

ERASMUS CARIBBEAN



Farming, Fishing and Environment Conservation Youth Exchanges

Group Leader Information Pack

2015/6

Montserrat



Project information

Put environment conservation principles into practice on the UK overseas territory of Montserrat. As well as the opportunity to live naturally in an eco-campsite and reduce your carbon footprint, during this exchange young people will have the opportunity to make a real and lasting difference to environment conservation and waste recycling on this stunning little island! This exchange will raise the awareness of the challenges for agriculture and fisheries in small island states, the protection of the environment and the impact of climate change.

For example there will be exercises will focus on the environmental threats to farmers and fishermen, the impact of the pollution that mankind is making, and the dangers of poor waste management. We will learn that when everyone works together, we can make the best use of our planet's natural resources. When you recycle the products you use every day, like cardboard boxes, milk jugs, and soda cans, you give new life to items that used to be thrown away, you save energy and help lower greenhouse gas emissions in the process. These youth exchanges will be exactly this – young people working together to protect the environment. There will be opportunities to make a practical contribution to the project through constructing a tent platform high in the rainforest or building a natural rainwater shower amongst the trees. You will enjoy creative thinking, exchange ideas, knowledge, and experience, sharing positive examples through non-formal workshops, team building, role play, and creative workshops.

Proposed dates – 14th September -28th September (tbc)

Project benefits

- ✓ 14 days in the Caribbean – sharing an adventure of a lifetime with young people from around the world!
- ✓ Full board (Breakfast, lunch and evening meal, with a chance to show off your own culinary skills on the cultural evenings)
- ✓ 5 additional educational visits (Visit to the Montserrat Volcano Observatory, guided hike into Centre Hills Rain forest; guided visit of Buried city of Plymouth; guided snorkelling around stunning coral reefs; evening 'flip-flop' walks to local villages)
- ✓ Midnight turtle watching (seasonal)

Participation fees and travel grant

Youth participants - 320 Euros for a 14 day youth exchange

Group leaders - 250 euros for a 14 day youth exchange

Most of our exchanges are self-funded and participants meet their costs in full. The participation fee is paid in advance to secure your place. However, where projects have received EU funding partner organisations may request that the participation fees are deducted from the travel costs to be reimbursed. Travel costs are reimbursed at the end of the project.

Group leaders' fees can be refunded in full subject to conditions. See below for more detail.

This is not a holiday

Youth exchanges are not holidays. You will live, work and learn with a group of young people who wish to promote the values of environment conservation. If you are really looking for a holiday this programme is not for you.

Participant profile

Erasmus Caribbean is building a network of young people and organisations committed to the values of environment conservation, social enterprise and European identity. We are seeking group leaders of any age and participants aged 18-30 to join this exciting new initiative in the European territories in the Caribbean.

Group Leaders

Group Leaders recruit and select participants for the youth exchange and assist them to make their travel arrangements. They also have a key role in day to day communication and logistics of management of the youth exchange. There will work under the direction of two experienced leaders (Erasmus Caribbean youth workers) who will guide the group and guarantee safety, respect and participation. Group leaders can be of any age.

Youth Exchange Participants

An objective of the youth exchange is to mix groups with young people from different cultural, social and geographic situation in order to practice inter-cultural learning. Therefore we aim to have groups representing every EU country. A love of the outdoors is a must since these are camping youth exchanges.

When selecting participants, group leaders will consider gender balance between females and males and age restrictions (participants must be aged 18-30).

Participant numbers: Each group will have a minimum of four participants and one group leader.

Language: English

The exchange and all activities will take place in English and this is a great opportunity to develop your language skills. Group leaders however must speak English. This is to ensure that if there are any participants who cannot speak English a Group leader is available to provide translations for the participant.

Visa Requirements

There are none for EU citizens! EU citizens do not require a visa to travel to Montserrat. However, participants from countries in the process of joining the EU (e.g. Turkey) will need a Visa. For the most up to date information regarding visa requirements please see <https://www.immigration.ms/tourists/guide>

About Montserrat

Montserrat is one of the very few Caribbean islands that are still a part of Europe. Being able to travel to the Caribbean through Erasmus+ is a rare opportunity and one that should not be missed!

Montserrat is a small tropical island located in the West Indies. The weather is often hot at around 28-30 °C (80-84 °F) so be prepared by bringing light loose clothing! Although part of the EU the culture can be quite different to other places in the world.

Montserrat is an interesting island full of history. Most notably the island is known for the eruptions of the Soufrieres Volcano which was at its most active between 1995 and 1997. The island is a lush and home to beautiful environments and rare species.



Whilst in Montserrat you will have the opportunity to take part in island activities such as hiking and snorkelling. Please bear in mind that these activities require a certain level of fitness and do carry risks. The climate and terrain of the island can also be challenging for some.

If you are not a confident swimmer or have any health issues which may affect you during the exchange. **It will be helpful for us to prepare the activities so that everyone feels safe. Also let us know if you're allergic to any kind of food. E-mail this information to mesut@erasmuscaribbean.com**

You can follow the links below for more information about Montserrat!

Island history

<http://www.erasmuscaribbean.com/#!montserrat-1/qr6hf>

Montserrat facts

<http://www.visitmontserrat.com/facts/>

Montserrat's wild life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFnetjV8W2c>

Footage of Plymouth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6MzVYnBtkR8>

Fun in Montserrat

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ewj53tRWdQ>

Participation fees

Youth Exchange participation fees

The participation fee for this youth exchange is 320 Euros per person. This is payable in full and in advance and no later than 28 days prior to the start date of the exchange.

Details of the company euro account will be provided to partner organisations for online banking transfers.

Advanced Planning Visit participation fees

The participation fee for group leaders attending APV visits is 250 Euros. APV participation fees are payable strictly in advance. **This fee is reimbursed in full providing the following conditions are met;**

- a) The participant on the APV is also the group leader for the project
- b) The group leader plays an active role in the delivery of the youth exchange programme.

Where these conditions are not met the fee will not be reimbursed. Confirmation of booking of flights for the both the APV and the project is required for APV participation fee reimbursement.

Travel Costs

In order to receive reimbursement of travel costs the following documents must be provided;

- a) A copy of the travel document (e.g. passport)
- b) Original tickets, boarding passes and receipts.

Travel costs will be reimburse up to 70% of the travel grant. This will be reimbursed to the participant organisation using online banking transfer to a Euro account after the youth exchange.

All transaction and currency costs will be met by the partner organisation. **Specifically there will be no cash reimbursements of travel costs for youth exchange participants.**

Advanced Planning Visit - travel cost reimbursements

In order to receive reimbursement of travel costs for the APV the following documents must be provided;

- a) A copy of the travel document (e.g. passport)
- b) Original tickets, boarding passes and receipts.

Travel costs will be reimburse up to 100% of the travel grant. This will be reimbursed to the participant using online banking transfer to a Euro account. All transaction and currency costs will be deducted from the reimbursement. **Specifically there will be no cash reimbursements of travel costs for APV participants.**

Partner organisations may request that the participation fees are deducted from the travel costs to be reimbursed. However, this will be entirely at our discretion and the amount will be limited to 70% of flight budget only. **We do not process internal travel tickets e.g. bus, train, taxi etc.** In all flight tickets and receipts must be provided.

Booking your flights – London Gatwick to Montserrat

IVJ will reserve return travel from London Gatwick to Montserrat through its agent MUNDI Travel. This includes flights from Gatwick to Antigua, an extra 23kgs baggage allowance, transfers from the airport to the ferry dock and the return ferry trip from Antigua to Montserrat. **Return travel from London to Montserrat is reserved by IVJ through its agent MUNDI Travel only and without exception.** Participants must pay for their flights in full not less than 6 weeks prior to the date of departure. Payments must be made directly to MUNDI Travel.

EXTENDED STAYS

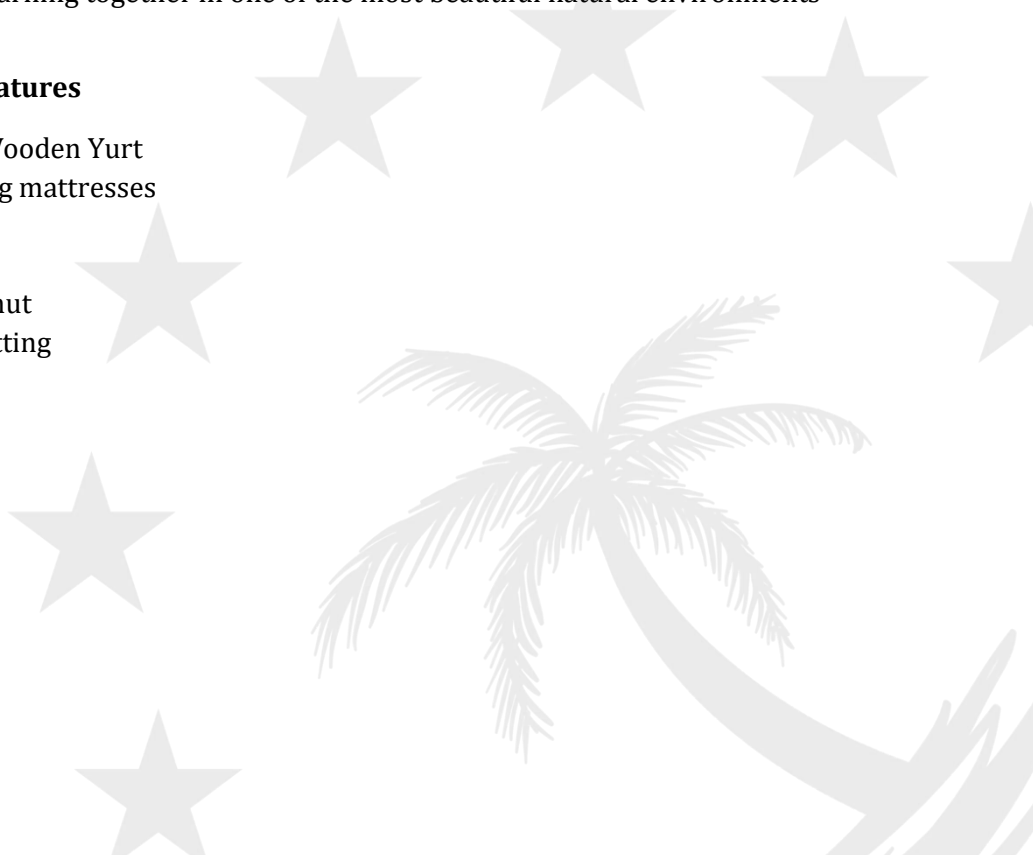
Many partners have requested that flights are arranged to allow for extended stays in both the UK and the Caribbean. In order to facilitate this participants will book and pay for their own flights from their home country to London. This will allow the flexibility for extended stays in the UK. Participants may also request Gatwick – Antigua flights with a **later return date** to allow time for extended stays in Antigua and other Caribbean islands. We are happy to arrange this where possible. Any additional costs of extended stays are to be met by the participant.

Venue and accommodation

The venue and accommodation is at Wild Lotus Eco campsite which will be the location for free activities for young people, environmental education programmes and youth exchanges! You will be living, working and learning together in one of the most beautiful natural environments in the world.

Campsite Amenities and features

- Euro Hike Tents or Wooden Yurt
- Bunk beds or camping mattresses
- Rainwater showers
- Compost Toilets
- Breakfast and lunch hut
- Natural rainforest setting
- Electricity
- Hike trails
- Wild fruit trees
- Natural spring







What to pack

Below is a list to help you with buying and packing things to bring with you for the exchange;

- **Sleeping matt or air bed**
- **Sleeping bag or bedding suitable for hot weather (we will not supply laundry for youth exchanges and there is no laundry facility)**
- **Pillow**
- **Head lamp (for safety reasons)**
- **Water bottle**

The above items are things which **MUST** be brought with you for the exchange as we will not be providing them.

- **Light clothing** (shorts, t shirts etc.) In Montserrat the weather is very hot, around 28-30°C (80-84 °F) so be prepared. Bring light loose clothing.
- **Smartwear.** You may spend time working in the office, attending meetings and at events where you will need to look smart. Please bring appropriate clothing.
- **Long trousers.** Bring at least one pair for hiking to help prevent some insect bites
- **Comfortable footwear.** Flip flops are not always suitable for important meetings or for hiking!
- **Flip flops.**
- **Light outerwear/waterproof garment.** Montserrat does at times have a good amount of rain so the temperature can dip and you may need some outerwear.
- **Laptop.** We currently have a limited number of company laptops so we ask that you bring your own that you can use in the office.
- **Small Rucksack/bag.** You will often be out and about and may need to carry some items with you so a bag is necessary.
- **Swim wear.**

- **At least two towels.** One for the beach and one for yourself, there is a washing machine in the accommodation.
- **Wet wipes**
- **Toothpaste/Anti-bacterial hand/body wash/toiletries**
- **Mosquito repellent.** You can never have too much as they can be a real pain although a piece of lime can do the trick if you leave the house without any!
- **Sun screen.** It depends on your skin type but it's good to have a high factor to prevent sun burn and heat stroke
- **Medication.** Paracetamol, rehydration sachets, bite cream, sea sickness tablets as the ferry can be rough and any other medication that you may need.
- **Books/DVDs/games/instruments.** There is no TV in the house!
- **Camera.**
- **Ear plugs** (your friends may snore!)
- **Plug adapters** (flat two pin converters not round pins)
- **Family and friends via skype, whatsapp etc.** It is common to get homesick in such a new environment, be sure you have all friends and family as contacts on free communication apps and to bring anything that may help in times of homesickness

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