

# Global Vision International

## Jalova, Costa Rica

### Sea Turtle Research & Conservation Internship

#### Organization Overview

GVI was established in 1998 and operates award winning International Internships and Service Learning programs focused on global issues and framed around the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We partner and support many local and international NGOs and government organizations including the National Parks of Thailand, Mexico, Costa Rica and South Africa, WWF (Mexico), Save the Children (Mexico), Red Cross (Fiji), Panthera, The UN Global Compact and many others around the world.

All GVI's projects have short, mid and long-term objectives that fit with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals or UNSDGs. These are a set of coherent goals focused on sustainable development in the economic, social and environmental fields.

GVI's main goal is based on making viable changes in all the communities we work in. We run responsible and sustainable award-winning projects and are proud to say that the impact of our work is life changing, for both the local people, our partners and our volunteers. Volunteers from all ages and from all walks of life contribute to this important impact and success of our projects.

Our core ethics and best practices we believe are essential to the operation of high quality, ethical volunteer, and sustainable development programs:

- Locally-driven, Collaborative Projects
- Clear Objectives and Sustainable Outcomes
- Impact Reporting
- Working Against Dependency
- Responsible Exit Strategies
- Clear Roles and Specialized Training
- Respect for All
- Local Ownership
- Transitioning from The Orphanage Model
- Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection
- Social Issue Focus & Impact

#### Social Issue Focus & Impact

Costa Rica is widely regarded as the birthplace of ecotourism, with the coastline playing host to multiple beaches providing a location for nesting for four of the world's sea turtle species, namely the green turtle, hawksbill and leatherback. Sea turtles are endangered around the world, and programs like this one, which



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works toward protecting and preserving their nests, along with assisting with research initiatives, ensure their chances of longer term survival and sustainability.

GVI assists the Sea Turtle Conservancy, or STC, with sea turtle research and protection, by patrolling the Southern end of the 18 mile stretch of Tortuguero National Park using internationally recognised protocols during turtle nesting and hatching season, from around March to December each year. The STC patrols the northern stretch.

Tortuguero has played a key part in the conservation of sea turtles worldwide. Archie Carr, the pioneering American conservationist, began his studies of green turtles in Tortuguero in 1954 and since 1958 the STC, has continued work on green turtles, which are currently endangered, and the other turtle species, like the critically endangered hawksbill, and vulnerable leatherback, who frequent this area.

### Position Description

On this program, you will be assisting with both day and night surveys along with GVI's staff, who have been extensively trained by our partners on the ground. This internship is multifaceted and will require involvement in various programs carried out at Jalova, such as participating in rainforest and wildlife surveys, and birds surveys in the Southern end of Tortuguero National Park canals. There will be a higher focus on maintenance of resources for the successful execution of the projects on the ground.

This internship involves comprehensive staff mentorship, extensive training, feedback, and evaluation. This greatly improves your general employability whether you are looking for a career in sustainable development, conservation or teaching. You will gain practical, hands-on experience in the field.

### Long-term Objectives:

1. Increase scientific knowledge of Tortuguero National Park.
2. Increase awareness of GVI Jalova projects and the ecological value of the Tortuguero National Park.
3. Build local capacity to support long-term conservation of biodiversity and sustainable community development in Costa Rica.
4. Continue to minimize our environmental impact on Tortuguero National Park and raise awareness of environmental issues amongst volunteers and visitors.

### Student Profile

Students with experience working in cross-cultural settings and flexibility will be viewed favorably.

### Time Frame

2 - 12 week options available.



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