



oyster

Australia  
Brazil  
Canada  
Chile  
Kenya  
India  
Kenya  
Nepal  
Romania  
South Africa  
Tanzania  
Zambia



# what makes Oyster different?



Roger Salwey



Jon Arnold



Marguerite Weatherseed

## What makes Oyster different?

Oyster is a leading gap year organisation that offers first class projects and a thorough, personal approach. Having got to know you individually before departure, you'll receive support in-country that is second to none. We are particularly proud that so many applicants come through word of mouth.

We are keen to send participants away for an extended period of time. The majority of our placements are between 3-6 months long. This gives people the chance to really get under the skin of a country and live as a local. Our participants are not tourists. Ideally, we like to send people in small groups of like-minded individuals so that you have a ready made group of friends before departure.

Most of our programs have been running for 10 years and we have great relationships with more than 40 projects and employers around the world.

## Your placement

Our placements aim to:

- Immerse you in the culture and tradition of your host country.
- Give you challenging and worthwhile voluntary or paid work.
- Be of genuine benefit to the host projects.
- Develop your confidence and independence.

- Enable you to learn a language, or gain qualifications.
- Allow you the freedom to experience the country for yourself.
- Give you the support you need to keep you safe, healthy and happy.

By offering longer placements we give people the chance to really immerse themselves into a new country; the skills, friendships and experiences as a result of this are unique.

## Your Oyster group

Oyster has group departures and we see this as a huge benefit. There will be like-minded people to share the highs with and to help you through the challenges, as well as to travel with afterwards. We give you a chance to meet at the UK Pre Departure Course, to get to know each other during the first week in-country and then to be placed in small groups together. The chance to make life long friends with locals as well as fellow travellers is one of the highlights.

## Our experience

Oyster has one of the most experienced teams in the gap year world; *Roger Salwey*, Oyster's founder and Director has been directly involved in organising gap years since 1994 and has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Year Out Group since 2007. Roger has sent away many participants including our Destination Manager in

the UK, *Jon Arnold* who joined Oyster after graduation. Having experienced one of our placements first hand, Jon is well placed to manage and develop them, as well as understanding the needs of current participants. *Marguerite Weatherseed* is the Oyster Office Manager. As well as keeping the office running, Marguerite looks after the admin, accounts and assists Roger with much of the organisation for Australia.

Our overseas representatives are local residents who, in the vast majority of cases, are employed directly by us to make all the arrangements at your destination and to be a helpful friend to you. Some of our programs have been running for 10 years with the same staff offering first class support. They love helping you make the best of your time. Past participants have highlighted this friendly approach as one of the great strengths of Oyster.

## Your relationship with Oyster's staff

In most of our destinations our own long serving staff manage every project. In some of our destinations we have teamed up with partner organisations providing high quality projects that we have personally vetted. We interview all participants and bring each group together for a Pre Departure Course. The average group size is about 5-7 people which allows staff in the UK and overseas to get to know and support every participant.



## What does Oyster provide?

Oyster provides first rate projects at a very competitive cost to the participant.

In all of our placements we include:

- Finding you a suitable placement in projects/jobs that have asked for help.
- An informal Interview and Briefing.
- A Pre Departure Course with work, accommodation, health and travel advice (for Australia this takes place at the interview and briefing stage).
- An Induction Course on arrival including language classes (where appropriate).
- Optional return flights with a transfer on arrival to your placement.
- Our representative meeting you at the airport, taking you to your accommodation and settling you in.
- Help and support throughout your placement from our experienced in-country representatives.
- Help and support from our UK office before departure and whilst in-country.
- For all our voluntary placements accommodation is included. We arrange accommodation in Canada and the minimal cost comes out of your pay cheque. In Sydney, participants stay in a hostel for their first week (included in the cost) after which they arrange to share an apartment with other participants.
- For Canada, we manage the lengthy work permit application process.

- All our placements have unique aspects which are included – please refer to individual pages, and our website, for details.

## What do I need to provide?

- A passport valid for six months after your planned return date.
- The cost of your visa (we will give you clear advice on how to obtain it).
- Insurance (we have a recommended policy).
- Any costs if you change your return flight date or extend your placement.
- All UK travel costs (to the interview, Pre Departure Course and airport).

## Oyster's commitment to ethical Gap Years.

Oyster Worldwide is an organisation that is dedicated to placements that are really beneficial not only to the participant but to the projects, employers and hosts of the countries they will be living in. Our 'responsible travel' policy is an important part of who we are. Here are some of the key points;

**Social** – Our interview and training in the UK ensures that we pick applicants who are well suited, motivated and prepared for the role they will be doing.

For our volunteers going to a 'Developing World' country we run a specially designed session called 'Responsible Travel' based upon the aims and objectives of Tourism Concern.

We are active members, and adhere to the code of practice, of the *Year Out Group*, an association of leading year out organisations that promote the concept and benefits of well-structured year out programmes. They support models of good practice and help young people and their advisers with selecting suitable and worthwhile projects.

**Environmental** – We realise the impact travel has on the environment and we have been looking at ways that we as a business can reduce our carbon emissions. Most of our participants take the opportunity to offset their flights. Participants pay an additional cost of up to £15 which is then donated to the charity *Tree Aid*, who not only plant trees to offset the carbon caused but tackle poverty and improve the environment in Africa's dry lands.

**Economical** – We regularly donate money and resources to our projects where a need has been identified. For the past two years, along with some returned volunteers, we have sold Christmas cards designed by children in Romania. The money raised through this went towards buying a new wheelchair for a children's home. We have bursaries available to participants who are in genuine financial difficulty. All payments to Oyster Worldwide are protected by our Air Tour Operator's Licence, commonly known as *ATOL*. This is a government-backed insurance scheme that pays out in the unlikely

event Oyster Worldwide were to become bankrupt or go into liquidation.

The full policy can be seen on our website: [www.oysterworldwide.com](http://www.oysterworldwide.com)

Oyster supports and adheres to the new British Standard regarding gap years – BS8848 - and we are looking forward to receiving the Kite Mark in 2010.



## What can I do?

Below is a list of all our projects/activities and their locations. Please refer to the country page for more information.

### Projects

Teaching	Brazil, <b>Chile, Kenya, India, Nepal</b> , Romania, South Africa, <b>Tanzania, Zambia</b>
Orphanage child care	<b>Brazil, Chile, Kenya, Nepal, Romania, Tanzania, Zambia</b>
Healthcare and Hospitals	Kenya, <b>India, Romania, Tanzania</b> , Zambia
Animal Conservation	Kenya, <b>Romania Bears, South Africa</b> , Tanzania
Wildlife Conservation	<b>Australia</b>
Adult Education	<b>Zambia</b>
Sports Coaching	<b>Brazil - Rio</b> , Chile, Kenya, India, Nepal, <b>South Africa, Tanzania</b> , Zambia
Women's Literacy/ Empowerment Groups	<b>Zambia</b>
HIV/AIDS Education & Care	<b>Zambia</b>
Refugee Care	Nepal
Community Centres in Shanty Towns/Favelas	<b>Brazil</b>
Paid Child Care	<b>Whistler – Canada</b> , Outback - Australia
Paid work in the service industry	<b>The Rockies &amp; Tremblant - Canada, Sydney - Australia</b>
Paid Farm Work	<b>Outback - Australia</b>

### Activities to do in country

Trekking	<b>Chile, Nepal</b>
Safari	<b>Kenya</b> , Nepal, South Africa, <b>Tanzania</b> , Zambia
Rafting	Australia, <b>Chile, Nepal, Zambia</b>
Mountain Climbing	<b>Kenya</b> , India, Nepal, <b>Tanzania</b>
Cultural Trek	<b>Nepal</b>
Scuba Diving/ Snorkelling	Australia, Tanzania
Swimming with Dolphins	Tanzania - Zanzibar
Surfing	Australia, Brazil
Expeditions	Brazil, Nepal, Chile
Unique Attractions	Brazil - Iguacu falls, Zambia - Victoria Falls
Languages	<i>French</i> - <b>Canada</b> , <i>Spanish</i> - <b>Chile</b> , <i>Portuguese</i> - <b>Brazil</b>
Skating/snowboarding	<b>Canada</b> , Romania

\*Countries in bold indicate that this project or activity is a speciality of the destination.





# Australia

During 2008 there were 559,000 international visitors to this traveller's Mecca & it's easy to see why – natural landscapes, endless sunshine & some of the friendliest people in the world!

**Australia is fantastic to visit; it has a great laid-back outdoor lifestyle, helped by the 50,000km coastline and 10,000 beaches. Our opportunities are in Sydney and the Outback. Sydney is a world famous harbour city that needs no introduction. The Outback feels a million miles from the city; here you can immerse yourself in the beauty of nature in thriving farms with colourful characters and a classic country lifestyle.**

## The Work

Choose from three programmes in Australia; farm work in the Outback, city work in Sydney or volunteering on nationwide Conservation projects.

*Outback Farm Work* We provide you with an excellent training course giving you essential skills needed for farm work in the Outback. You will learn to makes fences, drive tractors, work with cattle, use chainsaws and do vehicle

maintenance. At the end of the week, you will go into a guaranteed paid job in the Outback utilising your new skills.

*Work in Sydney* The perfect introduction to living and working in Australia. We help line up jobs and accommodation for you and get tax numbers, bank accounts and health insurance sorted. You could be doing office, retail or hospitality work in this vibrant city.

*Conservation Volunteering* There are a variety of different projects nationwide, from tree planting to wildlife surveys, boardwalk construction to beach restoration to name a few. You will be spending your time with a fun like-minded group of 6-10 others from around the world.

## Oyster Support

There is support for you on all projects; we feel it's important for you to have someone there for you, should you

need them. The UK office is also available to help you whilst you are abroad should you need us.

## Highlights

- Learning new skills, making new friends and enjoying real Aussie life.
- Getting paid for (hard) work to finance your trip and travels.
- If you are doing farming or conservation you will see amazing scenery that most tourists never see.
- You'll have seen some amazing sights with great stories to tell.

**For full details or our programmes in Australia visit our website [www.oysterworldwide.com](http://www.oysterworldwide.com)**

"I really enjoyed the course – driving tractors and bikes is great fun and the team there were very good..."

Tom Shaw, Australia

# Brazil

Help at inspirational centres that try to change the lives of children and others from the shanty towns (favelas) of Sao Paulo.

**Brazil is an exciting melting pot of people and cultures and this is especially true of Sao Paulo. It's a vibrant city offering a huge variety of music, dance, food and sport, as well as those legendary Brazilian experiences – carnival and the beach.**

**You can opt to be in the city itself or in the countryside nearby.**

## The work

Most volunteers choose to start with an intensive certificated two week Portuguese course (you need some aptitude for languages although knowledge of Portuguese is not necessary). After that you can choose to:

- Work with young people as a football coach and teacher/mentor in Rio de Janeiro, as well as at a Surf School. This is a well established project.
- live and work at an inspirational children's home based in the beautiful

countryside. Street children from Sao Paulo are given a fresh start. You'll help with day-to-day life, get involved in games and sports and act as a supportive friend to the children.

- live and work at a community centre for children based in a poor and friendly suburb of Sao Paulo. You'll need to get involved in whatever's on offer – IT, street dance, film, football and more. Plenty of enthusiasm and versatility required!

## Oyster support

Your group will be met on arrival by our representative who is there to be a helpful friend to you throughout. She will help you settle in, take you on a city tour, manage all the arrangements and be available to help with any problems you can't handle alone. Our project hosts Jonathan and Oscar will also offer you friendship and support.

## Highlights

- Being a non judgemental friend and helping rebuild a young person's self esteem and identity.
- Discovering astonishing Brazilian scenery with our 3-day expedition to the Iguacu falls on the border with Paraguay and Argentina and your own outings.
- Coming home with near-fluent Portuguese and a real experience of Brazilian life.
- Understanding more about the problems faced by the poor communities.
- Making life long friends, from your group and from Sao Paulo.
- The self confidence and perspective you gain from this rewarding experience.

**For full details of our Brazil projects visit our website**  
[www.oysterworldwide.com](http://www.oysterworldwide.com)





# Canada

Work hard and play hard in Canada's greatest ski resorts - The Rockies, Tremblant or Whistler.

Canada has a wide range of outdoor sports and draws an international crowd as a ski destination. It is blessed with dramatic scenery and an exceptionally friendly population all of which will be showcased in the 2010 Winter Olympic Games held in Whistler.

All 3 resorts attract tourists year-round with world class winter sports and, in the summer, hiking, mountain biking, rafting and golf, to name a few. Our participants are not tourists; you'll live & work as a local for 5-6 months doing a real job and earning a decent wage.

## The Work

You can choose to work in a resort crèche or in hospitality. Your skiing will certainly improve and if you want to advance your French we have placements in Tremblant, Quebec.

Canada has high levels of customer service that will give you impressive

experience. You'll take on a real job that is much more than just work experience. Your wage will be enough to cover your skiing, staff accommodation and a good social life. Most people manage to save a little to travel with as well.

*Hotel Work in The Rockies* You'll be employed by a hotel in The Rockies. You should expect to start as a Housekeeper. However many people are promoted into other positions after 3 months.

*Improve your French in Tremblant* Working in francophone Quebec allows you to develop your French (lessons included). There are a variety of jobs within the hospitality industry including hotel, bar and restaurant work.

*Ski School Jobs with Whistler Kids* You'll work with children either indoors or on the nursery slopes. Whistler Kids encourage their staff to complete the Canadian Ski Instructors Level 1 Course and offers this at a fantastic price.

## Oyster support

In each location you'll be supported by our representatives who help you to settle in. They are there to be helpful friends and assist you to get the best from your time away. They'll meet you at the airport, host monthly 'meet-ups' and offer support throughout.

## Highlights

- Guaranteed job (with first-class employer) and accommodation in a dream location before you leave the UK.
- Improve your skiing/snowboarding.
- Making fantastic friends with people in your group and from around the world.
- Oyster takes care of the lengthy Work Permit Application

For full details of our projects in Canada visit our website [www.oysterworldwide.com](http://www.oysterworldwide.com)



# Patagonia, Chile

Teach children English, perfect your Spanish and live as a local in Patagonia, one of the most beautiful and undiscovered regions of South America.

**Patagonia has the remote and outstanding beauty you'd expect near the tip of the American continent. Mountains, rivers and glaciers dominate the landscape and offer plenty to do in your time off.**

You'll live in or around Coyhaique, a thriving and friendly town where you'll enjoy the fun and colour of Latin American life.

## The work

You'll spend the first two weeks getting to know the area, doing an intensive Spanish course (we'll expect you to have basic knowledge already) and importantly, learning how to salsa dance!

You'll then be placed in local homes, all within easy reach of each other, where you'll soon feel like one of the family. We have worked with these families for many years and they are incredibly welcoming. Past volunteers say this is one of the best parts of the placement.

You'll be teaching English at one or more of the local schools. It's a challenge at first, but you'll usually start as a teaching assistant and will find yourself coming up with great ideas for making lessons fun.

It makes a huge difference to the children to have an English speaker with them. They need to learn English to be part of the growing tourist industry in the region. They'll love it if you get involved with sports, music and drama too.

## Oyster support

Our representatives, Jacqueline and Ian Farmer will meet you on your arrival. They are British teachers & have chosen to raise their family in this beautiful part of the world. They'll help you settle in, manage all the arrangements and be available to help with any problems you can't handle alone.

"I made a lot of friends and played a prominent role in my family and enjoyed speaking shaky Spanish at the beginning."  
Hannah Paget, Chile

## Highlights

- Living with a carefully chosen Chilean family – even more fun than you'd expect.
- Making great friends, from your group and from Coyhaique.
- Being much more than a tourist – there are few travellers that ever make it to Patagonia.
- Coming back with near-fluent Spanish and a real understanding of Chilean life.
- A sense of achievement that you've taught children English and hopefully increased their enthusiasm for English.

**For full details of our projects in Chile visit our website  
[www.oysterworldwide.com](http://www.oysterworldwide.com)**





# India

Volunteer in the bustling city of Madurai in Southern India, gain medical experience or work as an English Teacher – no experience required!



**India needs little introduction; with a population of over a billion and a diverse culture, India has fascinated travellers and writers throughout history. Oyster offers placements in the southern city of Madurai.**

You and your fellow volunteers will stay with very welcoming host families or in a volunteer flat within easy reach of the projects. During your free time there is plenty to do in Madurai, a city renowned for its textiles and temples, and also further afield if you want to explore and make the most of your experience.

## The Work

Oyster offers two types of placement that volunteers can choose to work on:

*Teaching English* – the schools we use in India are desperate for volunteers. Your ability to speak and write good English is invaluable to the Indian children you will be teaching. They need English to stand a better chance of getting a

good job when they leave school. You may also have the opportunity to teach other subjects and extra curricular sports, music and art lessons.

*Medical Work Experience* – this is ideal for people wanting to gain experience before starting medical school. No experience is necessary – just enthusiasm and motivation!

You'll shadow a doctor or nurse from a specific hospital department. Do let us know if there is a specific department that you want to experience. In the past, volunteers have even sat in on operations, including brain surgery.

## Oyster Support

Our representatives in Madurai, Karen & Pradeep, have strong local connections with the people and projects. They will meet you at the airport, help you settle in, run an orientation course, manage all the arrangements and be available to help with any problems you can't handle alone.

## Highlights

- Making a real contribution to Indian life.
- Enthusing children about English
- Gaining fantastic medical work experience that will enhance your CV.
- Immersing yourself into Indian culture and being able to call Madurai home.

**For full details of our India projects visit our website [www.oysterworldwide.com](http://www.oysterworldwide.com)**

"The Taj Mahal was unbelievable. Even standing in front of it, even touching it, it still seemed unreal."

Lucy Stuart, India



# application form

Please fill in this application form using a blue or black pen.

## 1. Personal Details

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Forenames (as shown on your passport) \_\_\_\_\_

Name as you would like to be known \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Address (please also include home address if different)

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel Number \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name (including title e.g Dr) \_\_\_\_\_

Father's daytime tel number \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name (including title e.g Dr) \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's daytime tel number \_\_\_\_\_

Do you hold a valid UK passport?

Yes

No

If not, please state which country \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Education

Name of school/college/university (if you are not in education, please give most recent details) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Head of Sixth Form/tutor \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Careers Guidance Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Please fix  
one of your  
two passport  
photos here

What qualifications have you already gained?

	Dates	Subjects
GCSEs (or equivalent)		
A Levels/GNVQs/Scottish Highers		
Degree		
Others (please state)		

What qualifications are you working towards at the moment?

	Completion dates	Subjects
A Levels/GNVQs/ Scottish Highers		
Degree		
Others (please state)		

### 3. Employment History

List any paid jobs you have had (including job title and dates)

Please continue on another sheet if necessary

What are your plans after your year out?

Go to university  Go in to a career  Other (please state)

Can you speak another language? (please state)

To what standard do you speak the language?

How did you hear about Oyster Worldwide?

<input type="checkbox"/> Net surfing (search engine, if possible)	<input type="checkbox"/> Referred by another organisation
<input type="checkbox"/> Via gapyear.com	<input type="checkbox"/> Information from Careers Service
<input type="checkbox"/> Year Out Group website	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher at school
<input type="checkbox"/> Family and friends	<input type="checkbox"/> Knowing a returned participant
<input type="checkbox"/> Talk at school/Gap Year Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> The Gap Year Guidebook
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	

## 4. Experience and Skills

What are your reasons for applying for this placement?

Please continue on another sheet if necessary

What organisations, clubs and societies do you belong to?  
(state current membership)

What positions of responsibility at school, university or at work have you held?

Which continents, excluding Europe, have you visited?

Africa  Asia  Australasia  North America  South America

## 5. Personal History

(Please circle and supply details as necessary)

Have you any medical disorders?	Yes	No
Are you taking any regular medication?	Yes	No
Have you any allergies?	Yes	No
Have you any dietary requirements?	Yes	No
Have you a previous criminal record?	Yes	No
Do you hold a valid UK driving licence?	Yes	No

## 6. Referee (Please ask your referee before nominating them)

You must supply the name of a referee from your school, university or employer

Name of referee

Title (Mr, Mrs, Dr, Rev.)

Address

Postcode

Tel Number

E-mail address (preferred method of contact)

## 7. Placement

What is your preferred destination?

1st

What is your second choice destination?

2nd

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For some of our destinations we offer more than one type of placement. Please indicate the type of placement you are interested in, marked with brackets, e.g. Canada - Whistler (Kids), The Rockies or Tremblant (hotel work).

What is your preferred month of departure?

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

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What is your preferred year of departure?

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

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What is your planned length of placement?

..... weeks (Romania Bears)

..... months (all other placements)

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Please state the price of your preferred destination

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## 8. Declaration

I declare that the details completed on this form are true and accurate. I have now fixed one passport photograph on to the application form and attach a second for your reference.

Signature .....

Date .....

Signature of parent or legal guardian if under 18 years of age .....

*Please supply any additional information on another sheet or on the space provided on this form, clearly marked with your name*

This form should be returned to: **Oyster Worldwide, Hodore Farm, Hartfield, East Sussex TN7 4AR, United Kingdom**

# Kenya

Work with local children or in animal conservation in one of the most unspoilt regions of Kenya.

**Our placements are based in Nanyuki, a friendly town right on the Equator and three hours north of Nairobi. Nanyuki lies in Laikipia, an area of untapped tourist potential where wildlife is free to roam. Nanyuki supports a traditional farming community that is also trying to build its visitor numbers. The area has made a genuine call for volunteers.**

Local attractions include Samburu National Park located on the shores of one Kenya's big rivers, and Mount Kenya, Africa's second highest mountain, which for most people is a manageable climb.

You will live in a locally rented comfortable house that has electricity and running water. The house is secure and within reach of the town and projects.

## The Work

Options include the Nanyuki Children's Home which cares for around 80 abandoned or orphaned children and has its own Pre School. Alternatively help at the Naro Moru Home which provides a happy and positive environment for children with disabilities.

We have links with several local schools who welcome help in English particularly. Recent volunteers have excelled themselves organising sport and music. The request from our hosts is that volunteers bring something of themselves whether it be sport, singing, drama or art.

A very different option is to help with research projects at a wildlife reserve that is currently trying to increase its population of black rhino. It also has a sanctuary for abused or orphaned chimpanzees.

## Oyster Support

Gill Littlewood is our local representative in Kenya. Gill is British and grew up in Kenya and lives in Nanyuki where she farms cattle with her husband. Her role is to arrange your voluntary work & accommodation and to offer you friendship and support throughout. On arrival you will stay at Gill's house whilst you learn some Swahili and adjust to African life.

## Highlights

- Contributing to local life in a region that warmly welcomes volunteers.
- The three day (optional) safari at Samburu seeing game in their natural habitat close up.
- Getting to know and understand Kenya with its challenges and potential.

For full details of our Kenya projects visit our website [www.oysterworldwide.com](http://www.oysterworldwide.com)





# Nepal

Make a genuine contribution teaching English in a school, immerse yourself in local culture and experience the best of Nepal with your group.



**Nepal is home to the breathtaking Himalayas and some of the world's most hospitable people. Never having had a colonial past, Nepal retains its rich Buddhist culture that only the more adventurous travellers ever see.**

You will live and work in the magnificent Kathmandu Valley. We place people in both rural and urban schools in and around Kathmandu. Kathmandu is one of the world's most exotic cities and a base for trekkers and climbers who have come to Nepal to trek and explore some of the highest mountain ranges in the world including Mount Everest!

You will live either with a local Nepalese family or in school accommodation as part of the wider school family. This will enable you to immerse yourself in local culture and get beneath the skin of Nepal – something you would not experience as a tourist.



## The Work

Your main job is to help with the English teaching in your school. Your ability to speak and write good English is incredibly useful to the Nepalese people who need to learn English for tourism and business. Besides teaching English we hope you will use any interests you have to run a sports team or get involved in music, art or drama as other volunteers have done. We find that it is in the extra curricular activities that volunteers can really leave their mark, and a legacy, on a school.

## Oyster Support

You'll be met on arrival by our representative Basant who has run this program since 2001. He will help you settle in, run a thorough orientation course, manage all the arrangements and be available to help with any problems you can't handle alone.

## Highlights

- The satisfaction of making your class enthusiastic about English.
- Gaining a real understanding of Nepalese life, living locally at the school or with a family.
- Optional 8 day Himalayan trek, 8 day tour of Tibet and 3 day river rafting & Chitwan Safari.
- Making great friends with the locals and fellow volunteers.
- Being a local in Nepal for 4 months rather than just being a tourist.

For full details of our Nepal projects visit our website  
[www.oysterworldwide.com](http://www.oysterworldwide.com)

Nepalis, Basant, the pupils and teachers at Alpha School were the friendliest people imaginable!

Alice Peck, Nepal

# Romania

Care for abandoned children or help rehabilitate brown bears whilst based in one of Eastern Europe's most beautiful cities. Volunteer for 2 weeks up to 3 months.

**Our child care placements are in the centre of Brasov and also in 'Family Homes' in a rural community setting. The bear sanctuary is a 25 minute drive from picturesque Brasov and is sited in a dramatic mountain setting in oak woodland. Brasov lies 100 miles north of Bucharest and is surrounded by the Carpathian Mountains that offer great skiing in the winter and wonderful hiking in summer – as well bears and wolves. Accommodation is a comfortable, central flat shared with the other volunteers.**

## The work

Choose between working in child care or work with brown bears or combine both.

*Child Care* You must have a passion for working with children, be selfless and warm hearted. Volunteers offer fun and affection by playing games, singing and dancing whilst taking a real interest

in the children. Volunteers work in children's homes with abandoned children and do "play therapy" in a children's hospital and hospice. Alternatively, they work in state nurseries and primary schools helping with English lessons, extra curricular activities and playtime.

*Bear Sanctuary* Your main role is feeding (currently 39) bears who eat 10kgs of food a day. You must be fit, passionate about bears and happy to work outdoors in a job that won't stretch your brain too much. Volunteers monitor the bears, give guided tours and take on simple day to day tasks that free up the permanent staff to bring in more animals. Most bears have come from zoos and circuses where they have had a miserable time and need to adjust to their natural environment.

## Oyster support

The placements are arranged by our bilingual representative who has worked with us since 2003 and will be a helpful friend to you. You will see him regularly at work and at informal outings to Dracula's castle and other local attractions.

## Highlights

- For Child Care volunteers – bringing happiness and fun to children who need it.
- For Bear volunteers this is a unique opportunity to enjoy these beautiful creatures whilst contributing to the development of the sanctuary.
- Enjoying Brasov's vibrant city centre and being in the Carpathian mountains.

For full details of our Romania projects visit our website  
[www.oysterworldwide.com](http://www.oysterworldwide.com)





# South Africa

Coach, support and inspire some of South Africa's most needy children. Teach, be a care worker in an HIV/Aids Orphanage, study with a local artist or work in wildlife rehabilitation.



**You will live and work in Port Elizabeth, known in South Africa as the 'friendly city' that lies on a huge bay and is host to some of the 2010 world cup matches.**

## The Work

Oyster works with a highly regarded sports foundation that has actively promoted youth development through sport since 2005. If you love sport, what better way to spend up to 12 weeks than coaching young players passionate about football, cricket, hockey and other sports?

This project is about so much more than just sport or physical fitness. Sport helps develop confidence, self-discipline and ambition – and keeps kids out of trouble.

Care work and teaching volunteers are warmly welcomed too. You can

opt to work in an Aids orphanage or children's home. Alternatively, you can teach English in local schools.

Volunteers for sports, care work and teaching will live in special accommodation at the sports foundation.

For animal lovers, there is the opportunity to live and work at a wildlife sanctuary 50kms away, near Jefferies Bay (famous for its surf). You will join a team of volunteers helping to run the sanctuary and will encounter a wide range of animals from cheetahs to meercats, as well as many tropical birds.

## Support in South Africa

Those working in Port Elizabeth will be able to get advice and help from the two permanent staff members living at the Sports Foundation. Those working at the wildlife sanctuary will be looked after by Percy, the founder and owner.

## Highlights

- Being a valued part of an inspirational program to develop young people through sport.
- Making a real difference to rehabilitated, orphaned or endangered animals if you choose wildlife rehabilitation.
- Gaining confidence and life skills as well as fantastic experience for your CV.
- Getting to know South Africa and its people in a way that you would not as a tourist passing through.
- Enjoying this diverse country with its incredible climate, game parks, surfing, beer, wine and great food.



**For full details of our South Africa projects visit our website [www.oysterworldwide.com](http://www.oysterworldwide.com)**





# Tanzania

Volunteer as a care worker at an orphanage, at a school as an English teacher or work on an Aids awareness program.



Tanzania has the very best of Africa – snow capped Kilimanjaro, tropical coastline and the world's finest game parks. You will live close to Arusha in a neighbouring village. Arusha is a lively town that lies on the foothills of the snow capped Mount Meru and is an hour's drive away from Africa's highest mountain – Kilimanjaro.

You live with other volunteers in safe and simple accommodation close to your project or school. All volunteers are within easy reach of each other and meet in Arusha at weekends.

Most volunteers opt for the Oyster-arranged safari to see lion, elephant, rhino, leopard and cheetah and to enjoy the luxurious game lodges. For rest and relaxation you can visit the tropical palm-fringed island of Zanzibar enjoying snorkelling, swimming with dolphins or visiting Stone town.



## The work

We have several projects that have developed since our first volunteers arrived in 2000. There are two local orphanages that have welcomed our volunteers as care workers and provide a permanent home for unwanted children. If you are interested in health-care we have volunteer places on a local Aids awareness program as well as a local hospital. Budding journalists can now gain experience on a local Arusha newspaper.

Most volunteers choose to teach in village schools. The schools are very happy, vibrant places where you will soon make a genuine contribution and feel at home. Volunteers support the local English teachers and usually lead the lessons after a short while. Your passions such as sport, music, drama and singing will all be hugely appreciated and many of our volunteers have built an after school curriculum based on these activities.

## Oyster support

You'll be met on arrival by our rep Madeline Oosterhuis who has been responsible for almost 250 volunteers since the program begun. She will run the orientation course and be a helpful friend to you throughout. Madeline lives in Arusha with her young family who you will get to know too.

## Highlights

- A sense of achievement that you've made a real contribution to Tanzanian life; bringing education, fun and friendship to African children.
- Learning about a completely different culture and living in Africa as a local, rather than as a tourist.
- Seeing elephants, lions and other animals in their natural home, climbing Kilimanjaro and staying on Zanzibar.

**For full details of our Tanzania projects visit our website [www.oysterworldwide.com](http://www.oysterworldwide.com)**

# Zambia

Teach English to local children in schools, volunteer in adult literacy projects or work with orphanages to help improve the lives of local Zambians.

**You'll be based in Livingstone, home to the dramatic Victoria Falls. Although the town plays host to many tourists passing through, the surrounding communities are not benefiting from tourism and struggle with basic health and social care.**

You'll be living within easy reach of the projects and the town in safe comfortable accommodation that you share with the other Oyster volunteers. This will provide you with a relaxing home where you can recharge your batteries after the day's work.

Zambia is a country with one of the lowest life expectancies and highest infant mortality rates in Africa. Zambia is struggling to reach its potential and volunteers have an important part to play.

## The Work

We are working with several community schools where you can teach English and contribute in other areas such as sport, music and art. These schools rely heavily on foreign aid and local initiative, so any talents you can bring would be welcomed.

You can also choose to volunteer in orphanages, adult literacy projects and in health education clinics. All the organisations you will work with are committed to reducing poverty, corruption and disease. Volunteers can work at more than one project to make the best of your time and interests.

Recent volunteers have taught English and sports, helped at a women's literacy group and delivered home based care. Volunteers experience Zambia's wonderful community spirit and make friends with the local people.

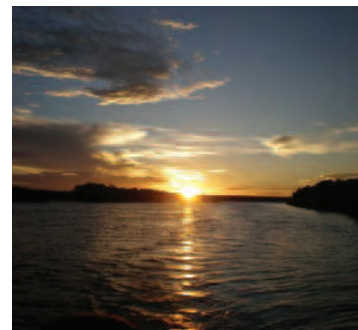
## Oyster Support

You'll be met on arrival by our local representative, Kirsty, who will help you settle in, manage all the arrangements and be available to help with any problems you can't handle alone. Kirsty has lived in Livingstone for over 10 years with her young family who you will get to know.

## Highlights

- Really getting under the skin of a lively African community.
- Forging lifelong friendships.
- Learning Nyanja, so that you can communicate effectively with the community.
- Getting off of the beaten track, and experiencing real Zambian life for 3 months.

**For full details of our projects in Zambia visit our website [www.oysterworldwide.com](http://www.oysterworldwide.com)**



### **What Happens Next?**

For full and up to date information about Oyster and our projects, visit our website [www.oysterworldwide.com](http://www.oysterworldwide.com) or call us on **01892 770771**.

To apply, you can complete and post back the application form within this brochure or complete our online application form.

Once we receive your application, we will be in touch to arrange an interview with you. We prefer to do this face to face but it can also be by phone. At the interview we aim to find out more about you, your interests and reasons for applying. We will also give you a briefing on your chosen destination.

### **When do I have to pay?**

We ask for £180 to book your place on one of our projects. The remaining balance would then be due ninety days before departure.

### **When should I apply?**

Try to apply as early as possible to secure your place. The earlier you apply the more time you will have to raise the money. When you accept a place with us the price is fixed even if we have to raise the price later on.

We run Pre Departure Courses for each group approximately 3 months before departure. Ideally, all participants are signed up by then (for Australia, this takes place at the interview stage).

If you leave your application too late, you may find that all of our places are fully booked for your chosen destination. For example in 2009, our Whistler placement was fully booked 6 months before departure.

visit [www.oysterworldwide.com](http://www.oysterworldwide.com) for more info



and finally...

"Livingstonians are unbelievably friendly and welcoming so settling in with the locals wasn't hard."

Rachel Stephen, Zambia

"A very capable, independent, organised young adult daughter returned home from Chile in August. We would just like to take this opportunity of thanking you for making Susie's visit possible. It was a huge success."

Mrs A.M. Power, Yorkshire

"Whilst in Nepal, Anna was so pleased to have the contact with Basant (the Oyster representative) and his wife who were so kind and hospitable."

Mrs Maureen Newey, Stratford Upon Avon

"I had an awesome time, I loved the children and the work was always varied and challenging. The Oyster representative was always friendly, contactable and organised."

Katie Johnston, Romania

"I want to go back! I cried all day when I had to leave Canada. I had such a good time and I'm really glad I went. It was definitely worth it and I heartily recommend it to anyone!" Kara Burnett, Canada

"It was great to be able to work in a Secondary and Primary School and to see the differences." Rebecca Bradley, Tanzania

"My 3 months in Kenya was one of the most amazing experiences I have ever had. Staying in a country... getting to know the people and really feeling at home in the place makes for a great way to spend part of your gap year." Tim Durrant, Kenya

# oyster

For details of our voluntary and paid placements, visit [www.oysterworldwide.com](http://www.oysterworldwide.com) or telephone 01892 770771  
Oyster Worldwide, Hodore Farm, Hartfield, East Sussex TN7 4AR

