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2024 PROGRAMME

WORKCAMPS

HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS PROJECTS

MID TERM VOLUNTEERING

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ENVI/RENO	09.06. – 22.06.2024	OH-W01
ENVI/RENO	23.06. – 06.07.2024	OH-W02
ENVI/RENO	07.07. – 20.07.2024	OH-W03
ENVI/RENO	21.07. – 03.08.2024	OH-W04
ENVI/RENO	04.08. – 17.08.2024	OH-W05
ENVI/RENO	18.08. – 31.08.2024	OH-W06
ENVI/RENO	01.09. – 14.09.2024	OH-W07
ENVI/RENO	15.09. – 28.09.2024	OH-W08
ENVI/RENO	29.09. – 11.10.2024	OH-W09

Lohra Castle is situated in the heart of Germany in Northern Thuringia. The castle, which is surrounded by a scenic hilly landscape, is located on the edge of a natural reserve area. Being one of the largest castles in Thuringia, the history of castle Lohra begins in the Middle Ages. Its architectural styles which have been preserved in the structures of the ensemble attest to a prolonged period of occupation and historical evolution up until today.

The castle is more than thousand years old, and it is a relic of German medieval past that is still standing at the heart of a region through which the story of the German nation has been written. Today, it includes twenty buildings from different time periods, showcasing this historical evolution to the enchantment of visitors and heritage enthusiasts: medieval fortifications, remnants of a tower from the 11th century, a Romanesque double-floored chapel, a manor house from the Renaissance period as well as stables and granaries from the 19th and the early 20th centuries. The ensemble is situated in the centre of a beautiful forest.

For years Lohra Castle was vacant. In the 1990s a civil society association which became today's Open Houses, began to rescue the castle and to revitalise it through cultural activities. The process of rehabilitation of cultural heritage not only brought new life and use to an otherwise forgotten monument, but it also provided with a new space where young people could reconnect with tangible heritage while valorising the relevance of preserving a historical monument. Since then, a large number of international workcamps, heritage volunteering projects, heritage training courses, seminars, exhibitions, concerts and other activities with international participants have been taking place every year in the castle.

Project Description

The projects of Open Houses are **based on sustainable principles**. Therefore, the activities at Lohra Castle combine aspects of **cultural heritage preservation** and aspects of **natural heritage preservation**. The castle is surrounded by a vast green area and the volunteers will help in the maintenance of it. Near the youth accommodation houses that are part of the Lohra Castle complex there is a camping site which can be used by youth groups, for this reason the area should be made accessible from overgrown grass. The tasks will be **mowing and collecting the grass**. Additionally, the participants of the project will **support the work on renovations on the Castle grounds**.

The hilly massive around Lohra Castle is listed as National Nature Reserve. Open Houses supports the Reserve since several years with volunteering activities. In a forest near the Castle the participants will **remove trees and bushes** which are not corresponding with the protection aims in order to **clean the paths** and make them enjoyable again. They will also will **collect the wood** remaining after maintenance works, load it on a truck, unload it at the castle and split and stack it for wintertime or for the fireplace. Besides that, the volunteers will continue **the maintenance of the green area at the castle**. In addition, in the later part of the summer, they will support the recollection, assortment, splitting and storage of wood to prepare the castle for the harsh winter months.

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

TERMINAL:

Next bus station: Großlohra, Friedrichslohra/Wartehalle

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

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

AGE: at least 18





CONS/ENVI 29.07. - 09.08.2024 OH-W12

ACCOMMODATION:

shared rooms with beds, warm shower, toilets

LOCATION:

Next towns: **Kyritz** (5 km), **Neuruppin** (40 km)

Region: **Brandenburg**

Next railway station: **Kyritz** (5 km)

Next airports: **Berlin** (BER, 100 km),

Rostock (HRO, 150 km)

AGE: at least 18

Gantikow Manor is situated 100 kilometres north of Berlin. The house is surrounded by a nice village with a medieval church and a lake. The manor is a picturing example of a former baroque building, changed in the late 19th century in neo-baroque style.

Over centuries, the houses belonged to the Earls von Platen, which sold it in 1872 to a civil family which started soon, in 1877, with the modernisation of the house and kept it in their ownership till 1945. After World War II, the house was first used as a refugee shelter and after that the community used the house as a village centre, hosting the community office, the local store, the school, the kindergarten, the doctor's room, the kitchen of the agricultural cooperative and several apartments. With its many rooms the large building is perfect to be used as a Youth Accommodation House. The house is surrounded by a beautiful park with old trees which reached originally up to the lake.

Project Description

The Manor is located at a scenic place a few meters away from an idyllic lake in northern Brandenburg. This quiet location is home to a small and peaceful community which every year welcomes the arrival of our volunteering groups.

The workcamp is part of a **collaborative effort between the local community and Open Houses** to create a new **Integrative Village Museum** for the locality. The aim of the local community is to preserve and showcase the rich history and cultural heritage of the village, ensuring that traditional knowledge and artistic expressions can be enjoyed by the community as well as future generations. The museum will serve as a space for documenting the settlement history, transmitting ancestral knowledge through hands-on experiences, and hosting community events.

Open Houses, as the owner of Gantikow Manor, has an important role in community engagement and local heritage preservation. Each year, Open Houses organises youth-oriented educational activities, conservation works, and hosts a variety of visitors at Gantikow Manor. As part of this ongoing commitment, Open Houses is facilitating the workcamp to prepare an adjacent site in the village to become an Integrative Village Museum. During the workcamp, the volunteers will engage in various tasks to **rehabilitate the spaces** and ensure the building is ready to serve its intended purpose. These activities include **cleaning and clearing the site, rehabilitating spaces within the building, and carrying out maintenance works that are required**. Additionally, volunteers will assist in maintenance activities at Gantikow Manor and its surrounding grounds to ensure the overall upkeep of the area. Beyond the hands-on work, the volunteers will have leisure time to explore the picturesque surroundings of Gantikow Manor, including a nearby lake where they can relax and unwind. The workcamp will provide the volunteers with a unique opportunity to contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage in this small community, while engaging in meaningful work and **experiencing community-driven initiatives firsthand**. Through their participation, volunteers play an integral role in bringing the Integrative Village Museum to life and **fostering a sense of connection and stewardship within the local community**.





Heritage Projects 2024
**HISTORICAL CEMETERY OF THE
MORAVIAN CHURCH IN HERRNHUT**
CONS/RENO 21.07. - 03.08.2024 OH-H01



**Documentation & maintenance at a cemetery of the
Moravian Church**

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

Location: Herrnhut

Region: Saxony

Next railway / bus station; Löbau (Sachs); Herrnhut Zinzendorfplatz

Next airports: Dresden (DRE); Berlin (BER);

AGE: at least 20

LANGUAGE: very good level of English, others languages are helpful
CV, Motivation Letter and interview required

Herrnhut, located in the Free State of Saxony, Germany, approximately seventy kilometres east of Dresden, holds historical and spiritual significance as the birthplace of the Renewed Moravian Church. Established in 1722, the town's name translates to "Lord's Watch" in German. It served as the foundational settlement and embodiment of the principles that defined all Moravian Church communities.

Notably, the prototype Moravian Church cemetery, known as "God's Acre," holds significance as the model replicated in Moravian Church cemeteries worldwide. Its layout was designed in 1731, with lime avenues added in 1742 and 1752/1753 to divide the cemetery into sections. The cemetery's simplicity and clear forms captivate visitors. God's Acre in Herrnhut is home to over 6,300 grave plates dating from the 18th century to the present. The grave plates, laid on the ground, follow a consistent concept and design, varying in material, size, ornamentation, topography, and state of conservation. The older plates generally exhibit more wear and tear compared to the recent ones.

Currently, the historic ensembles of Herrnhut are being considered for inclusion in the transnational extension of the UNESCO World Heritage site Christiansfeld in Denmark. This extension aligns with the World Heritage Committee's decision to inscribe Christiansfeld as a World Heritage Site in 2015. Alongside other proposed sites for the extension, such as Bethlehem in the United States and Gracehill in the United Kingdom, Herrnhut exemplifies the interconnectedness of all Moravian settlements and their remarkable coherence in religious life, architecture, and town planning.

Project Description

The project encompasses two main areas of work: **documentation and research of the grave plates, and maintenance and basic conservation measures.** The documentation phase focuses on meticulously capturing the details of the grave slabs found in the oldest sections of the historic cemetery known as "God's Acre". Although an existing database contains inscriptions for all 6,300 grave slabs, it lacks visual documentation and information regarding their state of conservation. To address this gap, the participants will collect this information and, in this way, contribute to the future study and preservation of these important historical artefacts. Given the considerable number of grave slabs, this work will extend over subsequent years to ensure a comprehensive record. Already this work began in 2023 with that year's European Heritage Volunteers Project in the area of graves for the ancestral male deceased community members, and this year the works will be continued on the section of the deceased ancestral female community members.

The maintenance and basic conservation work is rooted in the information gathered during the documentation phase. Small yet critical interventions can mitigate potential risks. Notably, the oldest grave slabs, affected by natural decay, often no longer rest horizontally, posing a risk of damage or disintegration at the corners. To safeguard these vulnerable slabs, a careful process will involve temporarily removing them, levelling the ground, and meticulously reinstating the slabs to their original positions. Moreover, the removal of soil, grass, and other vegetation that cover the grave slabs will be crucial in averting persistent humidity, particularly for sandstone grave plates. This conservation work ensures the long-term preservation and integrity of these important cultural objects.

During the days when the participants will be in Herrnhut for the European Heritage Volunteers Project, the community will eagerly await the final decision of the World Heritage Committee meeting in Delhi, India, regarding the site's inscription as an extension to the Moravian Church Settlements UNESCO World Heritage sites. This momentous occasion presents a unique opportunity to provide the participants with insights into the inscription process of a UNESCO World Heritage site, particularly focusing on the community involvement required for this specific site.

In addition, through the planned educational programme the participants will delve into the rich history, cultural significance, and unique aspects of Herrnhut and the Moravian Church. Guided visits to key sites within the region, including important historical landmarks associated with the Moravian Church, will offer valuable insights into the foundations, development, and impact of this religious community.



Analysis & Conservation of wall paintings

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

Location: Lauenstein

Region: Saxony

Next railway / bus station: Lauenstein (Sachs) (1 km)

Next airports: Dresden (DRE 44 km); Berlin (BER, 201 km)

AGE: at least 20

LANGUAGE: very good level of English, others languages are helpful
CV, Motivation Letter and interview required

The **Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří (Ore Mountains)** is a UNESCO World Heritage site located in the south-eastern part of Germany's Saxony region and the north-western part of Czechia. This transboundary region is renowned for its significant mining history and cultural landscape shaped by centuries of mining activities. The Ore Mountains were a vital source of various metals, and the mining industry played a crucial role in the development and prosperity of the region. The cultural landscape of the Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří encompasses not only the mines themselves but also the mining towns and settlements that emerged alongside them. These towns, with their unique urban layouts and architectural styles, reflect their historical importance as administrative, economic, educational, and cultural centres. The region's wealth during the 15th and 16th centuries, particularly from silver mining, left a lasting impact on the landscape and shaped the towns' distinct identities. Among the notable landmarks within the Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří is **Lauenstein Castle**, a gem of Saxon Renaissance architecture and still an important landmark for many curious visitors interested in art and culture. Situated close to the border with the Czech Republic, this heritage protected building with its eventful past reflects over 700 years of Saxon history. In connection with the medieval castle ruins, the renaissance castle has an outstanding significance for the Eastern Ore Mountains.

Training Course Description

The European Heritage Training Course will continue **the conservation and restoration of wall paintings from the Renaissance period** and the 19th century found throughout the expansive ensemble, which had been started with the European Heritage Training Course in 2023. The training course aims to combine **practical interventions** to rehabilitate elements of a building complex that served as an important administrative centre which was focal to the historical development of the Ore Mountains, with **awareness-raising actions** that will provide an opportunity for heritage education to the participants, while promoting volunteering for heritage to the general public.

The training course will take place at the historical castle that belonged to the von Bünau Family, who made their fortunes through the wealth of mining in the region. The castle, which has a long history of significance in the mining region since at least the 13th century, today hosts the Eastern Ore Mountains Museum and is a component belonging to the World Heritage property. The participants will assist in the **urgently needed interventions to protect the precious surface decorations of the walls in the castle**. The tasks will involve research, fixation and conservation work on Renaissance wall paintings and research and fixation of deteriorated 19th century wall-paintings. In the building of the former economic section, the initial step will concentrate on **fixation, desalting, and other conservation measures**, followed by the uncovering of the wall paintings by removing later layers. This latter task holds particular significance, as the castle administration is currently developing an overall concept for the unused parts of the ensemble, and the discovered motifs may inform decisions about the building's future use based on its historical function. Linked with this aim, this year the works will not only continue the interventions carried out in 2023 in the ground floor, but include also areas in the staircase and the upper floor.



The works will be guided by conservators- restorers that will provide a responsible overview while allowing the participants to learn and practice the delicate process in its entirety.

The educational programme will be completed by guided tours, lectures and an excursion where the participants will engage with members of the local community and further explore the historic progress and developments that made this landscape a world heritage site.

Restoration of Gravestones

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

Location: Hameln

Region: Lower Saxony

Next railway / bus station: Hameln (1.4 km)

Next airports: Hamburg (HAM, 215 km);

Dortmund (DTM, 160 km)

AGE: at least 20

LANGUAGE: very good level of English, others languages are helpful

CV, Motivation Letter and interview required



Hameln, in German Hameln, is a small city located in the state of Lower Saxony, Germany. The place is rich with historical reminders of its long history as a trading outpost that was once part of the Hanseatic League, but also a place that was a crossroads for armies, ideas, and culture. The city is famous for the folk tale of the Pied Piper of Hameln, a medieval story that tells of a tragedy that befell the town in the 13th century. The version written by the Brothers Grimm made it popular throughout the world; it is also the subject of well-known poems by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Robert Browning.

With its monumental graves, the Hameln Garrison Cemetery is one of the most remarkable historical cemeteries in Northern Germany. Most of the gravestones date from the 18th and 19th centuries and are of high quality in terms of art and historical relevance.

Training Course Description

Gravestones represent an important way of preserving a tangible source of historical documental evidence for future generations, and symbolise a continuity of communities in communion with their past. The gravestones found at the garrison cemetery not only provide a visual reminder of the collective history of the community of Hameln, but are in themselves beautiful artistic expressions in stone which are representative of the craftsmanship at the time of their creation.

The participants to the Training Course will **contribute to the conservation of this important historical site** by taking part on several practical activities to improve the accessibility to the gravestones, **securing the structures from environmentally induced degradation processes, direct intervention to the substance of the gravestones and finally documenting the process.**

The participants will initially clear the pathways and surroundings of the cemetery to increase visibility and accessibility to the gravestones. As part of preventing further damage and deterioration of the stones, the participants will **carefully scrape off moss, lichen and algae to finally clean the surfaces with a brush and alcohol or water. Further cleaning of the surfaces will be carried out by scalpel and micro-steamer**, with compresses and other techniques usually employed for delicate surfaces. Samples will also be collected of the surfaces.

The participants will then work on performing **small repairs of cracks** and other **defects** that are compromising the stability and integrity of the gravestones, where needed **performing consolidation interventions**. The works should be **documented by text and photography** to create a final report of the work done which may be used for future conservation works.

The training course will be guided by a certified restorer with a specialisation in the restoration of surfaces and with vast experience in this kind of work.

In the frame of the educational part, guided discussions and tours as well as an excursion will be organised so that the participants can gain comprehensive and detailed knowledge about the heritage of the region. The visits will also contextualise the training course by providing an overview of the rich history of the town of Hameln and its surroundings.





Heritage Projects 2024
**BEREND LEHMAN MUSEUM &
FORMER SYNAGOGUE IN HALBERSTADT**
CONS/RENO 18.08. - 31.08.2024 OH-H04

**Conservation & documentation
of historic walls & surfaces**



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

Location: Halberstadt

Region: Saxony Anhalt

Next railway / bus station: Halberstadt (2.4 km)

Next airports: Berlin (BER, 199 km); Hamburg (HAM, 230 km)

AGE: at least 20

LANGUAGE: very good level of English, others languages are helpful

CV, Motivation Letter and interview required

Nestled at the base of the Harz Mountains, **Halberstadt** boasts in the area of the city centre exquisite religious architecture and traditional timber constructions, epitomising its rich historical heritage. The area surrounding the city centre was heavily bombed during the Second World War and exhibits examples of post-War socialist housing constructions. Notably, the town served up until the rise of National Socialism, as the epicentre of a significant Jewish community, pivotal in shaping Germany's distinctive Jewish culture.

Training Course Description

The European Heritage Training Course is the continuation of courses and projects following the theme of Jewish heritage in Halberstadt which had taken place yearly from 2018 to 2023. This engagement has been an important collaboration between European Heritage Volunteers and the Moses Mendelssohn Academy both to raise awareness about the importance of Jewish heritage in Halberstadt as well as to promote its documentation and conservation for posterity. The training course will be focusing on **three locations**:

The first location of work will situate the participants in the **garden area** behind the Klaus Synagogue. This is the location where the National Socialist forced labour camp was set-up, with barracks built next to the historic stone walls that enclose the garden of the Klaus. Today, all that remains are the historic stone walls which still exhibit memory traces of this traumatic use of the garden, in the way of carvings and other markings that the prisoners left on the stones. Work of conservation has already been done on a segment of the walls. In the section of the wall which has not yet been intervened, the participants will firstly carry out a detailed documentation of its current state as well as of the inscriptions that may still be found. After identifying missing stones and damaged mortar joints, which is the area where mortar is applied to bond the stones together and provide structural integrity to the wall. The damaged joints will be repaired with mortar prepared using the hot lime mortar technique.

The second area of work will be the site of the Sukkan, which is now a part of the permanent exhibition of the museum. Here, the participants will be tasked with exploring the existing layers of historical wallpaper decoration, fixing the wallpaper, and protect as it is not waterproofed.

The third location is the remaining ruins of the Baroque synagogue which was destroyed in 1938/39, a task which had already begun with the European Heritage Training Courses that took place in the years 2021 to 2023. During that previous training courses, the structures, and damages of the remains of the former synagogue had been documented, and urgent interventions on the main structure have already begun, thus laying the groundwork for the interventions that took place in 2023 and will be continued in 2023. The work will begin by doing an examination and securing the top of the wall, reviewing the current status of the interventions carried out during the training course in 2023. There will be a need to renew joints, and to do colour retouching of the stone additions and completing the damaged masonry joints. The heavily weathered stone surfaces will also be strengthened by adding stone supplements. The fragments of painted surfaces will be secured of any loose parts and lime slurry will be applied to fill in any damaged parts.

Through the different areas of work, the participants will learn the complete process from the preparation of mortars, the manufacturing of the stone supplementary compounds and colour matching with pigments to the adjacent stone surfaces, up to mixing the glazes for retouching the various stone surfaces as well as in wallpaper decorated surfaces.

The training course will be guided by a certified restorer with a specialisation in the restoration of plaster, stucco and wall paintings.

In the frame of the educational part, various lectures and guided tours as well as an excursion will be organised so that the participants can gain comprehensive and detailed knowledge about the Jewish history and heritage in Germany and Europe. The visits will also contextualise the training course by providing an overview of the rich history and the high valuable heritage of Halberstadt in general.



Heritage Projects 2024 UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE ERZGEBIRGE / KRUŠNOHOŘÍ MINING REGION - NIEDERZWÖNITZ

CONS/RENO 18.08. - 31.08.2024 OH-H05



Conservation & Valorisation of industrial heritage

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

Location: Niederzönitz

Region: Saxony

Next railway: Zönitz

Next airports: Dresden (DRE); Berlin (BER)

AGE: at least 20

LANGUAGE: very good level of English, others languages are helpful
CV, Motivation Letter and interview required

Niederzönitz, believed to have been established around 1200, makes its first historical appearance in 1460 in the Terminierbuch of the Zwickau Franciscans under the name Dorffczwenicz. The designation "Niederzönitz" likely arose to distinguish it from its neighbour, Zönitz, meaning Lower Zönitz. Niederzönitz has been home to a paper mill since the 16th century. Since 2019, the museum has also been listed by Germany as an associated component to the UNESCO World Heritage Site Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří (Ore Mountains). This UNESCO World Heritage site spans a region in south-eastern Germany (Saxony) and north-western Czechia, which contains a wealth of several metals exploited through mining from the Middle Ages onwards. The cultural landscape of the Ore Mountains has been deeply shaped by 800 years of almost continuous mining, from the 12th to the 20th century.

The innovative water management systems implemented in the Ore Mountains enabled the Paper Mill in Niederzönitz to efficiently distribute and utilise water resources, contributing to increased productivity and the establishment of a thriving industrial centre. As a result, the Paper Mill in Niederzönitz stands as a testament to the successful integration of water system technologies into industrial operations, reflecting the region's rich legacy of technological innovation and industrial development.

The paper mill in Niederzönitz is Germany's oldest operational paper mill, and it is intrinsically linked to the UNESCO World Heritage mining region.

Project Description

The European Heritage Volunteers Project will aim to explore heritage conservation approaches addressing challenges posed by the coexistence of historical building structures and hydrotechnical installations, notably in **watermill preservation**. The project involves a diverse range of activities:

One of the primary tasks involves the **meticulous cleaning and comprehensive documentation of the Mühlgraben**, the water canal that runs from the weir to the mill. This multifaceted endeavour includes the **removal of accumulated mud, exposing the original bed of gravel or rubble, and meticulously recording elevations tachymetrically**. Moreover, the participants will be actively involved in reinforcing the ditch bottom and implementing improvements to the bank area, integrating wooden structures strategically placed to enhance both functionality and aesthetics.

Another hands-on activity will entail **the rehabilitation of the embankment along the Mühlgraben**, particularly in front of the water wheel. Here, the existing embankment, constructed from rubble stones, requires renovation due to erosion and structural instability. To address this, participants will engage in the construction of a new dry stone wall, employing traditional techniques and materials to ensure durability and authenticity. In addition to embankment rehabilitation, the participants will also focus **on the renewal of a wooden bridge spanning the Mühlgraben**, facilitating accessibility to the water wheel and outdoor exhibits. Furthermore, the participants will also be involved in the cleaning, **photogrammetric documentation, and tachymetric surveying of the Mühlgraben section** between the wheel chamber and the end of the above-ground course. This segment, located immediately behind the water wheel, holds significant historical importance, with insights into the mill's construction history and structural evolution.

The project will be **guided by experts affiliated with the museum**, including a specialist archaeologist engineer, a specialist in Geodesy and a Museologist with specialisation in heritage conservation. All conservation efforts prioritise authenticity and sustainability which are part of the Museum's ethos, with a focus on the reuse of existing materials wherever feasible.

The project's educational program offers the participants immersive guided tours and excursions, as well as planned visits to other stakeholder communities as well as other sites in the region utilising similar water systems, providing invaluable insights into the UNESCO world heritage mining landscape and fostering a deeper connection to the region's cultural heritage.





Heritage Projects 2024 UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE CLASSICAL WEIMAR

CONS/RENO 01.09. - 14.09.2024 OH-H06

Conservation of Dry Stone Walls & Reconstruction of Historic Paths

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

Location: Weimar

Region: Thuringia

Next railway / bus station: Weimar (1.4 km)

Next airports: Leipzig (LEJ, 80 km);

Berlin (BER, 216 km)

AGE: at least 20

LANGUAGE: very good level of English, others languages are helpful

CV, Motivation Letter and interview required



Weimar is a small town in central Germany, located in the state of Thuringia. Weimar is famous for its rich cultural history and UNESCO World Heritage sites, the Classical Weimar and the Bauhaus Sites, which comprise several important cultural landmarks within the city. It is also known for being the birthplace of the Weimar Republic, the first democratic government in Germany following the First World War.

The Classical Weimar site includes several buildings and monuments associated with the German literary and cultural movements of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, including the Weimar Court Theatre, the Goethe and Schiller residences, and the Duchess Anna Amalia Library. These sites represent the pinnacle of German culture during the Age of Enlightenment and Romanticism, and they continue to attract visitors from around the world.

Weimar contains various parks and gardens that have been included as components to the UNESCO World Heritage site. Among these, the **Belvedere Palace Park** stands as a highlight, situated just beyond the city centre as part of the Belvedere Palace complex.

Project description

The project aims to combine **practical interventions to reconstruct and maintain the historic gardens and parks** with heritage education and the promotion of the idea of volunteering for heritage.

The practical works of the project will take place at the so called "kitchen garden", situated at the southern edge of Belvedere Palace Park. The kitchen garden had been arranged in the 19th century as a combined fruit, vegetable and flower garden. Time has had its hand on this garden, and some of its elements have been lost to nature's way. Nonetheless, the traces of the original designs remain. As in the previous years, the project will combine two tasks – the **conservation of the dry-stone walls surrounding the garden** and the **reconstruction of its former path system**.



The **dry-stone walls** as the formative element of the kitchen garden are ruinous and need to be protected against progressive decay. During the previous years the structure has been successively repaired. Within the framework of the 2018 project the first steps have been undertaken, which were advanced in 2019 and 2020; finally, in 2021 the works on one of the main walls was completed. The project in 2022 and the works of 2023 will now continue at one of the lateral dry stone walls that contain the hill beside the pathway leading to the kitchen garden. Plants that damage the walls will be carefully taken away, the instable parts of the walls stone by stone deconstructed and later replaced. Since the dry-stone walls are an important habitat for wild bees and other rare insects the interventions need to be carried out extremely carefully. The works will be guided by a stone mason specialised on dry stone walls and traditional masonry techniques, who will provide additional theoretical knowledge in this field.

Another part of the group will continue to **reconstruct a stone stairway** connecting the kitchen garden with the other parts of Belvedere Park as well as to uncover and reconstruct the pathway which had been leading to the central area of the kitchen garden, where a small fountain used to be located according to historical records. Eventually, the pathway will be uncovered all the way until the dry-stone wall and be restored to complete the narrative of this area of the site.

The **educational part** of the project will inform the participants about the background of the project, while providing knowledge about historical gardens and parks, traditional gardening and other related topics. One of the thematic topics to be discussed are resilience strategies against climate change being implemented on historical gardens in Germany.

Conservation Works at Roof Constructions & Roofs of a Historic Ensemble

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

Location: Castle Lohra

Region: Thuringia

Next railway / bus station: Gebra/Hainleite (5 km)

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

AGE: at least 20

LANGUAGE: very good level of English, others languages are helpful
CV, Motivation Letter and interview required



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

When dealing with roof structures and roofings the priority is how best to protect the original substance against climatic influences and to avoid damages. The exteriors of a historical structure sustain the battering of the weather with frontal bouts of wind, rain and snow. In the case of Lohra Castle, the structures are more directly hit due to its elevated location above a hill, a situation which has increased during the last years due to the influence of climate change. Its geographical situation places Lohra Castle in the line of stronger storms which have been rampaging over Germany in the recent years dropping copious amounts of water and blowing powerful gusts of wind. Understandably, even the robust structures of these medieval edifices were not built to withstand such an aggressive onslaught by nature. Facing this increasingly unstable climate hazards posed to the historical structures, solutions are being thought to adapt conservation strategies into disaster risk planning.

Preserving historic legacy for future generations is an important way to consolidate heritage conservation resilience. Lohra Castle includes architectural relics from the Middle Ages onwards; between the 11th and the 20th every century had left its traces which are still standing tall overlooking the Thuringian landscape. However, some of the structures need conservation interventions. The project in 2024 will be a continuation of the work started in the years 2020, 2021 and 2023, and it will concentrate on **the roof constructions and roofings of the 19th century barn house**. The barn house was used to house sheep, as part of the transformations that the site underwent during the time of Prussian occupation of the castle, when Lohra became an important regional agricultural centre. Today the building is used mostly for storage, but the castle administration envisions a future expansion of the social spaces where volunteers and visitors can gather, therefore it is expected to become in the future a new gathering hall for events. The participants will be involved in tasks to help safeguarding these historical structures by replacing damaged elements on the wooden roof structures and the roofings.

Besides, the volunteers will also focus on the roof construction at another historical large bar constructed towards the end of the 19th century. The so-called **Black Stable** which was built towards the end of the 19th century to accommodate cattle and is today the first building visitors see when entering the castle complex and a typical example of vernacular architecture in the region. Its name comes from it being painted in the traditional black colour often seen for wooden constructions in rural Thuringia. Traditional black paint is used to protect wooden structures, and it is typically made using a mixture of natural ingredients.

During the European Heritage Volunteers Project, damaged sections of the roof constructions at both buildings will be **meticulously replaced**, aiming to conserve as much of the original substance as possible, despite the barns' relatively young age compared to other structures of the castle ensemble. This approach of **careful repair** instead of wholesale replacements sensitises participants to the value of original heritage structures, regardless of their age or listing status. The participants will learn how to identify damages and make decisions that preserve the maximum original substance while meeting the structural, static, and aesthetic requirements. From setting up scaffolding to dismantling the roof, replacing damaged or rotten beams, and skilfully connecting new parts with the original structure, they will actively participate in all practical steps of the restoration process.

The project will be led by a master of carpentry who has additional education as "Restorer in Handicraft". Guided tours and visits to other sites containing wooden structure ensembles of interest will be part of the educational programme that will allow the participants to have a broad overview of traditional construction techniques as found in central Germany.

LOHRA CASTLE AND POSSIBLE OTHER CAMP PLACES OF
OPEN HOUSES' 2024 PROGRAMME



SOCI **09.06. – 06.07.2024** OH-C01
SOCI **07.07. – 03.08.2024** OH-C02
SOCI **04.08. – 31.08.2024** OH-C03
SOCI **01.09. – 14.09.2024** OH-C04
SOCI **15.09. – 11.10.2024** OH-C05

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

DURATION: Between six weeks and four months, the beginning dates are fixed because of the introduction course

ACCOMMODATION: Depending on the camp place. Please have a look at the camp place descriptions.

AGE: at least 20

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

WHAT TO BRING: alarm bell, calculator, purse, working gloves and strong shoes, sleeping bag, waterproof clothes

Motivation letter related to the project, CV + photo and basics of German and valid driver license an asset

Organising and leading an international Workcamp is an interesting challenge for those who enjoy working together with young people from all over the world, which are willing to take over a big responsibility and who look forward to a great summer in Germany. The camp leader's role lies in **building a bridge between the participants of the Workcamp, the organisation as well as the technical leaders** who guide the practical part of the camp. S/he supports the group of volunteers from a social and intercultural point of view. Open Houses is looking for people who are highly motivated and responsible, open minded and which already have some experiences in handling with other people. The main tasks are to organise the social life for all volunteers during the camp period. The leader will welcome the volunteers and make them familiar with the camp site. S/he will prepare the daily schedule, indicating the working and eating times including breaks and will furthermore be responsible for organising the cleaning and cooking teams, alternating within the group. The camp leader will buy the food for the group, having an eye on the everyday changing cooking teams with their individual dishes. Additionally, s/he organises leisure activities after the working days and is welcome to prepare campfires, barbecues, games or other group activities. For the weekends the camp leader should be ready to plan little trips to bigger cities nearby or other activities. A camp leader has rarely time for personal things during the Workcamp. S/he is always the person in charge of everything and contact person in any questions and needs of the volunteers. This should be clear to all applicants. It is also important that the camp leader stays in **close contact to the technical leaders**, who are organising the working groups and know which work has to be done. It is helpful to support the technical leaders by **taking over the responsibility for a working group**, if there are no other works to be done for the camp leader. At some camps, especially in environmental camps, it can happen that the functions of camp and technical leaders are running more together. So, it is good to be prepared also to organise a little bit the working part. The camp leader is also responsible for **managing the deduction and finances** of the camp and to take care of the **documentation** – writing down what has been done, taking pictures and leading the evaluation of the camp. It is important to do this documentation with a certain care, so that the camp leader which will lead the following camp will know what happened in the past and doesn't need to look for the same information or to do the same mistake a second time.

Project Description

The camp leader has to be able to **work independently as well as in a team**. Since most of the camps are organised by several camp leaders (one or two and one or more technical leaders) it is necessary to agree upon several issues in a team. All in all, leading a camp means a **lot of work and empathy** as well as a lot of fun. Open Houses gives the camp leaders the opportunity to be **creative** and to take over **responsibility** for their own work. Of course, they will not be left alone in their role. **Before getting active as a camp leader s/he will take part in one camp as a volunteer, parallel to the introduction as camp leader**. It will be a good experience to be an "ordinary participant" for one or two weeks and to get to know the camp leader's tasks from the participants' point of view. After experiencing the atmosphere of the first camp and after Open Houses and the potential camp leader have gotten to know each other better, Open Houses will decide if s/he will be able to lead camps or not or if s/he would need an additional introduction time. During the summer season Open Houses organises a lot of Workcamps in different places in Germany. Depending on the camp leader's interests and abilities Open Houses and the potential camp leader will decide together where s/he will lead camps. In general, Open Houses offers two possibilities: The volunteers can lead **several successive camps in one place** (at Lohra Castle) or can lead **different camps at various places**. For each camp leading of two weeks the volunteer receives a 150 € allowance, if the volunteer stays for the whole season, 200 € will be paid per camp led. S/he does not have to pay for food and accommodation. The camp leader will receive the allowance after the camp, when all the camp documents will be checked by the office staff and everything will be fine. After two or three camps, is highly recommended that the volunteer takes a break. S/he can stay as a participant in a project. In that case, the food, accommodation and insurance are covered but the volunteer will not receive allowance.

MID TERM VOLUNTEERING 2024 SUPPORT OF TECHNICAL LEADING OF WORKCAMPS LOHRA CASTLE AND POSSIBLE OTHER CAMP PLACES OF OPEN HOUSES' 2024 PROGRAMME



SOCI **09.06. – 06.07.2024** OH-C06

SOCI **07.07. – 03.08.2024** OH-C07

SOCI **04.08. – 31.08.2024** OH-C08

SOCI **01.09. – 14.09.2024** OH-C09

SOCI **29.09 – 11.10.2024** OH-C10

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

ACCOMMODATION:

Depending on the camp place.

Please, have a look in the camp place descriptions.

AGE: at least 20

LANGUAGE:

English, basic knowledge of German and other languages are helpful

WHAT TO BRING:

working gloves and strong working shoes,
sleeping bag, waterproof clothes

**Motivation letter related to the project, CV + photo
and basics of German and valid driver license
asset**

Organising and leading an international Workcamp is an interesting challenge for those who enjoy working together with young people from all over the world and which are willing to take over responsibility.

For young and older people more **interested in the technical side** of the works than in the organisation of the social life Open Houses offers the possibility to support the technical leading of Workcamps and Building Weeks in the framework of Mid Term Volunteering. This could be an interesting task for those which have own **manual experiences** and interest in activities related with the environment or for those which want to **train their organisational skills**.

The leading of the technical side of the Workcamps lies in the hands of one of Open Houses' technical leaders. The volunteer who supports him can overtake a part of the technical leaders' responsibility. Depending on the wishes, the skills and the experience of the volunteer this can be the organisation of the schedule of the working day, the responsibility for tools and material, the **leading of a smaller group of volunteers** or more special tasks.

For students of architecture, building engineering and similar fields this kind of voluntary service **can be recognized as internship for their studies**. Open Houses will offer the necessary certificates. For each camp leading of two weeks the volunteer receives a 150 € allowance. S/he does not have to pay for food and accommodation and can take part in all cultural activities and excursions of the camps. After two or three camps, is highly recommended that the volunteer takes a break. S/he have the right to stay as a participant in a project. In that case, the food, accommodation and insurance are covered but the volunteer will not receive allowance.