

## Jaguar de Madera

Bio construction, Permaculture and Bike-machines

### DESCRIPTION OF MLTV

Code	Name	Location	Type	Dates	Age	Vols	Fee
NATMLTV1416	Wood Jaguar	San Cristobal de las Casas Chiapas	MANU/CONS/ENVI	Any day of the year (subject to availability)	18+	5	2,000 MXN

\* Volunteers will have the option of paying 450 pesos additionally per week in order to include 3 meals from Monday to Friday.

**Project:** The Jaguar de Madera project is an educational institution of eco-technologies founded in 2008 in order to promote the use of bio construction, permaculture, carpentry and cultural exchange. After a rescuing and cleaning process of a vacant lot, and with the support and collaboration of other organizations, the rehabilitation and construction of what would become the learning center of uses and applications of different alternative recycling technologies and natural resources was performed. The mission of Jaguar de Madera is to achieve efficient use of resources, sustainable self-sufficiency and upgrading of the quality of life with a positive impact in the environment. Some bio construction techniques that are used are: superadobe, earthships, construction with bottles, cob and mud wall. It also develops organic agriculture projects and renewable energies such as “byke-machines”, solar panels and wood stoves rocket type. Likewise, the members of the center practice an alternative philosophy of energetic Kung Fu, with the slogan *Learn to fight to not fight. The warrior's battles are with himself*, whereupon they include a spiritual sense to their labor (optional practice for volunteers).

**Requirements:** Volunteers interested in participating in this project must: be over 18 years; have an open mind in order to work in a completely ecological environment and in contact with nature; be willing to perform physical work. The project requires a minimum stay of one month.

**Work:** Volunteers will have the opportunity to learn and practice various techniques of bio construction, using local and inexpensive recycled materials as well as natural resources. The labors will depend on the weather conditions and the requirements of the center, but it is necessary to consider that it is about physical work. Activities will specifically consist on: assistance in the design, organization, and maintenance of the workshop as well as demonstrative agro ecology spaces, such as the garden and the compost area, continuing with the construction of gardens, greenhouses and pathways; implementing appropriate technologies using locally available materials, weather natural or waste; participating in bio construction projects within the center and in surrounding communities; assisting in the awareness about the practice of sustainable projects and applying the philosophy of “practicing what we preach”. Volunteers will also have the opportunity to coexist with the members of the community and to perform different recreational activities such as: hiking and rappelling, as well as to make bonfires and enjoy the nature of the place.





**Location:** The project is carried out in los Altos of the state of Chiapas, to the southeast of Mexico, in the small and charming city of San Cristobal de las Casas, which has achieved to maintain its colonial architecture as well as its Mexican taste, while it welcomes a mixture of national and international indigenous cultures. In the same way, it is a strategic starting point for tourist attractions such as: parks, lakes, Mayan archaeological sites, mangrove swamps, waterfalls and beaches. For further information: [www.vivesancristobal.com](http://www.vivesancristobal.com) / [www.visitmexico.com/en/san-cristobal-de-las-casas](http://www.visitmexico.com/en/san-cristobal-de-las-casas)



**Accommodation:** According to the requirements of the center, volunteers will have 2 lodging options. In the city of San Cristobal de las Casas, lodging will be in shared mixed rooms. It has basic services such as: hot water, dry bathrooms and equipped kitchen. The second lodging alternative is within the new eco-village under construction which is called San Jose Buena Vista, and that is located on a mountain on the outskirts of the city of San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas. Volunteers will sleep in tents (it is necessary that each individual has his/her own sleeping bag, yoga mat and tent) at the moment there are some cabins in construction. Here there are not hot water showers, however, water can be heated and

piles can be used in order to take a bath. The kitchen in the eco-village is so basic and ecologic. In regard to alimentation, volunteers will have the option of paying 450 pesos per week (additional to the participation fee) in order to include 3 meals per day from Monday to Friday; on weekends it is common that volunteers perform recreational activities outside the project. Any special dietary requirement must be informed before the beginning of the project. Volunteers who do not want to pay this fee will be able to buy and prepare their own food. All volunteers will participate in cooking and common areas cleaning roles.

**Language:** The official language of the project is Spanish, therefore a basic level of Spanish is required with the expectation that the volunteer shows an interest and a desire to improve it. Volunteers are invited to register for an intensive program in Spanish, in another international language or in an indigenous Mayan language (before or after their project) at the language school 'La Casa en el Árbol Centro Cultural'. For more information: [www.lacasaenelarbol.org](http://www.lacasaenelarbol.org)

**Transportation:** The international airport closest to San Cristóbal de las Casas is Ángel Albino Corzo which is located in Tuxtla Gutiérrez (TGZ), Chiapas. Flights to Tuxtla Gutierrez are available from Mexico City and Cancún. Both cities also have direct buses to San Cristóbal.

**Participation Fee:** Since Nataté does not receive any funding from any other institutions, each volunteer is required to pay a participation fee of 2,000 Mexican pesos per month (about EUR 120) to be paid by the volunteer upon arrival and then every month on the first 5 days of each month. This includes accommodation and advice throughout the volunteering process to ensure that both parties are fully satisfied with the work. Transportation costs are to be paid by the volunteer (12 pesos per trip). The

project offers the possibility to include 3 meals from Monday to Friday, for 450 pesos weekly directly paid to the project by the volunteer.