Ham Castle

Two weeks of hands-on work at a historic site





At the castle walls and beside one of the wooden sheds.

A place to lend a hand

At the Château de Ham, young volunteers contribute to the upkeep of the site in two practical ways. They build wooden sheds and clear weeds so the work area is easier to reach. The two-week stay also leaves time to explore the area, visit exhibitions and enjoy games together.

Working on site



Sawing timber in the castle yard.

Carpentry

Building a shed starts with individual pieces of timber. In the work yard, participants hold boards steady and saw them to length by hand. The photograph on the previous page shows how the boards fit together to form the side of a shed.

Clearing access

Weeding has a practical purpose here. Clearing vegetation makes it easier for people to get into the site and move around the work area.



Close-up work inside a brick opening.



A shared work area with hand tools and trays.

For a first-time volunteer, even a small task has a visible result: a board cut to size, a shed taking shape or a clearer way through the grounds.

Beyond the castle gates

After working on a historic site, participants had the chance to see other buildings and exhibitions as visitors. The project photos capture three different ways of exploring the region.



An evening light show

Coloured light picks out the arches and carved figures on a cathedral façade after dark.





Exhibits and a waterfront walk

Indoors, a display invites a closer look. Outside, the waterfront offers a view of the town from across the water.

Time off together

The workcamp paired practical tasks with time to relax. Participants valued that mix: after concentrating on a job together, they could try a game, spend time at the beach or join a local event.



Outdoor games

A painted target and a set of rings make a simple challenge: take aim and have a go.



A beach outing

An outing to the coast gives everyone time together on the sand, away from the work yard.



A local gathering

An open-air event brings participants into the crowd for an evening out.



Between activities

A pause for a photo captures another side of the workcamp: getting to know the people working alongside you.