

A FAR

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PLUS TRIPS
THAT MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

Chile



Haiti



New Orleans



Cambodia

More Volunteer Vacations

CAMBODIA

Hôtel de la Paix

Last fall many villages in Siem Reap suffered damage from severe floods. Hôtel de la Paix, a boutique property in the city, supports community projects such as the Life and Hope Association (LHA), a nonprofit run by the monks of Wat Damnak, and the Green Gecko Project, an organization that educates and feeds children. A three-night package includes a Khmer meal, a temple tour, and a visit to one of the projects. Guests with more time can arrange to work at LHA's Children's Development Village, which is now home to kids orphaned by the floods.

Three-night community packages from \$1,190, 85/(5) 63-966-000, hoteldelapaixangkor.com

CHILE

Liz Caskey Culinary and Wine Experiences

The 8.8-magnitude earthquake that hit Chile in February 2010 greatly affected Maule, one of the country's wine regions. Liz Caskey runs food and wine tours in Chile that include stays at wineries. She recently introduced the pre- or post-trip option of helping to build new wings for an overcrowded shelter in Molina, a village in Maule where many people lost homes. When they're not volunteering, guests visit wineries such as Casa Lapostolle, participate in tastings with winemakers, and sample local food products.

Custom food and wine trips start at \$550 per day, (904) 687-0340, lizcaskey.com

HAITI

Elevate Destinations

Almost 70 percent of the French colonial buildings in the port town of Jacamel were damaged by the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Elevate Destinations, a philanthropic travel company, leads eight- and 15-day trips that include opportunities to work on construction, reforestation, and other projects. "We're very focused on ensuring that our volunteers work directly with Haitians," says Elevate's Urgent Service Director, Andrea Atkinson. Excursions to the Bassin-Blue waterfalls and a village outside of Port-au-Prince known for its artisanal metalwork are also included. The next trip is in July 2012.

Starting at \$1,200, (617) 661-0203, elevatedestinations.com

LOUISIANA

The St. Bernard Project

Six years after Hurricane Katrina, nearly 200 families in New Orleans are still living in FEMA trailers. The St. Bernard Parish, located about 10 miles from downtown, was one of the communities most severely affected. The St. Bernard Project, a nonprofit dedicated to rebuilding homes in the area, relies on up to 250 volunteers daily. In one day, volunteers might install a floor or paint the walls of a small house. Skilled volunteers may assist with plumbing and electrical projects. The time commitment can be as little as a half day or as long as a month. Volunteers are responsible for their own lodging but receive discounts at partner hotels.

(504) 277-6831, stbernardproject.org

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: KEN CEDENO/DIGITAL CORBIS; COURTESY OF HOTEL SANTA CRUZ PLAZA; BOB KRISTY/CORBIS; COURTESY OF GREEN GECKO PROJECT