Whether it's building houses in JORDAN or meeting the feathered residents of Antarctica's PENGUIN ISLAND, these dream journeys are guaranteed to make a difference in your life, and the lives of those you help along the way.

Edited by STIRLING KELSO, JOHN NEWTON, and CLARA SEDLAK

Reported by CHRISTINE AJUDUA, GERALDINE CAMPBELL, ILAN GREENBERG, JESSICA MERRIL, SUZANNE MOZES, BENJAMIN SKINNER, BREE SPOSATO, WING SZE TANG, and JENNIFER WEILB.
AUSTRALIA & SOUTH PACIFIC

15 COOK ISLANDS
Get to know this lush South Pacific archipelago while lending a hand to the Maori people. Volunteers give children reading lessons, clear trails in the bird sanctuary; or assist scientists at the local Whale Research Center. Rarotonga island’s crystal-blue waters are ideal for snorkeling, and its jungle-covered volcano is a good hiking spot, as long as you have a seasoned guide.

* Trip Tip Don’t miss the Saturday morning Pananganui market, where stands overflow with tropical fruits.

16 FIJI
Anyone can hike through the rain forests and dive along the coral reefs of Fiji’s Vanua Levu island, but participants in a Seacology expedition can preserve them. The nonprofit helps conserve the island’s biodiversity by funding the building of schools and community centers for Fijians, who in exchange, create no-fish marine zones and forest reserves.

* Trip Tip Seacology’s weekly diving trips to Namena Island are a must. The miles of reefs make it one of the top diving spots in the world.

17 NEW ZEALAND
Spend two weeks in a rugged, diverse landscape. Led by a seasoned naturalist, search for the elusive Brown Kiwi on Stewart Island and trek to Westland National Park—a World Heritage Area covered by vast icefields.

* Trip Tip Watch the waves from the Tasman Sea exploding through Punakaiki’s Pancake Rocks at high tide.

* Luxury Level The KiiKii Motel has simple yet clean rooms, with kitchenettes and a pool outside.

Global Volunteers; 800/487-1074; globalvolunteers.org; two-week trips from $2,295 per person, all-inclusive; departures year-round.

* Luxury Level Accommodations are at the Jean-Michel Cousteau Fiji Islands Resort (fijiresort.com), where 25 private thatched bungalows overlook Savusavu Bay.

FAST FACT Tourism in Bosnia has increased by 1,500 percent since 2000, thanks in part to Green Vision.

CRUISING

18 ANTARCTICA
With its 14-day itinerary to Antarctica, Abercrombie & Kent gives the climate-conscious an opportunity to assist with global-warming research as passengers deliver equipment to scientists at the Palmer Station. Explore the South Shetland Islands along the way, including remote Penguin Island. The only prerequisite: a $500 donation to the Climate Change Challenge, an A&K initiative in partnership with Friends of Conservation.

* Trip Tip Pack your suit for a soak in the thermal waters of Deception Island’s Pendulum Cove.