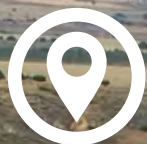


CAMP ALTIPLANO



MURCIA,
SPAIN



HANDBOOK



ecosystem
restoration
communities



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030

DEAR

EARTH RESTORER!



We live in interesting times. We can see the many ways in which vast numbers of people are suffering in many parts of the world. We can see materialism, waste, pollution and war. We can also understand that every person and every living thing is endangered by human induced climate change. It has become impossible for us to ignore what is happening. We have been called to act for the benefit of all who are alive and future generations.

As individuals, no matter how hard we work, it is not possible to consider restoring the Earth...but together we are an amazing force and if we so choose we can restore all degraded landscapes wherever they are on the Earth. Restoration needs to be at the centre of human intention. When we collaboratively study how to restore the Earth our lives have real meaning. When we live our lives restoring the Earth we know we are doing what we can to redress many of the mistakes of the past and ensure that future generations will enjoy a fully functional Earth.

You are at the heart of this initiative. Congratulations and thank you for choosing to join the Ecosystem Restoration Communities movement to help restore paradise on earth. We want you to have the best experience restoring with us.

Let's restore the earth!

John D. Liu

Founder, Ecosystem Restoration Communities movement





WELCOME!

TO CAMP ALTIPLANO

This handbook is for volunteers and participants of courses and experiences organised at Camp Altiplano, providing background information about the project and the location, and practical advice concerning travel, what to bring, and what to expect during your stay at Camp Altiplano.

ABOUT US

Camp Altiplano is a 5-hectare parcel in the regenerative farm of La Junquera, located on a semi-arid plateau in the Spanish region of Murcia. This ecosystem has been severely degraded by deforestation, industrial agriculture, water exploitation and climate change. This self-sufficient and off-grid Ecosystem Restoration Community is regenerating one of Spain's lowest income regions, planting an edible savanna forest ecosystem of native and non-native plants. Camp Altiplano is the first initiative of the global Ecosystem Restoration Communities movement. Since 2017 Camp Altiplano has been training people and providing practical opportunities to restore agricultural and natural ecosystems by practicing new approaches to landscape restoration. This work has led to an increase in the organic matter, carbon content and water retention capacity of the soil, stimulating large scale carbon sequestration. Their aim is to improve the livelihoods of farmers, landowners and local communities around the camp.

CONTACT US

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The camp experience confirmed my ideas about the positive aspects of what can be achieved when like minded people get together and work together.

Denise

ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

WITH CAMP ALTIPLANO



LA JUNQUERA FARM

La Junquera is an organic farm and village, which is being brought back to life and transformed into a regenerative hotspot in the region. Alfonso, the owner of the farm, works in line with the 4 returns principles of Commonland: Inspiration, Social Capital, Natural Capital and Financial Capital. Diversification is at the core of this business.

The farm consists of an approximate 1100 hectares of hilly land with an average elevation of 1100 meters. Everything is organic and turning bit by bit into a fully regenerative production system: cereals, almonds, pistachio, walnuts, apples, cherries, grapevines and vegetables. Some of the land is rented out to shepherds. About 300 hectares consist of natural zones spread around the farm. The farm cows are from a local breed that was slowly being forgotten, and now is being brought back. Swales, keyline plantations, limited tilling, and ponds are amongst the practices put into place here.

La Junquera also coexists in symbiosis with multiple projects. Camp Altiplano is located on 5 hectares of the farm, bringing here volunteers and experts from all over the world. The Regeneration Academy is a knowledge hub also located on the same land, which trains international students in regenerative farming and helps the farm make better decisions on restoring landscape. The vision is to develop La Junquera into an inspiration for farms in the region, reviving the village and local community, generating economic activity, and restoring the degraded natural zones.

[Learn more about La Junquera here](#)



Image: Patagonia



Alvelal is a local organisation connecting farmers, experts, researchers and the wider public. It works with regenerative agriculture and livestock management to improve soil fertility and water management. Their projects range from natural zones restoration, providing support to regenerative farms creating examples for the regions, promoting the marketing of products coming from regenerative agriculture, working with researchers and universities to create evidence of the positive impact of regenerative practices. Its goal is to mobilise the local society promoting the idea that a self sufficient, dignified region full of life and prosperity is possible. Camp Altiplano has been organising activities in cooperation with Alvelal, and the goal is to spread the restoration efforts to the farms participating in the network, bringing participants of the courses to the broader region. Learn more about Alvelal [here](#)



Ecosystem Restoration Communities is a global, grassroots movement of more than 60 ecosystem restoration initiatives repairing the earth to create a world of abundance, to provide humanity with hope and a better future. The movement brings everyday people together to restore degraded ecosystems from the ground up, and is an official partner to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Join the mighty movement at www.erc.earth



FAST FACTS

ABOUT CAMP ALTIPLANO



- Water retention
- Tree and food planting
- Composting and soil restoration
- Regenerative entrepreneurialism
- Erosion prevention
- Community building
- Restoration of livelihoods
- Natural building
- Fire prevention



Be prepared for all weather: sunny summers, or a 1-meter snowfall in winter with night temperatures below freezing. In summer it might rain or it might get really windy. Drink plenty of water: we are at a high altitude and it can get really dry.



Bring your own tent or stay in our bell tents or bunkhouse.



Our electricity is from solar panels. There is phone reception but no wifi.



Sanitation is basic with compost toilets and an outdoor shower.



Communal kitchen





WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP ALTIPLANO

- Work boots/comfortable sturdy shoes
- Sleeping bag
- Thermals
- Clothes for cold temperatures and to protect from the wind (in winter)
- Gloves
- Towel
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Natural sun-cream
- Natural toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste): Please only bring biodegradable toiletry products, as everything goes back to the land.
- Water bottle
- Books, paper/pens, playing cards, for evenings
- A musical instrument, if you play
- Cash (there is no ATM in Topares or around, make sure you have enough cash for any extra expenses)
- Head torch
- Battery pack/solar charger for cellphone

Available at La Junquera farm village
(4km away):

- Office with WiFi
- Washing machine



I recommend everyone to go to a camp and experience nature. I hope to change some minds and to push forward a sustainable transformation.

Philipp

WHAT TO EXPECT AT CAMP ALTIPLANO

You will be staying at Camp Altiplano, experiencing life in nature at its fullest, living completely off-grid, and sharing with an inspiring and like minded group of people. You can expect astonishing views of the landscape, living in a wonderful campsite far away from city lights, surrounded by extreme peace.

The closest village, Topares, is 10 mins away by car, with one bakery, a little grocery shop and two bars.

You will be learning everything about land degradation in the area, and you will hear directly from farmers about their experiences in regenerative practices. You will learn and put into practice techniques for land regeneration.

If you are part of an organised experience, your accommodation as well as 3 organic and vegetarian meals per day and snacks, and all lessons are included. We also provide bicycles to move around La Junquera farm.

If you're coming to volunteer, we ask for a contribution of 100€/month. For short term visits (2 weeks or less) we ask for a contribution of 10€/night. Volunteers take care of their own groceries and meals.

Meals and days will be shared with a varied and inspiring group of people. Often having lunch together is the best moment of the day to get to know each other, share delicious food and learn about your fellow earth restorers.



There were many encounters and moments in which I learned about myself or the world. It was an experience that touched many aspects and areas which play a big role in my life. The experience has awakened these aspects, made them more real, which in turn inspires my path ahead and makes it more clear.

Stan



HOW TO GET THERE

FIND CAMP ALTIPLANO

CONTACT US

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Spain

Camp Altiplano is situated in a remote area of the Murcian Altiplano in southern Spain, between Granada and Murcia.

Find the exact location [here](#).

If you are not travelling to camp by car, Caravaca de la Cruz is the closest town you can reach with public transport, by bus from Alicante (once a day in the morning) or Murcia (one bus every hour). Alternatively you can check for a ride to Caravaca de la Cruz on [blablacar.com](https://www.blablacar.com) which is an affordable and popular platform for arranging lift shares in Spain. Usually we organize communal pick ups from Caravaca to the camp when courses are starting. You will receive more information about this before your arrival.

If you are flying here, Alicante and Murcia are the closest airports. If you would like to travel to Spain by train then The Man in Seat 61 and RailEurope are useful tools for planning your journey.

Please consider off-setting the carbon from your journey, especially if you need to take a flight to Spain. You can find various options for this online, or you could make a donation to the Ecosystem Restoration Communities Foundation to further support our work.

