

Galapagos Newsletter



Fregata Magnificens

Frigate male looking for the attention of a female

Thanks Everybody!

Summer school has ended and most of our volunteers have left the island. We had a dedicated group here, who worked very hard to keep the children and teenagers occupied, with kayaking, swimming, walking, beach clean ups, and teaching English, art and environmental activities. The community thanks all of them for their hard work. In other news, we have succeeded in setting up a nursery in the Highlands, where volunteers can help with the conservation of species that are endemic to the Galapagos. The plants will be distributed around the town and we will continue to eradicate invasive species. We have also moved into new offices, so there is more room for students, volunteers and Projects Abroad staff. We are near the boardwalk, so are still easy to find. Finally, we would like to thank our volunteers for their hard work and the staff of Projects Abroad UK for continuing to support us in many ways.



William Puga
Country Director

CREDITS

Front Page:	Daniela Silva
Design:	Daniela Silva
Photos	Carolain Drewett Cesar Rojas Daniela Silva
Articles:	Sophie Mollenbeck Victor Destais



EXPERIENCE IN THE GALAPAGOS ISLAND

Updated by Sophie Moellenbeck

Care, six months, Germany



I arrived in San Cristóbal at the beginning of January. It is my first time ever volunteering - I always wanted to work with children and so I chose the care project offered by Projects Abroad.

In the beginning I worked in a school with four to six year old kids. But since school stopped and the long break started I am now working (alongside the other volunteers) in a summer camp we organize for local children (age range between 5-14 years). We offer Arts, English, Sports and Conservation classes beginning at 8.30 in the morning, finishing at 12.15 o'clock. The kids are split up into four groups according to their age.

To change the daily routine a bit in order to make things more interesting and fun for the children (after all it is a summer camp, not regular school life) we do trips to the beach, the pool, horseback riding...

I teach in the arts class with two other volunteers. It is a lot of fun but also involves a great deal of planning and preparing. We have to make sure we have the materials, colours and paper set up when the children arrive, assure that the class room doesn't look like a mess when

the day is over. It is a lot of work- but it is rewarding work.

Seeing that the children like what we are doing, working hard and being happy with their results, we know we did a good job. Some even wanted to stay after the class ended or put in some extra time at home to finish a project. This shows us our efforts are taken seriously and everybody gets something out of it. Of course it can get loud and messy at times- but that is what happens when 30 little creative minds get together in a room.

Nevertheless, to bring some order into things all the kids got divided into 4 teams- blue, yellow, green and orange. They can gain points for their team in all of their four classes and at the end of the summer camp the best team wins a price. This is a good way to keep them motivated.

Although the summer camp isn't over yet I can already say that it has been a great experience.



Preparing classes, leading classes, communicating with the children in Spanish- these are all things I have never done before. But I find I enjoy doing them. The great thing is that I am not only teaching but also learning.



ENGLISH PROGRAM

Updated by Victor Destais

Teaching, Three months, France



Since I arrived at the Galapagos Islands to volunteer I have very much enjoyed my stay, I am teaching English to children from 4 to 14 years old in a summer camp. Teaching is something I wanted to try as it is an idea I had in mind for a future job and I have very much appreciated it although teaching English to 4 year old children is quite a challenge.

It has been a month since I arrived here, and I have made very good friends, because we all live next to each other it is very easy to organize activities such as a football

game or simply going out. I had chosen to come here because I had been told of

its beauty, and I haven't been disappointed. The island of San Cristobal is beautiful with its sea lions, iguanas and its landscape, I still haven't travelled to the other islands which I will do later on but from what I have heard it is worth it.

Living in a family has also been a positive experience although it always takes to you a week to adapt completely to a new family's ways. But after a time you start to really be part of the family especially if you speak some Spanish, which always helps to communicate with your family, in everyday life and which in my case has rendered itself very useful in the classroom.



UPDATED PICTURES- END OF SUMMER CAMP

We would like to thank Linette Iversen, Tobias Albrecht, Esben Rasmussen, Tim Bender, Emilia Teske, Christina Olesen, Kirstine Matthesen, Victor Nielsen, Rebecca Scholten, Lisa Walker, Christian Speyerer, Karen Lindsay, Nicola Kerschbaumer, Connor Smith, Victor Destais, Margrit Walter, Sophie Mollenbeck, Katharina Fuellsack, Julie Lysberg , and local volunteers for taking part in this activity.



