that ensure the beach conditions are appropriate for the nesting of the turtles. These projects help eliminate any type of obstacles

including tree trunks and garbage.

Volunteers have also helped beautify the community by planting trees, painting murals in schools and public areas, and carrying out educational workshops for children. All of the support and help that we have received from volunteers has



Volunteering Objectives



- Assist PLC in all of its activities related to the conservation and protection of marine turtles.
- Carry out research project that provide information to PLC and the local community.
- Help neighboring communities with communal activities.
- Create financial income for projects, families and schools of the area.
- Sponsor other educational centers in Guanacaste to help them carry out projects similar to PLC.
- Encourage other Costa Rican communities to also participate in the conservation of sea turtles.

Volunteers not only work with sea turtles, through their lodging and local food consumption they contribute to the economy of the community and to the projects that are developed in the area. Your work and stay in our community is evidence of how the marine turtles can create new forms of economic opportunity.

Types of Volunteers:

1. Group of national or foreign students who spend more than two days in the community and desire to learn about the conservation of marine turtles and would like to work on one of the PLC activities*.
2. National or foreign volunteers that come to perform work related to their university studies.
3. National or foreign volunteers that come to learn and work the conservation project for no longer than 15 days.
4. National or foreign volunteers that would like to perform their communal work in Junquillal and neighboring communities (i.e. Los Pargos or Paraiso).

*Activities that could be performed with PLC and other community groups:

- **Night patrols to locate sea turtle nests.**
- **Hatchery Monitoring:**
 - Visitor awareness
 - Recording of temperature
 - Inspection of nests
 - Turtle liberation
- **Hatchery Maintenance:**
 - Replacement of sand
 - Cleaning
 - Maintenance of physical structure (i.e. paint of fence, labels, shade)
 - Reinforcement of physical barriers
- **Research Work:** Of scientific, social and cultural interest for the area.
- **Reforestation:**
 - Planting of native trees
 - Weed clearance
 - Pest control
 - Construction of protective barriers
 - Labelling of newly planted trees with the tree's name and significance
- **Cleaning of beach:**
 - Recollection of antropogenic Recolecta de residuos antropogénicos con su respectiva clasificación y separación:
 - Determine potential sources of contamination
 - Sources of greater contamination
 - Recycling
 - Clearance of potential obstacles for nesting (i.e. tree trunks) and search for alternative uses.
- **Sanitary cleaning (Campaigns against the Dengue).**
- **Environmental education for schools. Improvement of physical facilities of local schools.**



LODGING AND FEEDING

Depending on the length of stay, volunteers will find lodging with either a local family or in a designated camping area near the beach. Volunteers will have access to electricity and drinking water.

Volunteers staying with a host family will be fed by their hosts and those camping will be fed at the local school's kitchen. The money you pay for your lodging and food will improve the economic earnings of your host family and/or the local school.



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