



VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

ENDANGERED PRIMATE RESCUE CENTER
Cuc Phuong National Park, Nho Quan, Ninh Binh Province
Vietnam

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About the EPRC

The Endangered Primate Rescue Center is a not for profit rescue center dedicated to the rehabilitation, breeding, research and conservation of Vietnams endangered primate species. Established in 1993, we have worked long and hard towards the establishment of stable captive populations of highly endangered primates as a means of successful reintroduction to their wild habitat. For many years Zoo Leipzig has supported the center providing experienced staff for capacity building. In 2014 Zoo Leipzig became the primary support of the EPRC in collaboration with Cuc Phuong National Park authorities, thus providing a secure future for the animals here, and ensuring an ongoing contribution to the conservation of Vietnams endangered primates.

The center is home to around 150 primates representing 15 species. Seven of these species are kept only at the EPRC, and at no other facility in the world.

More than 180 animals have been born at the center, some being the first of their species to be born in captivity, including the critically endangered Cat Ba langur, Delacours langur and the Grey Shanked Douc langur.

The primates are housed in more than 50 large enclosures including two fenced semi wild areas of primary forest, measuring 2 and 5 hectares in size. These enclosures serve to prepare animals for release into the wild and provide opportunities to study the behavior of animals in semi wild conditions.

The center employs more than 20 full time animal keepers from the local ethnic Muong community. Additionally the EPRC supports staff for forest protection at Van Long Nature Reserve where we have successfully reintroduced the critically endangered Delacours langur.

Staff from the EPRC have undertaken numerous field surveys, providing unique opportunities for local and foreign biologists and contributing vital information relevant to the protection of Vietnams primate species and their habitat.



20%

Of the worlds most endangered primates are found in Vietnam



Volunteering at the EPRC

Why volunteer at the EPRC

Volunteers play an important role here at the EPRC and we welcome your involvement in our program. Volunteers generally come to the EPRC because they wish to:

- Gain an insight into Vietnam's endangered primates
- Experience what it is like to be a wildlife keeper
- Challenge themselves by trying something new and unique
- Incorporate volunteer work into travel, creating a unique travel experience
- Make a difference by assisting in a conservation program with direct outcomes for endangered species
- Learn first hand about Vietnamese culture and wildlife, and the issues facing conservation in Vietnam.

A volunteer placement at the EPRC can be an incredibly rewarding experience that at the same time supports a well-established and active primate conservation program.



Who can volunteer?

ANYONE!

Volunteers do not need animal experience, only enthusiasm, compassion for animals, a willingness to pitch in and a good team spirit. If you have other skills, such as construction, graphic design, education or horticulture we will try to utilize these skills during your volunteer placement. Students of biology, primatology, zoology and conservation science are encouraged to volunteer at the EPRC, and we are happy to cater for academic needs.

There are 24 primate species found in Vietnam...

90% are threatened with extinction



What will you be doing?

As a volunteer at the EPRC, the work you will be doing varies all the time and there is no such thing as a typical day. Generally you will be assisting our local keepers to prepare animal food and feed and clean enclosures. Long-term volunteers will be trained to undertake these duties independently.

Other work could include:

- Repair and construction of cages
- Building and installing enrichment items
- Giving tours to visitors to the EPRC
- Gardening and upkeep of grounds
- Updating animal records
- Assisting in design and distribution of promotional materials
- Assisting in data collection and collation

You will be working with several species of primates during your time at the EPRC. In most cases direct physical contact with the animals is unnecessary and discouraged as we adhere to a no petting policy. Our goal is to rescue animals and return them either to the wild or to well functioning captive groups; we are a rescue center not a petting zoo.



In some cases animals that are very young or ill will require extra care and attention and direct contact with these individuals may be possible for longer-term volunteers. For safety reasons, we must remember that these are wild animals, and volunteers must follow the direction of EPRC staff at all times.

If you are working directly with our animal keepers you will start work at 6:30am. Keepers have a break for breakfast from 8-9am, lunch from 11:30-1:15 pm and the workday concludes at 4:45pm.

Staff work a rota system so we have staff to cover work on weekends. As a volunteer you will have weekends free, and additional time can be made available after discussion with the head keeper.

If you enjoy working out doors, are enthusiastic, dependable and love animals then you have a unique opportunity to help us as a volunteer at the EPRC



Practicalities

Getting around

The EPRC is located in Cuc Phuong National Park in Ninh Binh province. The center can be reached by public bus from Hanoi to Cuc Phuong at 9:45am and 3:00pm daily, a journey of 3-4 hours. The bus departs from the southern bus station, Giap Bat and costs 100,000 VND.

There is another bus departing Hanoi to Nho Quan every day, on the hour from 7:00am until 4:00pm. From Nho Quan you will need to arrange a taxi, 200,000 VND or motorbike taxi (xe om), 80-100,000 VND for the 15 km journey to Cuc Phuong.

The regular cost for a car to and from Hanoi is 1.500,000 VND (70 USD), and we can organize this for you.

For transport around Cuc Phuong there are bicycles available for hire 30,000 VND per day, and motorcycles for 150,000 VND per day. Longer-term volunteers may wish to purchase their own bike.

Accommodation

The EPRC is located inside Cuc Phuong National Park, and all accommodation is within walking distance.

You will stay in an EPRC bungalow or a National Park room, depending on what is available at the time of booking.

All accommodation is equipped with private bathrooms, air conditioning and Wi-Fi.

Food

Your volunteer fees cover three meals a day every day for the duration of your stay. Meals are local flavors, based around rice, meat and vegetables, and variation depends very much on what is available according the season. In addition there is a market early in the morning, which is easy to reach by bicycle, and sells fresh fruit, vegetables and meat. There are two main shops in the village that sell some fresh foods, rice, biscuits, baguettes, milk, coffee, toiletries and other 'essentials'. If volunteers have specific foods they would like, they should bring with them from their country or buy in Hanoi. Things like jam, butter, cereals and cheese can all be bought in Hanoi. Vegetarians are easily catered for.

As a volunteer at EPRC you will not only experience some amazing primates, but also be welcomed into our EPRC family and the lives of our local staff.



Practicalities

Money

There are **no banks** in Cuc Phuong, so you should ensure you have enough cash before you come to the EPRC. There are plenty of ATMs and moneychangers in Hanoi. During your volunteer experience your food and accommodation is covered so you will only need money for snacks, transportation and any tours you may undertake in the area.

Communications

Cuc Phuong has reasonable mobile phone and 3G connections and we find Vinaphone or Viettel are the most reliable carriers here. Sim cards and recharge cards are available in Cuc Phuong Village

Wi-Fi is available in your accommodations, at the tourism center of the national park, and in the offices of the EPRC.



Visas

Volunteer work on a tourist visa for more than one week is not possible at Cuc Phuong National Park, so you will require either a one month or three month business visa. We will, arrange the visa for you but you will need to collect it upon arrival at Noi Bai Airport. Visa costs payable at the airport vary for different nationalities, but should not exceed \$50 USD for a single entry visa and 90 USD for a 3 month multiple entry visa.

Health

Check with your local travel doctor at least 6 weeks before coming to Vietnam for recommended vaccinations. For volunteer placement are required to show proof of a health check showing negative status for Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and TB, and evidence of a Tetanus vaccination. Volunteers are also required to provide proof of insurance that covers medical emergencies.

Malaria prophylaxis is not necessary in Cuc Phuong, but if you plan to travel elsewhere you should consult with your Doctor for requirements. Medical services at Cuc Phuong are very limited, with the closest well equipped centers being in Hanoi.

Without evidence of a health check you will not be able to have any contact with our primates, so don't forget this very important information.



What to bring

The seasons in Cuc Phuong vary substantially, and what you need will depend on when you decide to come. From November through to February/March it can be very cold, and you will need warm clothes. April through September however can be very hot, and very wet. You will need light comfortable clothes, and plenty of them!

A few useful items you should bring with you are:

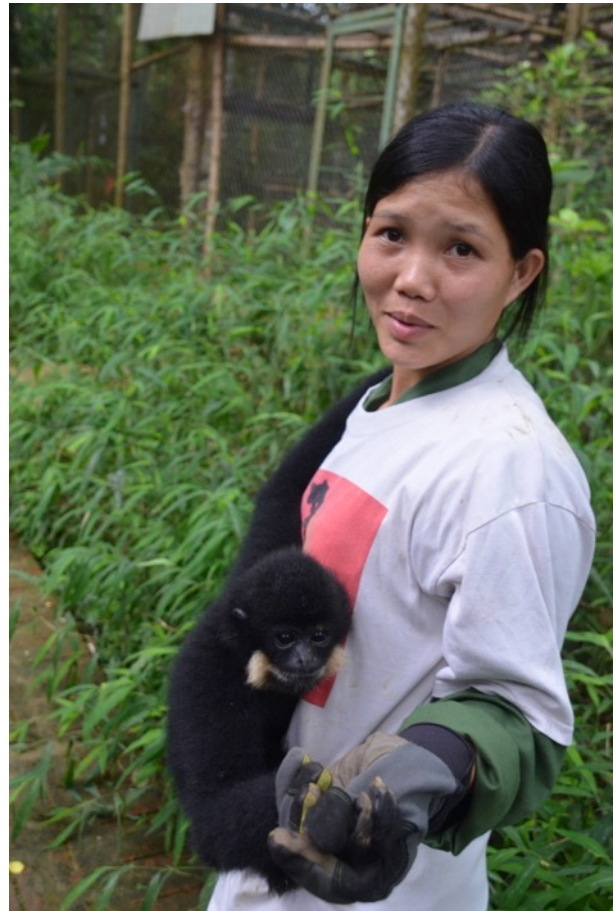
- Gumboots
- Cash- Vietnamese dong
- Alarm clock
- Torch
- Personal first aid kit
- Mosquito repellent
- Rehydration salts- in summer
- Hair dryer- in winter
- Books
- Tampons

Volunteers are reminded that you will be living and working in rural Vietnam so please observe local dress and follow accordingly, be modest, no short shorts or revealing tops.

Don't forget to bring an open mind a desire to learn and a camera!

Average annual temperatures Ninh Binh

Month	Max c°	Min c°	Rain mm
January	20	14	25
February	21	15	25
March	23	18	45
April	28	22	90
May	32	24	160
June	34	26	175
July	33	26	225
August	33	26	240
September	32	25	140
October	30	22	90
November	26	18	55
December	23	15	20





What next?

Cost

One week	\$450 USD
Two Weeks	\$800USD
Three weeks	\$1250 USD
Four weeks	\$1490 USD
Five to twelve weeks	\$300 USD per week

These costs include all accommodation and food during your volunteer term as well as a donation for the EPRC. In addition the costs cover a trip to Van Long Nature Reserve to witness first hand the Critically Endangered Delacours langur in the wild.

Costs do not include:

- Transportation
- Visa on arrival
- Beverages

So if you think that volunteering at the EPRC is for you, please be sure to read our terms and conditions, complete the application form, and e-mail it back to us. We will notify you as soon as possible of your acceptance into the volunteer program.

We can organize your business visa and a pick up from the airport if you require.

So.....

what are you waiting for?

Come join us for the
experience of a lifetime!

