



Trustees of INTO (CIO)

Charity number: 1175994

January 2019

Paper 7

INTO WORKING HOLIDAYS PROGRAMME by Julie Thompson, INTO Volunteer

1. OVERVIEW

This paper is a summary of the INTO working holidays programme – its history, key learning points and the way forward. It is the basis of a short talk to be given by Julie at the INTO Trustees' meeting on 29th January 2019.

2. BACKGROUND

The working holiday programme was set up in 2011 by Julie Thompson to bring INTO members' working holidays to a wider international audience, both to assist members in fulfilling the numbers of participants on their working holidays and increase their international profile.

Key Statistics

- By the end of the 2019 summer season, more than 165 working holidays will have been advertised on the programme. Originally starting with a 2 page spread in the NTEWNI working holidays brochure, holidays are now advertised on the NTEWNI and INTO websites, sometimes in conjunction with mail shots to Universities, small email group etc.
- There is no 'typical' holiday, as they are all unique, however holidays generally run for 7 days and offer places for 6-8 participants. Each holiday organiser sets price and policies and takes their own bookings.
- In the first year we had 5 holidays, one year had 32 and for the last 2 years, the average number of holidays has been 22. The programme has covered working holidays for 12 INTO members and provided advice to 2 more.

Key Learning points

- It is possible to run a successful working holiday if the INTO member does not own/control the property or work site, many operate in collaboration with a local partner.
- Price and activity matter. Participants tend to be price-sensitive and interested in specific activities: learning a new skill or working on a site that has cultural significance. Activities have been varied, including fresco restoration, archaeology,

gardening and learning stone masonry. Unfortunately daily house cleaning, land clearance and clearing up after donkeys have proved less popular.

- Some organisers have found that having international volunteers working on local sites has generated great interest in nearby communities, thus increasing the visibility of the charity locally and the value of heritage conservation.

3. THE FUTURE

Having the working holiday listings on the NTEWNI website has been vital. From March 2019 onwards, we will be moving to having a direct link to INTO website, which will improve the presentation; adding/removing holidays will be much easier; we can be much more flexible with regard to deadlines and increase international visibility.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Are the Trustees aware of any other INTO member that may be interested in participating in the working holidays programme?
- Would any of the Trustees be willing to advertise the INTO working holidays on their charity's website?
- Possibility for a small budget for future working holiday training.