

wls international

Meaningful Travel in Asia



Volunteer in Vietnam
with WLS International

www.GapYearInAsia.com

why choose *WLS International*?

These are the reasons why we think we are different and why our volunteers have such an amazing time with us, don't just take our word for it, see what our volunteers say about us :

<http://www.gapyearinasia.com/testimonies.html>

1. quality programs

Our main focus is to provide quality meaningful volunteer and travel programs which benefits the local projects and uses the skills of our customers in a meaningful way. Unlike many other organizations, we have our own staff in Cambodia, China, Thailand and Vietnam to make sure our customers are properly looked after during their program abroad. Our resident in-country staff will make sure that you are safe, secure and enjoying your experience abroad. Unlike most of the other volunteer organizations who just sell the program on behalf of a local partner, we have our own WLS staff. This means that we are able to offer flexible and personalised support to our volunteers. Your WLS coordinator will be waiting for you at the airport to pick you up and be available throughout your program to organize your program and support you whilst volunteering. This enables us to focus on the quality of our program from the beginning until the end. Over the years we have listened carefully to our volunteers and we have implemented the feedback we received to constantly improve our programs.

2. individually tailor made schedule

Every schedule of every volunteers is tailor made based upon the volunteers skills & preferences and the needs of the projects. Our coordinators make an individual schedule for every volunteer who joins our program. We match the skills & preferences to the needs of the projects so projects get the help they need and the time of our volunteers is used in the most beneficial way possible.

3. service

We offer great service to our volunteers before and during their program. When you email us then we will get back to you within 24 hours during work days. Give it a try and contact us now!

4. flexibility

With our programs you can start on any date of your choice throughout the year! This flexibility makes it a lot easier for our volunteers to organize their trip. No need to have to arrive on a specific date during the month, with us you can start on any date, on any day of the week throughout the year.

5. affordability

Our prices are some of the most reasonable in the industry. Off course there is a fee to pay but when you compare our prices you will see that we focus on keeping our prices as low as possible. The prices of our programs cover the cost of researching, visiting & organizing the programs, advertising and promotion costs, office expenses, staff costs at our head office and local staff, airport pickup, transport to the project and accommodation.

volunteer photos

Check out our Photo Galleries of our different programs : <http://www.gapyearinasia.com/photo-galleries.html>

vietnam program

Our very popular volunteer program in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam has received fantastic feedback from our volunteers. We have several wonderful projects available which will give you a unique and worthwhile experience. Every schedule of every volunteer is individually organized. We provide a very personalized service to enable you to achieve a meaningful experience in Vietnam.

"I had the most amazing time. I've never done this sort of volunteering work before but everything surpassed my expectations! Thank you for an amazing time."

Stella Ciorra (UK)

"What a great program ! I found that my placement suited my skills very well. The WLS Coordinator in Vietnam is fantastic. I have recommended your program to many people and hope to travel again with you next year. "

Jenny MacFarland (Australia)

about the program

We offer great flexibility to our volunteers. Our volunteer program in Vietnam starts on any date of your choice throughout the year. You can join the program from 1 week up to 12 weeks.

You will be picked up from the airport in Ho Chi Minh City and on the first day of your program you will receive an orientation from your Coordinator. You will then be introduced to your projects to start your volunteering.

where will I live?

We have our own Homebase Volunteer House for our volunteers in Ho Chi Minh City. Our homebase is near the center of Ho Chi Minh City. It is a large 4 floor building where volunteers stay, sometimes sharing a room with other volunteers of the same gender. The house has several bedrooms with cable tv and air-conditioning in every room, a living room, a kitchen for our volunteers to cook and a roof garden. There is free wireless internet when you bring your laptop!

This is a great place where volunteers can get to know each other and share their experiences. If you want our coordinator can also teach you some Vietnamese cooking!

For pictures of our Homebase : <http://www.gapyearinasia.com/vietnam-homebase.html>

am I eligible?

You need to be at least 17 years old, unless you are accompanied by an adult and you need to be motivated to volunteer. No teaching experience or volunteer experience is needed.

what will I be doing?

There are different activities available for our volunteers at our projects. You can focus on one type of volunteering activity or combine activities such as taking care of children and working at the soup kitchen for example.

Teaching English : One of the volunteer activities is teaching English. The level of English of the children is mostly basic to lower intermediate so no teaching experience is required.

Working with Disabled Children : Volunteers can talk/play with the children, help the physiotherapists when they do the therapies for the children, help feed the children and take them on their wheel chairs for a walk in the orphanage's front garden.

Soup Kitchen : You will help in the food preparation and the cutting of vegetables. You can also join the delivery of the food to the poor. The volunteers at the project prepare around 2000 meals per day and deliver them by hand to poor people around the city.

Taking Care of Children : Volunteers offer valuable support and education to the children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. You will offer support to the children whilst being a positive role model for the children. You can also become involved in a variety of activities including outdoor activities, helping with their homework and playing with the children.

No volunteer or teaching experience is needed. The main requirements needed are flexibility, enthusiasm and a willingness to help. You can also teach special skills that you might have such as art or music.

“I volunteered in Vietnam with WLS and it was truly one of the best experiences I've ever had. Hang, the coordinator, is so kind, patient, smart, and helpful. She and her husband took me to see a few different programs available for me to volunteer at, and then I could choose the one where I felt the most comfortable and where I thought I could contribute the most. With the support of WLS I was able to volunteer and help so many people, and in the process I learned so much more about life than I ever could have imagined. The experience was amazing, and the children and people I was able to meet and help have truly changed my life!”
- **Cia Restaino (USA)**

volunteer schedule

Your Coordinator will pick you up from the airport and take you to your our home base guesthouse. You will then receive your orientation from your coordinator. You will then be introduced to your projects to start your volunteering.

Example Volunteer schedule

Day 1

Airport pick up by our coordinator at the airport of Ho Chi Minh City and check in at our homebase guesthouse followed by an orientation with your coordinator. Time to relax, chat with your coordinator and other volunteers and check your emails with our free wireless internet.

Day 2

Transport to your first project to teach English at the Shelter for Street Children in the morning with your coordinator. In the afternoon you will be taken to your second project at the Orphanage for Children with Disabilities. Your coordinator will help you to get to know the projects and to get you up and running with your volunteering at the projects.

In the evening go with other volunteers to downtown Saigon at one of the many restaurants or relax at our volunteer house.

Day 3 - 6

Volunteer at the Shelter for Street Children in the morning and in the afternoon at the Orphanage for Children with Disabilities.

Day 7

The end of your program. Your coordinator can arrange a taxi to take you to the airport for your onward travel.

volunteer projects ho chi minh city

Shelter for Street Children

This is a shelter for street children in the center of Ho Chi Minh City. The charity provides accommodation, education, recreational activities and opportunities for street children and orphaned children so they can get a job when they grow up and go back home to integrate with their own families or build their own life. There are 20 children at this shelter from the age of 6 years old. This project is very popular with our volunteers. The staff is very friendly and the kids are just wonderful!

Volunteers at this project offer valuable support and education to the children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. You will be teaching conversational English to the children and offer support to the children whilst being a positive role model for the children. You will become involved in a variety of activities, including teaching English, outdoor activities, helping with their homework and playing with the children.

This charity is located in the center of Ho Chi Minh City close to the famous Ben Thanh Market.

Soup Kitchen

This is a charity in Ho Chi Minh City which provides free food to poor people at hospitals for cancer patients. They prepare and distribute up to 2000 meals per day.

You will help in the food preparation and the cutting of vegetables. You can also join the delivery of the food to the poor. The volunteers at the project prepare around 2000 meals per day and deliver them by hand to poor people around the city.

This charity is located in the center of Ho Chi Minh City.

Shelter for Blind Children

This charity was established 15 years ago and there are there are more than 20 blind children who live here. The children are both boys and girls and are aged from 6 to 20 years old. The charity provides support and education to the children.

There are a variety of activities for volunteers including teaching English, outdoor activities, arts and crafts activities, games, songs and social education. The staff is very friendly and speaks some English.

Located very near downtown Ho Chi Minh City.

School for Children with Special Needs

This is a school for children with special needs and learning disabilities. The children are aged from 3 to 18. The school has about 50 children, both girls and boys.

There are many activities for volunteers at this school such as taking care of the children, teaching English, classes in drawing and playing games with the children. Your efforts will have a great impact on the children's lives as you help contribute to their overall development. The children are very welcoming and very sweet!

This charity is located near the center of Ho Chi Minh City.

Thanh Tam Charity for Pregnant Women

This is a charity providing shelter, food and career support for misfortune pregnant girls who can stay at this project until they give birth to their child. After that, they can continue to stay here if they want for some time. There are many cases of young girls or women who get pregnant without getting support from the father of the child and in many cases their family does not want to support them either as they are pregnant whilst not being married.

This charity is good for female volunteers who can provide support, teach English and be a good role model for the girls. The volunteers who have a medical qualifications can provide help such as teaching the girls primary health care education.

This charity is located about 20 minutes from the center of Ho Chi Minh City.

School for Deaf Children

This school helps and provides education to deaf children in Ho Chi Minh City. The school has about 130 deaf students from 3-22 years old.

The volunteers help teaching English, computer skills, drawing or playing with the students. Volunteers can do these activities with the assistance of the teachers there or they can learn some sign language.

This charity is located about 15 minutes from the center of Ho Chi Minh City. You can reach the project by taking the bus near our volunteer house or by motorcycle taxi.

Orphanage for Children with Disabilities & Agent Orange Victims

The Orphanage for children with disabilities and agent orange cares for abandoned children with mental or physical disabilities and agent orange victims and helps to educate them to the fullest extend of their capabilities, both physical and intellectual, and to help them, as much as possible, towards independent living. There are about 400 children at the orphanage.

Volunteers can talk/play with the children, help the physiotherapists when they do the therapies for the children, feed the children and teach some children to feed themselves and take them on their wheel chairs for a walk in the orphanage's front garden.

The location is about 15 minutes from Ben Thanh market. You can reach the project by taking the bus near our volunteer house which drops you very close to the project.

testimonials

The program is very enriching and presented a lot of opportunities for me to experience life in a different aspect. Ms Hang was fantastic, she has - in my personal and honest opinion - did a really marvelous job there and the way she had guided me and supported me was excellent. I felt very comfortable there as she was always there to show me the rope when I need one. Her friendliness and hospitality was one of my regrets for leaving Vietnam.

Keith Tang (Singapore)

I volunteered in Vietnam with WLS and it was truly one of the best experiences I've ever had. Hang, the main coordinator, is so kind, patient, smart, and helpful. She and her husband took me to see a few different programs available for me to volunteer at, and then I could choose the one where I felt the most comfortable and where I thought I could contribute the most. With the support of WLS I was able to volunteer and help so many people, and in the process I learned so much more about life than I ever could have imagined. The experience was amazing, and the children and people I was able to meet and help have truly changed my life!

Cia Restaino (USA)

I had an amazing time on this trip. I loved Ho Chi Minh City, loved my coordinator, and loved the orphanage where I ended up spending most of my days. As for my coordinator, she was amazing! It was so nice to be in a place that is so foreign to me with someone for whom that country is their home. I felt so much more confident with her by my side, whether it was bargaining in the markets or trying to cross the street. She is genuinely kind, incredibly helpful, available whenever. She's great.

Kimberly Trabka (USA)

Working in the Soup Kitchen has been a remarkable experience. I have gained so much from my time there. My coordinator Hang and her family have been superb as was the accommodation. Extremely highly recommended programme. WLS International delivered above expectation with the wonderful support of Hang.

Yvonne Brakey (UK)

The WLS Volunteer Program was exactly what I was looking for, it was flexible and offered me great opportunities to get to know the people living in Vietnam. My coordinator instantly became a friend and was a great support to all of the volunteers. She went far beyond the role of a coordinator and reached out to all of us. She helped teach us about the Vietnamese culture to ensure we became well adapted. We will never forget our summer, as all of our experiences there were life changing.

Nicomi Levine (USA)

The accommodation was fantastic. Very centrally located. Excellent hospitality, I felt very welcomed. Would definitely recommend to others. The placement was very rewarding. Enjoyed every minute of it. Everything was fantastic!

Kristy Mazzone (UK)

My stay in Vietnam was nothing short of fantastic! My coordinator made sure I was very well taken care of at all times. The program provided me with a very fulfilling experience which, was everything I asked for and more. Thank you for everything.

Sara Onvani (USA)

I had the most amazing time. I've never done this sort of volunteering work before but everything surpassed my expectations! So many volunteering organizations only have one charity programme. But WLS provides real flexibility which means you feel you achieve much more than perhaps the others do. Thank you for an amazing time. My coordinator Ms Hang was fantastic, nothing was too much trouble and she became a friend to all the volunteers and understood what everyone wanted to do. I think we all came away with our special charities and special memories.

Stella Ciorra (UK)

We are writing to let you know how great our stay has been and how much we have appreciated everything you have done for us. We are sincerely grateful for the huge help given to us by our coordinator. She has been more than great to us. It has been some amazing experiences and we will never forget all the children. We can recommend your program to other travelers who are thinking about doing this program!

Pil Jensen and Caroline Brostrup (Denmark)

I want to thank you for providing me with an extraordinary adventure in Vietnam. From the moment my plane landed, the gentle golden people of Vietnam carried me on their shoulders and never let me down. Everything about this adventure was remarkable.

Hall Walker (USA)

I had such a wonderful time in Vietnam! Everyone was so kind, the WLS Coordinator looked after me so well, she is so wonderful and at all the projects I worked everyone was so wonderful. I think it has been the best 3 months of my life.

Emma Stevens (UK)

This program was exactly what I needed & wanted. It was so helpful to arrive in Vietnam and have the program all organized. The coordinator is delightful and very professional.

Collean Scott (New Zealand)

We had a fantastic time. We would do it again in a second, and plan to do it again. Everything went really well and we found Saigon and the people there charming ! Working in the different orphanages and shelters was such an amazing experience.

Terri and Doug Kavanagh (Canada)

What a great program ! I found that my placement suited my skills very well. The WLS Coordinator in Vietnam is fantastic. The accommodation was also very good. I have recommended your program to many people and hope to travel again with you next year.

Jenny MacFarland (Australia)

I found that the program suited me very well. I wanted to work in a variety of places that challenged me in different ways and that certainly happened. I found my Coordinator in Saigon to be a great source of information and support. She is really professional in her approach to her work and has a great heart. The accommodation she organized was fantastic and the people there very helpful. I have recommended your organization to many people because you made a great effort to match my interests and skills and you provided such a varied program.

Sandy Hirsch (Australia)

For more Testimonies : <http://www.gapyearinasia.com/vietnam-testimonies.html>

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