



FAQ

On volunteering in the Central Apennines

Find frequently asked questions and answers below

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1 - VOLUNTEER APPLICATION PROCESS

1.1 *Can I apply last minute?*

Yes, you can. However be aware that sometimes places fill up quite quickly, even eight months or more before the volunteering start date. But there is no official limit for your application as sometimes a place stays available until the last moment or we could get a cancellation.

2 - ACCOMMODATION

2.1 *Can I bring my dog or other pet to the accommodation?*

We do not have accommodation that can host pets, sorry.

2.2 *Can I express a preference regarding the house?*

Yes, we will keep that in mind, but we will assign a house according to the availability and other factors. Be sure to ask again about your assigned accommodation close to your arrival, as it might change in time.

2.3 *Can I express my preference regarding a person I would like to live with?*

Yes, you can, but we cannot guarantee that you will end up in the same house, due to availability, other factors and last minute changes.

2.4 *Are there sheets, blankets and towels at the accommodation?*

Yes, there are: you do not need to bring your own. Questions on a sleeping bag? See the *What Do I Need To Bring* section.

2.5 *Are there single and shared rooms?*

There are only shared bedrooms (2-3 people per room).

3 - FEE

3.1 Is food included in the monthly fee?

No, food is not included in the fee. You can do your shopping in the nearby shop or at the supermarket and then cook in the shared kitchen.

3.2 When do I pay my fee?

The fee is payed monthly, on the week before every month you spend here.

4 - ACTIVITIES

4.1 Is there a difference between the activities according to the house I am assigned?

There is no major difference between the house in Casali d'Aschi and the house in Ortona dei Marsi. Pettorano sul Gizio generally has more activities arranged with the local Reserve and fewer activities on Griffon vultures.

4.2 Is there a difference between the different times of the year in terms of activities?

Mostly not, although there are some occasional activities that are done only sometimes during the year (some specific wildlife surveys...). The biggest difference is for the winter months, February to March and November to December: due to the weather many of the activities are not carried out (e.g. no corridor cameratraps, fewer electric fences...) and we focus a lot more on Griffon vulture monitoring. Of course, with climate change and different needs arising at different times, the programme is always liable to change.

4.3 Are activities done with staff?

As a volunteer you will carry out a mix of activities with staff and without (for example in a group of 3-4 volunteers only).

4.4 Are weekends off?

Mostly yes. Unless there is a specific event, and in that case, we will try to give an extra day off the previous or following days.

4.5 How do I travel to and from the place where we do field work?

We have several pickup trucks and cars that we use to travel for the activities.

4.6 Do I need to have a driver's license?

It is not mandatory, but we try to have a couple of drivers in each of the volunteer groups/houses. You need to have had a valid driver's license for at least three years to be able to drive our vehicles.

4.7 What is the weather like?

Variable. The weather in the mountains is always variable. In general, in the winter the weather can be very cold, with temperatures varying between -10° and +15°. In the summer the weather is usually hot, reaching 35° during a hot day and at lower elevations. But consider that at higher elevations, in the evening and early morning, you can also need a hat, gloves and warm jacket (for example, even while doing a wildlife observation in the middle of August). Whichever season you come in, be sure to have plenty of layers of clothes to be able to adapt to varying temperatures at different elevations

5 - UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

5.1 Can I write my thesis or research project with you?

Yes, you can apply to do a thesis or research project with us during your application or interview. We will then evaluate according to availability and requirements.

5.2 Can I apply for Erasmus with your project?

Yes.

6 - WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING

6.1 Do you recommend bringing a sleeping bag?

Yes, if you have space. But it is not mandatory. It could be useful if we happen to have the occasional dawn wildlife survey and sleep in a tent, or if you want to go to a mountain hut in your free time.

6.2 Are there sheets, blankets and towels at the accommodation?

Yes, there are: you do not need to bring your own.

6.3 Should I bring my car?

Your car is not needed for the activities.

Although, if you want to be independent in the weekends and free time, to visit the area, you can consider bringing it.

There is public transport but it is not always well-connecting or frequent.

7 - GETTING HERE

7.1 Do you pick me up at the airport?

No, you should take local transport to get closer to the accommodation.

8 - VOLUNTEERING PERIOD AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

8.1 Can I volunteer year-round?

The volunteering programme is active only from the 1st February to mid-December.

8.2 Can I come for a shorter stay?

We ask volunteers to come for at least one month, and recommend at least two or three months. This is because there are a lot of things to learn and it takes time to train every volunteer. A very high turn-over would not be sustainable for us. For this reason, shorter stays of two-three weeks can be discussed but are not always an option.

If you want to have a taste of what we do in a different and shorter format, and contribute to the Bear Fund, consider joining a [Rewilding Week](#).

8.3 Is there a maximum amount of time I can stay?

No.

8.4 Is there an age limit?

You should be above 18, but there is no other age limit. Other factors to consider are: physical fitness to walk in the mountains and if you are happy to share the accommodation with other people of different ages.

8.5 Should I be fluent in Italian?

No, we use English with the volunteers. However, we highly recommend learning some Italian before coming so that you can interact with the local community - an important part of our work.

