



Capital Europea de la Cultura 2031
Ciudad Candidata

Host site profile – Ras de Terra

Location

Ras de Terra is located in the La Vera region, in the province of Cáceres, Extremadura, on an estate of meadows and fruit trees with direct views of the Sierra de Gredos. The nearest towns are Villanueva de la Vera and Madrigal de la Vera.

The residency takes place in a rural setting that encourages focused work, contact with nature, and a close relationship with the landscape. The area has significant cultural and natural heritage, with nearby sites such as the Monastery of Yuste, the Celtic hillfort of El Raso, the Gargantas de Minchones, and other natural swimming areas in La Vera.

Residency dates and duration

The Ras de Terra residency will last **15 days** and will take place between **July, August, and September 2026**, with the possibility of an extension of up to one additional week.

The exact dates will be agreed between the host site, the selected artist, and the Rural Labs coordination team.

About the host site

Ras de Terra is a cultural centre and artistic residency space located in a restored former tobacco drying barn. Its name comes from the acronym for “artistic rehabilitation of tobacco drying barns” in Spanish. The project was founded by Mónica Sánchez-Robles and Juan Urquiola as a multidisciplinary space for thinking, working, and sharing ideas at the intersection of art, social awareness, and respect for nature.

The centre opened in 2021 with the aim of bringing the rural sphere into the contemporary cultural conversation and proposing more sustainable ways of living. Ras de Terra works through the dialogue between nature, history, culture, and technological reality, and is part of the New European Bauhaus.

The project is located on a large estate where artistic creation, regenerative agriculture, reforestation, and creative research coexist. The entire complex runs on solar energy, with the aim of reducing its environmental impact as much as possible.

Territorial context

Ras de Terra is located on a **40,000 m² estate** in the La Vera region, surrounded by meadows, fruit trees, and an open landscape facing Gredos. The setting combines silence, nature, local heritage, and a network of cultural and environmental activities in the area.

The residency offers the possibility of working in relation to the territory from different perspectives: rural ecologies, sustainability, memory, landscape, agricultural practices, local knowledge, contemporary ways of life in rural settings, and connections between art and community.

The centre has built relationships with professionals, craftspeople, artists, and local agents. It also maintains connections with cultural and artistic associations in Extremadura, including AVAEX, as well as with art fairs and international platforms.

Workspace

Ras de Terra has a **150 m²** open-plan and versatile multidisciplinary studio, located in a restored and climate-controlled building, with air conditioning and heating. The space is modular and can adapt to different needs for production, research, rehearsal, installation, or presentation.

The workshop has tools and technical resources for a range of projects. Available equipment includes screens, projectors, speakers, printers, a piano, and guitars for sound-based creators. Access to the workspace is unrestricted, with **24/7 availability**, to adapt to the rhythm of each artistic process.

The outdoor environment may also be used as a space for research and creation, always in dialogue with the host site and taking into account the characteristics of the project.

Accommodation and living conditions

The selected artist will stay in an individual room with a double bed and private bathroom, equipped with bed linen and prepared for the stay. The accommodation is restored and climate-controlled, with air conditioning and heating.

Shared areas include an equipped kitchen, living rooms, a terrace, and laundry facilities. The site has high-speed satellite Wi-Fi. The accommodation is located on the same estate as the workspace, allowing immediate walking access between both spaces.

The stay includes breakfast and a basic pantry. There is also the possibility of requesting homemade meals prepared with local products. Residents may also enjoy indoor and outdoor lounges, an outdoor swimming pool in summer, a terrace, rest areas, and bicycles to explore the surroundings.

Resources and support

Ras de Terra understands the residency as a space for situated research, where contemporary creation, territory, rural ecologies, and everyday coexistence come together. The host site offers support adapted to the needs of each artist and to the context in which the project is developed.

During the residency, Ras de Terra may provide:

- Curatorial and conceptual support throughout the process.
- Mediation and connection with the local community.
- Introduction to the territorial, cultural, and environmental context of La Vera.
- Contact with creatives, craftspeople, architects, livestock farmers, agricultural workers, and local residents.
- A network of local and regional contacts in the cultural field.
- Basic technical and logistical support for production and installation.
- Guidance on local resources and suppliers.
- Occasional support with travel within the territory, depending on availability.
- Support with documentation and communication of the process.
- Possibility of coordinating the early reception of materials needed for the project.

Relationship with the community

The residency at Ras de Terra may facilitate encounters with people and agents from the territory connected to the lines of work of each project: craftspeople, agricultural workers, livestock farmers, local residents, artists, researchers, curators, and other professionals related to the centre.

The selected artist must carry out at least one free public activity during the residency. This activity may take different formats, such as a conversation, workshop, open studio, informal presentation, work-in-progress showing, walk, or community encounter.

The format will be defined together with Ras de Terra and the Rural Labs coordination team, according to the nature of the proposal and the local context.

Host site lines of interest

Ras de Terra may be especially suited to proposals connected to:

- Art, territory, and rural ecologies.
- Landscape, sustainability, and ways of life in rural environments.
- Regenerative agriculture, reforestation, and biodiversity.
- The relationship between contemporary creation and local knowledge.
- Situated artistic research.
- Intersections between art, technology, philosophy, and territory.
- Processes connected to posthumanism, degrowth, and ecosocial transformation.

These lines are not exclusive, but they may serve as a starting point for imagining possible connections with the Ras de Terra context.

Public activity or sharing format

The residency must include at least one free public activity connected to the process developed.

This activity may take the form of a workshop, conversation, open studio, informal presentation, artistic action, walk, or any other format agreed with the host site. Ras de Terra offers indoor and outdoor spaces that can adapt to different forms of public sharing of the process.

Specific financial conditions

The residency includes:

- **Artist fee:** €800, including taxes, per residency.
- **Accommodation** during the residency period.
- **Meals** during the residency period.
- **Production/materials support:** up to €400.
- **Travel reimbursement** according to the distance table established in the general Open Call.

Travel must initially be purchased by the selected artist and will be reimbursed afterwards by the host site, upon submission of the corresponding supporting documentation.

Working languages

[To be confirmed with the host site.]

Applicants are encouraged to indicate any specific language needs in the application form. The relationship with the territory may require mediation or support from the host site, especially for activities with local agents.

Accessibility and care

Ras de Terra expresses its willingness to support specific residency and care needs, including support for artists with children. The setting is conceived as a human-scale space for work and everyday coexistence.

The specific accessibility conditions of the accommodation, workshop, and outdoor spaces must be confirmed before the final formalisation of the residency. Applicants may indicate their accessibility needs in the application form.

Recommended profile

This residency may be especially suitable for artists interested in situated research, the relationship with the landscape, ecological processes, contemporary rural life, community-based practices, or the intersection between artistic creation, sustainability, and territory.

It may also be a suitable context for artists who need time for concentration, a large workspace, contact with the natural environment, and close support during the development of their process.