



Environmental and Agricultural Projects in Ireland



In this program, you have the opportunity to take part in agricultural and environmental projects focused on sustainability, working alongside eco-centres and organic educational farms.

1. Eco-Centre Program

In this program, you can join two eco-centres—one specializing in organic vegetable cultivation and the other focused on sustainable construction (tiny houses).

These eco-centres host various events such as workshops, training sessions, and conferences. They feature multiple organic fruit and vegetable gardens as well as wooded areas. These sites promote a sustainable lifestyle with a low environmental impact.

Your role

As a volunteer, you will take part in various tasks, including:

- Maintaining organic gardens and outdoor spaces
- Infrastructure maintenance
- Administrative and organizational support
- Preparing meals with local and organic products

2. Organic & Educational Farm

This program involves farms dedicated to preserving and improving Ireland's natural habitats. These farms raise free-range chickens, livestock, and bees, while also growing organic fruits and vegetables.

Additionally, these farms have an educational role, welcoming visitors—including school and community groups—to raise awareness about sustainable farming practices.

Your role will involve participating in the following tasks:

- Maintaining fruit and vegetable gardens
- Taking part in various outdoor tasks
- Feeding the animals
- Assisting with general farm maintenance

Arrival and Orientation

Volunteers can arrive at **Cork airport** (well connected to Paris, London, Munich, Amsterdam and more). **Participants are picked up** by a driver who will be waiting with a sign displaying the participants' name.

Volunteers **stay at a pre-booked hostel for their first night in Cork city**. The hostel is located in the city centre, a very short walk from all the shops and attractions of the city.

After checking in, participants have some free time to rest and to discover Cork city. The hostel staff is very helpful and provides participants with information on what to do, where to eat etc. In the evening, participants will be brought to a local restaurant for a welcome dinner.

On the morning of their second day, participants meet the local staff at the hostel reception and will walk to the venue where the orientation workshop takes place. The orientation workshop lasts approximately 3.5h.

After the orientation workshop and their lunch, participants take part in a 2h walking tour of Cork City.

During the tour, they learn practical advice, cultural and historical information. At the end of the tour, participants are brought to the bus or train station and go to their project location. In some cases, depending on the location and availability of project mentor, the transfer could be done the following morning, after a second night in Cork city.

Departures

Participants can leave either on their last **Saturday** or **Sunday**. The airports are well connected by public transport it is something participants find easy to do. **The cost of the return transfer is not included in the program.** We advise participants to book a flight **departing later in the afternoon** as it will take time to reach the airport by public transport.

Free Time and Excursions

Ireland is a wonderful place to visit. From vibrant, exciting cities like Dublin, Cork or Galway or Belfast to breath-taking landscapes along the Wild Atlantic Way. Attractions include the world-famous sceneries of Connemara and West Cork, the ring of Kerry, the cliffs of Moher, the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin etc.

There is also a multitude of less touristic but equally interesting places to visit and activities to do such as whale watching in county Cork! CTL staff will give participants further information on visits and excursions during their orientation and in the welcome pack.

Accommodation

Host family (up to 16 weeks)

Staying with a host family allows participants to be fully immersed within the Irish culture. Every host family goes through a thorough selection process, we make sure our participants are placed with welcoming and supportive hosts. Host families comes in different shapes and sizes: e.g. parents and children with a spare room, a single host mother, or a retired couple. Families give participants an instant support system and help them learn the local language and culture. Most host family offer participants generally their own single room. On occasion participants might have to share a bedroom with another participant from the same gender.

Programs with host family accommodation are limited to 16 weeks. For participants willing to stay longer, a combination of 2 programs may be arranged.

Residential & Shared Houses

Residential accommodation means that the participants are hosted in the project facilities. They are generally sharing the facilities with other international volunteers and can either have a single room or share a bedroom with other volunteers from the same gender. Volunteers find it enjoyable to share accommodations with likeminded people and they generally end up doing activities together during their free time.

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Monday

- Pick up and transfer (if arrival in Cork airport)
- Checking in at Sheilas hostel
- Welcome dinner

Tuesday - General Orientation Day and Transfer to Project

- Pick up at hostel at 9.15am and transfer to the venue for the orientation
- Orientation workshop (3.5h)
- Lunch
- Walking tour in Cork city (1-3pm)
- Transfer to the project
- All meals included (breakfast at hostel)

Wednesday - Introduction to Project and Volunteer Work

- Introduction to volunteer work with project mentor
- All meals included

During the rest of the program

- Volunteer work continues 5 days/week
- 2 days off per week with free time
- All meals included except when volunteer leaves the project location during free time

Last day

- Participant travels to the airport
- Departure transfer cost not included