

# FAQ [MuSaBa.org](http://Musaba.org)

## Where is MuSaBa?

MuSaBa (Museo Santa Barbara) is located in Calabria, in the south of Italy. It's picturesque landscape is comprised of many small farms dotting the neighboring hills and mountains, along with two rivers flowing across the surrounding territory. Mammola, a small charming village from the year 1000, is only a 1km walk from MuSaBa.

## Who should apply ?

MuSaBa is beneficial for anyone who would like a hands-on learning experience. Previous artistic, architectural, archaeological or any similar experience is not a prerequisite for participation in our programs - most participants are novices.

Due to MuSaBa's relatively isolated location, people interested in going out in the evenings should not participate. We aim for life at MuSaBa to be peaceful and communal, much like it's original monastic predecessors.

## How big are the workcamps ?

Actually 6 participants.

A Foresteria (residence) is under construction at MuSaBa. By June 2004, we will be able to host at least 22 persons.

## What are the accommodations like ?

Accommodations are on the grounds of MuSaBa. There are a variety of living spaces that are equipped with electricity, bathrooms, and beds. Actually there is neither air conditioning nor central heating, so participants must prepare accordingly. Housing is bordered by our Mediterranean Art Gardens, the river Torbido, and the archaeological site.

## What is the weather like ?

In general, March, April, May (approx. 18-22 C° / 65 – 70 F°)

June, July, August, September (approx. 30+°C / 85+ F°)

October-November (15 –18 °C / 60-65F°)

Please bring clothes that correspond with the season. It can rain, so also be prepared for mud.

## What is the schedule?

Monday through Saturday mornings.

## What is a typical working day like?

Morning

Breakfast at 7.00am. (times vary by 30min - 1hr depending on the season.)

Morning Activities 8:00am – 12:00pm

Lunch: 12:30pm

Afternoon

4:00-6:00pm (times vary by 1hr depending on the season.)

Dinner: 8.00pm

Curfew: 11.00pm.

## How much work is done for the maintenance of the Park and art works

We manage an olive orchard of 450 trees, orange and lemon trees, a vineyard, and small vegetable garden. Periodically, participants may assist in the care and harvest of these and other crops.

Occasional construction and restoration of art monuments and other structures on the MuSaBa grounds.

## Do I have to do clean up and chores?

Yes. Everyone is expected to help out. For hygiene reasons we hold high expectations for Orderliness/cleanliness of the kitchen/patio, bathrooms and living quarters.

In addition, working tools and brushes must be washed thoroughly and kept tidy.

## What should I bring?

Comfortable work clothes (i.e. work boots and gloves), sleeping bag according to the season, sunscreen, hats, visors, personal hygienic items (soap, shampoo, towels, etc.), flashlight, books, musical instruments, good stories or other source of entertainment.

Good humor, flexibility, and an open-mind.



### What if I have a food allergy or special diet?

Because all meals are cooked for groups, special food diets and allergies cannot be accommodated.

### Do I have to speak Italian?

No. As long as you are willing to learn and have patience, communication is not a problem. Italian, English, French, and Dutch are spoken here.

### Communication

Phone/fax and e-mail access only in case emergency, use mail, local phones or bring your mobile.

### Pocket money

Bring Euros or International credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Eurocard) (no change or travel cheques in local banks).

### Where can I do my laundry?

All clothing other than pants are expected to be washed by hand (the "Foresteria" will be equipped with laundry service).

### Do you have any pets?

Yes. We have 2 dogs (Kali & Bubi)), 1 cat, a few chickens. All are friendly and harmless.

### Are there shopping centers or markets nearby ?

The closest shopping center is in a nearby town (Gioiosa Jonica) which can be reached by bus. There is also a large Sunday open-air market in Gioiosa Jonica.

### How far are you from the sea?

10km from the Ionian Sea.

There are also many hiking trails nearby.

### Policies

Possession or use of illegal substances and excessive use of alcohol is not permitted at MuSaBa. Smoking is allowed only outdoors. Firearms are not permitted anywhere on MuSaBa's property. Workshop participants may not bring pets.

### Confirmation

**Participants must confirm participation directly to MuSaBa (email, phone or fax) 3 days before starting date.**

### How can I get to MuSaBa (for Volunteers Work Adventure / Apprenticeship Students)

1. Take only flights to Rome. Don't fly to Reggio Calabria, Lametia Terme, Naples or Sicily.
2. Before taking the daily train from Rome (7-8 hrs.), give us a call.
3. Train to take: **Roma Termini 11.10pm – Reggio Calabria** (Naples, Lametia Terme, Catanzaro, Roccella) **Gioiosa Jonica** (your stop) make sure that you are in the carriages that go to Roccella.
4. It is in your best interest to follow these directions, otherwise you will get lost. Please note that we will not come to pick you up at any place other than the station in M.G.J.

ARRIVAL : ONLY MONDAY MORNING 8.30 AT GIOIOSA JONICA STATION.

DEPARTURE : FRIDAY EVENING OR SATURDAY MORNING

**[More info at www.musaba.org](http://www.musaba.org)**

## Report on workcamp at MuSaBa - June 2000 Arch. VINA LUSTADO, San Francisco CA-USA

It has been about two months now since I have completed the workcamp in Mammola for the artist workshop/museum, and I still can't convey the transformational affect it has had on me.

I am a 34 year old female architect who made a commitment to take some time away from the corporate rat-race. I wanted to pursue volunteer work internationally to satisfy my spiritual need to give something back to the community. I had wanted to participate in a workcamp the year before, but the programs offered did not relate much to architecture. But when I read about the MuSaBa workcamp, it immediately aroused my interest with their approach of integrating artistic teachings with an organic, simple lifestyle rooted to nature. Although the description was very appealing, I was not entirely clear of the specific details about the workcamp prior to my arrival.

When I arrived, I was pleasantly surprised at the beauty of the landscape: mountainous, lush valleys in a remote little area called Santa Barbara. The accommodations were very simple but the setting was breathtaking. The work was sometimes difficult (some heavy concrete construction) early in the morning, but lighter work in the afternoon (ie: gardening or painting). The days were filled with organic cooking, tending to the garden, or just exchanging cultural traditions or current political events among the volunteers and hosts. Nik and Hiske are very much into integrating their organic simple lifestyle (and their philosophies associated with that) into the volunteers' daily activities. Also Nik is a highly gifted artist/architect/sculptor who has much to offer creatively.

What I appreciated most was the energy, artistry and passion of these people, Nik and Hiske. It is rare to see people so committed in pursuing a cause that gives something back to the community. Their proposed program and construction project is very unique and will be very important as an artistic/cultural centre for students and scholars alike all over the world. This project should be supported to the fullest extent possible. The experience has had such a profound affect on me, only in the positive sense, that it would be a shame to deprive any future volunteers of the same opportunities.

## My MuSaBa Volunteer Work Adventure - By Mary Lee - September 12, 2002

### Project Highlights

- **Leadership of Work Activities**  
Nik's dedication to the project as an artist was very evident as he constantly accompanied the group through both work activities and cooking meals. It was a privilege and joy to learn from his vast experience. This is an aspect of the project that should definitely continue. I also appreciated Hiske's availability to the group for clarification of activities.
- **Accompaniment by Italian workers**  
It was great that I was able to work a fair deal with both Niko and Vincenzo, who exposed me to the local culture of the people. Despite my poor language skills and lack of local dialect comprehension, I found that communication came fairly easily with persistence and a sense of humour.
- **Contributing to significant ongoing project efforts**  
Learning to build the stone wall as well as sculpt both wood and stone was a powerful experience for me. Despite long hours and hard physical labour, it felt good to know that we were contributing to something that would be long lasting.
- **Cooking with Nik**  
I appreciated learning a thing or two about the local Southern Italian palate. I especially loved utilizing the foods grown from the organic farms on the grounds. Nik's resourcefulness in the kitchen was quite something to watch. I definitely learned a great deal about Southern Italian cooking. ☺