



# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING INTERNATIONAL

## BRAZIL WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Brazil is incredibly diverse. With over 55,000 plant species, 524 different species of mammals, and over 1600 species of birds, it is considered to have the greatest biodiversity in the world! It's the perfect destination for adventurous volunteers who are passionate about conservation and wildlife and who are not afraid to roll up their sleeves and get dirty.

### WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Just outside Curitiba lies a 183 acre property devoted to Brazilian wildlife, flora and fauna. The organization that runs this property has painstakingly replaced non-native plants with indigenous species over the last 15 years, and now the sanctuary is home to parrots of all colors, tortoises, tapirs, bush dogs, ocelots, pumas, jaguars, spider monkeys, etc. Some of the animals were the victims of abuse or found injured, but many of the valuable animals were rescued from the illegal pet trade. For that reason, the park is closed to the general public and the entrance is not marked. ELI volunteers help with feeding and cleaning enclosures, breeding programs, planting, monitoring behavior, and assisting the full-time biologist, visiting researchers, and permanent staff as needed.



Accommodations are provided on-site in a comfortable guest house (pictured below) and western amenities. There are two bedrooms, with two beds and a bathroom in each room. Each volunteer has a locking armoire for personal belongings. There is also a tv and DVD player for the quiet evenings. Each volunteer should bring sheets for a single bed, a pillow case, and a towel. In the winter (June-August) it can get cold in the evenings so be sure to bring layers and a warm coat. Volunteers live on site 7 days a week. It is quiet and somewhat remote - there is a small town about 2 miles away. During free time participants are welcome to explore the trails, rivers and lakes around the property. All meals are provided at the guest house by a simple nearby restaurant.



### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

ELI volunteers work with one of the most visited National Parks in Brazil! It has just completed 49 years of commitment to preserve a large portion of Atlantic Forest in the city of Rio de Janeiro. When the Portuguese occupied the region, they cut down all the trees in the area and planted coffee. By the 1850's the region's water supply was in danger and temperatures were on the rise, so the city did something almost unheard of back then - they sectioned off 8,150 acres (one of the largest forests within city limits in the world) and replanted. Now the park contributes, among other things, to maintaining the temperature, the water supply, and the exuberant and verdant mountainous silhouette that makes Rio de Janeiro a world class destination. The park is full of diverse flora and fauna, streams, waterfalls and caves, and is the home to many historical buildings. There are only 12 park employees and 70 km of trail that wind through the mountains, offering sweeping views of Rio de Janeiro below. ELI volunteers assist with tree planting, endangered flora and fauna surveys, weed control, habitat restoration, conservation, fencing, heritage restoration, reintegration of species, guided visits, building and installing trail signs, construction and maintenance of trails, and informally teaching English to the park staff.

Participants with this program live with a homestay family in Rio. Breakfast and dinner is provided with the family. Volunteers take the bus up the winding road to the park's front gate, and then walk a mile in each way. Volunteers typically work at the park 4 days a week. Evenings and 3 days a week are free to explore the city and enjoy the beaches.

## COST\*

For up-to-date prices please visit our website <http://eliabroad.org/cost-brazil>

## LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Portuguese language skills are not required, but some background in Portuguese or Spanish is helpful.  
Portuguese classes are available in Rio de Janeiro for an additional fee.



## HOW TO APPLY

For more information on these, or any of our other programs. Please email us at [info@eliabroad.org](mailto: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](http://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:

ELI  
1557 Ogden St. Ste 5  
Denver, CO 80218  
USA

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