

# 'voluntourism'

## - a holiday with a difference

Many of us are time poor but we'd still like to make a contribution. This desire has seen the emergence of a new global trend called voluntourism – the combination of travel with an altruistic cause.

Voluntourism can provide a more meaningful experience by combining volunteering with the usual pleasures of travel such as experiencing art, culture and food. It also offers the advantage of being something the whole family can do together.

Examples of voluntourism include building a penguin habitat on Phillip Island, Victoria, helping to conserve the Amazon's pink dolphins in Peru, saving the Cheetah in Namibia, building schools in Vietnam, teaching English in South America or Asia, helping to save cultural treasures like an old Roman Fort in the North of England or a Roman villa in Pisa or helping to save the Caledonian forests in Scotland.

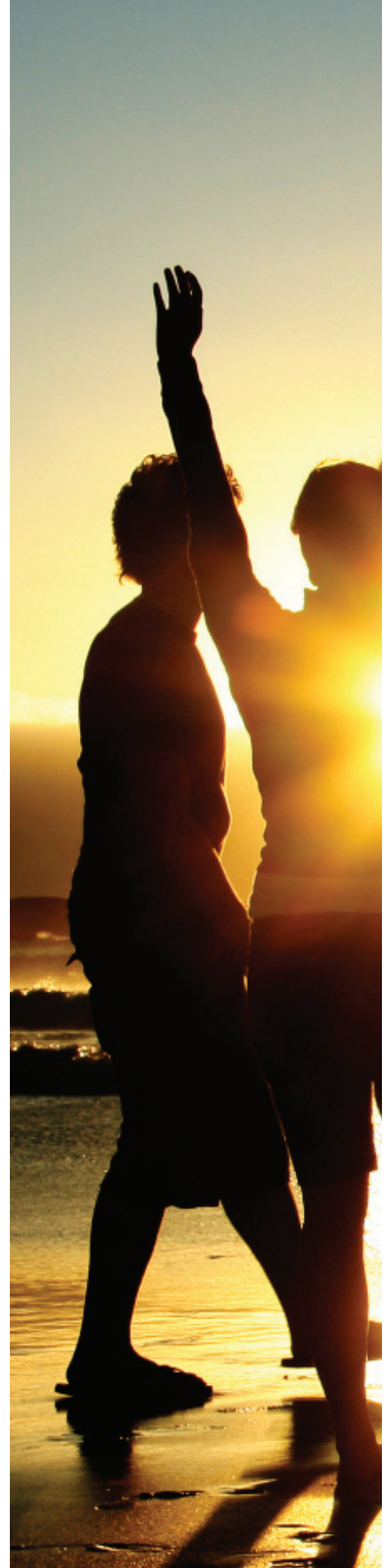
This is a relatively new area and it is critical to ensure the organisation you choose is reputable. Not only are you contributing your time, you are paying to participate in a project – in some cases this donation of money is a prime or sole source of funding so it is important that the project and the organisation get the benefit not just a tourist company.

When it comes to choosing a project, apply the same tips as choosing a volunteer opportunity detailed above.

If you are interested in voluntourism a good place to start is:

- ~ Conservation Volunteers Australia - you can get information on current projects at their website at [www.conservationvolunteers.com.au](http://www.conservationvolunteers.com.au)
- ~ Earthwatch Australia at [www.earthwatch.org/australia](http://www.earthwatch.org/australia)

For more information visit [www.ipac.com.au/lifedirections](http://www.ipac.com.au/lifedirections) where you'll find useful links to organisations who can help you.



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