



What Is Travel to Teach?

Travel to Teach is an international volunteer organisation, which provides affordable opportunities to volunteer in areas such as English and IT teaching, conservation, eco-tourism and community development. All our fees are used for running the programs and supporting different causes in our host countries.

Countries

Travel to Teach has programs in several locations in

Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Bolivia. For information on each program go to the website <http://www.travel-to-teach.org> and/or download PDF-files of each country.

About Travel to Teach

Travel to Teach's mission is to:

- Provide valuable opportunities for our volunteers to work abroad.
- Ensure genuine experiences of different cultures at a cost that most travelers can afford.
- Teach, or provide other assistance and support in poorer parts of the world where too little education is provided.

Why Volunteer With Travel to Teach?

We think that our volunteer programs are unique. We believe that we provide a service that is transparent, cost effective, personal, and flexible.

Find out what makes us different from other volunteer organisations.

How Is Travel to Teach Funded?

Travel to Teach has no external funding; our participating volunteers pay for their stay and help support and expand the programs we run with their fees. We are religiously, politically and in every other aspect completely independent.

What Does Travel to Teach Offer?

Something between tourism, backpacking and volunteer-work.

The benefits from volunteering with Travel to Teach include:

- »You will work abroad, within another culture.
- »You will learn to handle unexpected situations.
- »The work you do will bring you closer to people of the country you visit.
- »You will learn about yourself while learning about others.
- »You will have memories and find friends for life.
- »And you will make a difference to other people's lives in the process.

A very brief history

Travel to Teach was founded in the spring of 2002 by volunteers in Nongkhai, Thailand. We felt that the idea of volunteer work, and of contributing to the countries whilst visiting, was too great to be left to big profit making western companies to explore. We felt that by working out of a developing country we could keep moderate fees, create working opportunities and maintain closer contact with the volunteers, the communities and the projects.

Travel to Teach has been created by volunteers.

Since the very beginning all the western people who have been involved with T2T have been volunteers wanting to stay on and help. This has helped us create programs that volunteers find valuable and rewarding.

Ethical volunteering

Travel to Teach has had the ambition to develop our programs according to Guidelines for Ethical Volunteering as presented on www.ethicalvolunteering.org/

Consequently we:

- Work in a limited amount of places so that we can keep close contact with both institutions and volunteers
- Work with a limited amount of projects so that we can ensure a continuing presence



- Employ local people from the communities we work in
- Are open as to how our volunteer's fees are spent
- Describe our programs truthfully as we can

T2T Founder Kerstin's Story:

"I have the strong belief that the best help one can give a country or a person is education. Nothing is more likely to help "empower" people and create conditions for "sustainable development" than education. I also believe that nothing is more likely to help international understanding than actual contact with the everyday life of another country and personal bonds between people."

So the ambition of Travel to Teach is twofold:

- To help education in developing and third world countries
- To bring people together so as to enhance cross cultural understanding

In the spring of 2002 I was teaching sociology as a senior volunteer in a college in Nongkhai. I appreciated the teaching, the students, and the atmosphere of the college and of Nongkhai. I saw the progress in our students as they were exposed to English language and to teachers from the west. The students came from relatively poor families in villages around Nongkhai and Udon Thani provinces. Many of them had not even been to Bangkok and yet after two years at the college most of them spoke more or less fluent English (a rare thing in this part of Thailand), had a good world orientation and had got over the initial shyness that characterizes Thai people.

There were lots of volunteers at the college who had come from agencies in the west. They loved the teaching, Nongkhai and their life here. But I noted their reaction when they discovered the disparity between their financial contributions what they received for their fee. Starting T2T was a direct response to all of those volunteering agencies asking huge fees from international volunteers.

I thought it must be possible to manage this kind of program from here. Having administration in a developing country and using only internet promotion would enable us to keep fees at a minimum. Working with Thai students as staff we would both help them finance their studies and create a communicable Thai environment for our volunteers.

I talked to some of my students about this idea and we decided to give it a try. We got some help to make a website and Travel to Teach was born. We launched the site with a Thai Baisee (well wishing) ceremony in November 2002 and in March 2003 received our first volunteer.

Since then Travel to Teach has grown to new places and new countries. We have been very lucky in that several volunteers have wanted get involved with our programs. Many of them are still here in Thailand working for T2T, others are promoting from their home countries as representatives of Travel to Teach, others still are helping us start up programs in new countries.

Our programs have expanded from teaching English and computers into other areas, but the element of teaching and learning is still a main objective, whether we are building recycling stations, planting trees or restoring schools.



Why Volunteer with Travel to Teach?

How are we different? We think that we differ in the following points from most other volunteer organisations.

1. Information and openness.

We are transparent and reachable because:

- We have email addresses of all previous volunteers who have written stories about their stay. You can read their volunteer stories and also contact them directly to ask them about their time with Travel to Teach.
- On this web site, we have a number of photo galleries and also some video diaries of Travel to Teach volunteer life. We feel these features of our web site help prospective volunteers make a considered decision when choosing a volunteer program.
- We try our very best to be truthful on the website and in all correspondence.



2. Access

We are located in the same places as our volunteer programs. We can easily adapt to circumstances and adjust programs to meet individual interests. We want to meet happy and satisfied volunteers.

3. Options

We know that a problem with short term volunteering is the constant disrupting and that the chances of making a real difference, while teaching, comes with a continued presence of volunteers who take over from one another.

We therefore work in a limited amount of places and have coordinators there to facilitate the transitions.

We have developed programs with a unique character. Our aim is two fold: to give genuine experiences of the countries where we work and to help the people in those places. Our different programs have different balances between these goals, but wherever you work you are helping and your fees are helping to finance all the programs.

4. Combinations

We have a lot of set options for combinations of places within a country or between countries and we are very flexible and open to variations of them. Conditions are that you need to stay for at least one month in each place.

5. Level of support

We have both westerners and/or people from the respective country as coordinators in almost all places where we work. This is a much higher level of ambition than any other program we know. It helps us ensure that both our volunteers and the community get the maximum experience out of the program.

6. Prices

We charge less than almost all other agencies. This is because our ambition is to make our programs available to many. We have no western wages or other costs and we are not out to make a profit. We work out of and for developing and third world countries

For more information on our fees and what we do with them look at our Costs page.

7. Flexibility

Our arrival dates are open (although introduction dates are set for certain weekends). This means you may join us at your convenience as your schedule allows. Our organization is very fluid and decision making is therefore swift. We always try our best to accommodate reasonable wishes and concerns.

Program Fees and Information

Volunteers can stay for any period of time from two weeks to six months so if you would like to stay for a period other than those shown below we can arrange an appropriate price. You can also volunteer in more than one country as part of our combination stays.



Volunteer Stories

We believe that the only people who can give you a true impression of Travel to Teach are our volunteers. Most of our volunteer stories are published in the Travel to Teach Newsletter, but are also concentrated on the Volunteer stories page. Most of the volunteer stories have the e-mail address of the author so that you can mail and ask questions directly with them.



The T2T Newsletter is published on a roughly monthly basis and is sent by email to our former and future volunteers and anyone interested in organisation and programs. **Subscribe from our Newsletter page**



Prices in Euro

All fees include an application fee of € 200.

Location	4 Weeks	8 Weeks	12 Weeks	24 Weeks	Extra Weeks
Cambodia	€ 500	€ 700	€ 900	€ 1380	€ 40
Laos	€ 600	€ 800	€ 1000	€ 1400	€ 50
Nepal	€ 600	€ 800	€ 1000	-	€ 50
Thailand	€ 500	€ 700	€ 900	€ 1380	€ 40
Vietnam	€ 600	€ 800	€ 1000	€ 1400	€ 50
Bolivia	€ 625	€ 1060	€ 1480	€ 2750	€ 105
Costa Rica	€ 640	€ 1015	€ 1315	€ 2230	€ 78
Ecuador*	€ 630	€ 830	€ 1085	-	-
Mexico	€ 625	€ 985	€ 1325	-	-

* Our Program Fees are slightly higher for our projects on the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. Please see below:

Galapagos	€ 630	€ 965	€ 1270	-	-
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Prices in US Dollars

All fees include an application fee of \$ 260

Location	4 Weeks	8 Weeks	12 Weeks	24 Weeks	Extra Weeks
Cambodia	\$ 660	\$ 925	\$ 1190	\$ 1820	\$ 50
Laos	\$ 790	\$ 1025	\$ 1320	\$ 1850	\$ 65
Nepal	\$ 790	\$ 1055	\$ 1315	-	\$ 65
Thailand	\$ 660	\$ 925	\$ 1190	\$ 1820	\$ 50
Vietnam	\$ 790	\$ 1025	\$ 1320	\$ 1850	\$ 65
Bolivia	\$ 825	\$ 1400	\$ 1950	\$ 3630	\$ 140
Costa Rica	\$ 850	\$ 1350	\$ 1750	\$ 2970	\$ 102
Ecuador*	\$ 830	\$ 1095	\$ 1430	-	-
Mexico	\$ 825	\$ 1300	\$ 1750	-	-

* Our Program Fees are slightly higher for our projects on the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. Please see below:

Galapagos	\$ 830	\$ 1275	\$ 1675	-	-
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Travel to Teach is a non profit organisation based in Nongkhai, Thailand. Since all of our staff are either at head office in Thailand or at our project locations we are able to avoid paying high Western overheads and keep our prices low.

Apart from our fees, you must pay for:

Your transport to the project location, vaccinations, travel and health insurance, visa to your host countries and food and other personal expenses

Application Process

Our application process typically takes two or three weeks, but can be speeded up if there is a need for that. When we get the "Initial application" from you, we will send you an Application Form.

- (1) **Complete the Initial Application Form:** The first stage of the application process is to fill out the brief initial application form. Upon receiving this we will send you the full application form.
- (2) **Complete the Full Application Form:** Fill out the application form. After receiving this we will assess your suitability and place you on one of our programs.
- (3) **Placement info:** We will return detailed Placement Information and an Invoice. If you accept the placement you should pay the invoice and send us receipt of payment by email or fax.
- (4) **Program Fee:** The program fee needs to be paid to us at least 2 months before you are due to start your placement. However beware that we have a limited amount of placements, so placements will only be secured when we receive by payment.
- (5) **Communication:** Once you have made your traveling arrangements you should mail your time of arrival and the means of transportation and we will confirm pickup.
More Program Information

For more specific program information including arrival dates, what you receive, getting to our programs and travel information please see our individual countries fees and information pages:

We will be happy to hear from you and answer any question on our programs :

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Our office is open from 9 am till 5 pm (GMT + 7)