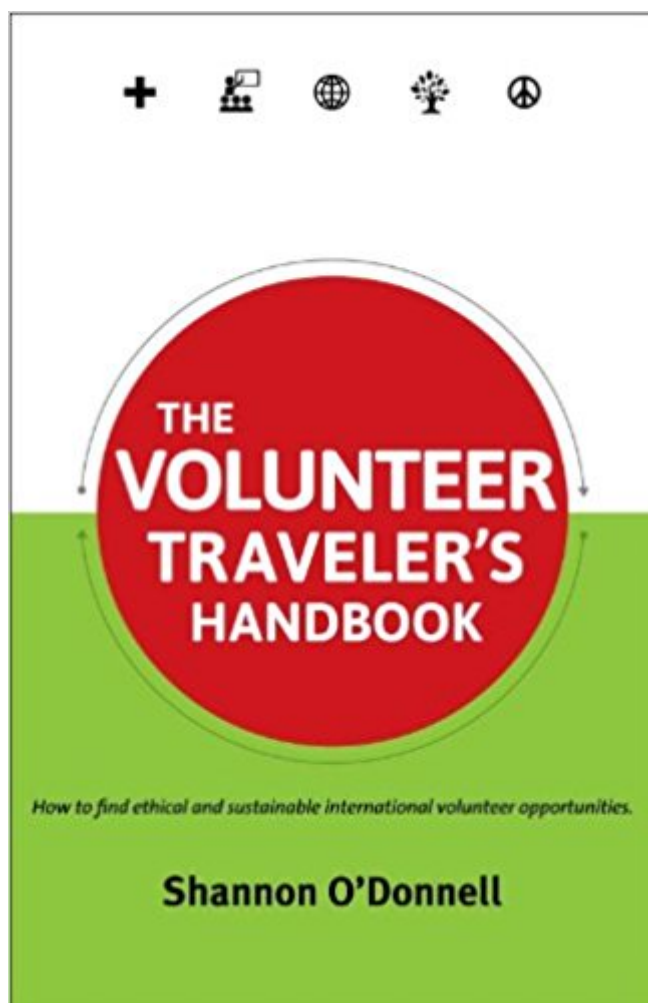


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# The Volunteer Traveler's Handbook (Traveler's Handbooks)



## Synopsis

The Volunteer Traveler's Handbook guides new and veteran travelers through the challenges of finding, vetting, and choosing their ideal volunteer experience. The book's practical advice is interwoven with first-person narrative, stories from a wide range of volunteers, beautiful photography, and expert interviews to help interested volunteers find meaningful ways to give back to communities all over the world-through volunteering, but also through social enterprises and supporting sustainable tourism practices. This handbook is filled with advice beyond merely where to volunteer, it delves deep into the industry and answers the questions you never thought to ask. The handbook covers:• - the psychology and ethics of volunteering.• - volunteer stories from the author, solo travelers, families, professionals, and many others.• - practical strategies for finding and vetting volunteer organizations.• - tips to adjust to life as a volunteer.• - traveling advice covering safety, packing, food, and cultural immersion.• - resource lists of international volunteering opportunities and sustainable enterprises to begin your research. Practical, inspiring, and realistic, The Volunteer Traveler's Handbook equips interested volunteers with the information they need to make informed and ethical decisions on their next trip. • • • This book is part of The Traveler's Handbook Series, which includes books on career break, food, luxury and solo travel. Each niche guide is designed to help travelers see the world in a unique way.

## Book Information

Series: Traveler's Handbooks

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## Customer Reviews

In this slim guidebook, author Oâ™Donnell covers how to find legitimate, socially responsible

volunteer opportunities as well as what to expect as an international volunteer. In an informal and engaging style, the author encourages readers to think about why they want to be an international volunteer, explores the challenges of choosing a volunteer experience, and details living in a foreign country. There are personal stories, practical tips, and an appendix of resources. A great beginning guide for those just starting to think about volunteering internationally, this would be a useful addition to most library travel or volunteerism collections. --Rebecca Vnuk

"Packed with advice and real-world volunteering experiences you simply won't find elsewhere ... a lively and top recommendation sure to appeal." Â - Diane Donovan, Midwest Book Review Â "In an informal and engaging style, the author encourages readers to think about why they want to be an international volunteer, explores the challenges of choosing a volunteer experience, and details living in a foreign country. A great beginning guide for those just starting to think about volunteering internationally ..." Â - Rebecca Vnuk, Â Booklist Magazine "Shannon does an excellent job of laying the groundwork for those who are interested in volunteering overseas. I'll be recommending this book to all my readers who are looking to volunteer overseas" Â - Gary Arndt, Everything Everywhere "I wish I'd had this handbook when I volunteered! Shannon asks all the right questions and offers practical advice from her own globetrotting experiences." Â - Ken Budd, Author of the memoir "The Voluntourist" "This book ... Â is full of practical tips and personal stories that can help a traveler prepare for a successful volunteer experience that will be ethical and rewarding." Â - Marilyn Terrell, Chief Researcher at Â National Geographic Traveler Â

This book is full of practical guidance and how-to's for an aspiring first time international volunteer, but it doesn't stop there. The author presents solid questions about the impact that volunteering and voluntourism has on communities- both good and bad, and leads the reader through a thorough thought process to consider how to wisely research and choose a volunteer program that is right for them AND will truly benefit the community it intends to serve- longterm. A great guide if you're considering a volunteer vacation or a first time long term volunteer opportunity abroad.

If you are considering volunteer travel but don't know where to begin, this book covers everything. Shannon O'Donnell writes from personal experience having volunteered in many places around the world. Not only did this book answer my previous reservations about volunteering but it also covers many questions I would not have thought to ask. Best of all is that Shannon shows that just about anyone can do some form of volunteering, whether it be at home or abroad.

I like the book. I like how it has the people in mind that will be receiving the benefits of your work. In Thailand at a village I'll be working in there are a number of failed projects because the locals didn't have an interest or ability in getting them fixed. Lots of great things in this book along those lines that help you think through which group to go with and how to be a more effective volunteer.

I am a travel novice who has always wanted to volunteer abroad. This book has given me the confidence to begin planning my trip. I'm sure once I'm on my way this book is really going to pay for itself with invaluable information from someone who has been there and done that.

Extremely informative and helpful, it is my bible.

A great resource for anyone wanting to pursue volunteer travel. Lots of links to related sites, and some great travel-related ideas.

Shannon lays out the ins and outs of everything you need to know about volunteering abroad -- in a concise and easy to read format. I've done two short volunteer trips abroad, and this book definitely covers all the decision points you need to consider leading up to your own voluntourism experience. Few are more experienced than Shannon in this area :)

I'm a 31 y.o. experienced traveller and was looking to take some time off from my job and find volunteer opportunities around the world to help defray the cost of travelling while also giving back and being able to immerse yourself in a culture in a way you just can't as a tourist. I see some other reviews say "in-depth, practical," but I found it to be lacking a lot and was disappointed by it. It provides an extremely basic introduction to volunteering overseas and has a few resources spread throughout but nothing I hadn't already known. I should've checked the page count and known that at 138 pages it wasn't going to be as thorough as I was expecting. So if you haven't really traveled or looked into volunteering abroad at all - this may be a good intro. But for someone who has traveled, researched opportunities and experiences on their own, they can skip this.

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