

Casita Verde Granada – Guidelines



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Casita Verde Granada Guidelines

What is Casita Verde?

The first and original Casita Verde was founded in 1993 by Chris Dews in a beautiful valley in the municipality of San Jose on the Mediterranean island of Ibiza. Since its foundation, 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.

Casita Verde Granada is an ecological centre in the beautiful Andalusian countryside, approx. 40km from the Spanish city of Granada. We are an 'experiential' learning centre studying the application of permaculture techniques' and situated in and around a farmhouse at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains.

With a growing number of supporters of our movement from all over the world, Casita Verde centres present 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 of us are seeking to reconnect with mother Earth again, after discovering the futility of modern, consumer driven 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 including the improvement of the facilities, maintenance of existing installations and the 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 volunteer coordinator and choose something you are willing and able to do.

As a volunteer we ask for a minimum commitment of 4 to 5 hours work per day. In addition we have special fundraising events, where depending on the kind of event being undertaken, we may request an additional effort from our volunteers.

In each centre we offer up to two-weeks of volunteering experience, for which we request a modest donation. If you want to volunteer for longer we'll hold an assessment meeting with you where we can discuss the possibilities of an on-going volunteer programme, always depending on the current needs of the centre and your needs and capabilities.

Daily Meetings

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

General Maintenance and Order of the Centre

We are open to the public and receive many unexpected visits. It is therefore essential to maintain all spaces at the centre 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.

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 14:30 - 15:30

Dinner You are free to prepare meals for yourself.

Please avoid using the kitchen during sleeping hours.

We follow a plant-based diet and so 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 we have aspirations for the centre to be supported by our own fruit and vegetable gardens, we are still developing these and 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 healthier 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 the centre manager 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.

Donations

Casita Verde is mainly financed by the donations received during our fundraising events and from volunteers who stay with us. We also receive sponsorship from the European Erasmus Plus program – details of which are on our website.

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.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Rey and the Granada Team