

Background

Originally called “Working Weekends on Organic Farms”, WWOOF came into being in England, in Autumn 1971, when Sue Coppard, a secretary living and working in London recognised the need for people like herself - who did not have the means or the opportunity - to access the countryside and support the organic movement.

Her idea started with a trial working weekend for four people at a bio dynamic farm at Emerson College in Sussex, arranged through a contact in the Soil Association. The weekend was a great success and things gathered momentum very quickly. Soon many more organic farmers and smallholders were willing to host people keen to work on their farms in return for food and accommodation (WWOOFers). Hosts and wwoofers made new friends and enjoyed the experience of exchanging assistance and knowledge.

Current WWOOF Groups

The table below shows the list of WWOOF Organisations in the order they were created

Organisation	Year started
United Kingdom	1971
New Zealand	1973
Australia	1981
Canada	1985
Denmark	1986
Germany	1957
Japan	1994
Hawaii	1995
Austria	1996
Switzerland	1998*
Korea (South)	1998
Italy	1999
Ghana	2000*
United States of America	2001
Nepal	2003
Czech Republic	2003
Uganda	2003
Sweden	2004
Turkey	2004
Mexico	2005
China	2005
Bulgaria	2006
Costa Rica	2006
France	2007
Spain	2007
India	2007
Israel	2007
Taiwan	2007

Estonia	2007
Sierra Leone	2007
Chile	2008
Brazil	2008
Romania	2008
Ecuador	2008
Belize	2008
Kazakhstan	2009
Ireland	2009
Cameroon	2009
Argentina	2009
Portugal	2009
Poland	2009
Hungary	2009
Philippines	2009
Moldova	2009
Lithuania	2009
Bangladesh	2010
Sri Lanka	2010
Guatemala	2010
Greece	2011
Nigeria	2011
Serbia	2011
Kenya	2012
Togo	2012
Norway	2012
Other Countries	1999

The table below shows a list of all WWOOF Organisations in alphabetical order with the number of hosts and volunteers they had in 2010.

Organisation	Hosts	Volunteers
Argentina	110	400*
Australia	2287	12150
Austria	239	542
Bangladesh	20	6
Belize	18	225
Brazil	95	200*
Bulgaria	48	180*
Cameroon	200	135
Canada	919	4216
Chile	124	440
China	50*	200*
Costa Rica	32	834
Czech Republic	61	276
Denmark	55	550
Ecuador	20	350
Estonia	26	602
France	769	8900
Germany	222	2750
Ghana	20*	15*
Greece	35	333
Guatemala	9	267
Hawaii	232	1500
Hungary	22	250
India	137	527
Ireland	327	2403
Israel	54	430
Italy	520	4000
Japan	411	2000*

Kazakhstan	4	1
Kenya		
Korea (South)	55	350
Lithuania	5	36
Mexico	76	521
Moldova	7	2
Nepal	200	250
New Zealand	1289	7953
Nigeria	23	45
Norway		
Philippines	12	60
Poland	35	300*
Portugal	94	1077
Romania	28	300
Serbia	11	18
Sierra Leone	20	45
Spain	260	3000
Sri Lanka	16	28
Sweden	124	1118
Switzerland	74	300*
Taiwan	42	330
Togo		
Turkey	98	152
Uganda	14	12
United Kingdom	500	5000
United States of America	1421	12100
Other Countries	429	2470
Totals	11899	8014

* Actual information was not available at time of publication and the figures are best estimates bases on recorded information.

The largest 25 WWOOF Organisations

Organisation	Hosts	Volunteers
Australia	2287	12150
United States of America	1421	12100
New Zealand	1289	7953
Canada	919	4216
France	769	8900
Italy	520	4000
United Kingdom	500	5000
Japan	411	2000*
Ireland	327	2403
Spain	260	3000
Austria	239	542
Hawaii	232	1500
Germany	222	2750
Cameroon	200	135
Nepal	200	250
India	137	527
Chile	124	440
Sweden	124	1118
Argentina	110	400*
Turkey	98	152
Brazil	95	200*
Portugal	94	1077
Mexico	76	521

The highest ratio of volunteers to hosts

Organisation	Hosts	Volunteers	Ratio
Guatemala	9	267	29.67
Costa Rica	32	834	26.06
Estonia	2	602	301.00
Ecuador	20	350	17.50
Belize	18	225	12.50
Germany	222	2750	12.39
France	769	8900	11.57
Spain	260	3000	11.54
Portugal	94	1077	11.46
Hungary	22	250	11.36
Romania	28	300	10.71
United Kingdom	500	5000	10.00
Denmark	55	550	10.00
Greece	35	333	9.51
Sweden	124	1118	9.02