



Cooperative Longo Mai

i
n
f
o
r
m
a
t
i
o
n

f
o
r

v
i
s
i
t
o
r
s

The cooperative Longo Mai "Finca Sonador" is located at the pacific site of southern Costa Rica at an altitude of 500 to 900 meters.

The community "Finca Sonador" was founded in the early 80s by the european cooperatives Longo Mai with the idea of buying land for the refugees of the wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua, as well as to help costarican farmers without land.

These days the "Finca Sonador" are 800 hectares of land, 400 hectares are protected primary and secondary forrest. The other 400 hectares are used for agriculture. The majority of the inhabitants receive there income through sugar cane and coffee fields. Bananas, yuca, beans, maize and others are cultivated for personal use of the families. Some families also own horses, cows, pigs, chickens and other animals.

At the moment about 400 persons in about 60 families are living in the village. The majority of the persons are kids and teenagers. The inhabitants are from different countries like El Salvador, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. There are also some Europeans living in the village.

11 years ago some persons of the village and representatives of neighbouring villages founded an organisation called UNAPROA for the protection of the enviroment, which residences in Longo Mai.

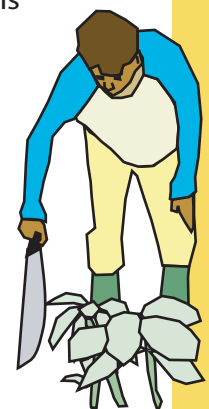
The village is situated between two rivers, the Río Sonador and the Río Convento. The majority of the houses are located next to the street. There are two churches, two groceries and a school. There are also three tailors, a shoemaker and some persons who make art, organic soap and shampoo.

The tourism at the Finca Sonador startet about 15 years ago. Usually tourists arrive and live with families in order to learn the culture and language. The majority of these tourists is staying for a longer time. Some are doing practical training or scientific research for their studies, others come as "volunteers", which take part in different activities of the inhabitants of the village.

Want more information?

www.sonador.info
www.to-do-contest.org

(The second webpage contains information about why Longo Mai won the internacional TO DO! 2004 price for tourism with social responsibility.)



The majority of the people in the village are farmers and get up very early between 4:00am and 5:00pm in the morning. That's why they go to bed between 8:00am and 9:00pm at night. It's important to respect that and make not to much noise at night.

- Almost all persons just speak spanish.

During the rain season the water of the village is gained from a well. During dry season between december and may the water comes from the river. During these months it's better to buy water (available in the groceries of the village).

There are differences in the lunches of the families. That's why not all tourists are going to eat the same.

- What's most eaten is rice, beans and maize, of course also vegetables, fruits, meat, milk and eggs. (Vegetarians must inform their families.)

- The standard of the habitations is not the same at all families either.
- Not the whole street is illuminated, that's why you should bring a flashlight.
- There is no internet access available in the village, but there is a public phone (bring phone cards).
- The guides are young farmers and house wives, they aren't professionals.

Like in every tropical country, the sun can be shining very strong in summer. It would be important to

- bring sun lotion and hats. In winter there's a lot of rain. We suggest to bring boots and raincoats or umbrellas.

