

# Open Houses 2026 Programme

Workcamps · Heritage Projects · Mid-term Volunteering



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# Open Houses 2026

Idea · Different types of Open Houses' projects · Terms of organisation



## The idea of Open Houses Network

Open Houses – rooms open for those who come along.

Open Houses refers to spaces that remain open to those who arrive—physically accessible, socially shared, and shaped through use rather than consumption. These are not empty buildings, but places marked by visible and invisible traces of history: structures that have evolved over centuries, formed by the lives of earlier inhabitants and continually reinterpreted by those who work, visit, and engage with them today.

Open Houses understands such sites as environments for encounter. They are intended to be filled with ideas, dialogue, and practical activity—bringing together people of different backgrounds, cultures, generations, and perspectives in processes of shared responsibility and learning.

The origins of the Open Houses Network lie in the mid-1980s, when groups of young volunteers in East Germany began restoring endangered village churches. What started as hands-on preservation soon became something broader: these buildings were not only repaired, but reactivated as lived spaces through exhibitions, music, discussions, and communal work. The projects created rare settings in which participation, creativity, and responsibility could unfold outside formal institutional frameworks.

While the political circumstances that shaped those beginnings have changed, the need for non-commercial, collectively used spaces has not diminished. Today, opportunities for people to meet, collaborate, and contribute outside market logic, rigid bureaucracy, or exclusive structures have become increasingly limited. Places understood as common goods—maintained through shared effort and open participation—are steadily disappearing.

Open Houses seeks to sustain and cultivate such environments. The network does not position itself primarily as an operator, but as an initiator and facilitator: creating conditions in which others can take part, assume responsibility, and shape activities themselves. Its projects are conceived as invitations—to contribute to heritage conservation, to test ideas through practice, and to create settings where cooperation, cultural exchange, and civic engagement can take place in tangible ways.

## The different types of Open Houses' projects

### Workcamps

For more than three decades, Open Houses has organised international workcamps at historic buildings and sites, many of them located in rural areas and embedded within cultural landscapes of high heritage value. These projects bring together volunteers from different countries to live and work collectively in modest conditions, encouraging a shared experience of responsibility, cooperation, and intercultural exchange.

The practical activities typically include landscape care, maintenance, and small-scale conservation or repair works that support the long-term preservation of the sites. Through this hands-on engagement, participants contribute directly to safeguarding local heritage while gaining insight into traditional materials, techniques, and the everyday realities of conservation outside large institutional frameworks.

Work is generally organised for approximately six hours per day, five days a week. Afternoons, evenings, and weekends are reserved for shared activities, informal learning, and visits to the surrounding region, fostering social exchange alongside the practical work.

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## Heritage Volunteers Projects

In line with this focus on heritage engagement, European Heritage Volunteers—an initiative of Open Houses—organises Heritage Volunteers Projects that combine practical conservation work with structured educational components. These projects link hands-on activities at cultural or natural heritage sites with theoretical input that provides historical, technical, and methodological context for the interventions undertaken.

Heritage Volunteers Projects address a wide range of themes, including traditional craft techniques, the revitalisation of disused monuments, the conservation of historic parks, and the maintenance of cultural landscapes. Participants contribute directly to ongoing preservation efforts while gaining insight into materials, technologies, and approaches relevant to contemporary heritage practice.

A number of these projects are implemented within the framework of the UNESCO World Heritage Volunteers initiative, part of the World Heritage Education Programme, which aims to involve young people and civil society organisations in the safeguarding and promotion of World Heritage. Since its launch in 2008, the initiative has supported hundreds of projects at World Heritage sites worldwide, bringing together international volunteers from around the world in collaborative conservation and awareness-raising activities.

In addition to projects organised directly, European Heritage Volunteers also initiates, supports, and mentors partner-led activities across Europe. The programme further includes specialised training courses dedicated to particular crafts and traditional techniques, delivered under the guidance of experienced professionals and focusing on the transmission of practical knowledge essential to heritage conservation.

## Mid Term Volunteering

Open Houses offers the opportunity to participate for a longer time in volunteer projects, too. This kind of volunteering enables the volunteers to get to know deeper the hosting organisation, its work and aims. In a timeframe between four weeks and four months the volunteers will get the chance to learn a lot about Germany, its culture, language and people.

From June till October Open Houses is looking for around fifteen Mid Term Volunteers. There are three different kinds of MTV projects: Social Camp Leading, Technical Camp Leading and Guest Guiding.

For the time of the Mid Term Volunteering accommodation, food and insurance are covered by Open Houses, the volunteers receive a small pocket money. At the beginning of their service the Mid Term Volunteers as a kind of introduction for about two weeks will take part in a Workcamp resp. Heritage Volunteering Project as regular volunteers in order to get familiar with Open Houses and the atmosphere of volunteer work.

## Terms of organisation

### Charges

For Workcamps and Building Weeks Open Houses' does not charge fees from participants sent by Alliance Members or Partner Organisations. For Heritage Volunteers Projects Open Houses charges from all participants 100 € per Project and 150 € per Training Course. Fees, which sending organisations are charging from the volunteers while sending them to Open Houses' projects are not transferred to Open Houses.

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## Age

In general participants have to be at least 18 years old. For Mid Term Volunteering projects, the age minimum is 20 years. The maximum age differs from project to project between 30 and 40 years.

## Participation terms

Participants have to take part for the whole time of the project. The working part consists in six hours per day. Be informed, that during all projects the work will take place also on rainy and cold days and be prepared for that.

## Insurance

In cases of accident and liability all participants from foreign countries are insured by Open Houses. Nevertheless, individual travel insurance is recommended. Participants from outside European Union are insured in cases of illness, too. Participants from the European Union should bring their European Health Insurance Card.

## Finances

All costs linked to the project are covered, including food, accommodation, insurance and transportation during the stay at the project. Travel costs to and from the camp place are not covered. Participants should organise their journey to and from the project place by themselves and on their own expenses. Furthermore, participants should bring their own pocket money.

## Accommodation

In most of Open Houses' camps the volunteers will live at the same places they also work on, what means that they live more or less on a building site. In most of the Heritage Volunteers Projects the accommodation is located in a certain distance to the working site. The accommodation is usually very simple; there are shared rooms with simple beds or mattresses at most of the places. Shower, toilet and kitchen are at the place, but sometimes not in the same building. The equipment is simple but fair. After work, when everybody wants to take a shower, there can be a limit of hot water.

## Food

The meals will be prepared together as they are part of the community life, what means that every participant will be responsible for the meal at least once during its stay. So, it would be very nice if the participants could bring typical recipes from home in order to introduce each other to the preparation of food from all over the world.

## Language

In general, the language spoken in the camps is English. But in all camps, there is also the possibility to practice German with other volunteers, camp leaders and the local people.

## Arrival day and time

Workcamps and Building Weeks usually start on Sunday or Monday, Heritage Volunteers Projects on Saturday or Sunday (in exceptional cases also on Mondays). The first mentioned day is always the arrival day. We ask the participants to arrive between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. so all the volunteers can already get to know each other and can have their first common dinner before the work will start at the following morning.

## How to get to the camp places

We recommend using regional public transportation such as local trains (RE or RB) and buses. Intercity and high-speed trains (IC or ICE) are considerably more expensive and are usually not necessary for reaching our project locations. Germany also has a long-distance bus network, and

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tickets purchased in advance online are often cheaper than rail tickets. For extended stays, participants may consider purchasing the Deutschlandticket, a nationwide public transport pass that allows unlimited travel on regional trains and local public transport throughout Germany (not valid on ICE/IC services). Since January 2026, the ticket costs €63 per month and is issued as a monthly subscription that can be cancelled according to the provider's terms. This can be a convenient and economical option for travel to and from the project site as well as for personal trips during the stay. Most Open Houses locations are connected to local public transportation. For short distances of up to five kilometres between the station and the camp, volunteers are expected to walk. At sites where public transport connections are limited and the distance exceeds five kilometres, we arrange a pick-up from the nearest station.

## **Leisure time**

The camp places are mostly situated in small villages in rural areas, so the participants should not expect busy places and normal city activities for the leisure time during the working days. Small trips in walking distance are possible in the afternoon. On the weekends it is possible to organise an excursion to nearby cities or to have other leisure activities.

## **What to bring**

Usually, average temperatures in Germany during the summer time are about 20° C to 30° C; during the night it will get colder. It is possible that there may be two weeks of non-stop sunshine, but every day rain is not impossible either. In September and October, it's about 8° C to 18° C.

## **Passport**

Insurance Certificates (EU-members should bring their European Health Insurance Card; those which have an individual travel insurance should bring the certificate); sleeping bag; stable work boots, really appropriate for practical work; appropriate clothes, waterproof coat; mosquito protection lotion; dictionary; typical recipes, sweets, music, instruments and games from the participants' home country for group activities.

## **PLEASE NOTE**

Open Houses does not provide Wi-Fi internet access at its project sites. At Lohra Castle, as well as at most locations where our programmes take place, there is no possibility to connect to a wireless network. Mobile phone reception is generally available; therefore, participants who require internet access must arrange this independently through their own mobile data provider. Sending organisations and participants are kindly asked to prepare accordingly in advance, as no on-site alternative can be offered.

Please also note that washing machines are not available at the camp locations.

More detailed information including additional information regarding travel advice will be later sent with the info sheet.

# Open Houses

## Workcamps & Heritage Projects 2026



# Open Houses

## Workcamps & Heritage Projects 2026



### Workcamps 2026

Page	Date	Code	Location	Type	Age	Vols
1-2	14.06. – 25.06.2026	<b>OH-W01</b>	Lohra Castle	ENVI/CONS/RENO	18-30	14
1-2	05.07. – 18.07.2026	<b>OH-W02</b>	Lohra Castle	ENVI/CONS/RENO	18-30	14
1-2	19.07. – 01.08.2026	<b>OH-W03</b>	Lohra Castle	ENVI/CONS/RENO	18-30	14
1-2	02.08. – 15.08.2026	<b>OH-W04</b>	Lohra Castle	ENVI/CONS/RENO	18-30	14
1-2	16.08. – 29.08.2026	<b>OH-W05</b>	Lohra Castle	ENVI/CONS/RENO	18-30	14
1-2	30.08. – 12.09.2026	<b>OH-W06</b>	Lohra Castle	ENVI/CONS/RENO	18-30	14
1-2	13.09. – 25.09.2026	<b>OH-W07</b>	Lohra Castle	ENVI/CONS/RENO	18-30	14
1-2	27.09. – 09.10.2026	<b>OH-W08</b>	Lohra Castle	ENVI/CONS/RENO	18-30	14

### Mid-term Volunteering 2026

Page	Date	Code	Location	Type	Age	Vols	Special requirements
<b>Camp leader</b>							
14	14.06. – 25.06.2026	<b>OH-C01</b>	Lohra Castle	SOCI	20-35	1	Basic German & good English knowledge, driving license, CV + photo, project-related motivation letter
14	04.07. – 02.08.2026	<b>OH-C02</b>	Lohra Castle	SOCI	20-35	1	
14	01.08. – 12.09.2026	<b>OH-C03</b>	Lohra Castle	SOCI	20-35	1	
14	11.09. – 09.10.2026	<b>OH-C04</b>	Lohra Castle	SOCI	20-35	1	*The camp/ technical leader can apply for longer or less than the dates mentioned (consultation with Incoming officer).
<b>Technical leader</b>							
14	14.06. – 25.06.2026	<b>OH-C05</b>	Lohra Castle	ENVI SOCI	20-70	1	Good English knowledge, driving license, CV + photo, project-related motivation letter
14	04.07. – 02.08.2026	<b>OH-C06</b>	Lohra Castle	ENVI SOCI	20-70	1	
14	01.08. – 12.09.2026	<b>OH-C07</b>	Lohra Castle	ENVI SOCI	20-70	1	*The technical leader can apply for longer or less than the dates mentioned (consultation with Incoming officer).
14	11.09. – 09.10.2026	<b>OH-C08</b>	Lohra Castle	ENVI SOCI	20-70	1	

### Heritage Projects 2026

Page	Date	Code	Location	Topic	Types	Age	Vols
3	19.07. – 01.08.2026	<b>OH-H01</b>	Marksburg Castle	Archaeology /Conservations & Restoration	CONS / RENO	20-35	14
4	19.07. – 01.08.2026	<b>OH-H02</b>	Freudenstadt	Reconstruction of parks and gardens	CONS / RENO / ENVI	20-35	14
5	19.07. – 01.08.2026*	<b>OH-H03</b>	Naumburg	Conservations & Restoration / Documentation & Research	CONS / RENO	20-35	14
6	19.07. – 01.08.2026	<b>OH-H04</b>	Lauenstein Castle	Conservations & Restoration	CONS / RENO	20-35	14
7	02.08. – 15.08.2026	<b>OH-H05</b>	Mühlhausen	Traditional wood techniques / Traditional clay techniques	CONS / RENO	20-35	10
8	02.08. – 15.08.2026	<b>OH-H06</b>	Bärnau	Traditional stone techniques / Traditional wood techniques	CONS / RENO	20-35	12
9	16.08. - 29.08.2026	<b>OH-H08</b>	Herrnhut	Documentation & Research	CONS / RENO	20-35	14
10	16.08. - 29.08.2026	<b>OH-H09</b>	Reinsberg	Technical & Industrial Heritage	CONS / RENO	20-35	14
11	16.08. - 29.08.2026	<b>OH-H10</b>	Lohra Castle	Traditional wood techniques	CONS / RENO	20-35	10
11	30.08. - 12.09.2026	<b>OH-H11</b>	Lohra Castle	Traditional wood techniques	CONS / RENO	20-35	10
12	30.08. - 12.09.2026	<b>OH-H12</b>	Niederzwönitz	Technical & Industrial Heritage	CONS / RENO	20-35	14
13	30.08. - 12.09.2026	<b>OH-H13</b>	Weimar	Traditional stone techniques / Reconstruction of parks and gardens	CONS / RENO / ENVI	20-35	14

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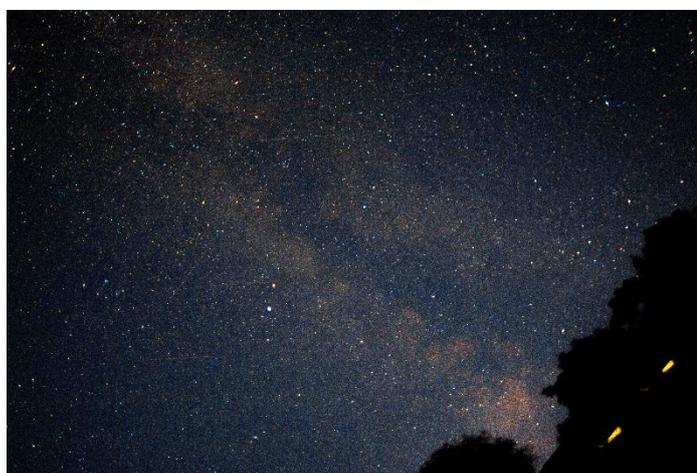


## Workcamps 2026: Lohra Castle

Lohra Castle, located in northern Thuringia, Germany, stands as one of the region's most representative medieval fortifications located in the vicinity of important trade routes that connected the medieval world of central Europe. Though its present form is modest, the castle continues to command a striking position within the hilly landscape near a natural reserve. With a history spanning over a thousand years, the site reflects multiple layers of architectural evolution, shaped by shifting political, economic, and social contexts over the centuries.



The architectural ensemble of Lohra Castle presents a rich assortment of historical styles, with elements dating back to the 11th century. Among its most remarkable features is a Romanesque double-floored chapel from the 12th century, an exceptional structure that highlights early medieval religious architecture. Traces of medieval fortifications and towers, as well as a Renaissance-era manor house, further illustrate the site's transformation from a medieval defensive stronghold into a more residential and agricultural complex.



Despite its historical significance, Lohra Castle was abandoned for several decades, leading to neglect and structural deterioration. In the 1990s, the site was rediscovered and revitalised through the efforts of Open Houses, which has since used the castle as a base for heritage conservation, cultural initiatives, and international collaboration. Today, it serves as a centre for hands-on restoration projects organised by Open Houses' daughter organisation European Heritage Volunteers, as well as training courses organised by partner educational institutions, and volunteer-driven maintenance efforts such as this workcamp, welcoming participants from across the world to engage with its unique built heritage.

### Project description

Lohra Castle, with its centuries-old architecture and vast natural surroundings, is not only a site of historical significance but also a living, functioning place that requires continuous care and attention. This workcamp offers volunteers the opportunity to actively contribute to the sustainable management of the castle, ensuring that its grounds remain accessible, welcoming, and well

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preserved. While this workcamp does not involve hands-on heritage conservation interventions, it plays an equally essential role in the long-term care of the site, allowing future visitors and guests to experience and appreciate Lohra Castle as a harmoniously maintained historic and natural space.



The volunteers will engage in seasonal maintenance tasks, including mowing and collecting overgrown grass, clearing organic

material from public areas, and ensuring that the castle's open spaces remain well-kept. These tasks are crucial for the aesthetic and functional upkeep of the historic ensemble, preserving the visual integrity of the castle and its surroundings. The work also extends to the general maintenance of communal spaces and halls, contributing to the overall experience of visitors who use the castle for cultural events, educational programmes, and retreats. The income generated from these activities is directly reinvested into the castle's conservation and educational projects, meaning that the work of volunteers directly supports heritage preservation efforts, even if not through conservation itself.

Beyond the practical tasks, the workcamp offers a unique and immersive experience. When the castle closes its doors to the public in the evenings, it becomes the volunteers' home, a place where they can experience the privilege of inhabiting a medieval site. In this way, they take on the role of stewards, caring for the space as if it were their own. The experience encourages a sense of responsibility, ownership, and connection to heritage, reinforcing the idea that heritage sites thrive not only through large-scale restoration projects but also through the daily care and attention given to them by those who value their existence.

The projects of Open Houses are based on sustainable principles, ensuring that Lohra Castle is maintained not just as a historical monument but as a living environment where culture and nature coexist. The castle is surrounded by a vast natural protected area, making its preservation an effort that combines aspects of cultural and natural heritage conservation. Through their contributions, volunteers help safeguard the balance between history and nature, keeping Lohra Castle a welcoming place for future generations of visitors, researchers, and heritage enthusiasts.

## ACCOMMODATION:

shared rooms with 2 – 5 beds in 3 guest houses, warm shower (limited hot water), 1 camp kitchen (cold water), coal-burning stoves

## LOCATION:

Next towns: Bleicherode (6 km), Nordhausen (20 km), Erfurt (75 km)

Region: Thuringia

Next bus station: Großlohra, Friedrichslohra/Wartehalle

Next railway stations: Gebra/Hainleite (5 km), Wolkramshausen (12 km).

Next airports: Leipzig/Halle (LEJ, 155 km), Frankfurt/Main (FRA, 280 km), Berlin (BER, 300 km)

**AGE:** at least 18

## CALENDAR OF WORKCAMPS:

ENVI/RENO	14.06. – 25.06.2026	OH-W01
ENVI/RENO	05.07. – 18.07.2026	OH-W02
ENVI/RENO	19.07. – 01.08.2026	OH-W03
ENVI/RENO	02.08. – 15.08.2026	OH-W04
ENVI/RENO	16.08. – 29.08.2026	OH-W05
ENVI/RENO	30.08. – 12.09.2026	OH-W06
ENVI/RENO	13.09. – 25.09.2026	OH-W07
ENVI/RENO	27.09. – 09.10.2026	OH-W08

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## Heritage Project 2026: Marksburg Castle

*Archaeological Exploration and  
Dry-Stone Wall Conservation  
Works at Historic Vineyard*



Marksburg Castle, situated on a commanding hill above the town of Braubach, is one of the most important examples of medieval military architecture in Germany. Unlike many other castles in the region, Marksburg has never been destroyed, allowing it to retain a high degree of historical authenticity. Originally constructed in 1239, the castle underwent various modifications over the centuries, adapting to evolving defensive needs while preserving its structural integrity. Today, Marksburg serves as the headquarters of the German Castles Association (Deutsche Burgenvereinigung), Germany's oldest organisation dedicated to the study and preservation of castles. The work carried out by the German Castles Association at Marksburg, both in conservation and in research, exemplifies the ongoing commitment to maintaining the authenticity and cultural value of these historic structures.

The castle is located within the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site inscribed in 2002. This 65-kilometre stretch of the Rhine between Bingen and Koblenz is recognised for its outstanding cultural landscape, shaped by centuries of human interaction with the natural environment. The site's inclusion as part of the UNESCO cultural landscape highlights the interdependence of castles, trade routes, and human settlement patterns in shaping the historical development of the Rhine Valley.

### Project description

The hands-on activities will focus on archaeological investigation and the conservation of historic landscape structures associated with Marksburg Castle's defensive and agricultural setting. Work will begin with a targeted excavation in a former defensive zone containing stratified deposits from the 16th to the 20th century. Participants will assist in the careful excavation, sorting, and documentation of layers in order to identify structural remains and better understand the site's successive phases of use.

A second focus will be the rehabilitation of a historic dry-stone retaining wall that formerly stabilised vineyard terraces along the castle's access route. Damaged sections will be dismantled and rebuilt using traditional dry-stone masonry techniques, reusing original stone material wherever possible. The works will address structural instability while preserving historic construction methods and material character.

An important aspect of the course will be the application of archaeological and dry-stone methodologies within an authentic castle environment, combining investigation with practical conservation. The educational programme will provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of how archaeological research, traditional building techniques, and cultural landscape conservation interact within a World Heritage site.

**CONS/RENO** 19.07. – 01.08.2026

**OH-H01**

**AGE:** at least 20

**REQUIREMENTS:** CV, Motivation Letter and interview

**LANGUAGE:** very good level of English, other languages are helpful

**ACCOMMODATION:** basic facilities, shared rooms with beds, warm showers and toilets.

**FOR MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION** please check PLATO or contact directly (from 15.03.2026)

**LOCATION:** Marksburg, Rhineland-Palatinate

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## Heritage Project 2026: Freudenstadt

*Conservation and Revitalisation  
of the Historic Waldlust  
Park Landscape*



The Waldlust Hotel in Freudenstadt, founded in 1899, is a representative example of late 19th-century hospitality architecture in the northern Black Forest and reflects the development of spa culture and health tourism that shaped the town's growth. Conceived as a grand resort, it became one of Freudenstadt's leading establishments, closely associated with the Luz family, a hotelier dynasty that operated renowned hotels in Freudenstadt, Baden-Baden, and Austria. After a renewed period of use following the Second World War, the hotel gradually lost its original function and today stands as an important testimony to this phase of social and cultural history. The building is currently cared for by the Friends of Waldlust Association, which is committed to safeguarding the structure and exploring future cultural uses. Surrounding the hotel is a historic park with promenades, terraced paths, stairways, and sandstone retaining walls that once formed part of the guest experience. Although partially overgrown, the landscape preserves the spatial framework of its original design and illustrates the connection between spa architecture and leisure landscapes in the Black Forest.

### Project description

The European Heritage Volunteers Project at the Waldlust Hotel in 2026 continues earlier engagements at the site and concentrates on the care, management, and gradual recovery of the historic hotel park. Participants will engage in practical landscape conservation aimed at restoring the readability and safe use of the designed woodland environment that once formed part of the spa experience.

Work will focus on the selective clearing of invasive and self-seeded vegetation that obscures historic paths, terraces, and sightlines, as well as on the maintenance of pathways and the stabilisation of stone-built elements such as steps, edging, and retaining walls. These measures are intended to secure existing structures, reveal characteristic spatial features, and support the park's continued use while respecting its historically evolved character.

Particular attention will be given to understanding the interaction between natural growth and designed landscape features, allowing participants to engage with conservation challenges specific to historic parks. Through this work, the project highlights approaches to maintaining culturally shaped landscapes as living environments that require ongoing care rather than reconstruction.

**CONS/RENO 19.07. – 01.08.2026**

**OH-H02**

**AGE:** at least 20

**/ENVI**

**LANGUAGE:** very good level of English, other languages are helpful

**REQUIREMENTS:** CV, Motivation Letter and interview

**ACCOMMODATION:** basic facilities, shared rooms with beds, warm showers and toilets.

**FOR MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION** please check PLATO or contact directly (from 15.03.2026)

**LOCATION:** Freudenstadt, Baden-Württemberg

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## Heritage Project 2026: Naumburg

### *Documentation & Valorisation of a Cemetery of Historic Importance*

Naumburg Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul, located in Saxony-Anhalt, is one of the most noteworthy cultural monuments of the High Middle Ages in Europe. Recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2018, the cathedral represents an exceptional synthesis of architecture, sculpture, and stained-glass artistry.



The Naumburg Cathedral Cemetery was established in 1542 as the *Freiheitlicher Gottesacker* (Free Cemetery) for the deceased members of the *Mariengemeinde* within the cathedral precincts. Prior to this, burials took place within the immediate surroundings of the cathedral, particularly in the area now occupied by the cloister courtyard. However, during the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century, in response to recurrent epidemics and increasing urban populations, burial grounds were systematically relocated outside the medieval city walls, a practice seen in many European towns during this period. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the establishment of Naumburg's municipal cemetery in 1901 gradually diminished the Cathedral Cemetery's significance. The last recorded burial occurred in the 1950s or 1960s, after which the cemetery was largely abandoned. During the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the cemetery suffered from repeated acts of vandalism, particularly between 1954 and 1972, further contributing to its state of decline. However, a renewed interest in its heritage value emerged in the post-reunification period. Contributing to its rediscovery was the *Tag des Offenen Denkmals* (Heritage Open Day) in 1993, which brought public attention back to this overlooked historic site. Since 2014, the Cathedral Cemetery, under the guardianship of the Vereinigte Domstifter, has once again been accessible to the public as a place of reflection and contemplation. Since 2016, it has resumed its role as a burial ground.

### **Project description**

The heritage conservation project at the Naumburg Cathedral Cemetery will centre on the preservation and documentation of the site's historic burial monuments, complemented by an educational programme that situates the site within the broader context of its connection to the inscribed UNESCO World Heritage property.

The project will concentrate on the south-eastern part of the cemetery, where work will focus on the exposure, documentation, and assessment of historic tombstones, contributing to the broader conservation strategy for the site. The project seeks to improve the overall condition of the cemetery while ensuring that further weathering and damage to the historic grave markers are prevented. The participants will engage in a systematic process of uncovering and documenting burial monuments, recording their dimensions, material composition, and state of preservation. Special attention will be given to the identification of structural weaknesses and the development of recommendations for future restoration and conservation measures. Alongside this technical work, the project will also involve historical research on the individuals buried in the cemetery, enhancing knowledge of the site's broader cultural and social relevance.

**CONS/RENO** 19.07. – 01.08.2026

**OH-H03**

**AGE:** at least 20

**REQUIREMENTS:** CV, Motivation Letter and interview

**LANGUAGE:** very good level of English, other languages are helpful

**ACCOMMODATION:** basic facilities, shared rooms with beds, warm showers and toilets.

**FOR MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION please check PLATO or contact directly (from 15.03.2026)**

**LOCATION:** Naumburg, Saxony-Anhalt

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## Heritage Project 2026: Lauenstein Castle

*Conservation & Restoration of  
Wall Paintings and Stucco  
decorations*

The Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří (Ore Mountains) is a UNESCO World Heritage site spanning southeastern Saxony, Germany, and northwestern Czechia. Known for its rich mining history, the region played a crucial role



in metal production, shaping its cultural landscape over centuries. Beyond the mines, the area includes historic mining towns with distinctive urban layouts and architecture, reflecting their past as economic, educational, and cultural hubs. The region flourished in the 15th and 16th centuries, particularly due to silver mining, leaving a lasting imprint on its identity. A key landmark is Lauenstein Castle, a masterpiece of Saxon Renaissance architecture. Near the Czech border, this heritage-protected site showcases over 700 years of Saxon history, attracting visitors interested in art and culture.

### Training Course description

The European Heritage Training Course at Lauenstein Castle in 2026 will continue the long-term conservation of historic wall paintings, stucco decorations and plastered architectural surfaces, building directly upon the interventions carried out in previous years. Participants will engage in hands-on conservation work within historically significant interiors of the castle, addressing surfaces from different construction and decorative phases that require further stabilisation and protection.

Conservation efforts will focus on areas affected by material degradation, detachment and surface instability. Work will include consolidation of fragile sections, treatment of cracks, edge stabilisation and careful surface protection, ensuring the preservation of both artistic and structural integrity. Particular attention will be given to interiors containing stratified decorative layers uncovered during earlier campaigns, allowing participants to engage with the complexity of layered historical schemes.

Throughout the course, participants will be guided by experienced conservator-restorers, working with traditional materials and established conservation methodologies while adhering to professional and ethical standards. The programme will include theoretical sessions covering historical painting and plaster techniques, approaches to layered surface conservation, documentation practices and the broader conservation principles that frame heritage preservation within a World Heritage context.

**CONS/RENO** 19.07. – 01.08.2026

**OH-H04**

**AGE:** at least 20

**REQUIREMENTS:** CV, Motivation Letter and interview

**LANGUAGE:** very good level of English, other languages are helpful

**ACCOMMODATION:** basic facilities, shared rooms with beds, warm showers and toilets.

**FOR MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION** please check PLATO or contact directly (from 15.03.2026)

**LOCATION:** Lauenstein, Saxony

# Open Houses 2026 Programme

Workcamps · Heritage Projects · Mid-term Volunteering



## Heritage Project 2026: Mühlhausen

### *Traditional clay techniques at a Building from the Middle Ages*

Mühlhausen, located in Thuringia, is a town renowned for its well-preserved medieval architecture and its role in major historical events. Once one of the most powerful Free Imperial Cities of the Holy Roman Empire, Mühlhausen flourished as a thriving commercial and religious centre during the Middle Ages. In the Mühlhausen suburb of St. Petri, a historically important quarter



beyond the medieval city walls, a group of remarkably original half-timbered buildings has been preserved in a prominent corner location. This area was historically home to artisans and labourers linked to stone and mortar trades, such as lime burners, stonemasons, and tile makers, who played a crucial role in the town's construction economy. The ensemble at Zinkengasse 36 consists of four single-room houses, each constructed at different periods, situated on three contiguous plots now forming a protected historical courtyard. The corner house, identified through dendrochronological analysis as dating back to the 1350s, is the oldest structure in the group, with over 600 years of continuous history. This building retains early carpentry techniques, including sword tenon joints and a continuous rail beam, methods no longer in use in later timber construction. This collection of buildings is being developed as a heritage documentation and research site, offering a unique perspective on urban working-class life in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The ensemble will be transformed into a museum-like setting, providing insight into the living conditions of ordinary townspeople while preserving the architectural authenticity of the structures.

### Training Course description

The heritage conservation project will engage the participants with the restoration of medieval vernacular architecture, focusing on the historically accurate use of traditional materials and techniques. The site, comprising a rare ensemble of medieval half-timbered buildings, is in the early stages of its conservation journey, with ongoing structural consolidation and restoration efforts. A central aspect of the conservation work will be the preparation and application of clay mortar, a historically appropriate material used for wall rendering, stone setting, and floor construction in buildings of this period. Unlike later structures that employed lime mortar, the buildings at Zinkengasse 36 originally relied on clay-based mortars, and their conservation requires a precise understanding of their material properties, application methods, and long-term behaviour. The participants will engage in mixing and applying clay mortar, acquiring hands-on experience in a technique essential to pre-modern construction. In addition to the work with clay, conservation efforts will include the extraction and recovery of historic building materials, such as natural stone and timber, which is planned to be carefully processed and reintegrated into the structure. This process will involve traditional masonry and carpentry techniques, ensuring that the restoration respects the original construction principles. The conservation tasks will be supervised by a master stonemason specialising in dry-stone wall construction and traditional masonry techniques.

<b>CONS/RENO</b>	<b>02.08. – 15.08.2026.</b>	<b>OH-H05</b>	<b>AGE:</b> at least 20
<b>REQUIREMENTS:</b>	CV, Motivation Letter and interview		<b>LANGUAGE:</b> very good level of English, other languages are helpful
<b>ACCOMMODATION:</b>	basic facilities, shared rooms with beds, warm showers and toilets.		<b>FOR MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION please check PLATO or contact directly (from 15.03.2026)</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Mühlhausen, Thuringia		

# Open Houses 2026 Programme

Workcamps · Heritage Projects · Mid-term Volunteering



## Heritage Project 2026: Bärnau-Tachov History Park

*Construction of a replica of a  
Castle using Medieval  
Techniques*

The Bärnau-Tachov History Park, located in Bärnau, Bavaria, is Germany's most extensive medieval archaeological open-air museum, offering visitors an immersive journey through the Middle Ages.



The park contains two reconstructed settlements from the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, providing a tangible and vivid portrayal of life during these periods. Through a combination of authentic architecture, interactive exhibits, and live demonstrations, the park brings to life the daily experiences, crafts, and traditions of medieval communities.

Since 2017, it has also become home to an ambitious experimental construction site—the recreation of a late medieval castle residence, based on historical plans of Kaiser Karl IV's 14<sup>th</sup>-century travel residences along the Goldene Straße (Golden Road) This route was an important medieval trade and travel corridor connecting Prague and Nuremberg, facilitating commerce and cultural exchange across Central Europe. Emperor Karl IV (1316–1378), one of the most influential rulers of the Middle Ages, served as both the King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor. This route not only enhanced trade but also symbolised the interconnectedness of European regions during the medieval period. The castle reconstruction at Bärnau-Tachov History Park draws inspiration from the architectural styles and construction methods prevalent during Karl IV's era, offering insights into the strategic and residential edifices that dotted this historic route. Operated by the non-profit association Via Carolina – Goldene Straße e.V., the Bärnau-Tachov History Park serves as a bridge between past and present, encouraging a more in depth understanding of medieval life and the lasting impact of Emperor Karl IV in medieval German history.

### Training Course description

This training course provides a unique opportunity to actively participate in the construction process of a 14<sup>th</sup>-century castle replica, gaining hands-on experience in historical building techniques under the supervision of specialists in stonemasonry, timber construction, and medieval resource management. The participants will engage in traditional stone working methods, including splitting granite blocks using wedges, tooling ashlar stones, and setting them with a medieval crane. They will learn the formulation and application of traditional lime mortars, developing an understanding of historical binders and their role in medieval masonry. Additionally, the training will include timber hewing, where participants will work with greenwood tree trunks, using hand tools to shape beams for structural components. The educational programme complements the hands-on work with in-depth theoretical sessions on historical construction methods, medieval material science, and conservation ethics. Participants will explore the environmental impact of pre-industrial construction, particularly focusing on the concept of embodied energy, the way in which medieval building relied exclusively on renewable materials and manual labour, in contrast to today's fossil-fuel-driven construction industry.

**CONS/RENO** 02.08. – 15.08.2026

**OH-H06**

**AGE:** at least 20

**REQUIREMENTS:** CV, Motivation Letter and interview

**LANGUAGE:** very good level of English, other languages are helpful

**ACCOMMODATION:** shared camping tents with beds (Medieval setting), warm showers and toilets.

**FOR MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION please check PLATO or contact directly (from 15.03.2026)**

**LOCATION:** Bärnau, Bavaria

# Open Houses 2026 Programme

Workcamps · Heritage Projects · Mid-term Volunteering



## Heritage Project 2026: God's Acre Cemetery, Herrnhut

*Documentation & Maintenance  
at a Cemetery of the Moravian  
Church*

Herrnhut, located in Saxony, Germany, is the founding settlement of the Moravian Church, established in 1722 by a group of religious refugees from Moravia under the protection of Count Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf. The settlement became



the spiritual and administrative centre of the Moravian Church, which later expanded across Europe, North America, Africa, and the Caribbean, forming a global network of Moravian communities. The town's urban layout, with its central congregation building, communal housing, and green spaces, reflects the Moravian ideal of collective living, where architecture and town planning were used to reinforce the community's spiritual and social values.

A defining feature of Herrnhut is God's Acre, the Moravian cemetery established in 1731, which became the prototype for Moravian burial grounds across the world. The cemetery embodies the Moravian principle of egalitarianism, where all individuals, regardless of social status, are laid to rest with the same type of gravestone. Unlike many historic cemeteries, which feature elaborate monuments and hierarchical burial arrangements, God's Acre maintains a strict uniformity, with each grave marked by a simple, flat stone. Today, the cemetery holds over 6,300 graves, spanning three centuries of continuous use, preserving the memory of generations of Moravian community members who shaped Herrnhut's religious and cultural history. In 2024, Herrnhut, along with other historic Moravian Church settlements, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List under the title "Moravian Church Settlements" as an extension to the already inscribed transnational UNESCO World Heritage site Christiansfeld in Denmark.

### Project description

Since 2023, the participants have contributed to the documentation and maintenance of this unique burial ground, characterised by its distinctive layout, uniform gravestones, and the Moravian tradition of egalitarian commemoration. The 2026 project will expand these efforts, introducing a stronger focus on archival work alongside the ongoing conservation and maintenance activities.

The documentation work will involve detailed recording of grave plate inscriptions and their conditions, improving existing archival records and supporting future conservation planning. Participants will photograph, transcribe, and assess the state of historic grave markers, working under the guidance of experienced documentation specialists. Maintenance tasks will continue to play a central role, including the cleaning of grave plates, careful removal of invasive vegetation, and minor conservation measures to prevent deterioration. These activities ensure the preservation of the cemetery's integrity, respecting its function as an active burial ground while safeguarding its historic and cultural significance. Community engagement remains an integral element of the project, fostering a collaborative approach to heritage conservation.

**CONS/RENO** 16.08. - 29.08.2026

**OH-H08**

**AGE:** at least 20

**REQUIREMENTS:** CV, Motivation Letter and interview

**LANGUAGE:** very good level of English, other languages are helpful

**ACCOMMODATION:** basic facilities, shared rooms with beds, warm showers and toilets.

**FOR MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION please check PLATO or contact directly (from 15.03.2026)**

**LOCATION:** Herrnhut, Saxony

# Open Houses 2026 Programme

Workcamps · Heritage Projects · Mid-term Volunteering



## Heritage Project 2026: Reinsberg

### *Conservation of Historic Mining Water Systems in the Ore Mountains*



The Grabentour canal near Reinsberg is located within the UNESCO World Heritage Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region, a transboundary cultural landscape in Saxony (Germany) and Czechia inscribed in 2019. Shaped by more than eight centuries of mining, the region

documents the technological and social developments associated with the extraction of silver, tin, and other ores that drove the area's economic growth. A defining feature of this landscape is its extensive historic water-management system. From the late Middle Ages onwards, networks of artificial channels, ponds, and underground conduits were constructed to supply the water power required for pumping, hoisting, and ore processing, representing outstanding examples of early industrial engineering and forming an integral part of the property's Outstanding Universal Value. Constructed between 1844 and 1846 to supply water to mining operations, the Grabentour extends approximately 7.8 kilometres through the Bobritzsch Valley, combining open ditches, rock-cut sections, and underground passages and connecting directly to the Rothschnöberger Stolln, one of the principal drainage adits of the Freiberg Mining Landscape. Today, the route is preserved as a cultural hiking path linking mining monuments and landscape features, maintaining its historical function as well as its importance for local heritage awareness.

### **Project description**

The project focuses on conservation work along a historic mining water-management structure that formed part of the technological infrastructure of the Ore Mountains. The interventions will address approximately 300 metres of the Grabentour canal near Reinsberg, a section currently affected by sedimentation, vegetation overgrowth, and structural displacement that obscure its historic form and limit accessibility.

Hands-on conservation will centre on the careful clearing of accumulated debris, uncovering the original canal profile and enabling assessment of its condition. Participants will stabilise and repair damaged areas of the dry-stone channel walls using traditional construction techniques, reusing original stone material wherever possible and reassembling unstable sections to restore structural coherence while retaining historic fabric. Additional measures will include the cleaning and basic conservation of the nearby memorial stone of Lorenz von Schönberg, as well as minor maintenance of interpretative elements and visitor infrastructure along the route. All interventions will be carried out under the guidance of experienced craftspeople, ensuring compatibility with historic construction methods and supporting the long-term preservation of this water-management system within the mining landscape. The educational programme will provide participants with an in-depth understanding of mining heritage conservation, linking practical fieldwork to the historical function of hydraulic systems and their role within the World Heritage cultural landscape.

<b>CONS/RENO</b>	<b>16.08. - 29.08.2026</b>	<b>OH-H09</b>	<b>AGE:</b> at least 20
<b>REQUIREMENTS:</b>	CV, Motivation Letter and interview		<b>LANGUAGE:</b> very good level of English, other languages are helpful
<b>ACCOMMODATION:</b>	basic facilities, shared rooms with beds, warm showers and toilets.		<b>FOR MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION please check PLATO or contact directly (from 15.03.2026)</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Reinsberg, Saxony		

# Open Houses 2026 Programme

Workcamps · Heritage Projects · Mid-term Volunteering



## Heritage Project 2026: Lohra Castle

### *Conservation of Historic Roof Structures at Lohra Castle*

Lohra Castle, situated in the heart of Germany in Northern Thuringia, graces the scenic hilly landscape on the edge of a natural reserve area. As one of the largest castles in Thuringia, its historical significance dates back to the Middle Ages, boasting a rich heritage that spans over a millennium.



The castle's architecture is a testament to the passing centuries, with traces of each era preserved throughout this ensemble of buildings. From medieval fortifications to remnants of an 11th-century tower, and a Romanesque double-floored chapel from the 12th century to a Renaissance-era manor house, Lohra Castle encapsulates a fascinating historical evolution. Even the stables and other agrarian structures from the 19th and early and mid-20th centuries contribute to the ensemble's captivating charm, offering visitors and heritage enthusiasts a glimpse into the past.

In the 1990s, Open Houses, the parent organisation of European Heritage Volunteers, took up the noble mission of rescuing and revitalising this forgotten monument through cultural activities.

### **Project description**

In 2026, the European Heritage Volunteers Project at Lohra Castle will take place in two consecutive instalments, forming a continuous conservation cycle within the castle ensemble (dates see blue information box below). The project continues the long-term programme focusing on historic timber roof structures in the economic and agricultural area of the castle, building on the cumulative interventions of recent years.

Work will concentrate primarily on the former sheep barn, the largest structure within the outer castle zone, while extending to selected roofs of additional historic economic buildings whose origins range from the medieval period to later modifications in the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These buildings represent the productive and everyday infrastructure of the castle and form an essential part of the ensemble's historical development.

Hands-on conservation will be led by a carpenter specialised in traditional timber conservation. Participants will engage in the repair and reinforcement of roof constructions, addressing areas affected by structural weakness and material degradation. Interventions will include stabilisation of timber elements, replacement of severely damaged components with handcrafted pieces executed according to historic carpentry techniques, and the careful retention and reuse of original material wherever possible. Minimal intervention and material compatibility will guide all works.

The two-phase cumulative and methodical approach reflects Lohra Castle's model of long-term care, where conservation serves not only structural preservation but also the transmission of traditional craftsmanship and sustainable building practice.

**CONS/RENO** 16.08. - 29.08.2026 **OH-H10**  
30.08. - 12.09.2026 **OH-H11**

**REQUIREMENTS:** CV, Motivation Letter and interview

**ACCOMMODATION:** basic facilities, shared rooms with beds, warm showers and toilets.

**LOCATION:** Lohra Castle, Thuringia

**AGE:** at least 20

**LANGUAGE:** very good level of English, other languages are helpful

**FOR MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION please check PLATO or contact directly (from 15.03.2026)**

# Open Houses 2026 Programme

Workcamps · Heritage Projects · Mid-term Volunteering



## Heritage Project 2026: Niederzwönitz

### *Conservation of Hydrotechnical Infrastructure and Historic Papermaking Technology*

The Niederzwönitz Paper Mill, located in the Ore Mountains of Saxony, is documented as a centre of paper production since the 16th century and represents an important example of early manufacturing traditions associated with the region's mining



economy. Its operation depended on a purpose-built hydrotechnical system of canal, weir, and water wheel that supplied the energy required for paper and later cardboard production, illustrating the close relationship between water management, craft production, and proto-industrial technology. The site forms part of the wider cultural landscape of the Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region, shaped by more than eight centuries of mining and related industries and inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2019. The paper mill is recognised as an associated component of this context and is additionally included in the transnational UNESCO Tentative List entry “European Paper Mills (from the era of hand-made paper)” submitted in 2024, which highlights historic mills that demonstrate the technological and cultural significance of hand-made paper production in Europe. Today, the surviving buildings, water system, and technical installations provide insight into the integration of craft, industry, and resource management within the Ore Mountains and form an important point of reference for understanding the region's broader economic and technological development.

### **Project description**

The hands-on activities will centre on the conservation of the hydrotechnical and mechanical systems that historically powered paper production at the Niederzwönitz Paper Mill. Initial work will focus on the historic mill channel, where participants will clear washed-in sediment, vegetation, and debris to expose the structure and restore controlled water flow. Damaged sections of the wooden lining will be carefully dismantled and renewed using traditionally prepared timber elements fitted according to historic carpentry methods.

A second focus will address the maintenance of the water wheel and associated drive mechanisms that convert hydraulic energy into mechanical motion. Participants will clean the wheel chamber, service wooden and metal components, and secure connections to ensure stability and legibility of the system as a functional technological ensemble. Additional work will involve the care of selected historic machinery, including basic cleaning, lubrication of moving parts, and minor repairs necessary for demonstration and preservation.

Through these coordinated measures, the project safeguards the interaction of water management, power transmission, and production equipment that defined the operation of the mill. The educational programme will provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of technical heritage conservation within its wider industrial and World Heritage context.

**CONS/RENO** 30.08. - 12.09.2026

**OH-H12**

**AGE:** at least 20

**REQUIREMENTS:** CV, Motivation Letter and interview

**LANGUAGE:** very good level of English, other languages are helpful

**ACCOMMODATION:** basic facilities, shared rooms with beds, warm showers and toilets.

**FOR MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION please check PLATO or contact directly (from 15.03.2026)**

**LOCATION:** Zwönitz, Saxony

# Open Houses 2026 Programme

Workcamps · Heritage Projects · Mid-term Volunteering



## Heritage Project 2026: World Heritage Site Classical Weimar

*Traditional dry-stone techniques  
& Reconstruction of historic parks*

The Classical Weimar ensemble, inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1998, comprises eleven properties in and around Weimar, Germany. These sites exemplify the city's profound cultural development during the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, a period marked by



outstanding contributions to German and European literature, philosophy, and the arts. Weimar became a nucleus for intellectuals and artists, creating an environment that greatly influenced European Enlightenment and Romantic movements. An important site linked to Christoph Martin Wieland (1733–1813), a seminal German poet, writer, and translator, is the Wieland Estate in Oßmannstedt, located near Weimar. This estate served as his residence and is emblematic of his contributions to Weimar's cultural heritage. The property includes a manor house and a landscaped park, reflecting the aesthetic and intellectual sensibilities of the period. Today, the estate is part of the Classical Weimar Foundation, which manages numerous historical sites associated with Weimar Classicism. The foundation is dedicated to preserving and promoting the cultural legacy of Weimar, overseeing properties that collectively illustrate the city's historical significance.

### Project description

Since 2012, efforts have focused on doing conservation and maintenance works on important elements of the Classical Weimar's historical gardens, particularly in the last three years focused on the historic kitchen garden of Belvedere Park, through dry-stone wall conservation, pathway restoration, and structural maintenance. This year, the project extends its scope to include the Wieland Estate in Oßmannstedt, a site closely connected to the Classical Weimar period, enhancing the narrative of Weimar's cultural heritage through practical conservation and interdisciplinary educational activities.

The hands-on conservation work will focus on the reconstruction and stabilisation of historic garden structures both in Weimar and Oßmannstedt. At Belvedere Park, the work continues on the conservation of lateral dry-stone walls, which provide structural support to terraced sections of the garden. At the Wieland Estate, the participants will engage in the conservation of a historic dry-stone wall that serves as both a containment structure and a boundary between the estate's gardens and the River Ilm, which also runs through the parks of Classical Weimar. The work will be carried out under the guidance of an expert stonemason with decades of experience in traditional masonry techniques. In addition, the participants will also collaborate with other tasks related to the upkeep of the historical gardens at the estate. An integral component of the project is the philosophical approach to slow-work in craftsmanship, emphasising the careful and deliberate application of traditional masonry and construction techniques. This method aligns with the principles of the New European Bauhaus, advocating for the sustainable use and reuse of materials and the integration of historical construction techniques into modern architectural practice.

**CONS/RENO** 30.08. - 12.09.2026

**OH-H13**

**AGE:** at least 20

**REQUIREMENTS:** CV, Motivation Letter and interview

**LANGUAGE:** very good level of English, other languages are helpful

**ACCOMMODATION:** basic facilities, shared rooms with beds, warm showers and toilets.

**FOR MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION please check**  
PLATO or contact directly (from 15.03.2026)

**LOCATION:** Weimar, Thuringia

# Open Houses 2026 Programme

Workcamps · Heritage Projects · Mid-term Volunteering



## Mid-term Volunteering 2026:

### A Camp Leading at Lohra Castle

The camp leader acts as a bridge between the volunteers, the organization, and the technical leaders overseeing the practical work. Their primary role is to support the group from a social and intercultural perspective. This is a great opportunity to develop leadership, organizational, and intercultural skills while making a meaningful impact. Camp leaders must work independently while collaborating with co-leaders and technical staff. The role demands effort, empathy, and teamwork but also offers a fulfilling and fun experience. Open Houses encourages creativity and provides guidance and training. Before leading a camp, leaders will participate as regular volunteers to familiarise themselves with the role.

**Responsibilities** include social and organizational leadership (welcoming volunteers, introducing them to the camp, and organizing daily schedules, including work, meals, and breaks), group coordination (such as managing rotating cooking and cleaning teams, purchasing food, and overseeing meal preparation), organizing leisure activities (planning evening events like campfires, barbecues, and games, as well as weekend trips to nearby towns), providing team support (staying in close contact with technical leaders, assisting in work tasks when needed, and helping coordinate working groups) and general camp management tasks including handling finances, documenting activities through notes and photos, and leading evaluations.

### B Support of Technical Leading at Lohra Castle

For those more interested in the technical aspects of construction than in organizing social activities, Open Houses offers opportunities to support the technical leadership of Workcamps and Building Weeks through Mid-Term Volunteering. This role is ideal for individuals with hands-on experience and good organizational skills.

The technical leadership is managed by an Open Houses technical leader, with volunteers assisting in various responsibilities based on their skills and experience. Tasks may include scheduling workdays, managing tools and materials, leading small groups, or handling specialized assignments. Students of architecture, civil engineering, and related fields can have this experience recognized as an internship, with Open Houses providing necessary certificates. Camp leaders and technical leaders receive a €150 allowance per two-week camp, along with free food, accommodation, and participation in cultural activities and excursions. After leading two or three camps, a break is recommended. Leaders may then join as participants, with food, accommodation, and insurance covered, though without an allowance.

#### ACCOMMODATION:

shared rooms with 2 – 5 beds in 3 guest houses, warm shower (limited hot water), 1 camp kitchen (cold water), coal-burning stoves

#### LOCATION:

Next towns: Bleicherode (6 km), Nordhausen (20 km), Erfurt (75 km)

Region: Thuringia

Next bus station: Großlohra, Friedrichslohra/Wartehalle

Next railway stations: Gebra/Hainleite (5 km), Wolkramshausen (12 km).

Next airports: Leipzig/Halle (LEJ, 155 km), Frankfurt/Main (FRA, 280 km), Berlin (BER, 300 km)

**AGE:** at least 20

**REQUIREMENTS:** Good English knowledge (mandatory), basic knowledge of German would be helpful, driving license, CV + photo, project-related motivation letter

#### CAMP LEADING CALENDAR:

SOCI 14.06. – 25.06.2026 OH-C01

SOCI 04.07. – 02.08.2026 OH-C02

SOCI 01.08. – 12.09.2026 OH-C03

SOCI 11.09. – 09.10.2026 OH-C04

#### TECHNICAL LEADING CALENDAR:

SOCI 14.06. – 25.06.2026 OH-C05

SOCI 04.07. – 02.08.2026 OH-C06

SOCI 01.08. – 12.09.2026 OH-C07

SOCI 11.09. – 09.10.2026 OH-C08

The camp / technical leader can apply for longer or less than the dates mentioned (in consultation with Incoming Officer).