



“Vivero Forestal Hacienda la Cruz”

Volunteers informations

Project description

The “Hacienda la Cruz” forest nursery is a family reforestation project located in La Cruz, Michoacán, Mexico, in which we are dedicated to the production, transportation, planting and monitoring of different species of forest trees annually. We reforest areas damaged by unsustainable logging, change of use from forest to agricultural land, forest fires, pests, natural disasters, among others. Our purpose is to protect the ecosystem of temperate coniferous forests, in addition to preserving its biodiversity and its microclimate. In this way, we have managed to plant more than 9.45 million trees since 1993 thanks to the support of the Forests For Monarchs program, volunteers and our team.

We accompany our work with ecological projects and education and awareness activities on environmental protection and integral ecology for schools, communities and individuals. We also offer an economic alternative to small landowners that changed from forest land use to agricultural land, which are still in a forest zone, to restore the forest with forest plantations, which will give them an economic income and access to the wood they need, preventing them from continuing to cut down the forests in what remains of the natural forest.

We want to open the doors of the nursery to the world and thus increase the positive impact of the project thanks to the support and collaboration of everyone.



Help

Volunteers participating in the project will learn a lot about environmental protection, the tree production process and the organization of reforestation. They will have the possibility to visit different reforestation sites and spend time in the forest.

We welcome volunteers throughout the year, their help depends on the work we do during that period.

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cultural tasks of care and maintenance of trees (irrigation, weeding ...).- General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...).- Organic fertilization to maintain the vitality of the soil where the trees develop.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cultural tasks of care and maintenance of trees (irrigation, weeding ...).- General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...).- Organic fertilization to maintain the vitality of the soil where the trees develop.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disassemble frost protection plastic.
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural tasks of care and maintenance of trees (irrigation, weeding ...). - General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...). - Organic fertilization to maintain the vitality of the soil where the trees develop. - Dismantle shade nets so that the trees have sun. - Monitoring the health and survival rate of trees, soil conditions, and sustainability practices of owners and communities.
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural tasks of care and maintenance of trees (irrigation, weeding ...). - General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...). - Organic fertilization to maintain the vitality of the soil where the trees develop. - Organized visits to the Hacienda la Cruz Forest Nursery. - Weekly course on integral ecology in the halls of Hacienda la Cruz.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural tasks of care and maintenance of trees (irrigation, weeding ...). - General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...). - Organic fertilization to maintain the vitality of the soil where the trees develop. - Organized visits to the Hacienda la Cruz Forest Nursery. - Weekly course on integral ecology in the halls of Hacienda la Cruz.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decrease in cultural tasks for the care and maintenance of trees (irrigation, weeding ...). - Consecutive decrease in organic fertilization to adapt the trees to the natural area where they will be planted without much special care. - General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...). - Organized visits to the Hacienda la Cruz Forest Nursery. - Weekly course on integral ecology in the halls of Hacienda la Cruz.
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decrease in cultural tasks for the care and maintenance of trees (irrigation, weeding ...). - General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...). - Tree packing for transportation. - Transport of trees to plantation sites. - Distribution of trees to beneficiaries. - Organization and planting of trees in reforestation sites.
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decrease in cultural tasks for the care and maintenance of trees (irrigation, weeding ...). - General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...). - Tree packing for transportation. - Transport of trees to plantation sites. - Distribution of trees to beneficiaries. - Organization and planting of trees in reforestation sites.
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...). - Tree packing for transportation. - Transport of trees to plantation sites. - Distribution of trees to beneficiaries. - Organization and planting of trees in reforestation sites. - Collection and preparation of seeds. - Tray washing. - Tray filling.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tray washing. - Tray filling. - Preparation and cleaning of the modules (installation of shade nets to protect against birds, service for the irrigation robots ...). - Sowing.
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sowing - Temperature and pH control. - Production identification. - Irrigation application. - Organic fertilization to maintain the vitality of the soil where the trees develop. - Installation of frost protection plastics.
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sowing - Cultural tasks of care and maintenance of trees (irrigation, weeding ...). - General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...). - Organic fertilization to maintain the vitality of the soil where the trees develop.



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Alternative projects and university internships

There is the possibility of volunteering on an alternative project, a thesis problem, or a university internship depending on the volunteer's abilities and particular aspirations.

Some examples :

- General maintenance of the nursery (irrigation systems, fertilization, warehouses ...).
- Operation of the incubator (administration, logistics ...).
- Ecological project (upcycling, self-sufficiency (permaculture, food forest, honey production, transformation of production into products ...)).
- Art project (forest or nursery decoration, artistic upcycling ...)
- Social networks and websites (visual and written content ...).
- Scientific study (on water, land, air, ecosystems, biodiversity, climate ...) in order to obtain interesting data on the environmental issue or on the production of trees.
- Educational program for integral ecology (personal, social and planetary ecology).
- Program of visits to the nursery (activities, spaces ...).





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Spoken languages

Spanish: fluent
French: fluent
English : fluent

Accommodation

Volunteers are received directly next to the nursery, at Hacienda la Cruz, which was built 441 years ago and renovated more than 35 years ago. It is located in the mountains of Michoacán, it is for us an oasis of life, full of history, preserved in the traditional way and decorated with magnificent works of art. It is a perfect place to disconnect, stroll through the forest, in the gardens or lose yourself in its corridors built manually during the Spanish colonization.

We have 2 rooms, each one has a private bathroom, one with 2 single beds and a queen bed, and another with 1 king, 1 queen and 2 single beds, everything is furnished. The water comes from the springs in the forest, it is drinking water and is heated with a gas boiler. The rooms are located between two gardens and are surrounded by a forest through which a small river passes, a few steps from the nursery.

We do not offer food, but if you like, we shop together for basic foods and divide the total price by the people who are going to eat, and we cook all together. If so, the shared breakfast is from 7:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. and lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. The rest depends on each one.



Schedule

Volunteer help hours are 4 hours a day, 5 days a week. In the nursery on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m., he helps in the general cleaning of the Hacienda (its rooms, gardens, common areas, kitchen room...)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:15	Coffee/tea	Coffee/tea	Coffee/tea	Coffee/tea	Coffee/tea
7:30	Nursery	Nursery	Nursery	Nursery	Nursery
8:00	Nursery	Nursery	Nursery	Nursery	Nursery



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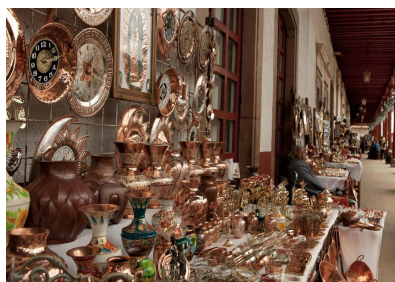
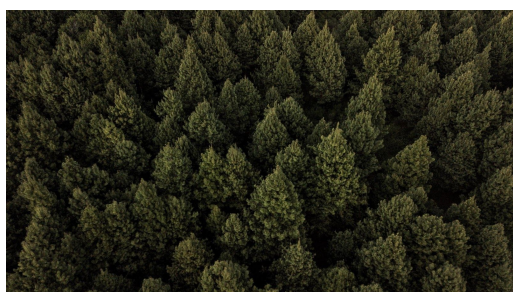
9:00	Nursery	Nursery	Nursery	Nursery	Nursery
10:00	Nursery	Nursery	Nursery	Nursery	Nursery
11:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:00	Hacienda	Hacienda	Hacienda	Hacienda	Hacienda
12:30	End of the day	End of the day	End of the day	End of the day	End of the day

Learning opportunities and cultural exchange

During free hours, volunteers can find activities to do inside the Hacienda, such as reading in the gardens, spending time with animals (dogs, cats, turtles, birds, chickens, ponies, horses, ostriches, rabbits ...), use the games room or play outside (basketball, soccer, ping pong, badminton, mini football, board games ...), and go for a run or use the gym for sports. It is also possible to take a walk through the natural forest, where there is also a small pond and spring water pools where it is possible to bathe. Once night falls, it is possible to warm up around a bonfire in the forest or in a fireplace inside the Hacienda.

During free days, volunteers can visit nearby tourist attractions and “magical towns” such as Santa Clara del Cobre, 20 minutes from Hacienda la Cruz, which is a city known for its artisanal copper work. Volunteers can also eat traditional Mexican food 25 minutes from the Hacienda in Zirahuén, just after diving into the beautiful lake in "green water", where it is possible to swim, kayak, ride a horse or motorcycle. Pátzcuaro is a beautiful city 45 minutes from the Hacienda, with a lake containing 7 islands, a beautiful main square, and a large market. You can visit pyramids like Tzintzuntzan 17 km from Pátzcuaro on the shore of the lake, or the archaeological zone of Ihuatzio, you can also spend a quiet afternoon at the cinema. Morelia is the capital of Michoacán and the capital of culture located 1 hour and 30 minutes from the Hacienda. There you can spend a lively night in the bars and parties organized on weekends, you can also attend different cultural shows such as theater and dance.

Volunteers have access to the nursery office as a work space with wifi and computer, or they can work on their computer with Hacienda's wifi.





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Travel information

For the trip, it is recommended to fly to Morelia airport (MLM), which is the closest, or to Mexico City (MEX), and take a bus to Pátzcuaro.

For public transportation from the Hacienda, there are "combis" that are small cars that cross all cities to pick up and drop off passengers at common stops. These cars circulate every hour and charge 17 pesos to go to Santa Clara del Cobre, 25 pesos to Pátzcuaro ... There are also buses and taxis to go to Morelia for 65 pesos.



More information

- We have domestic and wild animals.
- Access to the Internet and the telephone network is limited by signal and network.
- We are smokers.
- We welcome families.
- We can receive up to 10 volunteers.

Contact

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