

PARENT
INFO PACK

PARENT INFO PACK

FOR CAREGIVERS & GUARDIANS
OF YOUNG PEOPLE.



COVID-19 SAFETY

Please note that the following images were taken pre COVID-19. All airport pick-ups and program operations now run with enhanced cleaning and social-distancing measures in place. [Learn more](#)





Our mission is to build
a global network of people
united by their passion to
make a difference.



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GVI MANAGEMENT

WE ARE A PARENT-RUN ORGANIZATION

RICHARD WALTON Founder Of GVI

PARENT OF FOUR — JOJO, ELSPETH,
TALLULAH, AND HARRY

'My wanderlust kicked in early, driving me from one continent to the next. Now, as a parent of four, I'm passionate about giving young people the opportunity to do the same - to explore safely, learn, grow, and have fun.'



ANDREW VALENTINE GVI's CEO and Chairman

PARENT OF TWO GIRLS, AGED NINE AND ELEVEN.

'I grew up in Sussex, England. We are all very proud of the work that GVI's participants do in social development and conservation.'

I can't wait until my children are old enough to join a GVI program, so we can create our own impact together as a family.'



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SPEAK TO
ALUMNI & THEIR
PARENTS



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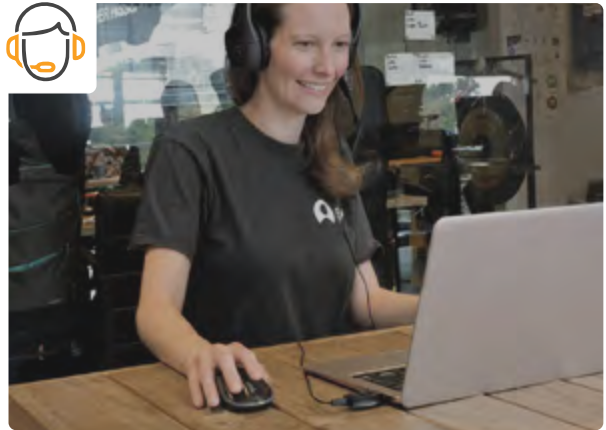
WE CAN SET UP A MEETING BETWEEN YOU, GVI ALUM, AND THEIR PARENTS

No one knows better than another parent what the experience of allowing your child to volunteer abroad is really like. The good news is that GVI alumni and their parents often love talking about their experiences. If you would like to speak to them, just let us know and we can set up a meeting. Depending on your location, it might be possible to meet face-to-face, otherwise, a phone or online chat can be arranged.



MEET FACE-TO-FACE

We run many local meetups throughout the world year-round where you can chat to previous volunteers, their parents, and our staff. See our [site](#) for the latest meetup dates.



PHONE OR ONLINE CHAT

If no meetups are available in your area, let us know that you'd like to speak to a GVI alumni and their parents and we will set you up with their contact details. Simply [contact us](#) to request a chat.



MEET GVI SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Twice a year a member of our senior management team joins other GVI staff and alumni in London to host our GVI London Open Day: an event where anyone can drop-in to watch the hourly presentations and ask any questions they may have.

OUR PARENT TESTIMONIALS

HEAR WHAT PARENTS HAVE TO SAY

“

Sam first found out about GVI when my husband challenged him about doing something worthwhile with his life in the summer. As

he was only 15 years old, I was calm initially, thinking that nothing would come of it.

Sam began some research and found that GVI was the only company who would take him because of his age. At first, I was concerned and even as the process continued, I remained unconvinced that it was a good idea.

I had huge concerns because of Sam's age, the fact that he would be unaccompanied and had never been abroad before! I remained deeply concerned up until the moment Sam left to go on the project.

Indeed, the weeks before were extremely difficult as I woke up in the middle of the night terrified that I had done the wrong thing in allowing this situation to develop. Contact with GVI in the run-up to the trip helped a little as I did a group chat between myself and other mums, but I was not relaxed at all.

As Sam was young and had never traveled alone, he flew as an unaccompanied minor. This helped alleviate some of my fears that he or his luggage would become lost in transit.

The day Sam left was difficult, but modern technology enabled us to communicate throughout his journey. Once he arrived in

I would not hesitate to recommend GVI to other families.

Thailand he was met by a GVI intern and from that point, I felt more relaxed and excited about the adventure he was undertaking. Sam was supervised carefully throughout his time away and the trip was planned in detail to ensure those participating returned with wonderful memories of time spent in a worthwhile project, as well as some sightseeing. He has made lasting friendships and had a life-changing experience. He returned from Thailand more mature, more appreciative and more aware of the beautiful world in which we live.

This year, Sam is traveling to South Africa with GVI and I am confident and excited about this new adventure. I know that he is in safe and caring hands with GVI and I am thrilled that he is going to experience this amazing continent, within the safe environment of a GVI trip. I would not hesitate to recommend GVI to other families.

”

— LINDA JEFFREY

Sam was supervised carefully throughout his time away and the trip was planned in detail to ensure those participating returned with wonderful memories of time spent on a worthwhile project.



We were soon reassured through the efficient and effective communication with GVI staff members.

“

Kayley first introduced the concept of charitable work abroad to us after having investigated various charitable travel

opportunities on the internet. She chose GVI due to the comprehensive opportunities being promoted.

Our initial feeling was of uncertainty due to organizational viability and risk to welfare. Our immediate reaction was to question the ability of an organization to effectively arrange and deliver such a complex project. We were soon reassured through the efficient and effective communication with GVI staff members who were able to competently answer all questions that we posed. The information provided was clear and concise; the links to essential information were relevant and useful.

Probably the most difficult decision was making the initial commitment. However, as time progressed we became more confident that the project would be successful. As Kayley is mature and responsible we decided that no specific ground rules needed to be set. We were more concerned about overcoming her anxiety of travel. This was the first time she traveled without us and we were all very concerned.

GVI was able to put us in touch with some of the other volunteers on the project prior to the project dates, this allowed Kayley

to establish contact with other girls with similar ambition. This helped enormously. Kayley and another girl arranged to travel together on the same flight so the fact that she was traveling with someone else helped significantly. This was the longest time we were apart from Kayley, but social media permitted us to stay in constant communication. The segregation was not concerning knowing that she was safe and having a great time.

It was a fantastic journey for her. As a consequence, she can confidently provide informed opinions whenever needed. She returned with a detailed account and a balanced view of the situation in South Africa, which was refreshing and something she will never forget. She intends to spread the word and continue supporting GVI due to the invaluable productive work they are doing throughout several countries.

Often parents have difficulty managing changing attitudes, ambition and vision of children during teen years. The GVI project brought all this together through an experience showing that teenagers can adapt and use their initiative when immersed in diverse environments. We would without a doubt recommend GVI as an organization.

”

— GILL AND BRIAN WILLIAMS

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OUR
IMPACT



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OUR COMMITMENT TO LONG-TERM POSITIVE CHANGE

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The success of all our projects is measured against the objectives of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). This means that all the short-, mid-, and long-term objectives of all our sustainable development projects worldwide are designed to help us contribute toward achieving the 17 goals the United Nations has identified as achievable by 2030.



LOCAL PARTNERS

In accordance with UN SDG #17, Partnership For The Goals, we ensure that all our projects are set up in collaboration with local organizations in all locations where we operate. It is incredibly important that sustainable development projects are lead by the objectives of local community members and organizations. Ensure the project is contributing toward their specific

goals, rather than what an outsider might think would be good for the community or environment. We also look at how we can build local capacity by supporting in-country stakeholders to become increasingly self-sustaining. This helps us ensure our participants are always helping to make a positive and long-term impact.

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OUR ETHICAL COMMITMENT



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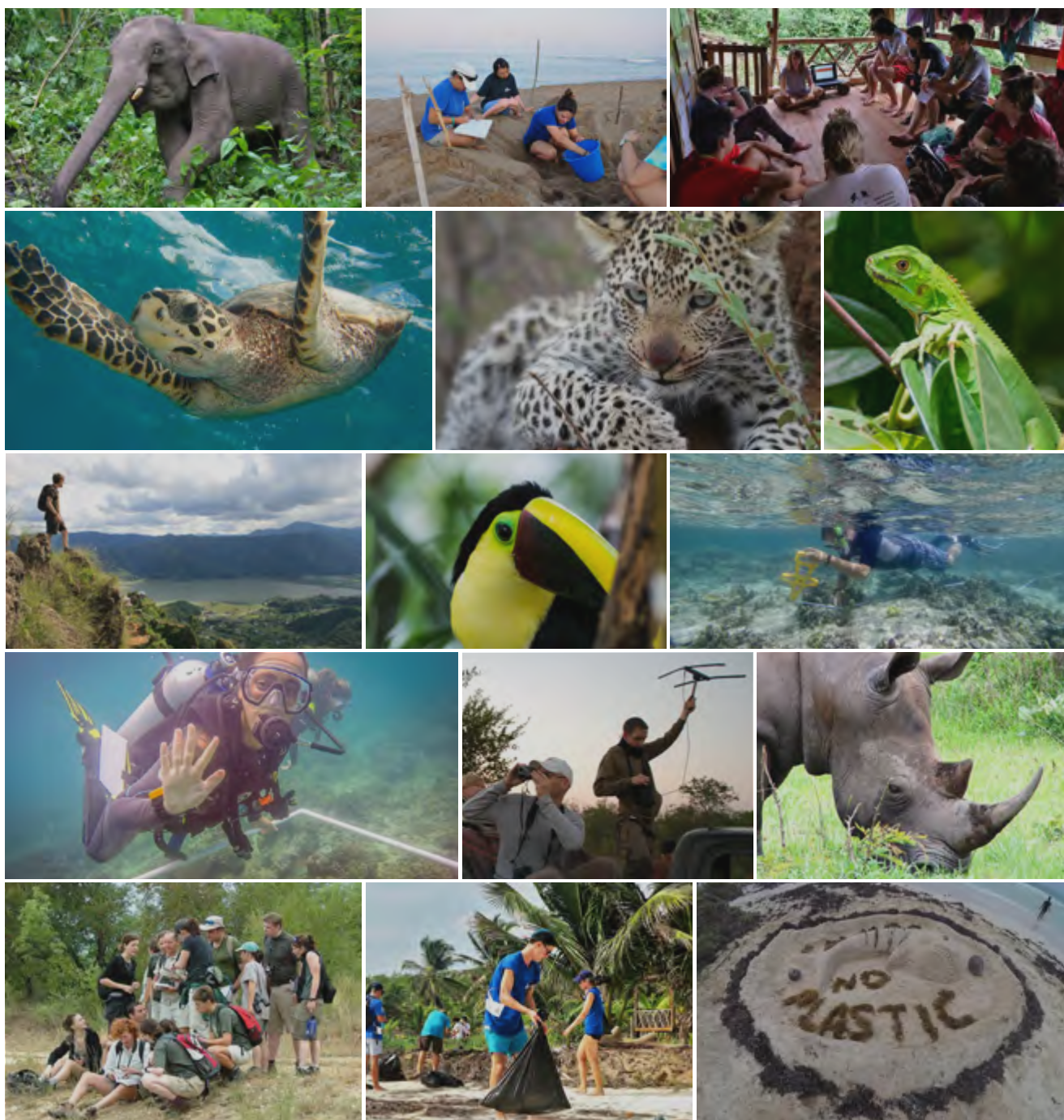
CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION

Our Child Protection Officers are trained up to Level 3 by ChildSafe, a global organization that helps create awareness around proper child protection processes and appropriate responses to unsafe practices. We are also part of the ChildSafe Alliance.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION

We are committed to protecting the local environment and wildlife in the areas in which we operate.

All our research practices are aligned to the guidelines of the local partner organizations with which we work. Following these ensures we do no harm, and that all data is delivered to local decision-makers who can truly make a lasting impact.



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COMMUNICATION WHILE ABROAD



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HOW TO STAY IN TOUCH WHILE ABROAD

Volunteers are usually kept very busy from the moment they arrive to the time they leave. They might be undergoing training, studying, engaging in community service, conducting biological surveys, or enjoying adventure activities. Additionally, a delay in response can result from time differences as well as limited wifi and phone capabilities in some of our more remote locations. For personal safety and child protection reasons, participants are also often not allowed to take their phones

with them onto a project. This means most participants often do not make much contact with people back home. This is not a cause for concern but is rather a sign that they are enjoying themselves, socializing, and getting involved in the work at hand. If you would like to make contact from home, please note that this is dependant on whether or not your child is engaged in an activity, like diving, or in the middle of their regular sleep schedule.



YOUR ARRIVAL EMAIL

Once your child has been picked up at the airport and has settled into their accommodation, our team will send over an email confirming that they have arrived safely.



YOUR IN-COUNTRY CONTACTS

Upon confirming your booking, your support coordinator will send over two in-country contacts, including the number of the project manager in your specific location, as well as their second-in-command. If requested, we can

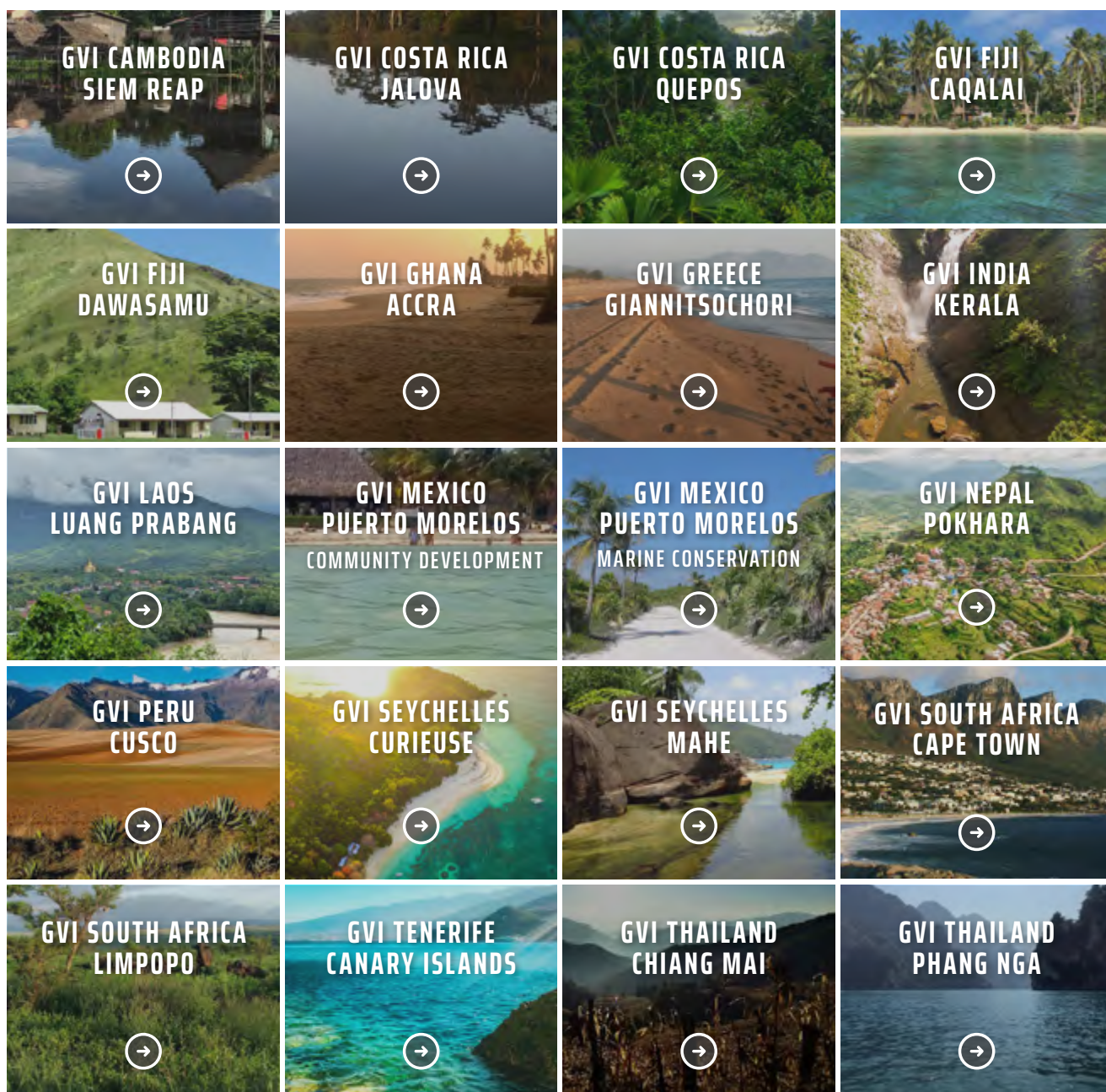
also provide the number of another GVI staff member on base. You're also still welcome to contact your support coordinator if you feel you need help, and will have access to our 24-hour emergency line.





YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES

All our bases around the world have their own Facebook pages where they share their latest impact stories. You're likely to spot some of your child's work by keeping your eye on their location's Facebook updates.





SETTING UP A PARENT GROUP

We highly recommend setting up a parent group as soon as possible after booking the trip. This can be done on secure personal messaging platforms and provides a support system throughout the process. To protect everyone's

privacy, we can only share contact details between parents if both would like to contact one another. Simply ask your Support Coordinator to send out a request to other parents and they will get back to you with a list of details.



SUPPORT & SAFETY



COVID-19 SAFETY

Enhanced cleaning and social-distancing measures in place. [Learn more](#)



SUPPORT & SAFETY

We won't sugarcoat it – traveling abroad is usually a complex process that carries an element of risk. And COVID-19 has had a significant impact on international travel. But this is exactly why we're passionate about providing extensive support throughout the process, as well as the highest safety standards during the in-country phase of our programs.

We're dedicated to making a sustainable global impact while prioritizing the safety and well-being of all participants on our programs. And that's how we've been able to maintain our reputation as one of the most highly respected volunteering organizations in the sector over the past two decades. This coupled with our ability to manage young people in remote and challenging environments is why parents can rest assured that their kids are making an impact, safely, with GVI.

We believe that volunteering abroad should be impactful, but also an enjoyable experience that carries as little risk as possible. That's why we've reviewed and implemented updated and extensive procedures and protocols to ensure a safe experience for all our participants while travelling abroad during and after COVID-19.

In light of COVID-19, we acted fast and temporarily paused our operations in our locations around the globe. But we weren't just standing back during this period – we remained informed with updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). We followed the UK, US and Australian government travel advice as well as

local government health advice from our global locations. With this valuable information as well as the expertise of our new health and hygiene team, we've managed to apply best practice methods to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission on our programs. These practices include screening procedures upon arrival, preventative hygiene and sanitation procedures and designated isolation areas for any cases of potential risk at all of our locations.

We have also put additional Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) into place with a trusted health and hygiene team placed at each of our locations to respond to any suspected instances of COVID-19.

Upon arrival at the airport, participants will be greeted by a GVI staff member. All GVI staff are our own and all our programs around the world are run by our staff. All GVI field staff are background checked and Emergency First Response (EFR) and safety trained. Our minimum staff to participant ratio is one to six, although on several bases we have a ratio of one to three. Once returning from our programs, participants will be contacted by their Enrolment Manager to provide feedback on their program. They will also be added to our alumni support network, which will give them access to special offers, professional opportunities and connections from around the world.



COVID-19 SAFETY

Enhanced cleaning and social-distancing measures in place. [Learn more](#)

SUPPORT

PRE-DEPARTURE

**COMPLETE AN APPLICATION**

The first step in any participant's GVI journey is to complete an application. This form is used to access a participant's interests so that we can find out how best to help them learn and make an impact abroad.

**SPEAK TO AN ENROLMENT MANAGER**

Once we've received a participant's application, one of our Enrolment Managers will be in touch. Their role is to learn more about the participant current knowledge and skills so that we can make sure the program they have selected is a good match.

**JOIN A PROGRAM**

In order for a participant to secure their spot on a GVI program, they need to make a deposit. The rest of the program fee needs to be provided before the program start date and can be completed in a series of installments.

**MEET YOUR PERSONAL SUPPORT COORDINATOR**

All participants who have secured their place are introduced to a personal Support Coordinator whose role is to oversee the pre-departure journey. They are there to guide participants through administrative tasks and answer any new questions that come up.

**PREPARE FOR YOUR TRIP**

Your Support Coordinator will send through a local orientation guide and a program work training guide. Participants are required to read through these guides, in addition to packing, booking flights, arranging a visa, and checking in with a doctor about required vaccinations. We require our participants to purchase travel insurance so that you are covered in the event of any new developments during your time with us. We've also partnered with CISI Insurance to provide coverage for any necessary medical treatment in-country. Your Support Coordinator will be able to provide you with a quote. Participants are also encouraged to stay in contact with the local embassy for the country you will be visiting in order to receive updated travel information. As part of our commitment to keeping all members on our programs safe, all our participants must get tested for COVID-19 72 hours prior to travelling to your GVI program location. Your Enrolment Manager will assist with any queries prior to your travel.

DEPARTURE

SUPPORT

ARRIVAL

**FLIGHTS (NOT INCLUDED IN PROGRAM COST)**

We advise that if the participant is under 18, they take advantage of the chosen airline's own minor program, which involves an assigned chaperone who travels with the minor all the way and ensures transfers are managed correctly.

**IN-COUNTRY AIRPORT PICK UP**

Participants arriving in the country will be met at the airport by a trained and vetted GVI staff member. From there they will be transported to the accommodation in a vehicle that has undergone a safety check by a GVI staff member.

**WELCOME TO YOUR LOCATION**

GVI will run a screening of all our new arrivals for any signs and symptoms of COVID-19. We will conduct temperature checks and require all participants to present a medical certificate proving that they have not tested positive for COVID-19. After settling into their new accommodation, all participants are required to complete health and safety training and attend a local orientation presentation. They are trained on how to avoid risk and learn about the cultural context of the region.

PROGRAM STARTS

WELCOME



SUPPORT

PROGRAM STARTS



PROJECT TRAINING

Before starting any kind of project work, all participants are required to complete project training. This involves a course of presentations covering a range of relevant topics and on-the-job support from GVI staff.



PROJECT WORK

Once initial training is complete, participants can start to engage in work that makes an impact. On all GVI projects participants contribute toward long-term local and global sustainable development efforts.



LEAVING PRESENTATION

Throughout the course of their program participants will be asked to reflect on the issues they've engaged with during their service. Their final opportunity to discuss their experiences will be during the leaving presentation.



AIRPORT DROP OFF

Upon completion of the project, GVI staff will transport participants from their accommodation to the airport. We'll ensure that participants arrive in time to check in, prepare for, and board their flight.

DEPARTURE



SAFETY PROTOCOLS



OUR STAFF

ALL IN-COUNTRY FIELD STAFF ARE OUR OWN

All staff employed in all our locations are our own. Each is recruited, vetted, and trained by us.

In many cases, they are GVI alumni whose dedication, enthusiasm, and skill particularly impressed us. Ensuring that all staff are our own enables us to provide a safe and secure environment for participants at all times.



ALL GVI STAFF HAVE BEEN BACKGROUND CHECKED

Every single one of our participants and staff members, including office staff, have undergone a background check. On the rare occasion when background checks cannot be secured, we require participants to supply character references instead.



OUR STAFF

ALL GVI FIELD STAFF HAVE COMPLETED CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

All in-country staff are required to complete Child Protection Training, to enable them to spot and respond to any potential threats according to internationally accepted standards. In all our locations worldwide appointed staff members take on the role of assigned Child Protection Officers. They maintain contact with in-country professionals employed by local child protection services.



ALL GVI FIELD STAFF ARE EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONSE (EFR) CERTIFIED

Each and every one of our in-country field staff is EFR certified. Many are also certified EFR instructors. A fully stocked EFR medical kit is available on each base. It is checked and restocked after any incident or every three months. An assigned driver, who is licensed, and familiar with the area is also available 24/7 to provide a lift to a medical facility if needed. Regular vehicle checks also ensure that transport to a medical facility will not be hindered by mechanical issues.

ALL GVI FIELD STAFF HAVE UNDERGONE OFF-SITE SAFETY TRAINING

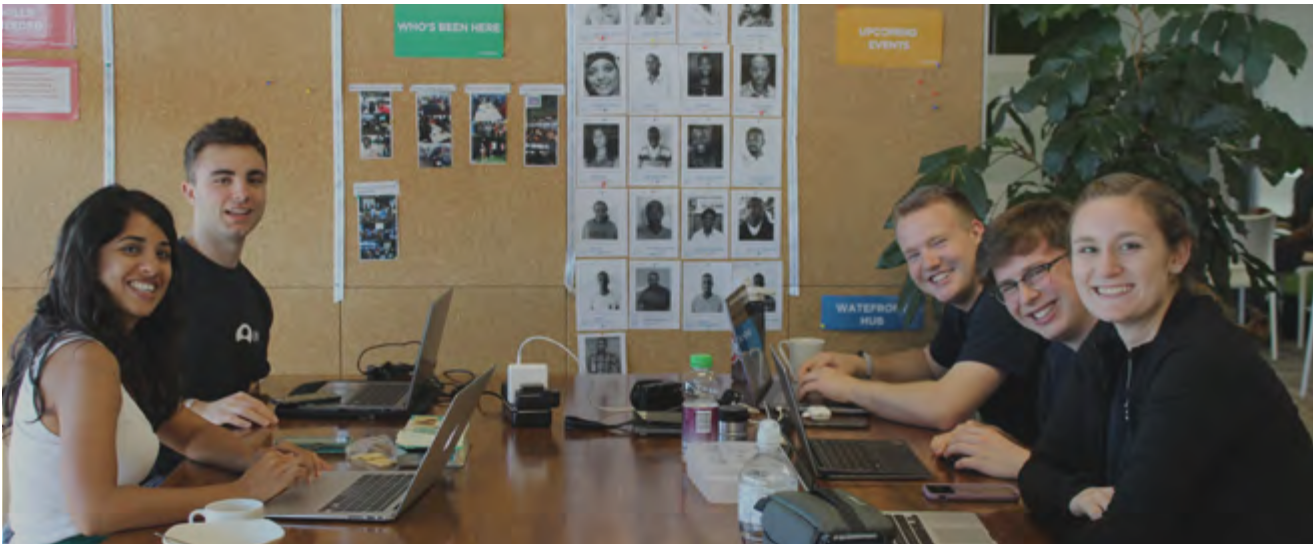
Before any staff member is allowed onto a project, they must first undergo an off-site safety training course designed according to internationally accepted safety practices. It includes training on how to conduct on-the-spot risk assessments and put effective control measures in place, how to develop, apply, and update emergency action plans, how to develop a crisis management plan and how to apply it, as well as when and how to conduct periodical health and safety protocol reviews with GVI senior management.



OUR STAFF

WE HAVE A HIGH STAFF TO PARTICIPANT RATIO

Our minimum staff to participant ratio is one to six, although on several bases we have a ratio of one to three. The ratio varies on the level of support required for each activity and the number of participants involved in the program at any particular time. This helps ensure that no matter what the situation, there will be a sufficient number of staff members to safely manage any situation.



ALL SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY OR DIRECTLY SUPERVISED BY GVI STAFF

GVI staff oversee every element of our programs. In many cases, they provide transport to and from the airport, to the projects every day, and during any side trips. When other transport is necessary, staff travel with the participants to and from their destination. They also stay with participants at their accommodation, or very close nearby, and share just about every meal with participants on the project.

RISK MITIGATION

INTERNATIONAL SAFETY STANDARDS

We monitor governmental foreign policy sites like the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the US State Department, and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs to ensure that we are aware of any potential issues on the horizon.

LOCAL MONITORING

We also stay abreast of local government updates in the countries in which we operate and maintain close contact with local partners operating in our location or nearby.

CLEAR COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

For any plan to operate effectively, communication channels need to be setup and maintained. We ensure that all staff and participants on base have the contact details of a senior staff member on base, who can contact local support staff and our central support office. It is the responsibility of a senior member of staff on base to ensure that our local partnerships are well-maintained.

RISK AUDITS

Before we add any accommodation, tour operator, or in-country local partner to our itinerary, our in-country staff conduct an in-depth risk audit of their services in collaboration with members of our senior management team. Only once everyone agrees that the partner is fully vetted do we agree to make this service available to potential program participants.

EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS

All major foreseeable incidents have a corresponding Emergency Action Plan.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT PLANS

Each base is also required to have a formal crisis management plan in place. It requires that staff members take control of the situation, provide security, start delivering emergency care, and contact senior management.

EVACUATION PLAN

All bases, no matter how remote, have a medical and crisis evacuation plan in place.

COVID-19 ISOLATION AREA

In case of any participants displaying symptoms of COVID-19, the participant will be placed in temporary isolation. The local health authorities will be alerted and we will act on their advice. Confirmed COVID-19 cases will require continued self-isolation on a separate part of the base or off-site depending on the hub. The patient will be assigned a GVI caregiver dedicated to ensuring that the patient has everything they need during this period, including food, accommodation and emotional support.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Participants will be screened upon arrival at the base and will be required to present medical proof that they have not tested positive for COVID-19. In cases of suspected infection while on the program and in order to prevent the transmission of the virus to other participants, GVI staff will follow a number of additional procedures. The assigned GVI caregiver will remain in protective clothing while adhering to best practices for hygiene and sanitation.



COVID-19 SAFETY

Enhanced cleaning and social-distancing measures in place. [Learn more](#)

RISK MITIGATION



REPORTING

UPDATES EVERY QUARTER OR AFTER EVERY INCIDENT

All in-country staff are required to complete a formal Health And Safety report after any incident, whether major or minor, or, if no such incident occurred, every quarter. They are to update Senior Management about any new risks they have been made aware of, on base, in their specific location, in their city, town, or district, in their country, or in the region where they are stationed. In collaboration with Senior Management, risk assessments, emergency action plans, crisis management plans, and evacuation plans are then updated accordingly.

CHECKS, MAINTENANCE & RESTOCKING

All vehicles, activity equipment, like diving kits and telemetry devices, safety equipment, like first aid kits and fire extinguishers, are checked on a regular basis. After any type of incident, a thorough check is also conducted. Every year many of our bases also take one week or two to work only on maintenance, restocking, and repairs.



24-HOUR EMERGENCY LINE

Our emergency phone line gives you direct access to our trained Health and Safety Coordinators as well as senior management at any time of day or night, wherever you might be in the world. Once the incident is noted, the emergency action plan for this specific scenario will take immediate effect.

PERSONAL SAFETY

LOCAL SUPPORT

Participants have access to local medical professionals such as doctors, medics, and counsellors, vetted by GVI staff beforehand.



MEDICAL AND DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

We require that all pre-existing medical conditions and dietary requirements be disclosed beforehand. This is the only way for us to support the advice of licensed medical professionals and ensure that participants aren't exposed to any foods, environments, or other circumstances that could potentially cause them harm or offense.

PERSONAL SAFETY TRAINING

After settling into their accommodation, all participants are required to complete health and safety training. This includes general instructions on how to conduct oneself as a traveler in a foreign country to ensure your personal safety as well as training on how to avoid specific safety issues to be aware of in their particular region.

They are also provided with a communication card with the relevant numbers, contacts, and addresses for our on and off-site staff, including the 24-hour emergency number, which we ask them to keep on their person at all times.

They will also receive cultural awareness training and are instructed on how to use personal protective equipment appropriate for the project.

They are also trained in how to conduct on-the-spot risk assessments to understand the severity of risk in any given scenario and what the appropriate response might be. Participants are also walked through the emergency action plans in place for each base and print out versions are available on a designated health and safety board.



PERSONAL SAFETY



SAFETY OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Electronic devices and other valuables can be kept safe in a secure location either at the accommodation or at the project manager's office. We don't encourage participants to take valuables with them outside the accommodation to ensure the safety of these valuables, of participants, and any children or vulnerable adults.



GVI-SPECIFIC TRAVEL INSURANCE

Our insurance partner, CISI, has developed an international health insurance package specifically catered to our participants. It covers medical emergency and disaster evacuations. An CISI GVI international health insurance policy is not covered in the program fee, but details for purchasing one can be requested by contacting an Enrolment Manager, Support Coordinator, or CISI themselves. We require that all our participants submit proof of international health insurance.





SUPPORT ON TEEN PROGRAMS





WE PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT & RESOURCES ON TEEN PROGRAMS

Participants under the age of 18 are minors and therefore require additional support, such as greater staff and accommodation resources.

Additional rules, over and above those required of over 18 participants, also apply to under 18s.

GENERAL RULES

On any GVI program, participants of all ages are required to follow general health and safety guidelines. These include responsible travel guidelines such as culturally appropriate dress and behaviour, environmental protection regulations, such as not removing natural resources from protected areas, and activity guidelines, such as following the instructions of a qualified Divemaster. Under 18s are also required to follow the guide of a chaperone and to not go anywhere unaccompanied.



PERSONAL SAFETY



CHAPERONES

While over 18 participants have free time to themselves in the evenings and on the weekends, under 18 participants are never left unsupervised. Chaperones are assigned to a group of three to six participants and it is their responsibility to oversee all participant activities.

This does not mean they don't give the participants their space, but simply ensures that under 18 participants are always under trained supervision at all times.



ACCOMMODATION AND CURFEW

Teens sleep in lodgings that are completely separate from those occupied by participants that are over the age of 18. The number of teens to a room varies depending on the location, but boys and girls always sleep in separate dorms.

Lightsout time, usually 10 pm, is enforced. During the adventure component of their trip teens might be required to move from their primary location but all existing accommodation regulations will still apply.



PERSONAL SAFETY



MEDICATION

Parents can choose whether it is the responsibility of their child or GVI staff to administer medication prescribed by a licensed medical professional. Before departing for their project, parents of under 18s will be sent a form to complete detailing the specific medical information and who should be responsible for administration.



DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

All participants and staff, not only under 18's, are held to a formal disciplinary procedure in the event of both minor and major transgressions. For all minor issues, first a verbal warning will be given.

If the issue persists, a written warning will be issued. Finally, after no change in the situation, the participants might be asked to leave the program.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

We have a strict zero-tolerance policy concerning drugs, alcohol, bullying, or any other type of destructive behavior for all ages. If a participant shows any sign of this behavior they will immediately be dismissed from the program and transport will be provided to alternative accommodation separate from the other participants.

In the case of teens, their guardians will be contacted and we'll advise that arrangements be made to find transport to their home country as soon as possible.



VOLUNTEER AND INTERN ABROAD SINCE 1998

PREPARING FOR FLIGHTS



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PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR THEIR FIRST INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

The first time your child travels without you is often a proud moment for many parents, but it can also be an anxiety-inducing experience especially since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. That is why we follow updates and guidance from the CDC and WHO, travel advice from the UK, US and Australian governments, as well as local government health advice from our global locations. And while we can't speak to the emotional aspects of the experience, we can help to clear up some parts of the process.

WE RECOMMEND THAT TEENS MAKE USE OF AN AIRLINE UNACCOMPANIED MINOR PROGRAM

Most airlines have a mandatory unaccompanied minor program. It involves assigning a chaperone to the child who will meet them at the boarding gate, travel with them on the flight, and ensure they are met on the other side with an individual who can provide both personal identification and written parental consent. This is not a program overseen by GVI, but rather a service that might be offered by a flight provider chosen by a participant and their parents.

HOW TO HELP TEENS WITH FLIGHT TRANSFERS

It is the responsibility of the chaperone assigned to your child by the unaccompanied minor program of your chosen flight provider to ensure that they reach the boarding gate of any transferring flight safely and with enough time to spare. A few airlines have also implemented a tracking system that allows you to see where your child is on their journey. They also sometimes offer a helpline and 24-hour emergency number specifically for parents of children on the unaccompanied minor program.

HOW TO ARRANGE GROUP TRAVEL THROUGH GVI

If you would like your child to travel with other participants joining them on the project, just let us know, and we will see who might be traveling from your area. This service does not come at an extra charge, but we are also not able to control whether someone from your area has booked onto the program at a time corresponding to your child's particular start date.



PROFESSIONAL BENEFITS

THE CAREER & ACADEMIC BENEFITS OF GVI PROGRAMS

We're committed to ensuring that all our programs improve the employability of our participants.

This includes ensuring that all activities are enriching as well as impactful, that easy-to-navigate and informative educational materials are provided, that lessons are delivered by trained field staff, and that an increasing number of courses and certifications from external institutions are made available to participants.



TEEN PROGRAMS

GVI's teen programs are designed to teach under 18s a range of skills including cross-cultural competency and how to function effectively as part of a team. But the most career-enhancing skill we teach our teen participants is leadership. Our programs aim to inspire and equip all participants to become future leaders in sustainability and conservation. That's why we offer an optional pre-program Online course in leadership that comes with a certificate endorsed by the University of Richmond.

All our teen programs also have the option of upgrading to the post-program university package. The upgrade includes the services of a GVI academic coach who will provide your child with a reference and help them to frame their GVI experience on their university application. Participants will also receive an award accredited by the Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network (ASDAN). ASDAN's purpose is to help young adults enhance their personal and professional development through the mastery of soft skills like teamwork and leadership abilities. Upon completion of any GVI teen program your child can request to receive an ASDAN Level 1 Award Of Personal Effectiveness, which can also be listed on college applications.



GVI PARENT CONSULTATIONS

CALL US TO CHAT

You have questions and we have answers. Submit an inquiry or send an email to info@gviworld.com to start the conversation.

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