

SERVICE LEARNING TRIPS





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Here you will discover everything you need to know about planning a Service Learning Trip for your students.

Our Service Learning Programs welcome those interested in having a positive impact in communities abroad. Evolve tours develops service learning programs to integrate meaningful service with cultural immersion and leadership and character development. Students participate in community service projects while learning the importance of cultural respect. During each service learning program, students will also have the opportunity to explore the cultural and natural surroundings of the communities they explore while simultaneously engaging in authentic conversation with locals!

1. BENEFITS OF A FOCUSED SCHOOL TRIP

By focusing on a specific area of focus, your trip will have a deeper meaning and outcome in regards to your school trip goals.

a. EDUCATION

Experiential education is at the heart of all Evolve Tours Programs. Travelers focus on community engagement, critical thinking, leadership and reflection as they apply ideas learned on our trips to complex issues at home and in school.

b. GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Evolve Tours Programs prepare travelers with 21st century skills to bring global concepts into the local sphere. We focus on sustainability, local environments, social justice and global competencies, all needed to create a better world.

c. EXPLORATION

Sustainable local and global change depends on the power of relationships developed through adventure and exploration. Based on research and experience, we have developed best practices to simultaneously facilitate collaborative exploration and intercultural immersion on our Programs.



2. TYPES OF SERVICE EXPERIENCES

Volunteering while abroad has become an essential aspect of the Gap Year experience. Being able to give back something to the communities you explore has proven to have a powerful impact on those who participate. The types of service opportunities available are also incredibly diverse. From resource management and environmental research to teaching English and coaching sports, the opportunities are endless.

CATEGORIES OF SERVICE EXPERIENCES:

- **DIRECT SERVICE:** Direct contact with people in need.
- **COMMUNITY-BASED:** A partnership of people to focus attention on pressing community needs.
- **ADVOCACY:** Students lending their voices and talents to eliminating the causes and raising awareness of a specific community problem.

TYPES OF EXPERIENCES:

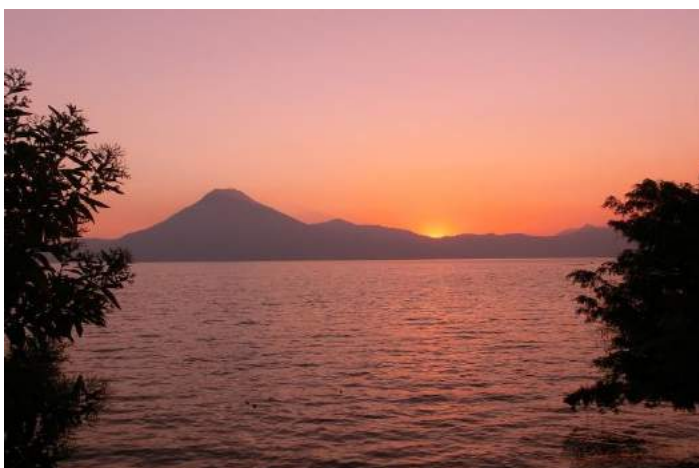
- *Environmental Research along Australia's Great Barrier Reef*
- *Resource Management at one of Nicaragua's permacultures*
- *Rehabilitate Orangutans on the Southeast Asian island of Borneo*
- *Carnivore Conservation and Research in the deserts of Namibia*
- *Coach different sports in the city of Pokhara, Nepal*
- *Rebuild houses for hurricane victims in Houston*
- *Restoring historic structures or building low-income housing*
- *Mapping state lands and monitoring flora and fauna*
- *Conducting art/music/dance lessons for youth*

3. WHERE WE GO

Service learning experiences are incredibly diverse and available throughout the world. Most experiences fall into 4 specific categories: animal care, conservation and research, youth development, community engagement. Each of those locations we explore during these trips are rich in culture and welcoming to travelers.

➤ GUATEMALA

Guatemala is a unique and mystical destination that awaits travelers from all over the world. We will meet and work with indigenous communities, focusing on immersion and cultural integration.



We will discover the secrets of the ancient Mayan people and their modern-day lifestyles. Enjoy local Latin cuisine, practice our Spanish, and so much more!

Ancient Mayan culture is woven into the modern fabric of Guatemala, offering a more diverse and unique modern population compared to other more touristy Central American countries.

➤ PANAMA

Explore the politics, history, and modern day marvel of the Panama Canal and Panama City. Participate in an immersive, multi-day community service project near the 'Valley of Flowers and Eternal Spring.' Learn about the environment and sustainable practices of our eco lodge in the area.





➤ **LOS ANGELES, USA**

Meaningful, immersive, hands-on community service programs and interaction with communities in need throughout Los Angeles that may include working at community centers, with underprivileged youth, with the homeless population, or animal rehabilitation.

➤ **BOSTON, USA**

One of the oldest and most storied cities in the U.S., Boston has a long history and strong community. Lend a hand and learn about community service, gain experience and find new skills you didn't know you had before!

Evolve Boston's community service trip teaches your students about compassion, new strengths and a broader perspective on the world around them.



➤ **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

The Dominican Republic features a glimpse into this unique country teeming with life in the



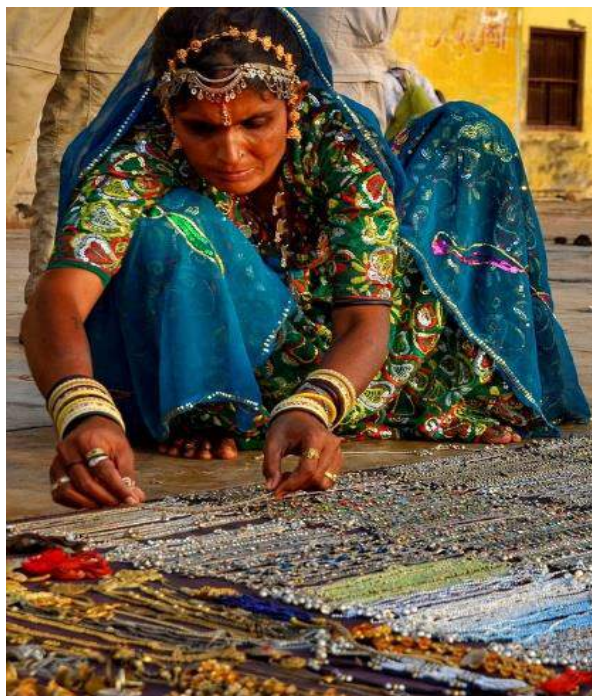
Caribbean. Its tropical weather and pristine beaches have made the country a favorite destination amongst many travelers. Under the natural beauty lies a population with significant economic woes and needs. The Evolve Tours Dominican Republic School Trip blends cultural, community service travel with the amazing geographic features of the country, offering student groups an authentic feel for life in the DR.

➤ **INDIA**

Discover India, and see bright colored clothes of every variety. Pedestrians, taxis, tuk-tuks, and livestock flowing through the streets in a unique chaotic state of order.

Sightsee in Delhi, learn about Ghandi's espoused peace virtues at his memorial, barter at colorful bazars and participate in immersive community projects and co-habitation.

India is a growing world power, and simultaneously a unique country unlike any other in the world. It's a worthwhile educational pursuit to explore the customs, religions and lifestyles of over a billion people.



➤ **HAITI**

Evolve has helped organize rural medical clinics, where hundreds of patients get triaged and receive medical attention. They have built schools and churches, distributed food organized free meals, and have soaked in the sun on sandy beaches.



The country's stunning coastline and lush frontier acts as a picturesque backdrop to the cultural interactions and service projects offered in this poor but welcoming nation.

A trip to Haiti is as geographically beautiful as it is culturally immersive and beneficial to travelers and locals alike.



4. KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

a. WHERE TO STAY

Our trips are jam packed affairs, we really only use our accommodations to sleep for the night; the rest of the day we are out touring, exploring, and experiencing! Nevertheless, where you stay on your trip certainly is an important component as well.

There are many considerations that go into where you should stay on your trip. For example:

- If you are travelling by private bus, it oftentimes makes sense to stay on the outskirts of the city. These hotels are more economical, helping to keep the price of the trip lower, and offer a space for your bus to park for the night
- If you are travelling by public transportation during the trip, then you are better off staying in the heart of the city, easily accessible to transit options. We work with a number of student friendly hostels and B&Bs that provide a quaint, comfortable, and central home away from home.

b. HOW TO GET AROUND

Evolve personally organizes your trip to match what makes sense for your group! For trips that include a number of different cities, or many activities on the outskirts of the city, having a private coach bus usually makes most sense. Alternatively, if you are flying into one city and spending your whole trip there (i.e. New York City), it actually usually makes more sense to organize the trip around public transit - less sitting in traffic, more time experiencing the true city! No matter your destination or desires, we'll create a program that matches your exact needs and desires.

c. WHO GUIDES THE TRIPS

You will have an Evolve Tour Director with you for the duration of your trip. Our tour directors are artists and musicians and actors as well, so they bring their own energy and enthusiasm to all the great activities ahead! Evolve Tour Directors are leaders, youth workers, teachers, and travelers. Only the most qualified candidates pass through our rigorous interview process, and then all tour directors undergo thorough training to ensure the smoothest and most fun trip for your family! You will also likely be led by additional local guides at museums, activities, and tours as well.

6. HOW MANY TRAVELERS; WHAT IS THE COST?

This is totally variable - based on where you are travelling to, from where, how many travelers, time of year, activities included, etc. The best way for us to give you an idea of costing is for us to discuss the right program for your group, and then put together a customized proposal for you to review. Generally speaking, the more people you are able to sign up, the more economical the trip will be per person. Our programs include essentially every component of the trip: travel, accommodation, all activities, even most meals (we can adjust this as you desire).





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At Evolve Tours, we've been running student trips around the world since 2006 and have been perfecting the trip planning process ever since. After deciding you want your students to experience educational travel, there's a lot involved in organizing a trip before hopping on that bus. There's the logistics of accommodations, transportation, meals, activities and more- when planned properly they come together to ensure an incredible and memorable student trip.

If you have any questions about any of the content in this guide, please email us at info@evolvetours.com, or call us at 1.888.222.5066 (Toll Free)

You can also check out sample itineraries of our trips online at www.evolvetours.com

We'd be happy to work together to plan your student trip, or just talk travel!

Happy Travels!

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