



THE CAMP VÍA ORGÁNICA EXPERIENCE



**REGENERATION
INTERNATIONAL**

 **Vía
Orgánica**



**ecosystem restoration
camps**

THE HANDBOOK

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| INTRODUCTION

The Camp Vía Orgánica Experience is a one week, hands on restoration learning journey at the Vía Orgánica Ranch in Guanajuato, Mexico. This experience will give you the chance to learn about the causes of ecosystem degradation in the area, and the techniques that can be used to regenerate the land. Each morning there will be a workshop on a different regenerative technique that we will then put into practice on the land in the afternoons. There will also be guest speakers coming in to give talks on various regenerative topics, and the chance for you to connect deeply with Mexican culture.

| THE ORGANISATIONS



Ecosystem Restoration Camps is a global non-profit foundation that supports camps that act as research and training centres for the restoration of degraded ecosystems. They have been operating since February 2017, and now have more than 50 camps on six continents. Camp Vía Orgánica was the second camp to join the movement, trialling a new approach to ecosystem restoration through working in partnership with Regeneration International and Vía Orgánica.

HISTORY

We envision a fully-functional, peaceful, abundant, biologically diverse Earth brought about through cooperative efforts for the ecological restoration of degraded lands.

OBJECTIVES

To train people in techniques for restoring land and provide practical opportunities for people to practice new approaches to landscape restoration

To build research, training and innovation centers to engage people in ecosystem restoration

To manage a flow of volunteers of all ages to restore agricultural and natural ecosystems

To increase the organic matter, carbon content and water retention capacity of the soil to stimulate large scale carbon sequestration

To improve the livelihoods of farmers, landowners and local communities around the camps



**REGENERATION
INTERNATIONAL**

In June 2015, about 60 people from 21 nations, representing businesses, the farming and scientific communities, educational institutions, policymakers and NGOs, convened in Costa Rica to draw up a blueprint for an international movement united around a common goal: to reverse global warming and end world hunger by facilitating and accelerating the global transition to regenerative agriculture and land management.

In January 2017, Regeneration International (RI) achieved 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. Today, RI engages with a network of more than 250 international partners and a growing number of Regeneration Alliances throughout the world, including in the U.S., South Africa, India, Canada, Belize, Mexico and Guatemala.

VISION

A healthy global ecosystem in which practitioners of regenerative agriculture and land-use, in concert with consumers, educators, business leaders and policymakers, cool the planet, feed the world and restore public health, prosperity and peace on a global scale.

MISSION

To promote, facilitate and accelerate the global transition to regenerative food, farming and land management for the purpose of restoring climate stability, ending world hunger and rebuilding deteriorated social, ecological and economic systems.



Rancho Vía Orgánica is a 40 hectare regenerative ranch, 15 kilometres away from San Miguel D'Allende in the Guanajuato region of Mexico. The farm school reaches thousands of students each year from around Mexico as well providing workshops for area residents.

MISSION

Vía Orgánica AC is a Mexican non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the health of people and the planet through knowledge and practice of organic regenerative agriculture, fair trade, social justice and sustainable living.

| VÍA ORGÁNICA RANCH & STORE

HISTORY

Vía Orgánica is a Mexican non-profit started in 2009. It supports a variety of educational projects related to organic regenerative agriculture, the local economy, sustainability and natural health through Ecological Ranch and Vía Orgánica Educational Center.

Vía Orgánica is part of international networks such as Regeneration International, Organic Consumers Association, Millones Contra Monsanto and Consumers International. It is a member of national coalitions such as the Sin Maiz No Hay Pais, the Parliamentary Front against Hunger, the Alliance for Food Health and the Collective of Corn.

At the ranch you'll find a restaurant and a store, which supports a network of 300 small producers. It is also a hub for activities with workshops, classes, meeting spaces and a rural market.

LOCATION

The ranch, restaurant, and store are located twenty minutes outside of San Miguel de Allende, on Camino a Jalpa, towards Querétaro. Go here to see it on a map: <https://viaorganica.org/mapa/>

HOW TO GET THERE AND BACK

You should arrive in Del Bajío International Airport (BJX) or Queretaro (QRO) by 3:00 pm on the day the camp begins and book your flight out of Del Bajío (also known as Leon) or Queretaro sometime after the final day after 11:30 am.

You are responsible for arranging your flights. The closest airports to the ranch are:

Leon, Guanajuato (airport code BJX)
Queretaro (airport code QRO)

Each airport is approximately 1.5 hour drive and pickup can be arranged from either airport with Bajio Go Shuttle for \$25 US each way. To book the shuttle, please go here: <https://bajiogoshuttle.com/>

You can also arrive in Mexico City which often has less expensive flights, and take the bus from there.

Please let us know when you are arriving so we can confirm a meeting point and arrange transport to the ranch.

VISA

You will be issued a Mexico tourist card (also sometimes called an FMT) upon arrival in Leon.

The FMT is a government form declaring that you have stated the purpose of your visit to Mexico to be tourism, and which must be carried while you are visiting Mexico. Although more than one kind of Mexico visa exists, a Mexico tourist card is a simple declaration of your intention to vacation in Mexico for not more than 180 days.

THE ACTIVITIES

- COMPOSTING
- CREATING TERRACES
- TREE PLANTING
- CLASSES FROM REGENERATIVE ACTORS/THINKERS
- ADOBE BUILDING
- SEED-SAVING



WHAT TO EXPECT

THE CLIMATE

September is in the end of the rain season, so best to bring a light raincoat. San Miguel is located in the high desert at 6200 ft, temps are cold at night with an average of 40 to 50 degrees. It's warm and sunny in the day with an average of 78 degrees. It's important to bring warm clothes, adobe has thermal properties and holds the heat from the sunny days but mornings are brisk.

THE ACCOMODATIONS



You have the choice to sleep in either one of our adobe cabins, which are dormitory style with bunk beds and shared with up to six people, (most cabins will have two or three people in each) or you may bring your own tent. The cabins are equipped with a cover sheet for the bed, a pillow.

Please bring your own sleeping bag, towel and washcloth. The ranch is an example of dryland farming and all water is captured so we will ask people to be conservative in using water for showers and be careful in general with water use.

THE FOOD

All our meals are prepared from scratch using many ingredients from our organic, educational farm. Herbs, leafy greens and vegetables will be harvested daily from our gardens, and free range eggs from our regenerative poultry system. Other ingredients such as corn, beans, organic milk and dairy products, free range chicken, and many other fruits and vegetables are sourced from local organic farms and small producers.

All of our raw foods are carefully washed and disinfected. Bottled water is provided for drinking.

Organic wine and artisan and home brewed beers will be available at cost.

Come prepared to enjoy fresh handmade tortillas and a variety of delicious authentic Mexican meals! There will be organic Mexican coffee and teas at the restaurant ready at 8:00 am every morning.

*There is also an organic store with organic food and products, available for campers to purchase.

WHAT TO BRING

- WORK BOOTS/COMFORTABLE STURDY SHOES
- SLEEPING BAG
- THERMALS
- CLOTHES FOR BOTH WARM AND COLD TEMPERATURES
- GLOVES
- TOWEL
- SUN HAT
- SUNGLASSES
- NATURAL SUN-CREAM
- NATURAL TOILETRIES
- WATER BOTTLE
- BOOKS, PAPER/PENS, PLAYING CARDS, FOR EVENINGS
- A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT, IF YOU PLAY

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions at all about the experience.

Email Rose Welch at rose@viaorganica.org

Vía Orgánica/Regeneration International/Organic Consumers Association