

# Volunteering in Cochabamba



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## ABOUT US

Serve Abroad is a grassroots non-profit non-government organization founded in Cochabamba, Bolivia in 2009. At Serve Abroad we aim to serve as a "bridge" between you (our national and international volunteers) and small, Bolivian-owned organizations, creating opportunities for a better life for a huge number of locals.

We would like to see our local projects strengthened, using their resources efficiently and reaching their highest potential with your contribution and support. We do not claim to know it all, we believe in synergy. This is why we bring volunteers from other countries to share with us their knowledge and experience and we do the same with them

WE BELIEVE IN

**SUSTAINABILITY**

## WHY SHOULD I COME WITH YOU?

Because you'll learn a lot. Being out of your comfort zone already is a learning experience, but experiencing the suffering of others, their positive attitudes despite their reality is a life changing experience. We'll make sure you give, but we can assure you you'll receive intangible benefits that will make of you a different self. And, like a book we hope to use what you leave as a legacy that will be used even after you are gone.

## WHY BOLIVIA?

### **Children and women's rights are not respected**

Abuse is part of our reality. Injustice is still the rule and not the exception. Thousands of children live or work in the streets, women are exploited and abused sexually, physically, psychologically or emotionally constantly.

Unfortunately, people do not trust Police, authorities or the Government will stand for their protection or their rights. They need other entities or friends that will defend them.

### **Education is still repetitive and memoristic**

Even though the Government has tried to improve education, Our children, youth and women still think repetition is the way to learn. We need students to start reflecting on their reality and question it so they can overcome poverty.

### **Opportunities are not equal**

There are great educational or business opportunities for most people in the higher class, but people who have less resources have less contacts, less vitamins in their bodies, less concentration, therefore less opportunities to change their realities. We want to bring them the chance to have a chance.

WE BELIEVE IN

**EMPOWERING  
OTHERS**

## OUR TEAM

With our experienced staff, whom speak English and Spanish, you will feel extremely welcome and a part of our family. We can arrange everything from visas to transport, accommodation to language school, and will be available every step of the way to ensure your safety and comfort while abroad in our country. We make sure you get to know our city until you feel completely comfortable to move around on your own.

Executive Director Ma. Eugenia Ureña (Mauge) founded Serve Abroad back in 2009 and she continues to develop the organization each year by increasing partners and contacts. Mauge has a great deal of experience working with non-for profit organizations and volunteers and wants to be here to assist you in any way possible.

Mauge believes in sustainability. She tries to make sure the work you do in Bolivia will continue even after you leave by training those who do the work in the projects Serve Abroad works.

She attended Universidad Mayor de San Simón in Cochabamba and studied Intercultural Communications in the US. She specializes in intercultural learning, teaching advanced Spanish, and designing and managing programs and events for students, interns, missionaries, and volunteers from diverse nations. As a Spanish teacher with over 20 years experience, she assists and guides clients through intercultural services and in multicultural contexts.

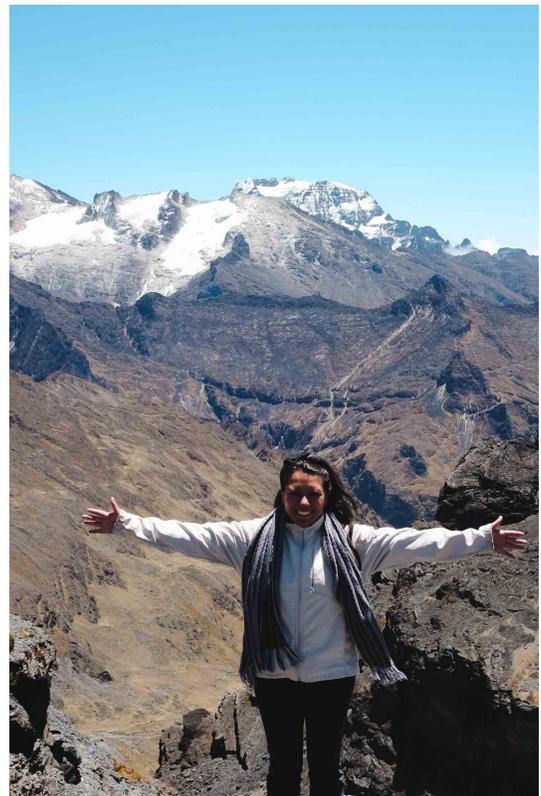
She has been working, developing, supporting and helping social and development projects for 20 years. Mother of two and friend of many, she loves learning, outdoor activities and a peaceful and fun life while making a difference in the lives of others.

You can contact Mauge directly to:

[laprofemaug@hotmail.com](mailto:laprofemaug@hotmail.com)

She will be more than happy to communicate with you and answer any inquiries you may have.

WE WELCOME YOU WITH  
**OPEN ARMS**



Ma. Eugenia Ureña Ram3rez, Serve Abroad Founder, Spanish Teacher and Trainer, Intercultural Advisor & Speaker, Student Care Coordinator & Counselor, Executive Director of Serve Abroad.

## VOLUNTEERING

By giving your time and abilities you can make a difference in Bolivia. Serve Abroad, a not-for-profit organisation, can help you find a project where you are best suited and needed.

Perhaps working:

- with vulnerable women to build personal skills and knowledge in order to improve their quality of life?
- in a clinic to give medical assistance to locals in need?
- with orphaned children, young people who have had addiction problems of young offenders?
- training teachers in new methodologies?

or maybe you have something else in mind?

## CHALLENGE YOURSELF

## TOURISM

While volunteering, Serve Abroad ensures there is time factored in to see the highlights of Bolivia from the Uyuni Salt Flats, to Lake Titicaca, the nearest tropical area, Chapare and Toro Toro.

Nearby one day hikes are also available in the surrounding mountains of Cochabamba. We can help you organize these with a group of at least 5 or individually with clear directions and contacts that will help you in your journey.

## WHAT CAN YOU OFFER?

### **What are your strengths and abilities?**

We are not only thinking of those things you have qualifications in but what are your passions and interests. We like to utilise all your interests to help serve Cochabambinos.

### **How much time can you give?**

The longer you can commit to, the broader the range of volunteer activities we can suggest and the greater the impact you can have. We would normally expect a minimum commitment of around 3 weeks.

### **How is your Spanish?**

The better your language ability the wider the range of opportunities you are able to participate in. In advance of, or in parallel with your volunteer work you can take language lessons with our sister organisation Conexiones Entre Mundos language school. The school offers individual classes either face to face or by Skype!

While you're still deciding on the dates of your volunteering, you can begin classes over skype. Whatever your language abilities, from beginners to advanced, the school is able to help you improve and then make the most of your time volunteering in country.

## LEARN SPANISH

## LIVE WITH A BOLIVIAN FAMILY

We have a team of local Bolivian families who provide room and board, three Bolivian style meals per day and the opportunity to practice Spanish and experience the culture. They are very experienced in hosting international people. Check out time is at 11:00 a.m. However, if you'd prefer to live at Serve Abroad's place, or sharing an apartment with others, it can be arranged as well.

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO COME?

- Fill in the Serve Abroad's form and pay for your application and orientation fee, plus one month of the member care fee if applicable.
- Sign our contract of terms and services and commit to observe our rules.
- A valid passport for 6 or more months
- If you'll be working with children under 18 you will need a local police background check for your records. Printed and with a valid stamp.
- A psychological test that will be done in Bolivia. It can be done in English if needed.
- A visa may be required, depending where you are from.
- Funds to cover all your expenses for traveling and living in Bolivia.

## EXPERIENCE

# CULTURE

## COST

Costs are tailored to your preferences of accommodation and language classes. Costs can be itemized as follows (in USD):

Application & Orientation Fee:	\$120
Member care per month:	\$50
50 Spanish classes per month:	\$600
Homestay per month:	\$500*
Private Apartment per month:	\$800**

\*includes food, utilities, etc.

\*\*does not include food or utilities

## ABOUT US

A not-for-profit organisation based in Cochabamba, Bolivia. It seeks to serve as a 'bridge' between volunteers and existing Bolivian organisations and projects helping disadvantaged people in Bolivia.

## CONTACT

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