



gvi

Volunteer work abroad since 1997

# Under 18's Volunteer Abroad

AFRICA • ASIA • AUSTRALASIA • EUROPE • LATIN AMERICA





When you visit another country and experience a different culture first hand, it opens your mind far beyond the ability of any textbook.

My wanderlust kicked in early, driving me from one continent to the next, and it served me well. It tested my mettle, and I never came out poorer for it. Now, as a parent of four, I'm passionate about giving young people, our future generation, the opportunity to do the same – to explore safely, learn, grow and have fun. Our under 18 programs are fundamental to that strategy and goal.

I can't think of a better way to develop a sense of independence, promote responsibility and nurture a sense of purpose than to volunteer abroad with like-minded individuals and passionate, experienced group leaders. When young people are given the opportunity to discover their own potential, I find that they tend to become leaders, and when they're given the opportunity to make a difference, I find that they tend to go beyond our expectations.

Richard Walton,  
Founder of GVI

Share this brochure



*We believe that through cultural exchange and education, we can have a happier, more understanding world.*

*Winner of 'Best Volunteering Organisation Award' by Virgin Holidays Responsible Tourism.*



# UNDER 18's ABROAD

*Volunteering abroad is all about passion, enthusiasm and personal growth.*

Young adults benefit enormously from volunteering abroad, developing personal and leadership skills and giving them a head-start for university or their career.

It's not all hard work though! If you join a program, you'll be able to embark on side trips of unfathomable awesomeness (yes, that awesome) and experience all the region has to offer – dive in pristine blue oceans, visit ancient temples set deep in tropical jungles or discover the Big Five on horse-back- before things like bad knees and mortgages get in the way...

## Why Join An Under 18's Trip With GVI

We're strong believers in the transformative power of international education and cultural exchange. Our award-winning programs for young adults focus on nurturing their passions, developing their skills and inspiring them to become leaders and global citizens.

## Duke of Edinburgh

Our programs can help you with your Duke of Edinburgh award scheme! Your volunteering, physical and skills sections can be completed by being involved with a GVI program. Speak to your assessor when you plan your trip!



# Our Culture

*At the core of everything we do at GVI, is our unique culture.*

It's difficult to sum up, but basically, we're passionate. Instead of setting out company principles for our staff to embrace and our projects to live up to, we discovered that what we do, is what it is, because we are who we are.

Um, what? The simple fact is that you can't go wrong when you have great people - and we have over 200 great people across the world. Whether in the offices or on the ground, they're passionate about the projects, and about your experience. Most of them started out as volunteers themselves, so they believe in the projects and they're dedicated to ensuring that you have the same amazing experience they did.



**WHY CHOOSE GVI**

# We do...

- Work in partnership with local organisations on the ground, providing aid when and where it's needed - so you can be sure projects are legitimate
- Support you every step of the way - from pre-departure support to an Alumni Program, your experience is our number one priority
- Have an impeccable track record - over 95% of our 20 000 volunteers would travel with us again
- Take health and safety more seriously - we run comprehensive risk assessments for every location and are prepared for any eventuality
- Support local skills development - we run National Scholarship Programmes for host nationals with promising futures, but not the means to get there without assistance
- Care about our planet - our impact speaks for itself
- Keep you in touch - our unique GVI Live platform provides real-time updates from the ground, puts you in touch with staff and fellow volunteers before you depart, and allows your friends and family to keep up with you on your trip
- Work with some of the most respected organisations in the world - we're partnered with the South African National Parks Authority and the Jane Goodall Institute amongst others
- Keep the benefits with our projects and partners - 70% of our funds go directly into our projects and the remaining 30% covers our operations and supports our projects indirectly through the GVI Charitable Trust

# We don't...

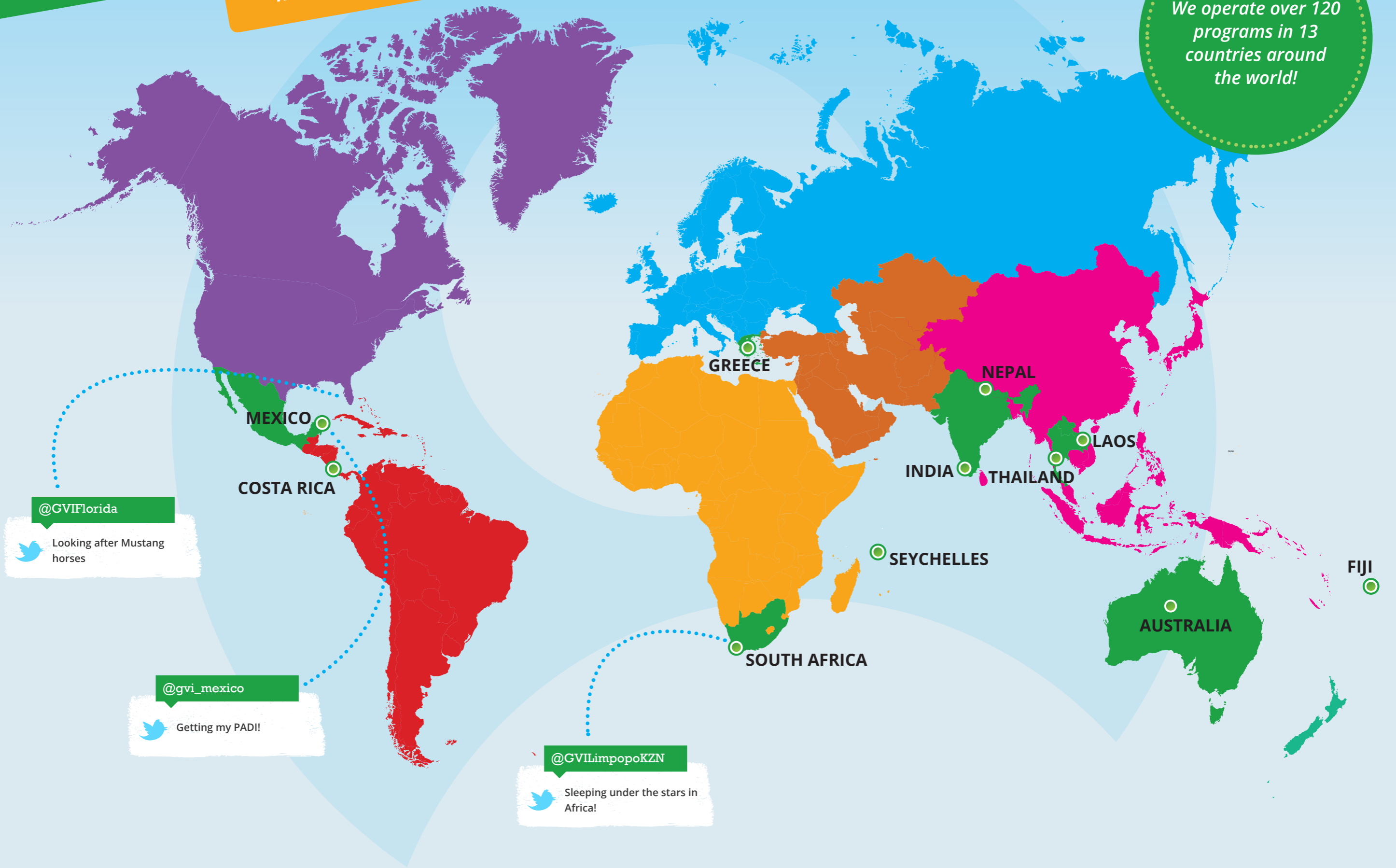
- Cut corners with our ethics or responsibilities
- Run static projects - they constantly evolve according to the needs on the ground, allowing us to meet the needs of our partners at any given time
- Sell cheap trips - cheap trips undermine your experience, your safety, and the project's impact
- Abandon you in an unfamiliar place - our field staff are always there for you
- Abandon our projects - we strategically invest in projects which may recruit fewer volunteers to ensure their continuity
- Run meaningless projects - everything our volunteers do matters
- Limit your stay - you can choose to extend your trip at any stage



A GVI Guide to where we are

in the world!

We operate over 120 programs in 13 countries around the world!



@GVIFlorida

Looking after Mustang horses

@gvi\_mexico

Getting my PADI!

@GVIlimpopoKZN

Sleeping under the stars in Africa!

GREECE

NEPAL

LAOS

INDIA

THAILAND

SEYCHELLES

SOUTH AFRICA

AUSTRALIA

FIJI

MEXICO

COSTA RICA



# SOME TOP TRIPS

*A new day deserves  
a new adventure*



## Mexico Diving and Conservation Awareness

Put yourself ahead of the rest when you learn to dive in the stunning Yucatan peninsula and learn the fundamentals of marine biology and conservation – a great base for your career and an awesome adventure!



## Mediterranean Conservation Discovery for Youth

Explore historic Greece and contribute to the conservation of endangered loggerhead turtles. Record nesting activity and protect hatchlings from predators as they make their first journey to the ocean, making a real difference to the conservation of the delicate population.



## Pura Vida Adventure for Youth

Experience everything a Latin American adventure should be when you discover Costa Rica with a team of international under 18 volunteers. Assist in construction projects for underprivileged children, with time to relax on stunning beaches, see tropical wildlife and immerse yourself in the laid back, friendly culture of Manuel Antonio



# MORE TOP TRIPS

Trips from  
£1010!



## Learn Thai and Volunteer in Thailand

Take in the natural beauty of Phang Nga when you travel to picturesque Thailand! Immerse yourself in the local community; learn about the ancient culture, its language and traditions. Taste exotic dishes and help make a sustainable difference while exploring one of the most beautiful countries in the world.



## South Africa Wildlife Awareness for Youth

Travel to South Africa's iconic bushveld and gain a well-rounded base of conservation knowledge. Learn to identify and track animals, survive in the wild and navigate by the stars in the protected areas of the Limpopo Province – a not to be missed opportunity to get up close and personal with Africa's charismatic wildlife.



## Himalayan Cultural Adventure for Youth

Join a team of international under 18 volunteers in historic Nepal where you will assist with the construction of essential infrastructure, improving the lives of local communities. Immerse yourself in the fascinating Nepali culture and explore sites including the Annapurna mountain range, with the tallest peaks in the world.



# OUR IMPACT

## Hunger & Poverty

Established 8 profitable eco-tourism initiatives  
Initiated 12 sustainable livelihood programs

## Gender Equality

Assisted in providing micro-loans for female entrepreneurs  
Run workshops and education classes for women's groups in Africa, Latin America and Asia

## Education

Daily lessons to almost 8000 primary school aged children  
Over 20 100 people taught in secondary education and beyond

## Environmental Sustainability

Conducted over 300 environmental sustainability initiatives around the world  
Over 100,000 trees planted



## The GVI Difference

*What we do at GVI is pretty amazing*, and it makes long term, sustainable contributions towards key global and local issues as contained in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.



# OUR IMPACT

## Maternal Health

Run workshops for mothers-to-be and women's groups in 5 countries  
Opened a rural clinic in Kenya and sourced funding for its on-going operation

## Empowerment

Trained over 600 researchers, professional divers, professional guides, fishermen and tourism related workers

## Major Disease Awareness

Running health programs in 6 different countries



## Child Health

Almost 900 carbon efficient stoves built  
Built and repaired almost 500,000 cubic meters of rainwater harvesting capacity



## Global Partnerships

Raised almost 1 Million GBP for the projects we support  
Partnered with some of the most respected global organisations, including the Jane Goodall Institute, Dian Fossey Gorilla Foundation and various national conservation authorities





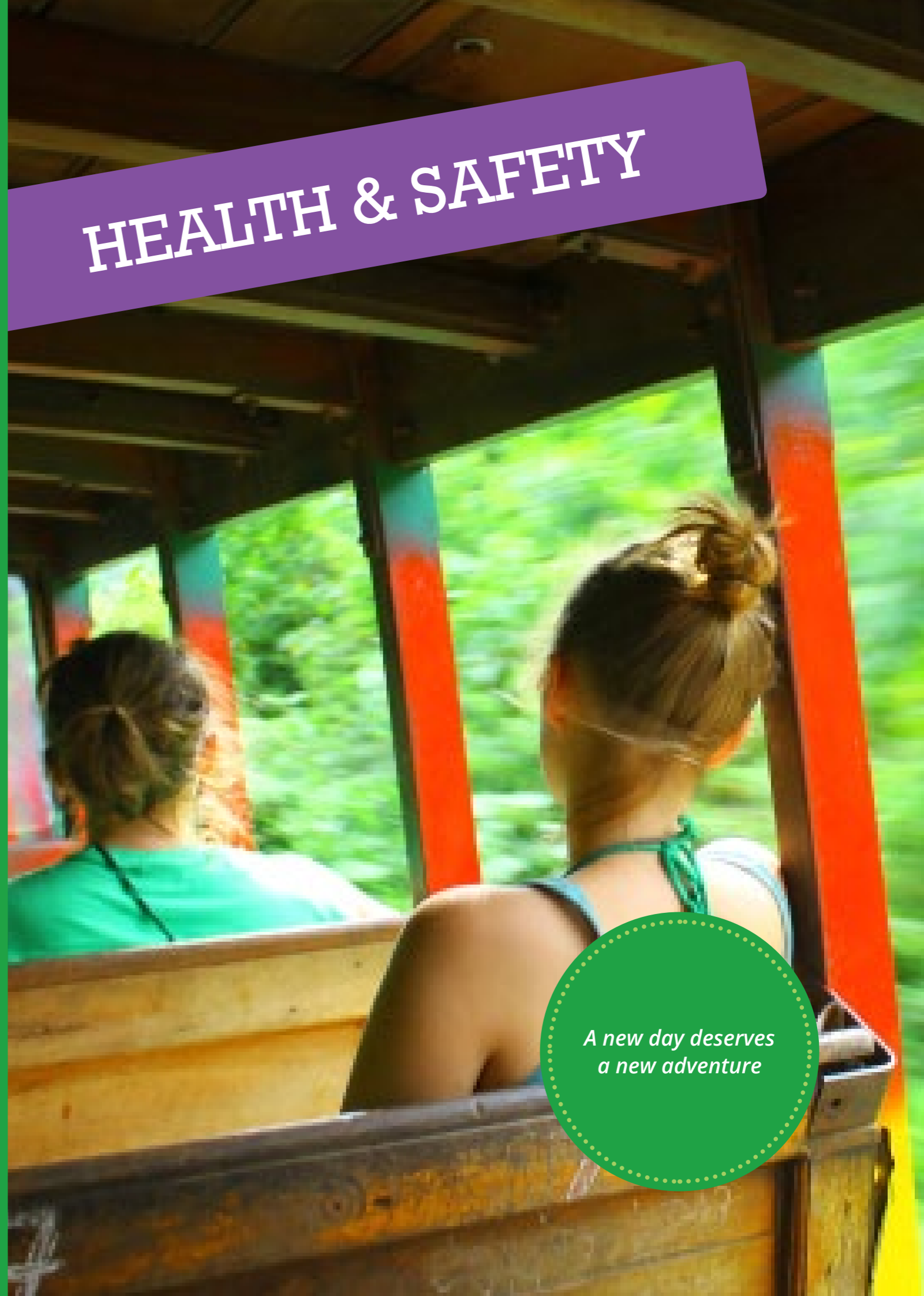
*The health and safety of all GVI participants is paramount.*

From selecting our projects and partner organisations and the pre-departure support we provide to the day-to-day care of our participants in the field, our 200+ personnel put your health and safety first, and we have an impeccable track record.

- We run comprehensive risk assessments for each of our projects in each of our locations and are prepared for any eventuality, no matter how unlikely
- We never leave you without GVI assistance. Our expertly trained field staff are with you on the ground and GVI HQ emergency assistance is available to you 24/7
- We keep in regular contact with relevant embassies and foreign offices, ensuring that we're able to give you the most up-to-date information and travel advice regarding our locations while you plan

HEALTH & SAFETY

*A new day deserves  
a new adventure*





# FUNDRAISING

*Chase the Horizon*

*Daunted by the prospect of paying for your trip?*

Don't be! With a little bit of imagination and lots of determination, you could fundraise your way there! Download our amazing free Fundraising Guide to find out how.





YOU CAN ALSO

Trips from  
£1010!



### Thailand Rainforest Adventure for Youth

Discover stunning and secluded Phang Nga in Thailand when you help transform the local non-formal education centre into a key place of learning by assisting with construction projects and make a real impact, while living alongside a traditional Thai community and exploring the stunning tropical jungles and turquoise oceans that surround you.



### Marine Conservation Awareness and PADI Advanced Open Water

Discover a new world when you learn about issues facing marine conservation while earning your PADI Advanced Open Water qualification in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Learn to identify key fish and coral species as well as how to conduct reef-based research. Explore ancient Mayan cities, tropical jungles and incredible dive sites on this once-in-a-lifetime trip!



### Ultimate Adventure and Cultural Immersion in South Africa

Discover all the beauty the southern tip of Africa has to offer when you join a team of international volunteers looking to make a sustainable impact in the world. Immerse yourself in the rainbow nation, learn English, explore Cape Town and make a genuine difference by improving educational facilities or local orphanages through various construction or renovation projects.



YOU CAN ALSO



## School Group Travel

Have a life changing, memorable and exciting learning experience abroad with your peers! Our programmes are focused around adventure, discovery and cultural understanding, and meet the requirements of international education including the Creativity Action Service element of the International Baccalaureate diploma programme and the 'Week without Walls' programme.



## Language Immersion

Travel to Mexico or Costa Rica and improve your Spanish beyond just knowing "muchas gracias" or discover South Africa and practice your English with the local Capetonians. Other options include learning exotic languages like Thai or Nepalese! Whichever option you choose, all our language lessons will be with a native speaker and will have you grasping the basics in no time!



## Academic and Cultural Exchange

Travel to the iconic city of Cape Town and experience life in South Africa as a student for up to a year! Immerse yourself in the diverse, warm culture, living with a local South African family, attending a local high school and making lifelong friends. Discover the myriad of sights and activities that the 'Mother City' has to offer in your free time.



# TESTIMONIALS

*"The reason I booked this project was I wanted to experience a new culture and help the community at the same time; GVI has more than fulfilled my expectations. I have learned about Thai language and culture from GVI staff members and have also lived in a real Thai village and helped at a local Thai school, which I can successfully say had given me more than enough experience."*

*~ Daniel Wellings*

*"I applied to go on the Costa Rica project after hearing about what an incredible experience my friend had had while on the South Africa project the previous year - I thought what an amazing way it would be to spend two weeks, especially in that I would be able to improve my Spanish while seeing a gorgeous part of the world and hopefully positively contributing to an arguably underprivileged community. And that really is exactly what I was able to do."*

*~ Jossie Gardner*

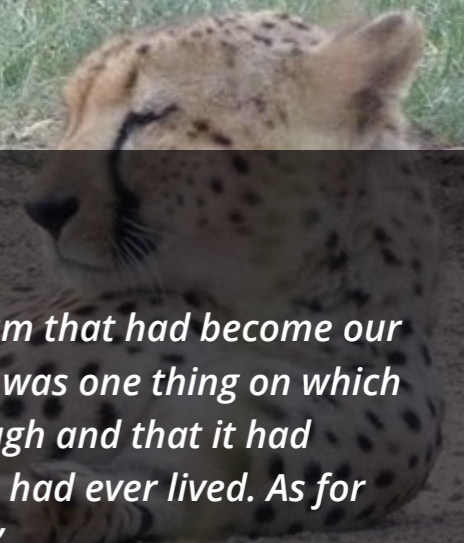


# ABOUT GVI

*Our award-winning projects receive over 2 000 participants every year!*

And we're proud to say that the vast majority of them describe their experience with us as 'life changing'. Our approval rate from over 20 000 participants since 1997 is over 95%.

We're a family-run organisation with an amazing culture and an awesome team of people across the world who are passionate experts in their chosen field and will make your experience a truly unforgettable one (in a good way).



*"The hardest thing was saying goodbye to the GVI team that had become our family for two weeks, and leaving South Africa, there was one thing on which we all agreed and it was that two weeks are not enough and that it had been the most incredible and amazing experience we had ever lived. As for me, I was sure I was going to go back there someday"*

*~ Milena Reig-Amette, South Africa Volunteer*





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