



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING INTERNATIONAL

ARGENTINA PATAGONIA

Experience one of the most breathtaking places on Earth with our new Sustainability & Environment in Patagonia program. This experiential learning program is designed for gap year and university students and other adventurous travelers with an interest in sustainable living and the great outdoors. Participants will live, learn and volunteer on-site at a well-established sustainable living project situated amongst winding rivers and lush forests near El Bolson, Argentina.

ELI and our Argentinian partners host this unique program in partnership with a sustainable living project located near El Bolson, Argentina – a small, friendly mountain town in the Rio Negro Province of southern Argentina which boasts the Rio Azul Protected Natural Area, part of the largest UNESCO Temperature Forest Biosphere Reserve in the world, as its backyard.



The project was conceived in part to carry out the mission of the Land Ethic Action Foundation (LEAF), a not-for-profit organization formed in 1994 with the mission of teaching and demonstrating self-sufficiency and sustainable development. By implementing the techniques developed John Jeavons of Ecology Action, the project has succeeded in bringing the benefits of Biointensive Mini Farming to the Southern Cone region of South America.

While the project operates a sustainably built mountain lodge which employs members of the local community and offers healthful organic meals, low-impact outdoor activities and opportunities for authentic cultural interaction to travelers from around the world in order to further its mission, volunteers also play an invaluable role in helping this experiment in sustainable living achieve continued viability.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

As a participant in this program, you will expand your knowledge of sustainability topics and local efforts to preserve and protect the natural environment through direct involvement in organic farming and gardening and environmental conservation initiatives while at the same time helping this pioneering project to advance. You will also have ample time to explore the unparalleled beauty of the Patagonian wilderness.

Participants are expected to contribute 7-8 hours per day Monday through Friday to the projects below and will have weekends free to visit downtown El Bolson and La Feria Regional Artesenal or explore the “backyard”.

An extensive system of trails and refugios, or mountain shelters, which lead you through the spectacular mountains and glaciers of the Patagonian backcountry, is literally at your doorstep. Recreational activities such as kayaking, whitewater rafting, mountain biking, canyoning and horseback riding are also available to interested participants.



ORGANIC FARMING AND GARDENING

Tasks include preparing beds, seeding, transplanting, weeding, irrigating, harvesting, making compost, caring for the farm animals and assisting with ongoing construction projects, etc. Participants may also lend a hand in the Sustainability Demonstration Center, the on-site educational space for visitors.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Tasks include removal of non-native species, trail building and maintenance for low-impact use, as well as constructing a circuit of trails, bridges and campsites in cooperation with local organizations committed to promoting sustainable tourism in the surrounding natural area.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Tasks include working with local schools to develop or remodel greenhouses and gardens during the academic year, and lending a hand to the community with ongoing projects such as building a community hay barn, rebuilding barns and sheds, and helping neighbors with the harvest.

START DATES FOR 2013-2014

This project opens on Saturday November 16, 2013. This 4-week program will be available seasonally during the Southern hemisphere summer with the following start dates for the 2013-2014 season:

November 16, 23, and 30
 December 7, 14, 21, and 28
 January 4, 11, and 25
 February 1, 8, 15, and 22
 March 1, 8, and 15



OPTIONAL SPANISH CLASSES

ELI works with a private Spanish language school that provides intensive small group classes at a variety of levels. The private classes are taught on a weekly basis and include 15 hours of instruction each week. Classes begin every week. In most cases it is best to participate in these classes before the Patagonia program

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Bus transportation from Buenos Aires to Patagonia
- Transfer in and out from the bus terminal to the project site
- Welcome orientation and tour of the project site
- Dormitory style accommodations
- Daily meals prepared with fresh, local ingredients
- Volunteering activities including organic farming and gardening, environmental conservation and community outreach projects
- Weekly visit to downtown El Bolson and La Feria Regional Artesanal
- Recreational activities including kayaking, whitewater rafting, mountain biking, canyoning and horseback riding can be added on to the program at an additional cost
- 24/7 support from on-site project staff

PROGRAM COSTS

For up-to-date prices please visit our web <http://www.eliabroad.org/cost-argentina>

HOW TO APPLY

For more information on these, or any of our other programs. Please email us at info@eliabroad.org or call us during normal business hours at 303-321-8278

You may apply online and pay the application fee at www.eliabroad.org. Please note the application fee is non-refundable unless we cannot find a placement that matches your request. You can also mail your application fee to us at:

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We accept checks, electronic checks, money orders, Visa, MasterCard, and American Express.