

Valley of the Stars Work-Exchange Programme



The Valley of the Stars – or Vale das Estrelas – is our beautiful piece of quiet and calming countryside on the south west coast of Portugal.

It's deep in rural Alentejo – a landscape of hills and valleys, pine and cork oak forests – but just a short drive from Europe's last true *Wild Coast*.

The whole property is off the grid, our electricity is produced by the sun, our water comes from a borehole, and a radio link provides our high-speed internet connection.

When we first discovered this valley, it was the breath-taking view over forests and mountains we fell in love with, but on our first night in the valley it was the breath-taking starry sky above that inspired our name. We enjoy 300 days a year of sunshine.

Would you like to spend a couple of weeks living off the grid, breathing the fresh air, connecting with nature and enjoying a healthy workout?

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO WORK WITH US
IN EXCHANGE FOR ACCOMMODATION,
MEALS AND ALL THIS UNIQUE VALLEY
AND REGION HAVE TO OFFER.**

ABOUT OUR WORK-EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Nearly two thousand people across the world read our blog [Off-Grid and Ignorant in Portugal](#) every week and are following our voyage of discovery from a diplomat and journalist to being off-grid survivors, lodge builders, wine experts and hoteliers.

We'd like to extend our community and tackle our extensive to-do list by offering a work-exchange programme for Autumn 2021 and Winter/Spring 2022.

OUR COMMITMENT

We will provide a private or shared **room** in our guesthouse, **breakfast** every day and **weekday lunches** for the duration of your stay.

We have spent the last six months renovating our guesthouse on the hill with the best views over the valley. It is divided into a one bedroom apartment and a two bedroom apartment – both fully furnished with full kitchens, bathrooms, hot water and central heating...and fantastic beds and WiFi!

We aim to give you plenty of opportunity to **escape** into the peace and quiet of our piece of Portugal and to have the time and space to **explore** the countryside and the coastline of southwest Alentejo.

YOUR COMMITMENT

We ask that you provide **25 hours** of focussed work time for each of the two weeks. The rest of the time is yours – to fill with reflection, reading, hiking, kayaking, surfing, or any other of the many activities this stunning coastline has to offer.

We would like to match your interests and skills with our projects.

There's a lot of **physical work** on the to-do list. It's a steep learning curve, so we favour people with experience in building, woodworking, electricals, plumbing, landscaping, permaculture and sustainable living.

But we also are working on a podcast and on storytelling projects if **creativity** is more your thing.

OPPORTUNITIES

Rolling Up Our Sleeves

The current focus is on:

- building a deck
- renovating our solar house
- creating an organic garden of raised beds
- improving our rainwater collection systems
- landscaping and strimming our nine hectares of valley
- improving the roads and paths

Thinking and Creating

We're also working on a new travelogue **podcast** series exploring Alentejo through wine, wineries and the fabulous characters who inhabit them, and so are looking for experienced audio producers, sound designers and podcast people to develop, produce, market and distribute the first series.

MEALS: We will provide breakfast and lunches on weekdays. You will be responsible for your own dinners on weekdays, and all meals on the weekends. There's a local fish market, butchery with local meat and supermarket in the nearest town São Teotónio which is just a few miles away.

RESPECT THE HOUSE RULES: Keep the guesthouse and its surroundings clean and tidy. No smoking on the property. We expect contributions to maintaining the common areas as a daily practice.

LANGUAGES: We speak English, Swedish and Portuguese

GETTING TO US: It's two and a half hours to drive from Lisbon Airport and one and a half from Faro. We're a mile from the main road along a bumpy dirt track and so hiring a car would give you flexibility and the opportunity to explore the region.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 15, 2021

FELLOWSHIP DATES (TWO WEEK PERIODS):

- Autumn: Nov-Dec 2021
- Winter: Feb 2022
- Spring: Mar-Apr 2022

APPLY HERE: <https://forms.gle/79Su7ttJqVNF7vCN6>