

Volunteering at Ometepe Bilingual School

The Work

Volunteers will usually have 3 one to two hour classes of 10-15 students Monday through Friday and one class Saturday morning. The morning class is for young children. The afternoon class is for after-school children from the local elementary school. The evening class is for teenagers and adults.

Volunteers are also encouraged to do marketing, fundraising, write blog posts and newsletters, assist with editing and other English-based tasks, and perform other activities to strengthen the program, especially during school holiday periods when classes are smaller or limited. We are looking for flexible, self-directed people who need minimal supervision.

Cost, Accommodations, and Food

The minimum time to volunteer is 3 weeks. The weekly fee is \$125, for which volunteers receive accommodation and food either with a local family, or in the dorms at the Hacienda Merida. You can upgrade to a private room with bath for additional cost. For volunteers staying 3 months or more, the fee is \$100 per week. For 6 months or more the fee is \$75 per week, and for 9 months or more the fee is \$50 per week. Longer term volunteers receive a discount on a private room. The fee includes 3 meals per day, purified water, and Internet access. All drinks other than water, and any food in addition to 3 meals per day must be paid for independently. Our menu is healthy and varied, and includes fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. There are many vegetarian and vegan options. We do not serve beef.

Travel Logistics

There are 3 arrival ports on Ometepe. Ferries from San Jorge (5 km from Rivas) to San Jose del Sur are at 9:30AM and 5:00PM. A taxi from San Jose del Sur to Merida (1h) costs \$30, or we can pick you up in our speedboat for \$45 (25 minutes). Ferries from San Jorge to Moyogalpa are hourly from 7:00AM to 5:45PM, and a taxi from Moyogalpa to Merida is \$35 (1h). There are also public buses from Moyogalpa to Merida for 26 Cordobas (\$1.25) (2h30). Twice weekly ferries also travel between Granada/San Carlos and Altagracia, Ometepe.

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Oprakash Accommodations

Housing and food is either with a local family, or in dorms at Hacienda Merida. You can upgrade to a private room/bath for additional cost. For volunteers staying 3 months or more, the fee is \$100 per week; 6 months or more \$75 per week; 9 months or more \$50 per week. The fee includes 3 meals per day, purified water, and Internet access. All drinks other than water, and any food in addition to 3 meals per day must be paid for independently. Our menu is healthy and varied, and there are many vegetarian and vegan options.

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