

Casita Verde – Guidelines



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Casita Verde Guidelines

What is Casita Verde?

Casita Verde is an ecological centre in Ibiza and the official headquarters of the Association Ibiza Ecologic. We are an 'experiential learning centre for the study and application of permaculture techniques'. We are situated in and around a rented farmhouse, near the highest point of a beautiful valley in the municipality of San Jose on the Mediterranean island of Ibiza.

Since the foundation of Casita Verde in 1993, the original farm and outhouses have been gradually transformed by a group of international volunteers, from a small country dwelling with over 5 hectares of land, into a fully functional and modern environmental education facility. With a growing number of supporters from all over the world, Casita Verde presents many opportunities to see and feel how a more sustainable way of life is within reach of every one of us.

Our General Philosophy

Many human beings are seeking to reconnect with mother Earth again, after discovering the futility of modern western lifestyles. Our main intention here at Casita Verde is to show others what we have learned collectively in our search for a greater understanding and respect for our environment, as well as towards each other. The green heart symbol that we use for all our activities represents our love & respect for the planet Earth and is a reflection of our personal evolution towards becoming more caring planetarians!

Working in Communal Projects

There's always lots to do at Casita Verde regarding the improvement of the facilities, plus the constant maintenance of existing installations and extensive gardens. However, there are also less physical jobs like designing new ideas for environmental education programmes, preparing artistic materials for events, computer and office work, researching and translating, plus learning & exchanging healthy cooking skills. Although every volunteer may have their own speciality, living in Casita Verde means you're living in a community, so we ask you to help with the daily activities in the centre where needed, including household tasks.

You can check the jobs list with the coordinator, Chris, and choose something you are willing and able to do.

As a volunteer we ask for a minimum commitment of 6 hours work per day, except in the case of special fundraising events, where depending on the kind of event being undertaken, we may request an additional effort from our volunteers.

In order for the centre to function economically, we all collaborate throughout the weekly fundraising event each Sunday, including the pre-preparation of food on Saturday afternoons where necessary. After our Sunday event, we take Monday off, so we are normally working from Tuesday to Sunday.

When you arrive as a new volunteer, a **two week probation period** is followed by an assessment meeting, where both the volunteer and the core team at Casita Verde can discuss the possibilities of an on-going volunteer programme, always depending on the current needs of the centre and the capabilities of the individual concerned.

Daily Meetings

A general meeting for all the people staying in Casita Verde is held every morning from Tuesday to Sunday at 09.30. Other meetings are possible, as the need arises.

General Maintenance and Order of the Centre

As well as the fact that we are open to the public on Sundays, we also receive many unexpected visits. It is therefore really essential to maintain all spaces clean and tidy **AT ALL TIMES**. We don't want the public to think we're a bunch of disorganised hippies. This means that volunteers must **keep their own spaces in good order** as well as assist in maintaining the order of common spaces such as kitchens, showers, toilets, sitting rooms, garden areas etc.

If you leave the premises, please tell someone else so at least one person knows you are out.

Conflict Management

All resident volunteers are expected to demonstrate flexibility and adaptability to both the environment, the centre and the people you have to live and work with, considering the big diversity of cultures and minds. In the case of a conflict, it is suggested to treat it first among the affected people and try to find a solution, then if this is not possible, you should contact the coordinator of the centre.

Food, Drink and Eating Times

In order to save time, energy & resources, food is prepared twice a day. For financial reasons, a prudent use of food resources is greatly appreciated.

Breakfast 09.00 – 09.30
Lunch 14:00 - 15:00
Dinner You are free to prepare food for yourself.

Please avoid using the kitchen during sleeping hours.

The food offered in the centre is generally vegan, but we also have eggs and honey available if you wish. We cannot prepare specific menus, as cooking for the group is based on preparing a set menu from food available, at least for the lunchtime meal. At no time should you bring any meat products into Casita Verde.

Allergies or intolerance to specific products should be communicated prior to arriving.

Ecological Production

While the centre has a reasonably sized vegetable garden and has many Aloe Vera plants plus carob, olive, almond, figs, lemons and orange trees, it is not considered as a farm for food production or for organic farming on a larger scale. We therefore also rely on products bought or exchanged with our friends, neighbours and local markets.

The Abuse of Alcohol and Drugs

We must show the world that we can live a more healthy and environmentally conscious lifestyle. We therefore avoid the excessive consumption of alcohol and chemical drugs. Normally, on working days the consumption of alcohol or mind altering stimulants during the day is forbidden (apart from the occasional glass of wine or beer with the food).

Animals

We love animals, but prefer the volunteer residents do not bring pets as a general rule. However, possible exceptions should be discussed with Chris before arriving.

Organic Products

In the centre, we all use eco-friendly products such as toothpaste, shower gels, soaps etc. We like to stay free from harmful agents as far as possible, so that the recycling of water does not lead to soil contamination (all our vegetable gardens function using recycled 'Grey' water).

Donations

Casita Verde is mainly financed by the donations received during our Sunday fundraising events. We also receive sponsorship from Greenheart International based in Chicago and receive revenue in the form of donations from students who come to participate in our Casita Verde Experience offered through Greenheart Travel.

We participate in City and Guilds Community Development courses offered each Spring via Squared Circle S.L. in Ireland and from other volunteers who come to participate in the Casita Verde Experience offered by the centre itself.

Personal Health Insurance

Volunteers working in Casita Verde are not insured for accidents or illness. It is therefore essential that volunteers provide their own insurance. You will be asked in any case to sign a responsibility waiver on arrival.

Representation of Green Heart

Finally, living in Casita Verde means that you become the 'face' of our Greenheart philosophy, so please be aware of this when we have any visits, especially on our weekly Sunday events.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

The Ibiza Ecologic Team