

Volunteering in Córdoba, Argentina

PREFACE

Las Omas started working with a group of mothers who took their kids to the school and waited for them 4-5 hrs. at a square because they did not want to come back home alone, some cases because they were afraid of their own husbands and sometimes because they did not have the money to take a bus back home and come later to pick them up. So even in winter or in a very hot summer days, they were waiting at the square. Las Omas built a space where they could learn different activities that helped them to improve their quality of life, and this space was also a point of different talks where women could share their situations at home and realize that they have a way out of it. Women from Chacras de la Merced live like in other generation, they haven't seen a different horizon, they don't receive education and are used to being treated very bad by their partners, so, when they wake up and realize that what they are going through is not normal, they get depressed and they need a guide and contention to be able to manage this situation and take the best out of it.

LOCATION

This project is located in Chacras de la Merced, 13 km from Córdoba City, it is a very poor neighborhood, it has many social and environmental problems since its located by the rubbish dump and the sewer. From our residences you can get there taking a 30 minutes bus ride.

Córdoba it's a city recognized by its history, culture, and university tradition. It is also characterized by the beauty of its landscapes of hills, rivers, and lakes, the elegance of its malls, its artistic vanguard, and its role as an unquestionable protagonist in the formation and development of Argentina.

The university life concentrates more than 150,000 students who come not only from the country, but also from South America, Europe, and Australia. Its academic offer and its varied thematic, sporting, artistic, and entertaining activities have turned Córdoba in the most important student city in Argentina.

Because of its characteristics, Córdoba has an outstanding nightlife with many pubs and discos. It has also modern buildings, and malls, that together with its landscapes, mountain adventures, its rich vegetation and the local fauna make Córdoba the perfect place to combine the urban with the natural life.

Located in the center of Argentina, Córdoba is chosen as the ideal base to know the rest of the country. To sum up, this is a place you will enjoy because of its people, its cultural level, and its metropolitan life surrounded by exuberant beauty and nature.

The quality of Córdoba's human resources in the teaching field, the tradition and prestige of its academic institutes, the international fame of its sportsmen, the outstanding position it has reached in different fields of knowledge, the arts, the technology, and the culture in general turn Córdoba into a destiny to be taken into consideration. Here you will surely find what you are looking for as if it were a meeting point of trends, visions of the world and vanguards, everything in a frame of tolerance, respect, and hospitality.

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OUR MISSION

In Latin America one third of women living in urban areas and 44% of those living in rural areas do not have an income of their own. Among those women who do receive a salary, those with less education earn 68% of the salary of their male peers; and women holding higher education degrees earn only 69% of the salary of their male peers.

Despite the high Human Development Indicators of the last decades, Latin America is still the most unequal region in the world, and most of the poor are women. Experts talk about a growing feminization of poverty. Besides, “the region remains trapped by the highest and most biased salary inequity in the world”. In Paraguay, 12% of young women between 15 and 19 years are already mothers.

According to the information disclosed by the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) During 2013 Argentina registered its highest rate of women killed by gender-based acts. According to the statistics at least 295 women were victim of violent death during that year, most of them were stabbed, killed by firearms, beaten or burned to death. In that same country gender-based violence complaints increased almost 60 per cent since 2010, according to the last report of the Office of Domestic Violence of the Supreme Court of Justice of Argentina, created in 2004.

Currently, in Argentina, where there is a gender quota law in the Federal Congress, and a woman as president of the republic, women only make up 6% of the municipal government, the same as in Paraguay where such a law does not exist. In Uruguay this percentage stands even lower, at only 3%.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Volunteer's tasks will depend on their interests and capabilities; they will be arranged during the first interview. The main activities developed by volunteers are:

- Provide technical support to women to carry out their projects and ideas according to their own vision and work strategies.
- Give technical, legal and psychological counseling to the woman that requires it in order to build their capacities, and support them in achieving their projects.
- Manage their social media network to promote its projects, strategies and shares their work experience

RULES

FORBIDDEN AT THE PROJECT: get there drunk or hangover, appear with dirty/smelly clothes, be rude, be absent without previous notice, leaving work without any adequate reason or without telling your supervisor, disrespecting placement property, etc.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

In the event of any of the above mentioned behavior from volunteer at their placement, disciplinary procedures will be launched.

- 1- You will receive a first warning, clearing spelling out the problem, and explaining that you will be given a last chance to change your behavior.
- 2- Continued offensive behavior beyond this point will result in expulsion from your placement cancelling your Program and you won't get a certificate from the experience.

DAYS OFF:

Sickness: If you are unable to attend work through sickness, always inform your placement supervisor & your tutor, but please avoid taking days off work for personal reasons other than sickness.

Travelling: You have to fill in the TRAVEL FORMULAIRE AND SEND IT TO YOUR TUTOR every time you are going to ask for days off for traveling.



After the first 4 weeks you work on your placement, you are entitled to take 2 days off for travel time. If you stay more than 3 months, you can ask for a week off (use this time to extend your visa). If you stay more than 4 months then you can ask for two weeks off.

If you want to start after or finish your project earlier than originally booked, you MUST ask permission to your tutor two weeks in advance and complete at least 4 weeks of work.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Period

You can participate from mid-March to mid-December (School period) . You can register for a period of 4 or more weeks, your responsibilities will increase according to your performance and the length of your experience.

Accommodation & food

You will live in an apartment with other volunteers and have two meals included: breakfast and dinner (you could arrange to have lunch instead if you prefer). It is probable that you will share your room with another participant. Normally there are single beds but in some apartment there are bunk beds. Hot shower, towels and laundry facilities are at your disposal. All apartments have tv and wifi access available. There are some apartments that offer laundry service for a small extra cost (it depends on each place). You have a full equipped kitchen; we need to know beforehand if students have a special diet like vegan or vegetarian.

Alcohol: Alcoholic drinks are only offered and allowed during outings or during special occasions as directed by the owners of the apartment. Beware that if you drink alcohol in your free time or during special events, you are not allowed in the projects unless you are 100 %sober.

Flights

We will pick you up upon arrival; our transfer service will be waiting for you with a sign with your name. It is very important that you send us your flight information beforehand. It takes about 40 minutes to get from the airport to the accommodation. Please bear in mind that the transfer back to the airport is not included, you will need to take a taxi or a bus when you finish your project.

Medical & health

It is advised to have the yellow fever vaccine if you are planning to visit the Iguazú Falls but it is not compulsory

Medical services

There are first aid kits available in all projects but in case of an emergency there are many public hospitals nearby as well as emergency services available in the immediate area.

Insurances

You are required to carry travel insurance; the travel insurance could cover medical costs; in case it does not, it is not a problem since in Argentina there are very good public Hospitals where you do

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not need to pay anything. You are anyway advised to hire medical insurance before travelling, but it is not compulsory. Able Spanish will not be held responsible for any liabilities that could have been covered by travel or health insurance.

Conditions for participation

Able Spanish does not discriminate against persons with disabilities, however you must be in general good mental and physical health to be able to participate.

In addition:

- You must be respectful of other cultures;
- You must be tolerant towards others and respect the differences
- You must welcome team work but also be able to work alone;
- You must be able to speak and understand Spanish;
- You must be at least 18; if you are underage you need to come with a permission from your parents
- You have to be a proactive person, we welcome volunteers with initiative

Money

It is recommended that you exchange a little bit of money before you come and once you are here, we can change your dollars or Euros at the school or you can go to an exchange office if you prefer so. On your first day at the city tour, the tour guide can show you where the banks and ATMs are, so that you can take money.

Smoking

Smoking is allowed only in designated areas.

ADVISE ON PERSONAL TRAVELLING ACCESSORIES

Depending on the time of the year Córdoba could be very hot or very cold. The temperature during summer varies from 29 degrees to 35 °C and the temperature in winter varies from 2 degrees to 15 or 18. Sometimes you wrongly assume that Latin America is always hot, but this is not true for Argentina. It can be really cold in winter especially for projects that are located in the middle of the mountains; here temperatures can get to -5 degrees or sometimes less than that. If you are planning to travel to Patagonia, be prepared to bring warm clothes and trekking shoes; thermal clothes could be a good idea.

Some other suggested items are:

- valid passport (for stays longer than 90 days, you need to renew your visa either by paying or by travelling for example to Brazil, Chile, Bolivia or Uruguay)
- sunglasses, hat or cap
- sunscreen lotion
- swimsuit
- clothing (long trousers, shorts, T-shirts & shirts with long and short sleeves, sweatshirt)
- comfortable shoes (sneakers, sandals)
- camera
- mosquito repellent



PRACTICAL TIPS

Time and climate

Argentinean time is generally four or five hours earlier than Central European Time. Depending if it is summer or winter. In summer, temperature varies from 30 to 37 degrees in winter it goes from 5 to 15 but it could be less.

Electricity

The current in Argentina is 220-240v, 50 Hz, AC. However, you can buy a transformer for your battery-charger or mobile here in Argentina for no more than 50 pesos.

Special Days

January 1: New Year

February 16,17:

Carnival

May 01: Labour Day

June 20: National Flag

Day

25 May: Revolution

Day

July 9: Independence Day

August 17: Anniversary of the death
of General José de San Martín

October 12: Day of Respect for
Cultural Diversity

November 20: Day of National
Sovereignty

December 8: Immaculate
Conception Day

December 25: Christmas

Money

The monetary unit of Argentina is the Peso. In the year 2016, one dollar is more or less 15 pesos and one euro is more or less 17 pesos.

Credit cards are normally accepted especially VISA and MasterCard. The prices of goods in Argentina are relatively cheap for people from Euro-countries due to a strong Euro and you can get anything you need 24 hours a day.

Bank & Store Opening hours

Bank hours: Monday through Friday: 8am to 1pm.

Store hours: Supermarkets are open from 8 to 10 pm. But there are some stores open 24 hours.

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Passport and visa

Tourist Visa: European countries normally don't require a visa for Argentina, you can stay as a tourist with your passport for 90 days, after this, you need to pay to get the visa renewed or you need to travel to bordering countries like Brazil, Chile, Bolivia or Uruguay.

Just in case, please check with your airline to determine if you need a visa to enter to Argentina. You can also check this with your booking agency or the Argentinean Embassy in your home country.

Safety

Córdoba is a very safe city. You just need to take basic precautions like in any big city that you are not familiar with.

CONTACT INFORMATION in Europe

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**If you are interested in a volunteering experience in
Argentina please check our website**

www.servicevolontaire.org !!!

