



WORLD CENTRES

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts runs five World Centres; Our Cabaña, 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. By meeting new friends from a diverse range of countries, cultures, and backgrounds, the World Centres also give girls and women the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the global community and an appreciation of the challenges and issues faced in different parts of the World.



Our Chalet, the first World Centre, was opened in Adelboden, Switzerland, on July 31, 1932. An American Girl Scout leader, Mrs. Helen Storrow, donated the money to build the first World Centre on the condition that it was built in Switzerland, a country that she loved. Activities include visits to waterfalls, lakes, a chocolate factory, and the local woodcarver; try climbing, hiking, and high adventure activities in summer, and sledding, snow-shoeing, winter hiking, and skiing in winter, all the while experiencing the Swiss culture.



Our Cabaña was opened in Cuernavaca (City of Eternal Spring), Mexico, on July 24, 1957. Known as where 'dreams come true', Our Cabaña offers a range of activities and programs focused on international friendship, challenge, adventure, self-development and most of all fun!! During a visit to Our Cabaña, you can visit colorful markets and the "silver town" of Taxco and take part in service projects, such as organizing activities days for local children.



Sangam is located in Pune, India and opened on October 16, 1966. Sangam provides visitors with outstanding international opportunities for lifelong learning, community action, and personal transformation. The word Sangam means 'coming together' in the ancient language of Sanskrit. Visitors to Sangam have opportunities to learn about Indian culture, to take part in community action projects with local organizations, and even to buy their very own sari to wear to a traditional Maharashtrian dinner.



Pax Lodge, originally known as Our Ark, was opened in London in 1939 after girls worldwide had raised money for it through the "Pennies Appeal." It was later replaced by Olave House, which closed in 1988. On March 15, 1991, Pax Lodge was officially opened. A visit to Pax Lodge provides opportunities to explore London, experience the Crystal Palace maze, and perhaps even visit Brownsea Island, where Lord Baden-Powell held the very first Scout camp.



Kusafiri was established on July 15, 2011 to bring the World Centre experiences to the Africa Region. Kusafiri means 'to journey' in Swahili. With no fixed site, Kusafiri changes locations across the Africa Region for every event it hosts. Using existing facilities, this innovative approach enables girls across the continent to take part in the life changing international experiences that WAGGGS programs have to offer. Kusafiri focuses on leadership and community by exploring global culture, participating in events and programs which develop key skills, and working with local partners to experience community change in action.