



experience quest

Mangueira Rio Community Project



Where? The favela of Mangueira, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

History: Experience Quest has been working in Mangueira alongside the Mangueira Social Project since 2006. The work is focussed in two areas; with the Tia Neuma School for gifted children and with Casa Lar, a home for orphaned and abandoned boys with special needs.

Tia Neuma School enables gifted children of the Mangueira community to have a quality and challenging education, allowing them to reach their potential and enjoy a brighter future. The school provides opportunities to these children that would otherwise be denied to them as a result of living in the favela. Most of the boys at Casa Lar have been orphaned or abandoned by families unable or unwilling to care for them. They have a range of mental and physical disabilities and need daily support and care from the Casa Lar staff to allow them to attend school and integrate into community life. Government provision for people with disabilities in Brazil is extremely poor, and although the boys' basic daily and medical needs are met they are always in need of stimulating activities and excursions to brighten and enrich their lives.

Sustainability: The Mangueira Social Project works with Tia Neuma and Casa Lar all year round, along with the permanent Casa Lar staff. Along with their time and energy, Experience Quest teams also bring a financial commitment to Tia Neuma and Casa Lar in the form of volunteer donations to our UK registered charity Quest4Change, providing short and long term resources for the project (e.g. medicines for the boys, school transport and funds for activities and days-out throughout the year). This makes your and Quest's involvement with Mangueira a genuine and long term commitment. Quest4Change actively fundraises for the project year-round to ensure the project is ongoing at times volunteer teams are not in the country.

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What will your students be doing? Organising games, activities and excursions for the boys at Casa Lar. These involve help with homework, arts and crafts, sports, swimming sessions and trips out to the zoo, the beach and other sights in Rio. Your students will also be assisting with the day to day running of the Casa Lar home, supporting the full time staff and carers at meal and recreation times, giving them a much-needed respite. Your students will also work with the children at the Tia Neuma School, organising enriching after-school clubs and activities, sports days and trips within the Rio area.

Your students will have the opportunity to really immerse themselves in daily favela life, a side of Rio de Janeiro that most people do not see. The Manguiera Social Project is very well respected and acknowledged in the local area which gives your students a chance to live and work safely in the community. Not only will they form close friendships with the boys and staff at Casa Lar, but will also have the chance to learn Samba dancing at the Manguiera Samba School and try their hand at Capoeira.

It is also possible to arrange intensive Portuguese lessons for your students in central Rio de Janeiro prior to starting their project work. This allows them to communicate more effectively with the boys and staff at Casa Lar, as well as developing their language skills.

Other activity options: Following the project there is the chance to, learn to surf at Itacare; spot wildlife in the stunning Pantanal; trek in the Serra dos Orgaos; visit Iguacu Falls; fly to Manaus and explore the Amazon Rainforest.

