

# DONKEYS CORFU-GREECE



# INTRODUCTION

**THE PROJECT WAS FOUNDED IN 2004 TO PROVIDE A SAFE-HAVEN FOR THE ABANDONED DONKEYS ON THE ISLAND. IT IS THE ONLY DONKEY RESCUE SHELTER ON THE GREEK ISLAND OF CORFU. IN 2004 THEY ACQUIRED THEIR FIRST DONKEY - NOW THE PROJECT HAS HELPED OVER 500 DONKEYS.**

The rescue center has been established in the village of Poulades and was recognized by the Greek government as a registered Greek charity organization in 2006; the first donkey charity in Greece.

After years of difficulties with the neighbours, the project received permission to settle on new land in 2009. By that winter, some donkeys were already moved to the new location, where a shelter tent had been donated to the project.

In summer 2010, construction of the shelter began and all donkeys were moved to their new and current home in Doukades.





# THE PROJECT

**THE DONKEYS AT THE PROJECT ARE BROUGHT IN BY THEIR OWNERS, DONKEY DEALERS, OR FOUND BY PEOPLE WHO CONTACT THE PROJECT TO HELP OUT. THE DONKEYS ARE OLD AND OFTEN SICK OR INJURED AND COME HERE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THEIR LIVES.**

As a refuge the project aims to give:

- The old a safe and happy retirement;
- The sick a chance of cure;
- The injured the chance of recovery;
- The abused the chance of regaining trust and hope;
- The abandoned the feeling of security again.

Although the project is a donkey rescue, also some cats and dogs are taken in on discretion of the committee only.

## The donkeys

The first donkey arrived on Corfu from Malta in the 1800's. Since then they were imported from mainland Greece, Albania, Cyprus and Eastern European countries. Used for transportation of people and in agriculture, seasonally for the olive harvest, the Corfu donkeys have had to work very hard. This is compounded by their very small size and the lack of equine knowledge to give expert veterinary, foot and dental treatment. Even the traditional Corfiot saddle, the samara, is so badly designed as to cause permanent damage to most donkeys at an early age.

The rapidly declining use of the donkey on Corfu and throughout Greece renders the animals valueless except for export to the Italian meat markets. The project's main remit over the years has been to halt the exports by taking in the old, injured and sick donkeys and caring for them here. The project believes that after 20 years hard labour they deserve a peaceful retirement as opposed to being discarded in a variety of inhumane methods.

## Education

The project also organizes guided visits for tourists. These educational activities seek to spread correct information about the donkeys and are of extreme importance to the donkey conservation. Also tourists/visitors may help grooming the donkeys during their visit. It is also possible to take one of the donkeys out for a walk, unless the donkey is eating. During the hot summer months like July and August it is not possible to walk a donkey because of the heat. Visiting hours are daily from 10 am till 5 pm.

## The future

The project intends always to improve the conditions provided to the donkeys. Improvements are made every year but according to finance.



# VOLUNTEERS

## VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENTS ARE PART OF THE DAILY LIFE AT THE SHELTER.

Experiences with donkeys or animals is not necessary, however huge compassion for the animals is a must. During your stay you will have to put the interest of the animals before your own comfort.

Students also be taught basic first aid, Medical requirements and any veterinary work that is done on a daily base. Interested volunteers are also welcome to learn.

### Period / duration

- You are welcome throughout the year.
- The duration of your stay must be 2 weeks and preferable longer.
- You may arrive any day of the week.

The project is already quickly fully booked in the months May, June and September and therefore needs mostly volunteers in the other months.

### Requirements

Although no experience is asked, some are required:

- Minimum age for participation is 20 years old and 18 years old if you are a student; Participating with kids is not possible. But teenagers at 16 years of age are also welcome if they are accompanied by at least one parent/caregiver;
- Be able to speak and have a good understanding of the English language;
- Being interested in animal conservation and having a good physical condition. (the work undertaken can be physically demanding especially in the summer time).

**NOTE:** For your own sake and for the sake of the donkeys please note that we do not accept applications from volunteers or students who are pregnant or suffer from severe mental or physical problems like back problems, rheumatism, arthritis, asthma, allergies towards dust, etcetera.

### Participatin costs

#### Includes:

- Information and assistance before departure
- If desired, free estimate of flight options / travel possibilities (the most convenient flights options at a glance)
- Training and supervision at the shelter
- Program and administration costs
- And, of course a very memorable experience!

#### Excludes:

- Flight to and from the project Corfu Island
- Passport / visa
- Travel insurance, which is compulsory for all participants and a cancellation insurance
- Accommodation
- Meals and refreshments
- Travel expenses to/from the shelter like hiring a bike/scooter/car/etcetera
- Personal expenses like: snacks, Internet, souvenirs, excursions, etcetera.



# ACCOMMODATION

## OPTION TO STAY AT THE NEARBY PENSION

Unfortunately the shelter has no accommodation for volunteers. We suggest volunteers to stay at the local pension as it is close to the shelter. However, you can also arrange other accommodation.

### If you choose to stay in the pension:

The pension is run by two brothers and offer a warm welcome and assistance. There are 7 rooms and each basic room has a private shower and toilet. Bedding and bath towels are provided. (If you want to go to the beach, please bring your own towels). At arrival your room is cleaned but after arrival you have to help and keep your own room clean and tidy.

There is a swimming pool in a flower garden on site open from July to September. There is also a bar and pool room. There are no computers but WIFI is available in the bar.

Also the meals are not included. But in the pension there is a communal kitchen for your cooking needs. Volunteers should do their own dishes and clean up in the kitchen after use.

Nearly all volunteers and students use this accommodation and are happy with it. Volunteers and students are provided a cheap rate at this pension because they are helping the donkey shelter. The rate is about 70 Euros for a single or 105 Euros for a double room per week and payable in cash only. You need to pay for two weeks in advance (non-refundable) on arrival. (To take advantage of these cheap rates you must commit to work 5 full days a week at the shelter. Volunteers wishing to stay at the pension will automatically be booked in once flight details are received). If you want to stay at this pension please indicate this on the booking form or inform us via [info@globalspirit.nl](mailto:info@globalspirit.nl).

Within walking distance of the pension are 2 minimarkets, 3 tavernas, a petrol station and a pharmacy. Other mini- markets can be found in Liapades and Paleokastritsa, where there is also an ATM Towards Corfu Town are the bigger, less expensive supermarkets such as Diellas and Lidl.

This pension is about 20/25 minutes' walk to the project site. You can also rent a bike.

**THERE ARE MORE OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE SURROUNDING.  
FOR MORE OPTIONS CONTACT [INFO@GLOBALSPIRIT.NL](mailto:info@globalspirit.nl).**





# THE TASKS

**The donkeys are divided into two sections**

- **The stable area, which houses the donkeys requiring very close observation and intensive care. The stables also make up part of the section for the blind donkeys, which require their own, safe space**
- **The tent area, which houses the donkeys in better conditions or have minor ailments**

Each of our volunteers take part in the daily duties, based on their experience. For example:

- Food preparation (some donkeys need a special diet)
- Administering medication
- Cleaning stalls and pasture hygiene
- Providing fresh hay / bedding and water throughout the day
- General observation and daily grooming
- Cleaning and feeding of the other animals (dogs, cats, chickens)
- Walking the dogs

Despite this being predominantly a husbandry focused placement there is ample opportunity each day to delve deeper into clinical aspects, when there is interest in this matter. Some of these activities include:

- Flushing and cleaning wounds
- Cleaning, bandaging and monitoring improvement of donkeys with hoof injuries
- Administering specialized medications
- Creating protective padding for donkeys suffering injuries





The summer is a busy period for the shelter. There are many tourists who visit the project and tourists need to be shown around and told about the donkeys and the shelter. Volunteer will also help with this.

You will work five days a week, approx. between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm (sometimes even longer, but this depends on what has to be done and how many volunteers here are present). Always with a break in between. Since the animals need care also on the weekend, the project works in turns every day. However, you will always have two days off a week.

The rota will be done according to the needs of the animals, so it is not possible to choose each of your days-off. However, if you have a wish for a special day off, you can always talk to your supervisor in advance to see, if it will be possible.



**JOIN THE PROJECT WITH AN OPEN MIND, AND A FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE AND YOU WILL LEAVE CORFU WITH UNIQUE AND UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES!**





# STAFF & TEAM MEMBERS

## THE AWESOME PEOPLE BEHIND THIS PROJECT

The project staff consists of one very experienced person per day who will be your supervisor. The staff is enthusiastic and enjoys training and working with volunteers from different countries.

The language spoken at this project is English.

In case there is something for whatever reason, please give notice of it to the local staff in time.





# CORFU -GREECE

**CORFU (KERKYRA IN GREEK) IS LOCATED IN THE NORTHWEST OF GREECE, IN THE IONIAN SEA: IT IS THE SECOND LARGEST IONIAN ISLAND. CORFU HAS APPROXIMATELY 113.000 CITIZENS; ONE-THIRD OF THEM LIVE IN CORFU TOWN. IT IS A GREEN ISLAND WITH MANY OLIVE TREES. THE COAST IS VERY ROCKY AND THERE ARE MANY LOVELY BAYS.**

## Project Location

The project is located near the village of Doukades, in the north western part of Corfu. Doukades is a traditional village with a venetian style in the municipal of Paleokastritsa. The village contains a small square and a few restaurants. The closest beaches in the area are in the village of Liapades and Paleokastritsa. These villages are more touristic; with hotels, restaurants and bars. In Paleokastritsa there is a small harbor and a monastery (the Theotokos monastery).

## Climate

Corfu has a Mediterranean climate, with mild and rainy winters, and hot and sunny summers.

### Spring:

From mid-March to May, is mild sunny (average temperature 15 - 25 °Celsius), Rains are quite frequent at the beginning, but then gradually become rarer, and fine weather becomes more and more frequent. Especially May is a good month, before the summer heat.

### Summer:

From June to August, is sunny and very hot (average temperature 30 - 35 °Celsius), especially in July and August (+40 °Celsius).

### Autumn:

From September to November, is mild (initially even quite hot, average temperature 19 - 28 °Celsius ) and rainy. In September, there may still be many sunny days.

### Winter:

From December to mid-March, is quite mild (average temperature 15 °Celsius), Even though it is not as mild as in the southern islands of Greece. More rain, especially in December and January. However, there may still be many sunny days.

# TRAVEL INFORMATION



## Flight arrangements

Volunteers have to make their own flight arrangements. We advise you not to book your flight before we have confirmed your participation at the project. If you are unable to arrange your flight yourself for any reason, Global Spirit will be gladly help you. If you would like us to assist you, please fill this in on the booking sheet or send us an email.

## Passport and visa

In general the rule applies that to visit Greece you will need:

A valid passport (or ID-card), which must be officially valid for at least six months after the date of your arrival.

If you are not an EU citizen, please check whether a visa is necessary at the Greek embassy in your country.

As passport and visa requirements vary considerably, please contact the various embassies or a visa service agent to check visa requirements at least 4 weeks prior to departing.

Please note that a valid passport (and visa) are the responsibility of the volunteer and that Global Spirit will not be held responsible for clients being denied entry should they not be in the possession of the relevant documents.

## Insurances

Every volunteer is required to have a travel insurance policy (covering personal- medical costs and accidents in foreign countries) and cancellation insurance is highly recommended. Without travel insurance you will not be permitted to work at this project. Global Spirit can help you arrange travel and cancellation insurance. Please indicate this on the booking form. If you already have an insurance, please send a copy of the policy to Global Spirit.

## Travel and arrival in Corfu

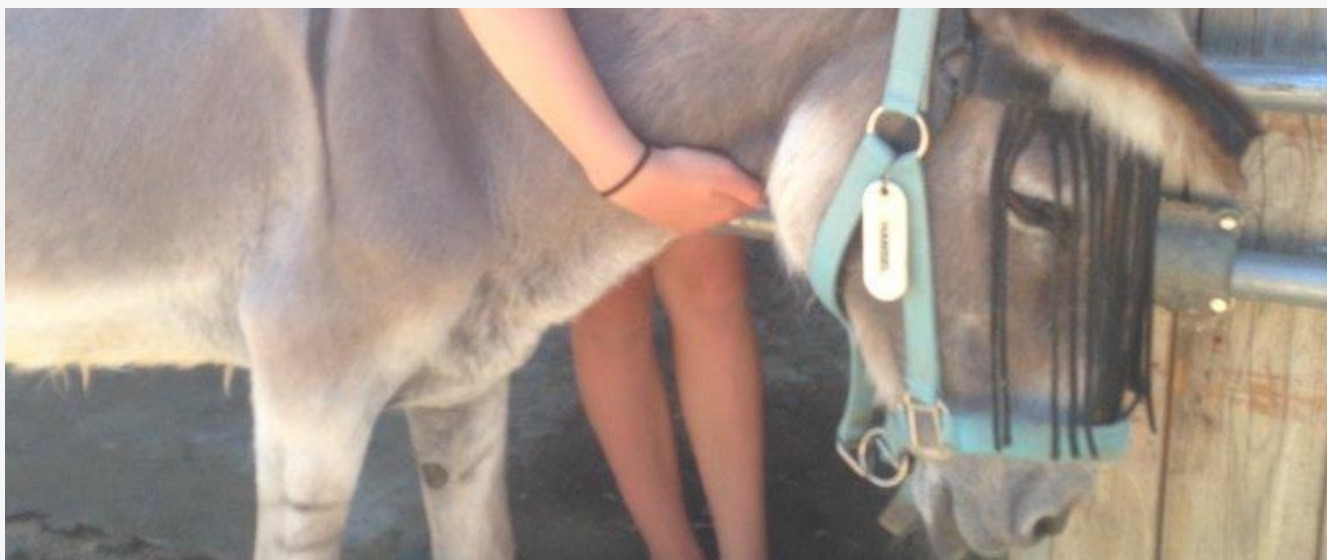
You will be responsible for arranging your own transport to Corfu, Greece and further transport to your accommodation.

We suggest volunteers to take a taxi from the airport to the pension or other accommodation. For volunteers, who will stay at the pension, we have arranged a discount with a recommended taxi driver. He will pick you up from the airport and bring you to the pension for +/- € 35,00. If you would like to use this taxi service, please indicate this on the booking form or let us know by email.

If you stay at any another accommodation, you should get a take a taxi at the airport, any taxi, there are always plenty.

Detailed info travelling from the pension / other accommodation to the project site will be given after your booking.





# MEDICAL ADVISE

Because volunteers will work with animals in Greece and will have direct contact with these animals, they will have to take precautions for their own protection and that of the animals.

Do not visit your local clinic or medical authority later than six weeks before departure.

AS GLOBAL SPIRIT IS NOT A PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL SERVICE, WE ADVISE YOU TO GO TO A LOCAL CLINIC OR MEDICAL AUTHORITY IN YOUR OWN COUNTRY FOR THE APPROPRIATE MEDICAL ADVICE. THIS DOCUMENT IS PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY.

## Medical service and information

For advise and the latest medical- and vaccination information please contact your local clinic or medical authority before leaving your home country.

If you are a EU citizen you should bring your European Health Insurance Card with you. This is very important as if for any reason you need to go to the Health Centre you will not be charged a regular appointment.

The closest hospital is on the way to Corfu-Town, approx. 11 km away. If you need medicine(s) you can go to the pharmacy which is a few 100 metres away. They are always very helpful.

If you do not feel well or if you feel you need to be seen by a doctor please inform the staff. The staff will do what it can to help you.

If you are allergic to bee stings, or if you're allergic reactions are strong, you are strongly advised to bring medication with you and a prescription from your doctor.

Especially in summer time, always drink a lot of water!

# PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

**WE ADVISE YOU TO BRING AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE.**

Volunteers do not need any special outfit, but please keep in mind that you will be working outside most of the time and can get dirty. You need warm clothing for winter and light clothing for summer. For the winter months we strongly recommend that you bring waterproof clothing. Note that even in summer, the nights can get fresh and breezy, so a light jacket might be welcome. From autumn to spring temperatures can vary greatly between day and night, with rather cold mornings and fairly warm afternoons.

Please check the weather forecast some days before you come. Usually, from November until March / April you will need rain gear and warm things. In the summer you need good shoes (sneakers will do it, but no sandals, flip-flops).

It is recommended not to wear too short clothes since there are a lot of mosquitos and thorns on the meadows. In the hot months, a base cap or something else to cover the head is really recommended.

## Essential items

- Valid passport (and Visa if necessary)
- Working clothes
- Working gloves if you need them
- Strong shoes /sneakers
- Waterproof clothing
- A hat or cap
- Sunglasses
- Water bottle
- Small backpack
- Toilet articles
- Insect repellent
- Something for insect bites
- Alarm clock (don't forget on your first day the time differences)
- First-aid kit with for example painkillers, plasters and disinfectant
- Sunscreen (it's recommended to use for at least SPF 20)
- Your smile!

## Optional items

- A notebook and pencils
- A photocamera / mobile phone
- Bathing/swimming suit (and snorkel)
- A beach towel
- A lighter
- A pocket light and spare bateries
- Mosquito net (recommended)
- Vitamin B (it will be anti-mosquito)
- Something against dehydration like ORS (Drink a lot of water!)
- Imodium or other ant- diarrhoea medication
- Leisure clothes
- Some Music
- Books and/or magazines
- Travel games
- Etcetera





# GENERAL INFORMATION

## PROJECT LOCATION

### Food and refreshments

Meals are not included in the participation fee.

It depends at which accommodation you will stay, but the pension provides good kitchen facilities for volunteers to prepare their own meals.

Since the pension is not a hotel there is also no breakfast service so you have to prepare this by yourself. There is also a nice coffee shop nearby.

You need to prepare your own lunch in the pension (or other accommodation) and bring it to the shelter. Most of the people bring a sandwich for lunch including water or other refreshments.

The project offers free coffee and tea.

In the evening you can prepare your own meal in the pension (or other accommodation) or order a pizza and have a drink. If you want to go out for dinner, you will also find a place to eat near the pension. And during the tourist season you will find also plenty of restaurants, cafés and bars in Paleokastritsa and in Liapades.

### Supermarkets / shops

Within walking distance of the pension are 2 minimarkets, where you can buy your first groceries. Other mini-markets can be found in Liapades and Paleokastritsa. And towards Corfu-Town are the bigger, less expensive supermarkets such as Diellas and Lidl. The local mini markets are open long hours depending on the season.

### Laundry services

There is a washing machine available in the pension where you can do your own laundry. No drying facilities, use your own room please.

### Phone and Internet access

Most mobile phones work around the project site and in Corfu. But to be sure contact your phone company in your own country.

There is no public wifi at the shelter. The focus will always be on the animals. But there is wifi available in the bar of the pension.

### Currency

The monetary unit of Greece is the Euro. Cash can be changed in most banks. There are ATM machines nearby (Liapades and Paleokastritsa).

### Transport during your stay

Although the shelter is in walking distance (2 km/25 mins walk) of the pension, most of the volunteers rent scooters or bikes during their stay. The prices are depending on the bike and the length of hire.

The project also provides a limited amount of bikes for a weekly maintenance fee of 10 Euros. First come first serve.

You need a driver's license to rent a scooter. The scooter allows you also to explore the island on your days off and get to the beaches and local resorts at the end of the day.

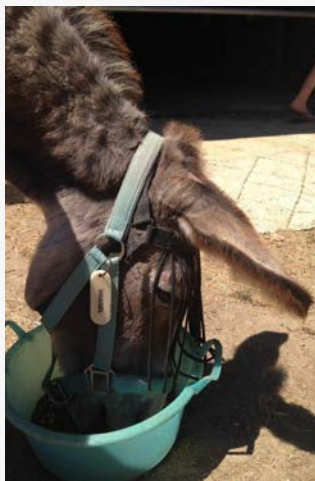
To go from the village to for example Corfu Town or to Paleokastritsa you can also use the green bus that stops directly at the pension.

### Leisure time

Each week you will have two days free and there is enough to do in your leisure time.

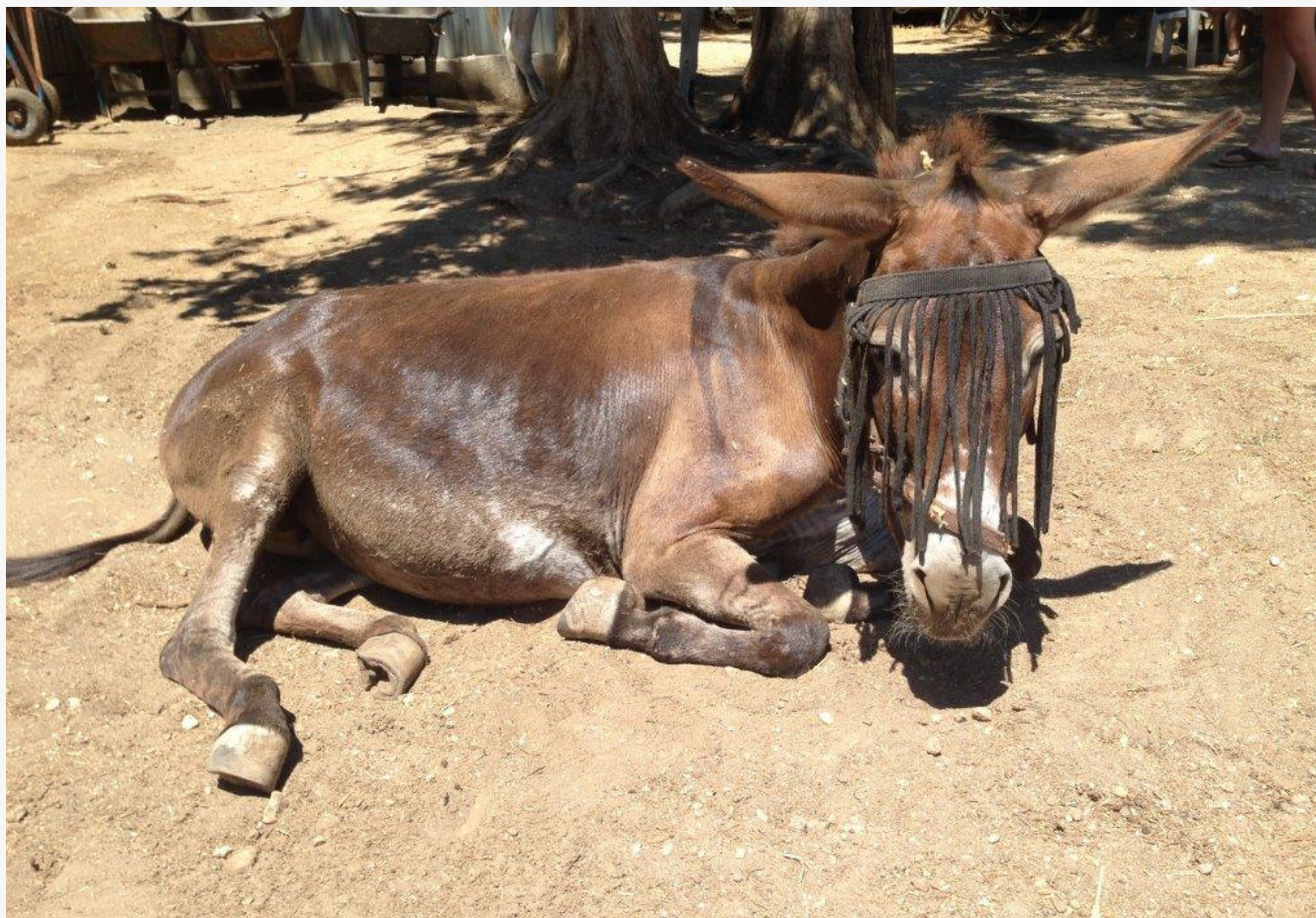
#### A few examples:

- Go to the beach. (The closest beach is in Liapades at about 3 km from the pension. Most of the beaches in the area are stony. You will find a sandy beach in Paleokastritsa, about 5 km away from the pension)
- Visit Kerkyra (Corfu-Town)
- Achillion (Summer Pallace of Sissi)
- Korrision Lake (hotspot to observe different bird species and also nice villages and many watersports etc.)
- Angelokastro, the Bysantic castle
- Pontikonis island with monastery
- loads more, just look at websites before or after you come.





**LOOKING FORWARD TO MEET YOU!**



**WEBSITE GLOBAL SPIRIT: [WWW.GLOBALSPIRIT.NL](http://WWW.GLOBALSPIRIT.NL)**  
**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT US ON [INFO@GLOBALSPIRIT.NL](mailto:INFO@GLOBALSPIRIT.NL)**

**Please note:**

Global Spirit commits itself to offering accurate and correct information at all times, but please keep in mind that information can change and all projects can be subject to change regarding their programs and/or accommodation arrangements. If you find any information in this brochure not to be accurate, please inform us.

Global Spirit is a facilitating organization and does not run its own projects. Therefore, Global Spirit cannot take responsibility whatsoever, for any changes concerning any program we offer. You will participate solely at your own risk and Global Spirit cannot be held liable for any damages, loss, theft, injuries or death before, during or after your stay.

Also note that you are personally responsible for ensuring that passport, visas, vaccinations and/or health certificates and other (travel) documents are in order and for all costs relating thereto. Global Spirit cannot be held liable for clients who get sick by not taking precautions and/or being denied entry, should they not be in the possession of the relevant documents, etcetera