

Basic info

Venue: Riet Vell Natural Reserve - Ebro Delta (Amposta, Tarragona), Spain
Start: From 1 April 2022
Number of vacancies: 1 (4 months), 2 (6 months), 1 (8 months) and 4 (12 months)
Deadline to apply: 31 May 2022
From: Candidates from EU.

Selection process

Anyone interested may read the info below, contact via e-mail to reservarietvell@seo.org attaching their CV and motivation letter (in English or Spanish) before the 31 May 2020. We will select candidates for interviews as soon as we receive them and inform them no later than the 15 days before receiving the application. Interviews may be held online.

GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEERING IN RIET VELL



SEO/BirdLife is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of birds throughout the Spanish territory, through bird populations scientific monitoring and the creation of natural reserves. In these areas, local and migratory birds are protected. Birdlife is a union of associations, which have joined their international efforts, for the protection of birds. SEO / BirdLife is the Spanish association for the study and conservation of birds and their habitats, representing BirdLife International in Spain.

The Ebro Delta is an agricultural and fishing area based on the resources from the river Ebro and currently also from tourism. It has a traditional community involved in environmental activities and

highly aware about ecology and about the large hydraulic projects planned for this area that seriously affect the health of this valuable ecosystem. The Riet Vell Natural Reserve is located in the Delta plain near the Eucaliptus beach.

You will be in a natural area of high ecological value, in addition to being an agroecological farm with a natural lagoon and it is a Natura 2000 site, we invite you to enjoy all its natural wealth while we remind you that you must try to minimize your negative impacts on the environment, the inhabitants and your own volunteer work.

We will find ourselves in the middle of a place of high ornithological value, so it is advisable to take binoculars, although we can provide a pair for you if you don't have your own pair. You will have the Swarovski observatory just a few steps away from the Home of the Volunteers, where you can easily observe the aquatic bird life that characterizes this valuable ecosystem.

See below the map of the Reserve:



We are approx. 20 km. from Amposta and 12 km. from Deltebre, the main localities in the area. Els Muntells, the small and closest village is 3 kilometers away and we have the urbanization of Eucaliptus at 700 m from the farm.

• Volunteering tasks

The main tasks to develop during the volunteer shifts are the following:

- Conservation campaigns: Study of the distributions of autochthon and exotic/invasive species in the Delta and the extraction of invasive species such as the pond turtle from Florida, prospecting of naiads in the drainage channels in the rice fields of the Delta; and extraction of allochthonous plants according to the planning of the Delta de l'Ebre Natural Park and our own conservation projects. We also develop ecology scientific studies through monitoring of bird populations as well as other kind of fauna.

- Environmental education, ornithological tourism and public use: Guided tours in the reserve for schools, consumer groups and universities, etc., provide ornithological information to visitors and support at the bird hide; organization of workshops, games and logistics to develop environmental education actions and celebration of world days (Bird World Day, Nature 2000 Day, etc...) on the farm with groups of visitors.

- Public attention in the Visitor Centre and visitor management: from Wednesday to Sunday, mainly, attend the visitors; sell our products in our store and give information about the reserve and the Ebro Delta natural values, SEO/BirdLife and organic farming; post articles on SEO/BirdLife magazine and post on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

- Maintenance tasks on houses, visitor center and hide: painting, ordering, restructuring the farm houses and warehouses; clean, order and maintain the public places of the Reserve.

- Organic garden: work in our vegetable garden, for internal use and also for sell, for environmental education and to learn how to grow our own food.

- Scientific monitoring tasks (birds and bat counts, flora and fauna monitoring): participation in the bird census of the Reserve and other protected areas and in other SEO/BirdLife monitoring programs. Take care of the optical material (binoculars and telescopes); count and locate the nests of the most important species; report after the breeding season; monitor the occupation of nest boxes for bats and birds.

NOTE: During the workdays you will be accompanied by the staff of SEO/BirdLife technical office in the Ebro Delta. But the staff will not be with you 24 hours a day during all the volunteering but mostly during the working hours.

The tasks to be developed are often physical and / or are developed in aquatic ecosystems (lagoons, rice fields, etc.) so you must be willing to work outdoors and in, sometimes, harsh conditions (walking through the mud, handling animals and plants, use tools, get dirty, etc.)

• **Accommodation and logistics:**

The volunteer will live in the Home of the Volunteers located in the Riet Vell nature reserve, at approx. 20 km from Amposta, 12km from Deltebre and 3 km from the nearest little town, Els Muntells. The house is an old house, recently rehabilitated that meets the basic requirements, with 2 toilets and 2 showers in a common space, 1 adapted bathroom, shared kitchen and dining room, all basic accessories, including washing machine, basic furniture, with 2 shared bedrooms and 5 single bedrooms and a working space with a small laboratory. WiFi is free both at the house and the visitor center. The volunteers live inside the Reserve, at 100 meters from the hide, surrounded by rice fields and nature, and have access to an organic vegetable garden and composting and recycling areas. The Eucalyptus beach is 700m away. You can bring a sleeping bag or your own sheets, but in the house, there are sheets and blankets on all beds.

When you leave the room, on your last day, you will have to remove the sheets and leave them near the washing machine, order and clean the room.

Weekly cleaning and maintenance tasks of the common spaces, toilets and kitchen will be shared and shifts/teams will be organized. Volunteers are encouraged to cook and eat together for better kitchen logistics, but it is not mandatory.

• **Material you should bring:**

It is recommended to wear work/old clothes for field work and also adapted to the time of year you'll be here (comfortable clothes, long-sleeved shirts, hat/cap/hat, shower towel, comfortable shoes (sneakers, boots or outdoor field shoes) and slippers/flip flops (two pairs for keep the interior of the houses clean), some long socks, sun protection and mosquito repellent, sleeping bag (if you want – sheets will be provided), preferably bring organic shower soap and/or shampoo because we have a biological septic sewage tanks. Winters here feel cold because of a high level of humidity and regular windy days, bring clothes accordingly.

Notify the coordinator of the Reserve, in case of food intolerances or special diets. **You will live and work outdoors with direct contact with nature, so if you are allergic to dust, moisture, pollen, insect bites, plants, etc ..., weight well your decision to do this volunteering in case you may have health issues.** We are on a rural environment and far from the big cities and main health system infrastructure.

All other material necessary for the development of the activity will be provided in the same place of work (gloves, wellies or water boots, tools, etc.).

Other comments:

- Personal room cleaning does not fall within the schedule of volunteer work neither the cleaning of the common spaces that are organized weekly.
- Punctuality is requested in the schedules.
- We have a dog that we need to take care every day and be responsible of.

Volunteers have a working day of about 6h/day for 5 days/week (can include working weekend days depending on shifts to attend the visitor center). This can vary throughout the shifts and the tasks to be performed. On Saturday and National Holidays there will be two work shifts, mainly in the visitor center. You'll have two free days per week. When there are enough volunteers to attend the visitor center during weekend, volunteers are allowed to have their free time on weekend if they ask in time with the coordinator.

• **SCHEDULE for reception and farewell of volunteers**

Reception and farewell of volunteers will be done preferable from Monday to Friday before 19:00h
Train schedules to the l'Aldea-Amposta-Tortosa train station:

<http://www.redtransporte.com/barcelona/cercanias-renfe/linea-r16.html>

- HIFE bus company to Amposta: <http://hife.es/en-GB>

Volunteers will be picked up by car from the train/bus station. Please stick as closely as possible to the schedules to properly manage the departure and entry of volunteers.

For the arrival with your own vehicle, the meeting point is the parking lot of the reserve, at the entrance of the farm at:

Carretera Amposta - Eucaliptus, km 18'5

Amposta 43870 Tarragona

Click [here](#) to see the location in googlemaps.

For any question or if there is any last-minute incident or doubt, you can call the person in charge of the volunteering program:

Sofia Rivaes: tel 0034 616 29 02 46. You can also write to reservarietvell@seo.org