The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts runs five World Centres; Our Cabana, Mexico; Our Chalet, Switzerland; Pax Lodge, UK; Sangam, India; and Kusafiri which pops up around the Africa Region.

These World Centres offer Girl Guides and Girl Scouts the opportunity of a lifetime - an international adventure where they can make new friends and go on their own journey of personal discovery.
WHY OUR WORLD CENTRES MATTER:

The opportunity to go on an adventure around the world is one of the key reasons that young people join the Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Movement – 88% of volunteers tell us that they chose to sign up because it was international. Our World Centres are at the heart of this international offer.

Situated in diverse cultural and geographical locations across the world each one offers a unique experience for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts who are curious about the world around them. Many of our visitors return to us time and time again – feeling, often for the first time, that they really are part of a global Movement.

The World Centres are also an integral part of the WAGGGS mission to help girls and young women gain life experience and personal development opportunities so they can go on to reach their full potential and be active, engaged and responsible citizens of the world.

Many who come to our Centres leave feeling more motivated and capable of making a positive difference to the world around them, reflecting Olave Baden-Powell’s desire to “build a better world and a bright future for the youth of tomorrow.”

Our World Centres offer longer volunteer and internship placements for those looking for a more immersive experience or for an opportunity to give something back to the WAGGGS movement.

The World Centres are open to members and non-members of Guiding and Scouting, groups, families, and individuals of all ages and genders.

OUR CHALET

SINCE 1932 OUR CHALET has helped thousands of girls and young women from around the world to challenge themselves and develop new skills in the idyllic setting of the Swiss Alps.

The range of events on offer at Our Chalet is seasonal helping guests to make the most of the stunning surroundings.

- **AUTUMN**: International Friendship Week and Swiss Experience Week offer friendship and adventure for adult guests of all ages.
- **WINTER**: Guests can take advantage of the world famous local ski region with over 200km of groomed slopes. Sledding, snow-shoeing, winter hiking, and cross-country skiing are also popular.
- **SPRING**: The annual Helen Storrow Seminar, which combines leadership development and environmental issues, with an opportunity for outdoor adventure. Half Term Breaks offer exciting activities for younger guests.
- **SUMMER**: The popular Swiss Challenges, aimed at Guides and Scouts aged 12-18, provide opportunities to try climbing, hiking, and high adventure activities and to experience Swiss culture.

> The other volunteers really respect me and my religion, because when I pray I stay silent, and they tell the others, “Stay quiet, she’s praying”. Even in some places in the Middle East, I can’t find that respect, but I found it here.
>  
> Salma, Tunisia

Volunteers help run the daily life of Our Chalet, developing their independence, and gaining workplace experience and valuable life skills. Intern positions are offered in Marketing and Communications, Programme, Kitchen, and Guest Services.
SANGAM WORLD CENTRE

SANGAM is located in Pune, India and provides girls and young women with outstanding international opportunities for lifelong learning, community action and personal transformation. The word Sangam means ‘coming together’ in the ancient language of Sanskrit. Since 1966, the Centre has been a safe place for members of Guiding and Scouting to come together and share their cultures and experiences.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS
Throughout the year, we offer events that are themed around:

- **LEADERSHIP**: All leadership events combine cultural learning with personal development – participants get involved in a Community Action Project with a local Sangam partner to learn about how they can become an agent of change.

- **CULTURAL**: An enthralling introduction to the sights, sounds and spicy sensations of Indian daily life, visiting local markets, learning Hindi and Bollywood dancing.

- **CELEBRATORY**: Celebrate international Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting events and learning more about the history of our Movement, whilst in the heart of India.

- **WELLNESS**: Spend time exploring your physical, mental and emotional self in the birthplace of yoga. Take time to reflect, move, learn and grow all in your Indian home-from-home.


"Being in Sangam has been amazing… it has helped me know myself better, develop my leadership skills, and discover that I can do more than what I can think I’m capable of. After Sangam, I can identify more good things about myself and also learned how to identify them in other people. Sangam will always keep a special place in my heart."

Ximena, Peru – Discover Your Potential 2018

For those wanting a longer stay volunteers can support Sangam and deliver programmes during international events, engage with community partner organisations, conduct sessions on Indian culture and the latest WAGGGS initiatives, and lead tours around Pune and the local community. This amazing opportunity for self-development offers young women the chance to live abroad, gain personal and professional experience and, work in a multicultural atmosphere.


KUSAFIRI WORLD CENTRE

KUSAFIRI has no fixed site but changes location across the Africa Region for every event it hosts. Using existing facilities, the innovative approach enables many more girls and young women across the continent to take part in the life changing international experiences that WAGGGS offers.

“A journey of a life time. The most interesting movement that helps one to develop their fullest potential.”

Prudence, Uganda.

To date, Kusafiri events have been held in Ghana, South Africa, Rwanda, Kenya, Nigeria, Benin, Madagascar and Uganda. These programmes have explored community action, Voices Against Violence, the arts, culture, fund development and leadership.

IN DECEMBER 2019, THE JULIETTE LOW SEMINAR WILL BE HELD IN TANZANIA.
OUR CABANA is located in the “City of Eternal Spring”, Cuernavaca, Mexico and is the place where 'dreams come true'. Since opening in 1957, we have been welcoming guests from all around the world, offering a range of activities and programmes focused on international friendship, challenge, adventure, self-development and most of all fun!!

Throughout the year we offer many international events with different themes:

**SUMMER**: Our Friendship Event gives young people the chance to learn about our international Movement, Mexican culture and take part in adventures such as waterfall jumping.

**AUTUMN**: Our first event is Pick & Mix, Day of the Dead, which is entirely shaped by the participants own needs. On our Day of Dead they celebrate the holiday and learn about local traditions.

**WINTER**: We host the Sea Adventure, Monarch Butterflies, New Year’s Eve and WTD celebration events all in the cultural richness, traditions and gastronomy of Mexico.

**SPRING**: We host our ‘Splash into Spring’ events, known as such for the many water activities.

Volunteer roles and internships give girls and young women the chance to develop their skills in leadership, communication and advocacy, whilst immersing themselves in Mexican culture. Internships are available in the areas of Marketing and Communications, Programme and Guest Services.

**I hope that the leadership, problem solving and communication skills I’ve learned during my time here will assist me in my studies and eventually my future career. I’ve also realized how much I love Guiding and what an impact it has made in my life.**

Fiona McGee, Canada

PAX LODGE

Pax Lodge was officially opened in London, in 1991. Years before the World Chief Guide had had a dream that one day the World Bureau and the London World Centre would once again be united in the same location. This dream was realised when Pax Lodge was officially opened. It is ‘place where strangers soon are friends.’ - everyone has the opportunity to develop lasting friends during the experience of a lifetime that they can share with others on their return home.

**Being at Pax Lodge has taught me so much about the world and allowed me to step out of my bubble.**

Natasha, Australia

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:
All of our programmes take participants on a personal development journey - learning about WAGGGS, its Member Organisations, themes, projects, regions and World Centres, while sharing the international friendship that Girl Guiding and Girl Scouts offers all in the heart of the vibrant city of London.

PROGRAMME EVENTS INCLUDE:
- A celebration of World Thinking Day
- JamBrownee – a long weekend for Brownies
- 6 weeks of ‘Journey Through London’ events in the Summer for girls aged 14 to 18 years
- A Trefoil Special Week for members aged 18+.
- International Adventure Days and Evening Programmes are run throughout the year.
- We also offer a ‘build your own programme’ package to suit any length of stay or group size.

2019 sees us hosting the Young Women in Governance Research Project (Motion 32) and as a hub for the 2019 Juliette Low Seminar.

We also offer longer volunteer stay, where members can contribute to the smooth running of the World Centre, whilst gaining international experience and improving their leadership and advocacy skills.

WAGGGS is the largest voluntary movement dedicated to girls and young women in the world with 10 million members across 150 countries. For more information please visit www.wagggs.org or call 00 44 207 794 1181.