

Asoc. Los Guindales
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GENERAL INFORMATION:

Name of the project: Learning for self management in rural areas

Place: Algatocín (Málaga), Spain

Duration: 12 months

Starting date of activities :january 2020

Number of volunteers we need: 3

Main Activities:Garden, Work in the forest, picking up and chopping wood, ecobuilding, maintenance, cleaning etc....

Profile:Strong motivation to live in rural area

Pocket money: 150€ x month

WHO ARE WE?

We are an ESC accredited (coordinating and receiving)organisation called Los Guindales (meaning The Cherries) located in the Genal Valley in Andalusia, Spain.

General Information

We are the Cultural Association "Los Guindales" located in a mountainous geographic enclave south of Andalusia. In an area of 5 hectares, about 20 minutes from Algatocín, a small town of 800 rooms in the mountainous area of Ronda (Málaga). The activities that nourish our day to day are included in the practice of Permaculture" As a design system for the creation of human settlements in harmony with the Nature: ecologically healthy, economically viable and producing what is necessary to meet their own needs and sustainable in the long term ", as well as, the recovery of memory of this territory, collecting and

practicing local popular knowledge. We promote a Development in the Sustainable Rural Environment through the care of the land, of the people and the diversity of the planet. We carry out internships and training workshops throughout the year in various fields such as: Ecology, Permaculture, Sustainable Construction, Alternative Medicines, Practices Healthy, Horticulture and everything related to Sustainable Living. We are members of the RIE (Iberian Ecovillage Network) and a professional member of the RCP (Straw Building Net) We started this group project in 2004 with the idea of iving in Nature according to the values of care and respect for our planet Earth, as a source of life. We believe and we make lott of efforts to practice a Sustainable Development to take care of Mother Earth and of people, following as a referent many values of primitive cultures as opposed to values predominant in today's society that does not respect life. This valley is being abandoned by the locals leaving the rural area unpopulated and without a sustainable future. Throughout these years we have received many people to share the creation of living human spaces in the natural environment. Concerns that affect young people and adults on the different problems at the personal and social level of the current system, have been able be confronted with the different living examples that we are practicing as proposals alternatives to a better world. We provide experiences of "feeling, reflecting and acting" through the space of coexistence that people can develop their awareness about themselves, their relationships and their relationship with the world in which we live. An experience of maturation and awareness of the aspects and main values as human beings that we are. We are converting this farm that was abandoned about 15 years ago, in a place of life and peasant activities, following and developing our Permaculture design applied to this territory the different essential elements for the maintenance of life and our basic needs : Agricultural (pruning of fruit trees, grafts of native varieties, family ecological gardens, management and use of a chestnut forest). Water (gray water treatment, infiltration and storage). Animals (chickens breeding). Beekeeping (hives for pollination). Visitor Center: We receive people interested in our activities. Food: (Bread: elaboration of ecological bread in a wood oven, different methods of food preservation). Self-construction of our homes following the bases of the Bioconstruction Roads (arrangement and maintenance). The Los Guindales association includes two interdependent projects: -The School of Bioconstrucción Los Guindales (Training and Construction with natural materials) - La Casa Los Guindales (Naturopathy, Personal and spiritual development, Phytotherapy, Recovery of values Human and Rural Housing). Both projects are responsible for a space on the farm, creating two indipendents cores (nuclei) in the organization and coexistence in the day to day. These cores have homes, family gardens and their own permaculture designs. We are committed at a social level so we carry out different actions: Collaboration with the Town Hall, associations, training centers, schools, teacher center, etc. for the realization of workshops, conferences, conferences, works and dynamization of young people and adults.

What we are looking for: People who have the desire to live in a rural area, close to other people of different country and background; people that are not afraid of dirtying their hands in order to have an authentic experience being attentive to one's basic needs, in harmony with

the natural surroundings.

What our surroundings offer: We are located in a rich cultural identity with a history of making olive oil, honey, wine, goat and sheep cheese, bread in communal wood ovens. We are in a lush valley of oaks, chestnuts, surrounded by other farms with sheep and goats and orchards with lemons and oranges trees, avocados, vegetable gardens. We are 20 minutes walk from Algotocin one of the white villages of the region, with its population of 800 inhabitants and many opportunities to learn and exchange with locals through fairs, and all sorts of classes (flamenco, yoga, tai chi, music and more). We are also 35 minutes drive from the city of Ronda, 400 inhabitants. There are many local cultural activities and festivals organized by the City Council, Women's association Espino Valley, The Ampa and Stewards. We are not far from places with a strong history of flamenco art and other points of interest such as the beautiful Sierra of Grazalema and the Mediterranean Sea.

Personal tutoring: The participant will be granted an experienced tutor who will support them during their service with us. This person will be responsible for the follow up of all the process that we, as receiving/coordinating organisation are in charge of: travels guidance, welcome and integration, overview and security, administrative procedures, etc.

Being volunteer at Los Guindales

What you'll find: ❖ Enjoy team work with warm and open people who live each experience as an opportunity for inner exploration. ❖ Experience with familie's life within a group with more than 14 years of existence. There are always minimum 10 persons living here. ❖ Cooperate in daily tasks: vegetable garden, ecobuilding, forest maintenance, water supply, or in the house such as cooking, cleaning etc. The tasks are assigned every morning by the person responsible for each area; there is a weekly task board where we divide the main tasks. Depending on the season we follow different activity schedules. ❖ Participate in some of the collective activities, volunteers and group meetings, spontaneous workshops, meditations, our improvized meals (special menu, non casual dress)... ❖ You may participate in the workshops organised at Los Guindales, with the same conditions (fees and inscriptions) as the other participants. ❖ We speak Spanish in the daily life but some of the group also speak, english, french and italian. ❖ Accommodation will be in shared hut or shared yurt. ❖ Healthy, local or organic and mainly vegetarian food; some is grown in

our vegetable garden; . We are not strict vegetarians; we eat fish, eggs and dairy products regularly and meat once in a while. ❖ Satisfaction to be far from city life, surrounded by a generous and beautiful nature. Our farm is 20 mins. walking far from the village (Algatocín which has 800 habitants).The closer town is Ronda, 35 km. far from Algatocín. No bus saturday or sunday, only from monday to friday. ❖ A big library in Spanish, french, english lor italian anguages.

What we expect: ❖ Open and flexible cooperation. If you want to stay at Los Guindales during the weekend. ❖ Respect for our way of life (diet, education...) and our organisation (timetables, activities...). Since we are numerous we have to follow some rules otherwise our communal life would be difficult. ❖ Respect the spaces (rooms and common areas), keep them tidy and clean. ❖ The meals are organized on a rotation base: once a week more or less you will have to prepare the food for the group of volunteers. ❖ Energy is one of our more valuable resources, high consumption devices such

as hair dryers or irons are not permitted and other electric devices should be used moderately.. We don't have enough fridges for personal food. ❖ We do not consume alcohol regularly. There is a delimited zone for smokers.. ❖ Please bring with you bed sheets, towels, gloves for gardening, both warm clothes and clothes to cover up in the sun (depending the time of year you come), a hat and sunscreen (from May onwards is highly recommended). ❖ We love animals, and we have several dogs, cats and a herd of goats who live here with us, but we are afraid that you can't come with your pet(s). ❖ There is no public phone available. All mobile networks have coverage at Los Guindales.You can buy a Spanish SIM card from one of the spanish companies. In the village Algatocin there is wifi service for free. ❖ For the private use of materials and communal spaces, we request that you check beforehand with the person in charge of the EVS program at Los Guindales.

WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW SOME MORE ABOUT YOU

- Why are you interested in coming to Los Guindales as an EVS volunteer?
- What do you hope to learn?
- What do you think you can contribute?
- Are you interested on personal development?
- Are you used to physical work?
- Do you think you would feel the need to go away at weekends?

- What are your hobbies or activities you like to do in your free time?
- Do you have any special diet or medication needs?
- Other important things?

Please answer to us if you are really interested to join our group

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Greetings Loris Carboni