

# GETTING TO KNOW OUR WORLD CENTERS

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts is proud to offer its members the amazing opportunity to travel to any of its five world centers. Located around the world, each world centre has its own unique history and flavor but the one thing that is consistent is that girls will have a safe, once-in-a-lifetime experience with other Girl Scouts and Girl Guides. Below is a summary of each world centre. For more information, you are encouraged to check out each world center's website.

## Our Chalet

- Our Chalet opened in 1932 as the first world center.
- It is located near the town of Adelboden in the Oberland region of Switzerland.
- Funds to build the original chalet were provided by American philanthropist Helen Storrow.
- The facilities at Our Chalet consist of the Main Chalet, Spycher Chalet, Squirrel House, Camp House and the Baby Chalet.
- Visitors can also camp if the weather permits.
- Popular winter activities include downhill skiing, cross country skiing, sledding, and snowshoeing.
- Popular summer activities include hiking, day trips to local points of interest, rock climbing and rafting.
- Our Chalet hosts numerous global events throughout the year which give girls and young women the opportunity to develop leadership skills, meet friends, and focus on advocacy work within the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).
- Visitors can earn the Our Chalet Challenge, a patch program designed to give participants a deeper set of experiences while at Our Chalet.
- For more information, check out their website: <https://www.waggs.org/en/our-world/world-centres/our-chalet/>.



## Our Cabaña

- Our Cabaña was the second world center built and opened in 1957.
- The 5-acre parcel of land originally cost \$25,000 and was purchased with funds from the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund.
- It is located in Cuernavaca, Mexico which is about a two-hour bus ride south of Mexico City.
- Our Cabaña offers a unique program that allows participants to explore México's rich culture and traditions and visit important cultural sites.
- Visitors will have the opportunity to participate in service projects which benefit the local community.
- Our Cabaña hosts international events with various themes including adventure, ecology, cultural celebrations and gourmet discovery.
- Participants can also create their own "custom" event with the help of the experienced Our Cabaña staff.
- Facilities include the dining hall, a large meeting room, eight dormitories, a craft house, athletic field, swimming pool, tennis court, and several small guest rooms.
- For more information, check out their website: <https://www.waggs.org/en/our-world/world-centres/our-cabana/>



## Sangam

- Sangam opened in 1966.
- Sangam is located in Pune, India.
- Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from all over the world worked to raise more than 50% of the funds needed to build Sangam.
- The facilities at Sangam include the main building, five dormitories, and a pool. Some double rooms and triple rooms are available.
- Camping is also an option at Sangam.
- Visitors must have a visa in order to visit India.
- Sangam means “coming together” in Sanskrit.
- Popular activities include learning about the Indian culture, arts and crafts, community service, and day trips to popular cultural sites.
- Sangam hosts numerous global events throughout the year which give girls and young women the opportunity to develop leadership skills, meet friends, and focus on advocacy work within the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).
- For more information, check out their website: [www.sangamworldcentre.org](http://www.sangamworldcentre.org)



## Pax Lodge

- Pax Lodge opened its doors in 1991.
- It is the third world center to be located in London, England. The other two were Our Ark which closed in 1959 and Olave House, which closed in 1988.
- Pax Lodge is located on the same property as the WAGGGS World Bureau in northern London.
- Pax Lodge is named in honor of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell’s family homes, Pax Hill in England and Paxtu in Kenya.
- Popular activities include touring historic sites in London, attending the theater, working with local Girl Guide groups, and exploring the many unique neighborhoods of London.
- Pax Lodge is often used as a hostel for non Girl Scout/Girl Guide individuals and families.
- For more information, check out their website: <https://www.wagggs.org/en/our-world/world-centres/pax-lodge/>



## Kusafiri

- Unlike the other world centres, Kusafiri is a roving world center and moves from one location to another, all on the continent of Africa.
- Kusafiri has held events in Ghana, South Africa, Rwanda, Kenya, Nigeria, Benin, Madagascar, and Uganda.
- The first Kusafiri event was held in 2012.
- Kusafiri means “to journey” in Swahili, the native language of Kenya.
- Programs at Kusafiri have different themes, but each showcases the unique cultural components of the region in Africa where the event is held.
- For more information, check out their website: <https://www.wagggs.org/en/our-world/world-centres/kusafiri/about-kusafiri/>

