

# Monkey Sanctuary



This centre is located in an isolated area of the Ecuadorian rainforest. The centre was established in 2006 and works in rescuing, rehabilitating and when possible releasing animals back to their natural environment. The centre works in partnership with the Ecuadorian Environmental Police (UPMA) and the Ministry of Environment in the fight against trafficking, abuse, capture and hunting of wild animals. Animal welfare is not often a high priority for many Ecuadorians and many do not understand the problems associated with keeping wild animals as domestic pets as they often become depressed/aggressive and as a result are neglected and abused and many of the animals arriving at the centre have been mistreated with either physical and/or psychological injuries.

The rescue centre covers an area of over 100 hectares on the land of the Alvarez Guatactuca family. This is a Quichua family whose ancestral line over this land and area stems back hundreds of years. As a family-run rescue centre, they have a great understanding of the local community, their culture and the plight of their native wild animals.

What started as a small centre for monkeys has expanded to a centre that at the request of the Government now takes in all types of wild animals. This is a great opportunity to work not only with monkeys but with a variety of exotic animals. There are currently over 60 animals at the centre which include: primates (squirrel, titi and capuchin monkeys) mammals (peccaries, coati, tayra, kinkajou, margay), reptiles (tortoises) and birds (turkey, parrots and macaws). Also there are free roaming troops of monkeys in and around the centre.

## **VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

Volunteers are needed to help in the following activities:

- Day to day care of the animals
- Cutting up fruit, preparation of diets, feeding the animals
- Helping new arrivals adjust to the centre
- General maintenance and cleaning
- Construction work; repairing and building new enclosures
- Daily hikes to pick fruits and catch insects for the animals and also to harvest yucca, corn, sugar cane or cocoa.

## **WORK SCHEDULE**

You will work Monday to Friday from 8am to 12:30pm and 2:30pm to 5pm. On Saturdays the volunteers work for a couple of hours to clean the volunteer house and kitchen, and feed the animals (ending around 10:30 am) then they are free for the weekend.

## **LOCATION**

This project is located close to Arajuno, approximately 1 hour from the nearest town of Puyo, in an isolated area. Travelling by bus from Quito it will take you approximately 6 hours to reach the centre.