



Livingood e-book

A guide for everybody who wants to get their hands busy



Introduction

Who are we and How to get here

About the work

About the house

About the food

About the free time

About everything else

Note from a volunteer

Who are we and how to get here



Hello and Welcome!

We are Ran and Eyal, owners of LivinGood farm. Together and with the help of volunteers from all over the world we grow organic and kosher medjool dates. We think that volunteering and helping out in independent organic farms is a great way of exchanging culture, knowledge and meeting new people. Everybody can be part of LivinGood, as long as you are not afraid of getting your hands dirty ;) The Farm is in the Jordan Valley, but our head quarters also known as the house of the volunteers, is in Hamra.

Coming from the airport Ben Gurion?

<https://www.touristisrael.com/bus-ben-gurion-airport-jerusalem/20176/>

Go up to the second floor in terminal three and take the shuttle bus 485 to Jerusalem central bus station. From there, follow the next instructions.

Coming from Tel Aviv?

<https://www.touristisrael.com/bus-from-tel-aviv-to-jerusalem/>

Bus 405 runs from the Tel Aviv Central Bus Station to the Jerusalem Bus Station or **Bus 480** runs from Tel Aviv's Arlozoroff Bus Terminal (also known as the Tel Aviv 2000 Terminal, in the forecourt of the Tel Aviv Central Train Station).

Coming from Jerusalem?

<https://www.bus.co.il/otobusimmvc/Lines/o/o/48402/Hamra?Language=en>

Take the bus 943 or 946 at the central bus station.

Link to infos for the root **943**: https://www.bus.co.il/otobusimmvc/Line_Places/1010/943_83_-1433419596?

Link to info for the root **946**: https://www.bus.co.il/otobusimmvc/Line_Places/1010/946_83_1686261122?

Coming from other part of Israel

<https://www.bus.co.il/otobusimmvc/Lines/o/o/48402/Hamra?Language=en>

IMPORTANT: the buses don't drive during shabbat (Friday afternoon and Saturday). Please, check the proper time table for the buses on the internet.

If you don't speak Hebrew or arabic and it happens that the bus driver doesn't speak english, follow these instructions: Make a print screen of the following picture. It is the address and the text "Hello. I am going to Hamra, can you please tell me when the bus gets there?" And show it to the bus driver.

שלום. אני הולך לחמרה. אתה יכול בבקשה ליידע אותי, כאשר האוטובוס מגיע לשם



חמרה
Hamra, Israel

When you get to the Moshav, you can either call us, go back to the entrance and ask for directions there, or ask anyone where the volunteer's house is. Don't worry, everybody knows us :)

About the work

May your hands always be busy



The activities depend on the month and season.

- Plant baby trees
- Mark and prepare baby trees
- Clean the grass around the trees
- Check the sprinkles
- Cut the spikes
- Count dates arms per tree
- Pollinate the trees
- Collect dates
- Put dates in package
- Sell dates in special events





We are also growing grapes and olives and sometimes we take the volunteers to work on these plantations. Parallel to the farm we have some projects to improve the volunteer's house or the farm itself. So we also do some painting and construction. The work is not really hard, but it can be challenging for those who are not used to working on a farm. We don't push anything and we do respect everyone's limit, but we ask everybody to try their best, as this farm is our lives. If you have any special skills, like drawing, design etc, let us know, because sometimes we like developing projects together.

Monday to Thursday - 6am to 12h

Friday (Shabat) - 6am to 12h

Saturday (shabat) - no work

Sunday - it depends.

We take a break for breakfast between the work and eat all together.

PS: We start the work at 6am not because we are bad guys (joke) but because you can work 5 hours straight and avoid the heat. In the afternoon it is always nice if you can help us for one more hour with some projects. We are Jewish, so Sunday is the first day of the week. We usually work on this day and some volunteers join us.

About the house

Maintain or make it better



You will be staying in a house that we rent exclusively for the volunteers. It is very cosy, with front yard and backyard. There is a big swing chair, you can make fire in the night, eat outside, work on the herbs garden, learn to compost etc. We have a shared library, where you can take and leave books, games and puzzle. Hot shower and washing machine, fridge and freezer, equipped kitchen with stove and oven. There are two toilets and one shower. We have clothes for everyone, bed sheets and towels. You should bring your personal hygiene items.

We kindly ask you to take care of the house, so that every volunteer that comes can have a good time ;)

Here are our requests:

- Clean the house once a week.
- Water the plants every two days.
- If something breaks, try to repair or let us know.
- Please, don't paint on the wall. We can provide you canvas for that;)
- Try to cook with the food that has already been opened, let's avoid food waste ;)

- Do your laundry before you go, or if you are living very early in the morning make sure that someone can do the laundry for you.
- If you have ideas to improve the house, let us know and we will provide the tools. But try to finish the project, before you leave.

Don't worry, we will not control anything and everybody is free. The idea is that the House stays as nice as it is or gets better, so that all volunteers have a great time.

About the food

We respect all food preferences



If you are vegetarian, vegan, plant based etc, we will always respect your food choices. Just let us know and we provide what you need. Vegetables, eggs, fruit, tahine, pita bread and spices are the most beloved requests. Coffee and tea are no problem. Off course we have dates for everybody.

About the free time

Enjoy Hamra and everything around



In your free time you can do a lot of activities. Learn Hebrew, explore the beautiful flowers of the desert, go to the pool, bike around or even take the bus on Friday after work and spend the weekend in Jerusalem or the Golan Hights (you can camp or stay at a hostel and come back on Sunday). Here are some pictures of the local sights and options.

Hick to the ruins



Hick to the tree

One of the best views.



Hick to Dry River



Nablus



Tourist are free to visit the Palestinian cities.



Go to the river at Nachal Akibutzim



Go to the Sea of Galilea



About everything else

Note that it is a farm and small accidents can happen. We kindly ask the volunteers to make an proper insurance before coming. The costs in an hospital can be very expensive.

We have working clothes, gloves and hats. We also have boots for the work in the farm, but you should bring your own shoes that are comfortable enough for working, but also can get dirty.

Bring sunscreen, to avoid sunburns.

We provide a cellphone for the volunteers, so that you can always contact us.

See more pictures at our facebook or instagram.

<https://www.facebook.com/livingoodfarm/>

https://www.instagram.com/livingood_farm/

Note from a volunteer

Hello everybody. My name is Karin Dreyer and I worked at the LivinGood farm for a month between march and April 2018. I contacted Ran and Eyal through the site Workaway and I will share some very useful tips with you. If you have any other questions, you can get in touch through my profile on the website.

- Some foreign citizens may need a visa before coming to Israel. You are providing the normal tourist visa. This kind of volunteering is an informality. But don't mention that you are volunteering, because the system doesn't see this as such.
- At the airport it can take veeeeeeery long at the passport control. It can happen that they ask you questions for up to three hours. Don't say you will work or volunteer. Just say you are visiting Israel. If you have a friend living in Israel, make a print screen of his address and name and say you will visit him/her. It can also be a friend of a friend.
- After the passport control, they will print you a permission to stay ticket. Check the time limit that they give to you. Sometimes they give only one month of stay permitted.
- If you go to Nablus, I suggest to learn or have on your phone the words "market and old city" in arabic, because normally they don't speak English. Hichhick there and take a taxi on the way back and before it gets dark.
- Have always your ID or at least a print of your passport with you.
- Charge the volunteer's phone and bring it with you.
- You can get good free wifi connection outside of the synagog.