

# Casterbridge

PLANET EARTH 

Humanitarian Deeds...  
...For Our Global Needs

*"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."*

Mahatma Gandhi



Applying Our Common S.E.N.S.E...

Science • THE Environment • Nature • AND Service • FOR Everyone

Worldwide Programs: EcoTours • ContribuTours • VolunTours  
See Inside – You are 3 Steps Away From Making a Difference

Travel Experiences that Define Who We Are and the Planet We Live On



## Humanitarian Acts

All Planet Earth programs include some level of practical experience with **community service**. We offer groups authentic civic engagement that delivers meaningful service and **makes a real difference to the well-being of local communities**, such as rebuilding New Orleans, working in an orphanage in South Africa, or planting trees and preserving habitat in Belize.



STEP 1

## Will You Be a Part of Our Mission?

1. To facilitate worldwide travel experiences that **raise social consciousness** and **environmental awareness**.
2. To build mutual **understanding and respect for the planet** and **for each other's culture**, at the level of individual human beings, by:
  - on-location insights into **science, nature, and the environment**
  - offering **immersion into local communities** that provides authentic opportunities for **charitable visits** and to **work on local projects**
3. To provide meaningful opportunities for **volunteerism** and **study of our environment** to groups of all ages and interest levels through three levels of programs: **EcoTours, ContribuTours, and VolunTours**.
4. To honor a genuine **commitment to sustainability** in our own internal practices and the operation of all **Planet Earth programs**.



## Environmental Facts

Global warming, holes in the ozone layer, and population pressure on forests, rivers, and wildlife, are a few of the **challenges we face** as a people. However, the possibilities for science and people to mitigate them are endless. Our **Planet Earth programs** aim to educate groups about **environmental concerns** and also to offer **service opportunities** to address some of these issues.

A Common Thread Unites Us All

**STEP 2**

# Choose Your Level of Experience and Thematic Emphasis

Select from three levels of **Planet Earth Programs** that cater to groups of all ages with varying levels of service involvement, and then designate the thematic emphasis for your desired program:

## 1. EcoTours: *Explore and Be Inspired*

Inspirational journeys of exploration where an **emphasis is placed on nature, ecology, and wildlife** in your chosen destination. Your program will also contain at least **one charitable visit** or a **half-day service or volunteer experience**.



## 2. ContribuTours: *Discover and Contribute*

Discover the beauty and diversity of **global destinations** while making a real difference. These programs include **one-to-three full days of volunteering** as part of a broader exposure to the local people, culture, and environment.



## 3. VolunTours: *Experience and Transform*

Experiences of personal and social transformation in **communities of need**. Be immersed in one locale, with little touring, and the majority of your time will be spent on a **community service project** or a **practical environmental project**.



### a. Science and the Environment

**Biology or earth sciences** programs can include study of the rainforests, volcanoes, migrations, or rural land use. Other destinations feature **biodiversity, ecology, and conservation**, and introduce students to a wealth of species and ecosystems.



**Popular destinations include Ecuador, Hawaii, and Canada.**

### b. Nature and Wildlife

Are you looking for **environmental volunteer work**, or to get involved in **sustainable projects** that help repair our fragile planet? Blend **travel and immersion in nature** with practical work on environmental projects and endangered species conservation.



**Popular destinations include Costa Rica, South Africa, and China.**

### c. Community and Contribution

Want to **share learning with overseas communities** or **interact with other cultures** through involvement in a socially relevant community project? We have **over 100 global locations** where you can discover another culture by assisting the local community.



**Popular destinations include United States, Peru, and Eastern Europe.**

**STEP 3**

## Where Would You Like To Discover and Make a Difference?

Africa



Asia



Europe



North America



Central America



South America



#### South Africa

Volunteer at a **children's home** in Soweto and **school** in Cape Town, as you visit the **Apartheid Museum** and discover the beauty of **Table Mountain**.

#### China

Visit **orphanages and schools** in Beijing and Shanghai, or **work in nature reserves** as you tour the **Mountains of the Moon** or take in the beauty of the **Li River**.

#### Switzerland

From the majesty of the **Alps** to founding the worldwide web, explore **physics and geology**, and **assist in local projects** in a stunning location.

#### Canada

Visit the **Biosphère, Biodôme, and Science Centre** in Montreal to focus on a range of environmental issues, then assist the Grey Nuns in a **soup kitchen**.

#### Costa Rica

Volunteer with the elderly in San José, in **La Selva Reserve**, or in a **local school**. Visit **Areñal National Park** and experience the bio-diversity of Costa Rica.

#### Peru

Visit an **orphanage**, join a **nature project**, share local cooking knowledge, **work in a jungle community**, or make **school visits** in Cusco or Lima.

#### Other Destinations Include:



- India
- Thailand
- Kenya
- Tanzania
- Egypt
- Malawi

#### Other Destinations Include:



- U.S.A
- Russia
- Romania
- Ukraine
- Hungary
- Poland

#### Other Destinations Include:



- Mexico
- Belize
- Guatemala
- Panama
- Brazil
- Argentina

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*"The service projects were perhaps our very best days of all. Just great! So many memories were made on this trip; I just can't tell you enough."*

L.S., Spanish Teacher, DE