



A LEADING PERMACULTURE
ECO-EDUCATION COMMUNITY
IN HONG KONG

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a lush, green mountain range under a blue sky with light clouds. A large, faint, golden spiral graphic is overlaid on the image, centered behind the main title.

Corporate Social Responsibility Programs

REMINDING OURSELVES TO TREASURE,
AND GIVE BACK TO OUR ENVIRONMENT.



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About Us

Ark Eden is a leading eco-education and permaculture community based on Lantau Island, Hong Kong.

It is part of a network of global ecological restoration centres providing sustainable solutions for global environmental and social issues through educational workshops, nature-based experiences and restorative projects that create a positive change in people's attitudes and actions towards the planet and towards each other. Since Ark Eden's inception in 2006, over 45,000 people have been involved in Ark Eden programs.

Ark Eden provides sustainable solutions for local and global environmental and social problems by running programs on social permaculture, food, building, water, zero-waste, energy, natural and sustainable living systems for students, from kindergarten to university level, as well as adults and community groups.

These programs include:

- children's holiday eco-camps and a six-week Forest Summer Camp,
- the 72-hour Permaculture Design Certificate and related workshops,
- longer term comprehensive Sustainable Education courses for secondary schools, universities and graduates,
- professional development for environmental educators,
- volunteer and internship programs,
- workshops in natural living, ecological restoration, permaculture food systems and farming, zero-water practices, ecological building, habitat exploration, nature connection, wellness, leadership and values for the global goals.

Ark Eden is part of a larger community of Green Groups in Hong Kong that engage the public in a number of advocacy issues that pose serious environmental threats to the biodiversity of Lantau and Hong Kong. Two examples include action against the proposed Mega-Incinerator and East Lantau Metropolis off Lantau island.

By educating and show-casing alternative and more sustainable ways to live, Ark Eden aims to create a positive change in people's attitudes and actions towards the planet and towards each other.

Its long term vision is to partner with other organisations to develop a network of eco-facilities world-wide to provide environmental education, training and action-projects that everyone can be involved in.



What can Ark Eden offer our Business Partners

Ark Eden aims to satisfy business and CSR platform objectives by providing a wide range of activities for an unlimited number of corporate employees, engaging them in long-standing partnerships. Ark Eden can also equip participants with essential practical skills and knowledge in sustainable living that they can apply to their daily lives.

Corporate Projects

1. Setting up a Permaculture Demonstration Site for Hong Kong

It is important to showcase what ‘sustainable living’ looks like so that people have working examples that they can model. Permaculture asks how we can best mimic natural systems to live sustainably so covers all areas of living such as building, food, energy, waste, water as well as social relationships.

An on-going project since 2010, Ark Eden’s permaculture demonstration site is nestled in the valley between our three training centres, Eden Rock, Ark Eden home base and Darshan.

It is an important project for Hong Kong and a successful work in progress thanks to your help. Ongoing projects include:

- Developing diverse permaculture kitchen gardens of inter-planted vegetables, herbs and flowers, vegetable nurseries, a food wall, fruit forests, a hue garden and rooftop gardens.
- Developing and expanding the compost toilets and showers
- Revamping the mountain-water system and grey-water systems
- Building a multi-functional class room/intern accommodation, gathering areas and wooden trellises to provide rain-proof, shaded work stations on terraces



Program	1. Setting up a Permaculture Demonstration Site for Hong Kong
Maximum Group Size	60
Program cost without lunch	\$680 per person
Program cost with lunch	\$850 per person

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2. Forests of Lantau - Tree Care

With the help of local volunteers and the support of the HKSAR government, Ark Eden has planted over 30,000 native trees of more than 100 species around the Tung Hang Mei valley and along the peninsula in Mui Wo. For its size, Hong Kong has one of the highest deforestation rates in the world due to hill-fires. Planting back the hillsides with native trees mitigates against Climate Change, ecologically restores the degraded hillsides, strengthens biodiversity, prevents soil erosion and protects lowland rivers.

To ensure these trees are given the best possible chance to survive in the tough conditions they face and to grow up the forests, Ark Eden invites volunteer teams to join Tree Maintenance programs to fertilise, mulch and water the trees and to collect data to monitor their progress and impact.



Program	2. Forests of Lantau Ecological Restoration
Maximum Group Size	300
Program cost without lunch	\$680 per person
Program cost with lunch	\$850 per person

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3. Zero Waste Office

Be the change you want to see. Walk your talk.' Zero Waste' your work space, your home and your community!

This workshop begins with an introductory session to understand how the world – and now your office -is moving into 'zero waste' and includes a hands-on 'Eco-house Trail' which gives participants practical examples of sustainable life-style solutions and a blue-print that can be adapted to homes, offices and the community. A feedback session includes relating solutions back to problems and understanding current social and political constraints. Finally, groups work to apply solutions to the urban environments they work in. How can solutions be adapted and messaged? What tools do they need? And how do we spread the movement.



Photo by Richard Tilney-Bassett

Program	3. Zero Waste Office
Maximum Group Size	30
Program cost without lunch	\$680 per person
Program cost with lunch	\$850 per person

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4. Permaculture Crash-course

This workshop is run by members of the Ark Eden team, certified in Permaculture Design. The introductory session runs through the ethics and basic principles of permaculture and discusses main zoning and permaculture systems that include:

1. building
2. energy
3. food
4. living
5. sustainable living
6. waste systems
7. and water systems

The next session is a practical activity that draws upon the main permaculture principles in designing a permaculture food system and involves activities such as various composting and fertilising methods, soil building, setting up a worm farm, a plant nursery, companion planting and seed-saving. Working in teams, participants then head to the roof garden where they apply their knowledge to design a Permaculture Office Roof- top Garden and feed back to the main group. The workshop ends with a team quiz, a Q&A session and a review.



Program	4. Permaculture Crash-course
Maximum Group Size	35
Program cost without lunch	\$680 per person
Program cost with lunch	\$850 per person

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5. Diet Change Not Climate Change (A Day on the Farm)

Ark Eden's Permaculture Organic Farm is an educational farm now moving at last into local production. Since its inception, students and adults have been attending practical workshops to learn why it is important to develop their own local 'farms' and how to do so. Local, intensive organic farms are now increasing exponentially all over the world as people choose more ethical food with more nutritional density and a reduced carbon footprint.

Come join us! There is constant work that needs to be done on the farm— general maintenance such as making compost and fertilizer; mulching and weeding; planting and transplanting; seed collection and maintaining the plant nursery, seed bank, constructive wetland, food wall, rooftops and worm farms. With a team of people all this work is made easier and we guarantee you will learn a lot!



Photo by Richard Tilney-Bassett

Program	5. Diet Change Not Climate Change (A Day on the Farm)
Maximum Group Size	100
Program cost without lunch	\$680 per person
Program cost with lunch	\$850 per person

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6. From Farm to Table (A Day of Harvesting Food and Fibre)

What we eat has a huge and long lasting impact on the environment and on our health and the health of our families. We look into how much water, energy and waste goes into producing what we eat, wear and use. We look at alternatives for a more sustainable and greener way of living – and then we make some of those alternatives by harvesting from the farm and processing.

Depending on the season of the year we might make sauces, preserves, fermented and dried foods. Or we might make soap, candles and natural dyes. The products we make will help to generate funding for restoration and advocacy projects.



Program	6. From Farm to Table (A Day of Harvesting Food and Fibre)
Maximum Group Size	40
Program cost without lunch	\$680 per person
Program cost with lunch	\$850 per person

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7. Natural Building Projects – Earthworks and Woodwork

The Ark Eden site still lacks sheltered spaces, intern accommodation and outdoor ‘classroom’ settings for students and visitors, so on this day we work on the design and renovation of existing or new-build eco-facilities. We cover some basic training in environmental factors necessary in eco-design and then begin working with local materials such as bamboo, clay, stone and wood and the re-using of materials and furniture. Depending on on-going projects you might be working on constructing a passive building, a tree-house or a solar shower.



Program	7. Natural Building Projects – Earthworks and Woodwork
Maximum Group Size	40
Program cost without lunch	\$680 per person
Program cost with lunch	\$850 per person



8. *On the Buffalo Trail *

Pui O is one of the most diverse ecological habitats in Hong Kong with the largest remaining buffalo population in Hong Kong. It is truly a treasure to learn from – and both the buffaloes and the land are under threat.

An educational tour will be given on the land, its history, the current threats it faces and how you can get involved. We will then collect buffalo poo (aka black gold!) to be used at the Ark Eden farm. The afternoon will focus on products that we make from the buffalo poo – such as making barrels of liquid fertilizer ready for the tree maintenance needed in the winter months; and making hot compost and biochar to add to them.



Program	8. *On the Buffalo Trail *
Maximum Group Size	30
Program cost without lunch	\$680 per person
Program cost with lunch	\$850 per person
Cost of transportation	

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9. BioBlitz

Lantau is the most biologically diverse of Hong Kong's Islands. An astonishing variety of flora and fauna call these streams, wetlands, grasslands and forests their home. From the largest buffalo or tree to the smallest ant or seedling, every living thing plays an important role. The BioBlitz is all about taking time to notice, recognise and record these creatures.

Participating will give you the opportunity to explore Lantau's habitats and meet its charismatic wildlife. The easy to follow training will teach you the science behind the BioBlitz and get you started on documenting what you find. You may even discover a new species!

Your observations will also help make a crucial difference to the future of Hong Kong's natural heritage. Many green areas of Lantau are disappearing before we have had a chance to see what might live there. The data from your BioBlitz will be shared with scientists to help them make better decisions on how to protect Lantau for us to enjoy for many years to come.



Program	9. BioBlitz
Maximum Group Size	60
Program cost without lunch	\$680 per person
Program cost with lunch	\$850 per person

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10. *Dolphin Watch and Beach Clean *

The Chinese White Dolphins are now critically endangered, with fewer than 60 dolphins left in Hong Kong waters, it is essential that as a community we come together to protect these magnificent animals that are vital to HK's ecosystem as well as heritage. Threatened by large scale development projects, reclamation, pollution and high speed ferries off the coast of Lantau Island, our dolphins are facing a defining moment that will determine their existence.

On this event, volunteers will join us on board the HK Dolphin Watch junk boat and travel carefully through the dolphin's habitat, observing them as we sail to the Soko Islands, where finless porpoises can also be spotted!



After a workshop on the different issues we face with pollution of the oceans, volunteers will get hands-on experience cleaning one of the beaches on the Soko Islands and get a first-hand look at the types of threats not just the dolphins, but our entire ecosystem faces.



Photo by Hong Kong Dolphin Conservation Society

Program	10. *Dolphin Watch and Beach Clean *
Maximum Group Size	50
Program cost without lunch	\$680 per person
Program cost with lunch	\$850 per person
Cost of hiring Dolphin Watch Junk Boat	\$14,000
Cost of undertaking pre-trip preparation – Recce of island and path cutting	\$2,500

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Logistics

Getting here

Ark Eden is located in a rural valley in the foothills behind Mui Wo, Lantau, a leisurely 30 minute walk from the ferry pier. After passing through Mui Wo village, access is by foot along a shady concrete path. Please see map for exact route.

For activities held at Ark Eden our staff meet guests in Mui Wo and accompany them to the venue

Take the ferry from Central Pier 6 to Mui Wo. Fast ferries take 30 minutes, slow ferries take approximately 50 minutes. Groups would typically take the 9.10am fast ferry from Central to begin the program on Lantau at 10am. An option to take a public bus from Tung Chung is also available.



Photo by Richard Tilney-Bassett

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Cost

The program cost is \$680 per person

The minimum participation needed is 15 participants or the cost of 15 participants = total \$10,200 .

The program cost including our locally sourced, organic vegan lunch is \$850.

Please note we can cater for up to 100 people

*NOTE: *Fees vary for Dolphin Watch and Beach Clean and On the Buffalo Trail Programs as they involve extra transportation.

Group size

Group sizes are typically 30 people, but larger groups of up to 250 people can be accommodated depending on the program. A minimum size of 15 participants is required in order to run the program.

What to Bring List

We recommend you WEAR

- A sun hat
- Good grip shoes
- Thin t shirt
- Thin, cotton, long shorts or trousers (but not jeans)
- Sunscreen
- Mosquito repellent

We recommend you CARRY

- A backpack with 2 strap
- A minimum of 1.5 litres of drinking water in a re-usable bottle
- A small snack
- A light rain jacket/fold up umbrella
- A small bottle of sunscreen
- A small bottle of mosquito repellent

You also might like to bring...

- A change of clothes – if you get wet or dirty
- Swim-wear & small towel (to have a dip in our pool after the hard work)



Linger Longer.....

We have a beautiful venue at Ark Eden. We have gardens, a natural swimming pool and the view of the sun setting behind the mountain from our patio may be one you might not wish to miss.

So why not linger longer? We can set up a camp-fire and light our pizza oven and our tiki lights and you can open a bottle of wine and stay for a while.



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