



Permaculture project in Vietnam



Quick Overview

Join our permaculture program in Cu Chi District, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam!

Embrace the opportunity to contribute to sustainable farming practices in a serene 10-hectare eco-farm located just 35 km from the city center. As a volunteer, you'll be actively involved in various tasks, from tending to crops and feeding animals to enjoying a camping experience amidst the scenic beauty of the farm.

Program Description

Nestled 35 km away from Ho Chi Minh City, our ecological farm in Cu Chi District spans 10 hectares, providing an ideal space for sustainable agriculture initiatives. This program seeks dedicated volunteers to assist in unleashing the full potential of this vast, yet underexplored, farm. The farm also features a cozy camping area, utilized for weekend retreats for eco-tourists.

Volunteers will engage in daily activities guided by experienced farm personnel.

Tasks include tending to the 15 cats, 5 dogs, various poultry, and other farm animals. The working hours from Monday to Friday are a minimum of 4-6 hours per day, ensuring a meaningful and immersive experience.

As a special treat, volunteers will have the opportunity to participate directly in the harvest of fresh, organic produce cultivated on the farm. Enjoy the satisfaction of reaping the rewards of your efforts, and relish the chance to savor clean, locally grown fruits straight from the source. This hands-on experience adds a delightful dimension to your ecological farming journey.

Aims & Objectives

- Help the local villagers and promote cultural exchange
- Increase your knowledge of local life and farming methods
- Assist the effort with extra hands

Schedule

Monday to Friday

You will be working for 4-5 hours. Expected Schedule:

- 7:00-8:00: Breakfast
- 8:00-10:00/11:00: Clearing the camping area, distributing feed, watering plants, harvesting fruits, and attending to the animals.
- 10:00/11:00-14:00: Lunch, leisure time, and entertainment.
- 14:00-16:00/17:00: Distributing feed, cultivating land, planting vegetables, maintaining garden beds, and cleaning work areas.
- 18:30: Dinner, followed by free time or teaching English to local staff/farmers.

You will arrive in Ho Chi Minh City on Sunday and spend one night at the NGO's main accommodation with some of the other volunteers.

On Monday, you will participate in **an orientation day**. In the morning, there will be a presentation about the NGO, and in the afternoon, you will attend a session on Vietnamese culture, basic language skills, and information about possible nearby excursions. At the end of the day, you will be transferred to the project site, located about 35 kilometers away.

**This schedule can be changed and/or amended depending on weather conditions, local conditions and unforeseen circumstances.*

Ho Chi Minh City

As the country's largest city, bustling with energy, innovation, and constant movement, Ho Chi Minh City—formerly known as Saigon—is the economic heart of Vietnam and the main hub of the southern region. This cosmopolitan, free-spirited metropolis combines the old and new Vietnam within a compact urban space, embodying both the city's past and future. Ho Chi Minh City is not only Vietnam's primary economic center but also carries numerous cultural and historical imprints from its more than 300 years of developmental history.

The Cu Chi area is renowned for its historical significance, particularly the Cu Chi Tunnels, an extensive network of underground tunnels used during the Vietnam War. Beyond its historical attractions, Cu Chi boasts lush landscapes, rubber plantations, and serene rural scenery, uniquely blending history and nature.

Accommodation

Participants will stay in tents, with a maximum of two individuals per tent, separated by gender, equipped with a fan (no air conditioning). There is an additional charge for an air-conditioned tent.

Tents will be cleaned once a week. Shared bathrooms and toilets are available for use. Participants also have the option to stay with local staff in rooms accommodating 6 people (separated by gender), provided with a mattress, blanket, pillow, mosquito net (if needed), and a fan. Please note that the employee's area may have frequent entry and exit of dogs and cats.

Local staff members will share living quarters with program participants, creating an inclusive and collaborative living environment. Their friendliness and willingness to help ensure a warm and supportive atmosphere for everyone involved. This cohabitation provides a unique opportunity for cultural exchange, enabling participants to learn more about the local way of life directly from those who call the farm home. Please note that the employee's area may have frequent entry and exit of dogs and cats.

Meals

Planned meals include:

- Breakfast: cereals with milk, fruit platter, sandwich with ham/eggs, instant noodles.
- Lunch and dinner: typically Vietnamese meals with rice/noodles, with pork/beef/fish/seafood, and fried vegetables/soup. Participants can purchase their own food (kitchen available for use), and you are free to consume vegetables from the farm.

However, meals will also be prepared according to your dietary needs, so please inform us in advance.

Additional Requirements

- Bring comfortable working clothes (preferably modest clothing covering knees and shoulders for women and t-shirts, trousers, and shoes for men) and follow the dress code policy.
- An environmentally friendly sunblock is advised to protect you from the sun, and please carry with you preventive agents, such as mosquito repellents, as well as other medicines for headaches and diarrhea. Moreover, bring personal medications which you require, as specific prescriptions are not readily available here.
- Must be able to endure working outdoors under full sun and heat, and have some relative physical stamina.
- Have completed or recommended the following vaccines: hepatitis A, hepatitis B, typhoid, rabies, meningitis, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis), pneumonia, and influenza.

Additional Equipment

- Modest clothing - appropriate for farming tasks. Should provide covering for your shoulders down past your knees for your time at the project.
- Work gloves, sun hat and boots are suggested for farm work