

ALIHUEN

(big tree in the Mapudungun language)

WHY THIS GUIDE?

Most wwoofers and workawayers have many questions about the place they will volunteer at; the food, the working hours, the work to be done, accommodation...

We made this guide to answer most of these questions and to give you a guidance of what to expect when you will volunteer at our farm.

Hopefully this guide doesn't look like a 'do's and don'ts' list but rather a guideline to show whether our farm will be suitable for you or not.

Our main interest is to make it a pleasant experience for the volunteers and an enjoyable time for us, hosts.

Please, take some time to read this manual and hopefully we'll see you here some time!

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE FARM

- December 2005: purchase of 7,5 hectares farmland and old farmhouse
- 2007 - 2008: purchase of 13 hectares farmland
- July 2007: first plantation of 3200 native trees
- November 2007: construction of the new house
- August 2008: second plantation of 17.000 native trees

- 2009: start of organic garden (native potatoes, elephant garlic and beans)
- Winter 2010: refurbishing of the guesthouse (La Cabaña Reciclada)
- Summer 2010: arrival of the first wwoof volunteers
- August 2013: purchase of 2,72 hectares for plantations and camping-style lodging
- Summer & autumn 2014: plantation of 1.000 trees



First visit of the farm, love at first sight...



Start of the vegetable garden



The old farmhouse in 2006



and in 2013... volunteer and guesthouse

WHO ARE WE?

- *Grecia Maldonado Barria (°May 1975): born on the island of Chiloé, 4th generation artisan. Teaches weaving on the traditional and Swedish loom.*
- *Tamara Marquez Maldonado (°May 1998): Grecia's daughter, loves basketball, music, traveling, foreign languages, swimming*
- *Gabriel Beuckels Maldonado (°4 October 2013): our new member of the family... Dedicated screamer, eater and sleeper*
- *Jeroen Beuckels (°September 1977): Belgian citizen since 2005 living on the Archipelago of Chiloé. Jeroen is a chef, farmer and tour guide.*



GreCIA & Jeroen



Gabriel

Traditional loom of Chiloé



Tamara

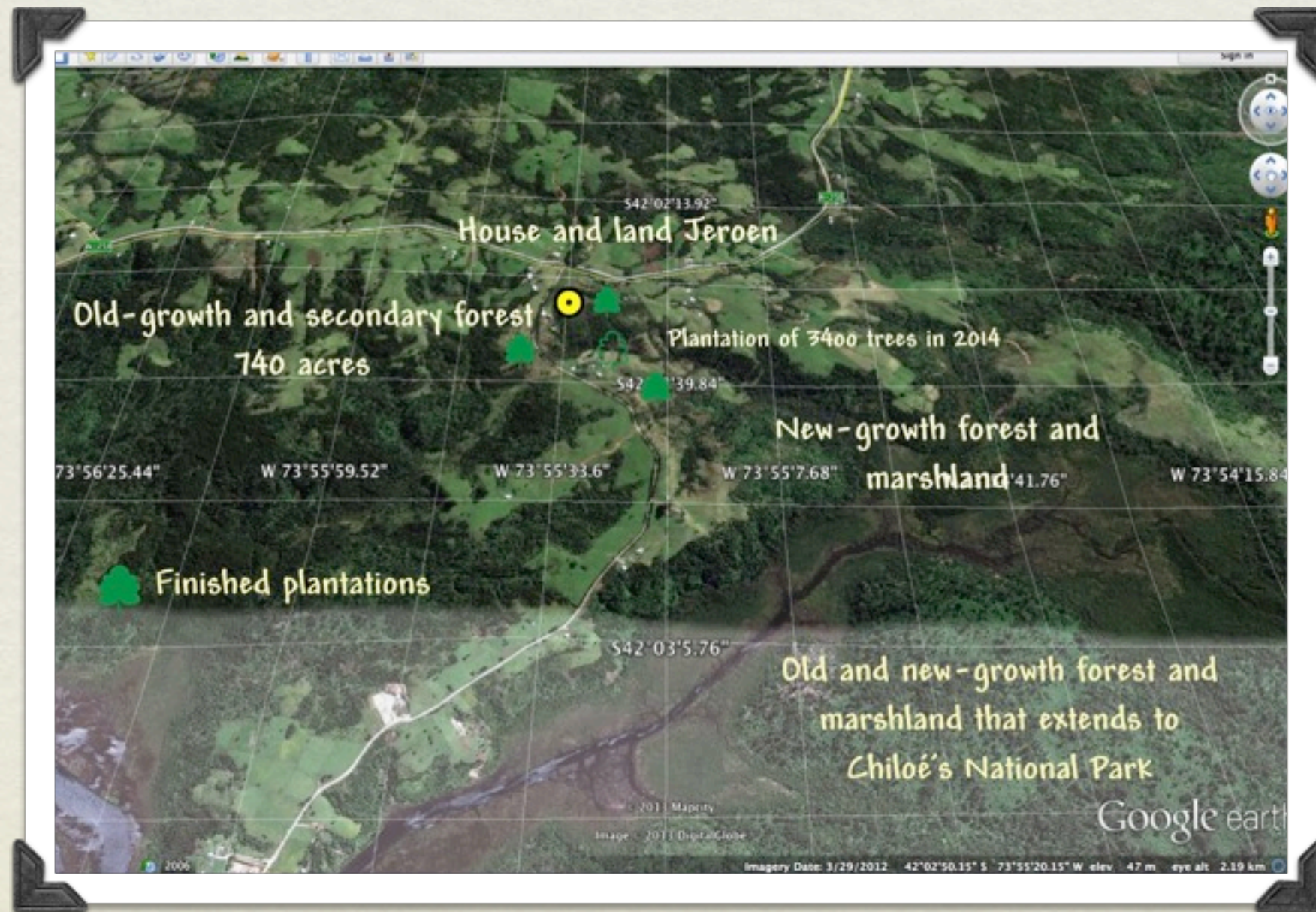
REFORESTATION PROJECT

The main objects of reforestation on Alihuen are:

1. Connect patches of isolated forest with the National Park of Chiloé
2. Restoration of lost forest
3. Education
4. Creating awareness

1. Connect patches of isolated forest with the National Park of Chiloé

In the sector where we live there are several disconnected patches of native forest of considerable size (740 - 1230 acres). Interior roads with low traffic and pasture land separate them.



What is the benefit of connecting isolated forests?

- Extend habitat of endangered carnivores like the *Lycalopex fulvipes* (Darwin's fox) and the *Leopardus guigna* (Kod Kod)
- Create a reproduction, feeding and resting area for the second smallest deer in the world, the Pudu (*Pudu pudu*)
- Establish a transit zone for birds who need dense forest to travel from one area to another like the *Rhinocryptidae*

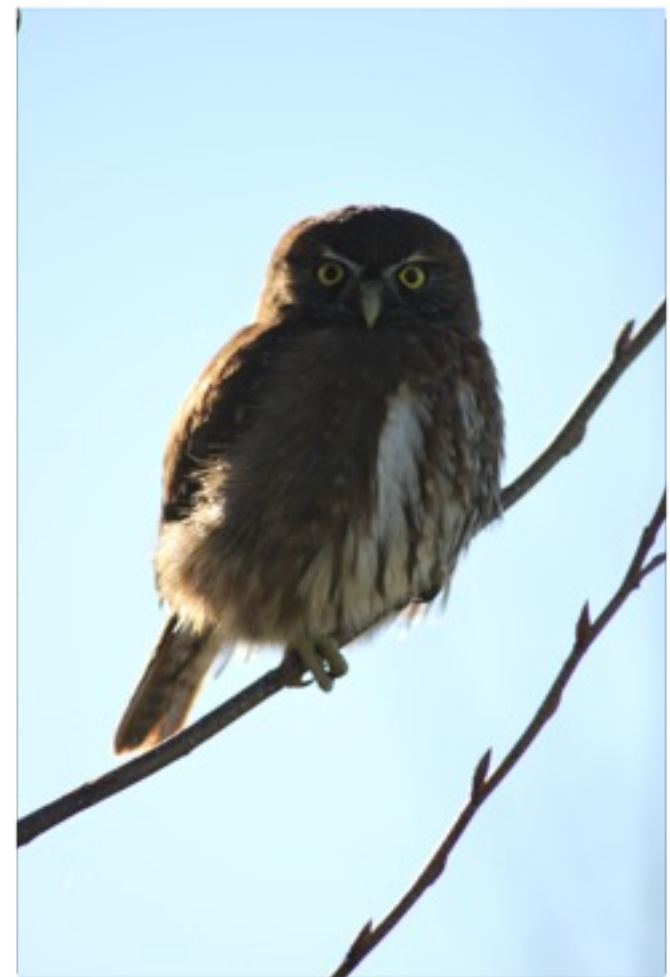
On the archipelago of Chiloé are the *Scelorchilus rubecula* (Chucaos), *Eugralla paradoxa* (Ochre-flanked tapaculo), *Scytalopus magellanicus* (Magellanic tapaculo) and the *Pteroptochos tarnii* (Black-throated huet huet)

Darwin fox



Pudu deer

Austral pygmy owl



2. Restoration of lost forest

Every year 66.700 acres of native forest is lost in Chile due to forest fires and illegal logging.

In the last 400 years Chile has lost 3/4 of its forest surface...



3. Education

Since 2010 volunteers from Chile and the rest of the world give a helping hand with the reforestation project.

Volunteers help with pruning, weeding, seed collection for the nursery and the digging of plant holes.

The whole process of a tree plantation and the maintenance of it are explained to those who volunteer here.



4. Creating awareness

Without being self-important, we want to show our neighbor-farmers and other farmers on the archipelago the benefits of native tree plantation.

Small farmers can get between 90 and 100% of their plantation investment back from the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF).

After 5-6 years their small livestock can graze on the plantation for another 7-10 years.



SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS

- rain water collection for the volunteer/guesthouse
- solar water pump
- solar panels for guest house's electricity
- solar water heating for guesthouse showers
- 3-system wood stove in family's house (heating, cooking & hot water)
- recycling building materials
- organic vegetable garden



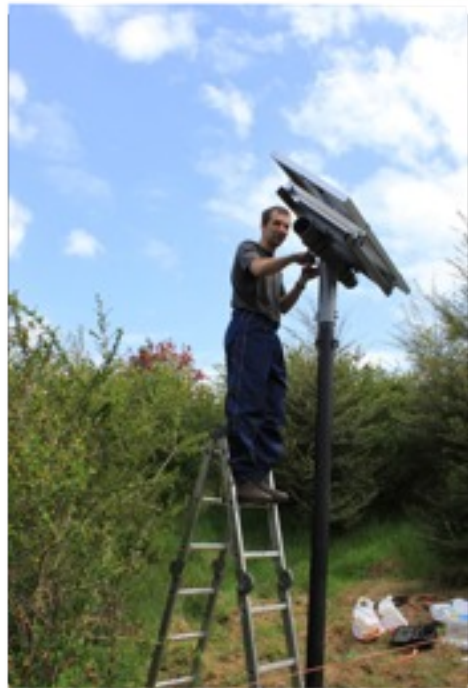
3-system wood stove



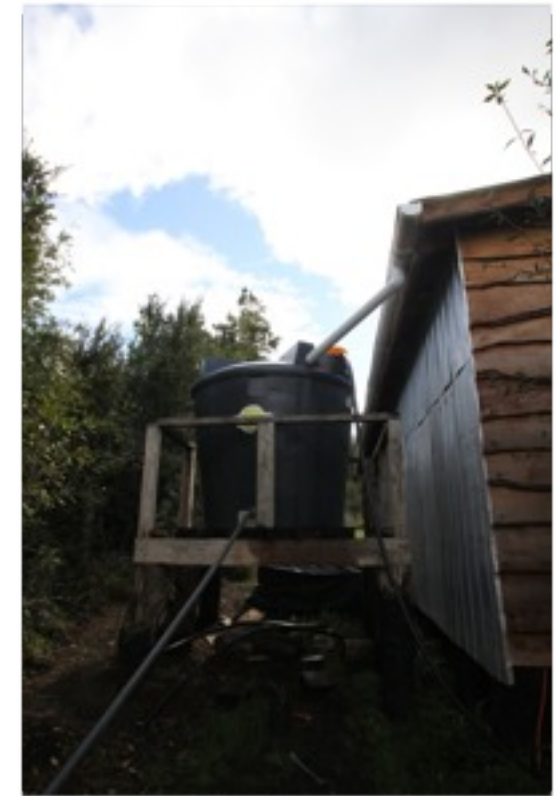
Veggie garden



Solar water heating



Solar water pump



Rain water collection

VOLUNTEERING ON ALIHUEN

- 1. Why do we receive volunteers?
- 2. What do we offer in return for your work?
- 3. What do we expect from volunteers?
- 4. Things to bring
- 5. Some things to consider

Why do we receive volunteers?

In February 1999 Jeroen travelled to Australia and had his first experience with wwoof there. An Australian girl that he met on his travels through Europe sent him a leaflet with information about wwoof . When he arrived in Australia he became a member, received the book with wwoof farms and phoned his first farm. A new world opened; organic farming, vegetarian food, yoga, alternative energy, conservation etc. In Belgium and abroad he used to work as a chef cooking traditional French and Belgian food and had only vaguely heard of organic food. Slowly he started to have the idea and dream of having his own organic farm one day and combine it with cooking for guests. So grew 'Alihuen' farm.

Since the beginning of Alihuen, Grecia and Jeroen wanted to receive volunteers to exchange knowledge with like-minded people and show that it is possible to farm and reforest using sustainable practices. Without the help of the volunteers it wouldn't be possible to realize the things we dream of. Local people willing to work in the countryside are difficult to find as most young Chileans move to the cities to work in salmon processing or other factories.

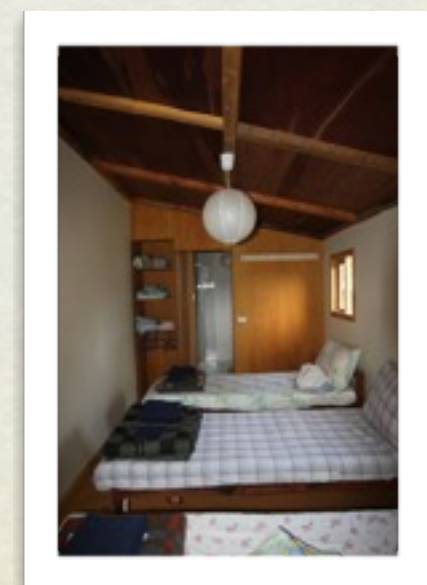
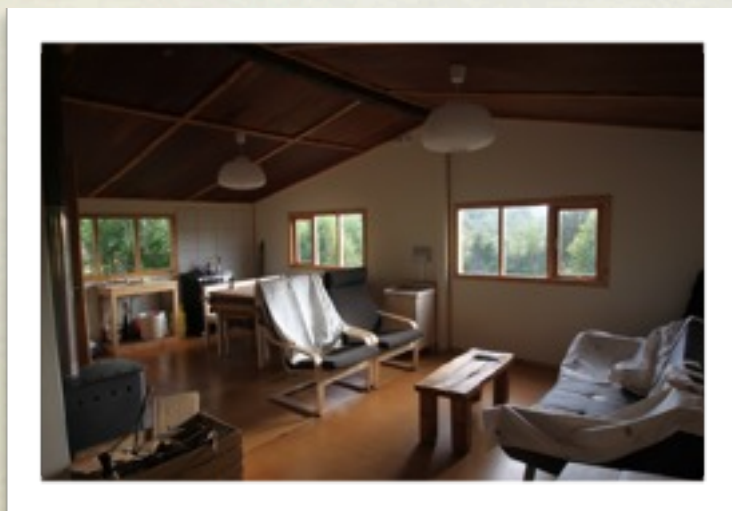
Tree planting doesn't give us a financial income, the project has been financed so far with the help of tourists, forest conservationists and the Chilean forestry department. Tree planting will never give us an income either so that's we also rely on committed volunteers to help us.

We hope that people who come and work here become enthusiastic about reforestation, organic farming and sustainable living and one day realize their own project.

What do we offer in return for your work?

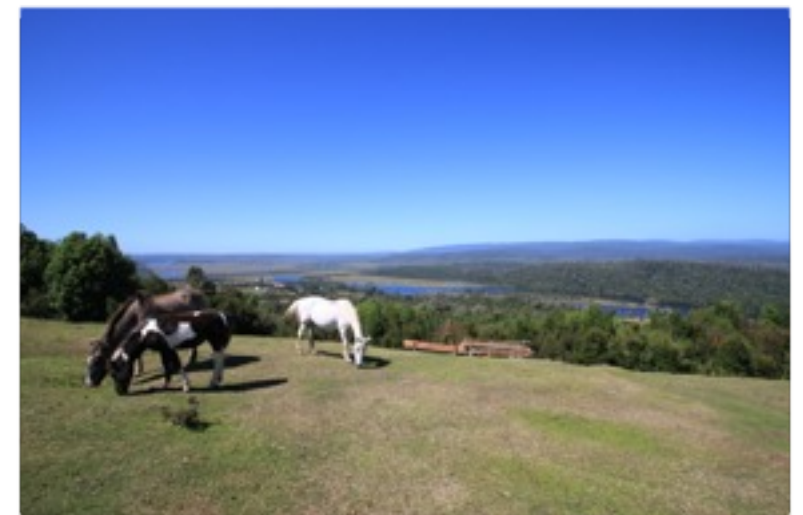
A cozy, clean, warm cabin The cabin has 2 bedrooms, one with 3 beds and the other with 2 beds. Each room has its own bathroom with shower, sink, toilet. There is hot water from a gas boiler. The kitchen has a gas stove and oven. A wood stove heats the cabin on cold days

A weekly allowance to buy the (Lacto-ovo)vegetarian food that you like This is quite unusual but from experience we have learned that it is good that volunteers choose and buy the food that they like to cook. Cooking can be done individually or as a group. The weekly allowance is 5000 pesos (10 US\$, 8 euro), that amount is what an average Chilean spends on (healthy) food for 4 days. A week on the farm for volunteers starts on Monday afternoon and ends Friday afternoon. Neighbors sell free range eggs, milk, butter and cheese. Why Lacto-ovo vegetarian? Many volunteers are vegetarian so out of respect for those who don't like to be around meat we ask all volunteers to only cook veggie meals. Vegetables and herbs available at the farm can be used for cooking as well.



Clean skies The southern hemisphere sky is great for observing the stars. The closest cities are at 30 and 80 km so there is little light pollution. If you have an iPod, iPad or similar device, the 'SkyView' app helps you distinguishing the constellations and shows the names of stars, planets, comets etc... We have a stargazer to have a closer look at the sky as well.

Information about the best spots to visit on the archipelago Chepu Valley and the nearby National Park are good places to hike, camp, horse-ride, kayak, fish,...



What do we expect from wwoofers and workawayers?

Interest for our project If you want to learn about reforestation and sustainable living this is probably a good place for you. We went through a lot of trial and error and love to share our experiences with other people Keen on nature conservation.

six-hours work a day, free time on Saturdays and Sundays As the bus arrives on Monday afternoon, work starts on Tuesday morning and continues until Friday afternoon. Working hours are flexible so you can make your own work schedule. A typical day would be 3 hours hole digging for the future planting in the morning/afternoon and three hours of various jobs (recycling, cleaning, mulching, seed collecting and planting, small construction work, vegetable and fruit harvesting)

Cook for oneself and/or other volunteers Ideally volunteers take turns cooking but this is also flexible in case of specific diets etc.. Cooking chores are not part of the daily 6 hours work routine. Bread can be baked in the gas oven or the wood stove oven of the main house.

Some experience with physical (farming) labour You don't have to be an experienced farmer but it helps that you have used a shovel once and knows that physical work sometimes hurts the body.

Minimum stay of two weeks We normally take up to 5 volunteers at the time (if there is demand) who come together on Mondays (see schedule for 2014-2015), leave Fridays for the weekend and then come back for another week. If for some legitimate reason you are not feeling happy at Alihuen you are free to leave.

Why do we ask you to leave the farm for the weekends?

We want to encourage travelers to explore the island and its many natural and cultural attractions. There are many inexpensive ways to travel and cheap places to stay and eat.

Most of the travelers / volunteers are on a budget but so are we unfortunately. My wife and I don't make a big income and to maintain volunteers during the weekends has resulted too high a cost.

During the weekend we often have visitors that stay overnight in the guest / volunteer house. You can leave your belongings safely in the guest house.

Things to bring

- sturdy shoes, we provide overalls (dungarees, coverall, boiler suit,...)
- sleeping bag (night temperature drops to 12°C 53°F), there are extra blankets in the cabin for colder nights
- music! (on mp3 player and usb so we can share)
- musical instruments, we have a guitar and a piano at the farm
- books (digital also)
- warm clothes, rain protection pants (trousers) and waterproof raincoat
- sun hat, suncream (high protection level)

Some things to consider

Smoking is only allowed in certain areas around the cabin. In summer the grass around the trees becomes very dry and ignites easily. Although people intoxicate themselves with legal products every day the other natural hallucinogen grass is very illegal in Chile. So, do not bring the smokable grass, I'm sorry...

Internet is available but please use it for the most necessary messages only

From half January till half February there are horse-flies that can be a nuisance to some people, we have mosquito nets to cover your head if necessary

With Lacto-ovo vegetarian food & cooking we mean: abstaining from the consumption of meat - red meat, poultry, seafood and the flesh of any other animal; it may also include abstention from by-products of animal slaughter. The purchase and consumption of eggs, milk and cheese (preferably free range, available from neighbor farmers) is ok.

Safety: you will never be asked to handle high-risk machines, do dangerous jobs or use hazardous materials. When you feel uncomfortable about a task for your safety, tell us and we'll find something else to do. Working gloves are provided.

Visitors: Sorry, if you want to meet with friends, relatives, fellow travelers,... do so in the weekends and not on the farm. Encourage your friends to join the workaway and wwoof program!

Language: Grecia speaks Spanish only, a great opportunity to upgrade your Spanish skills! Tamara is learning English and will be thrilled to practice her English on you, Jeroen speaks Dutch, French, English and Spanish and you can practice any of these languages with him.

What kind of work will you do?

During the summer and autumn of 2014 - 2015 there are several jobs to be done:

- hole digging for tree planting
- cleaning the area where once a house stood and will serve as the volunteer quarters & campground
- recycling garbage to make bottle bricks and the like
- start building the new volunteer house with recycled materials



future campground



Old house

2007 plantation

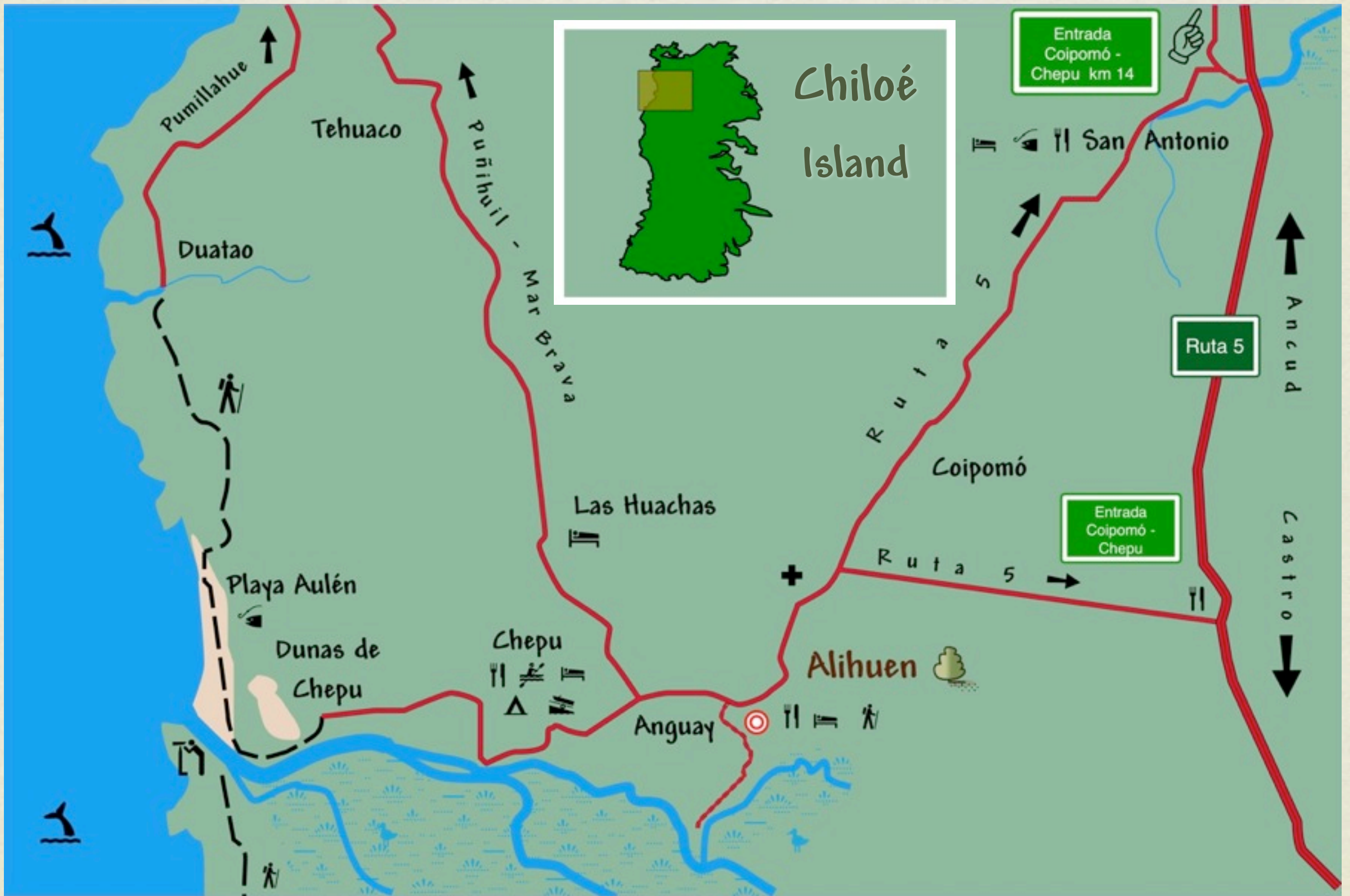


- seed collecting for the nursery (under pre-construction)
- fruit, vegetable & tuber harvesting
- mulching (covering weeds with dry grass)
- weeding, but not too much, that's why we mulch
- handicraft according to your skills
- general maintenance of the guest house



Where is Alihuen?



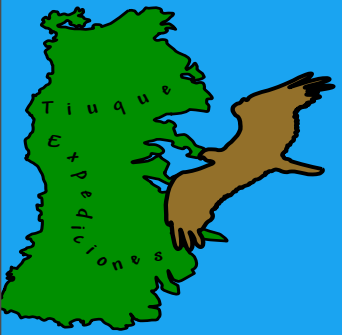


HOW TO GET HERE?

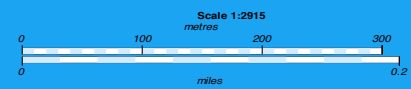
- by bus (from Ancud): a bus that goes to 'Chepu' leaves Ancud three times a week. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The bus leaves from the 2nd floor of the 'Unimarc' supermarket at 4 pm (E & G on the city map of Ancud). The bus ride costs 1800 pesos
- by car: look at the map of the area on the previous page

This map is a courtesy of Tiuque expediciones and Hostal Mundo Nuevo Nuevo

ANCUD



Hostal Mundo Nuevo



- 1** Plaza de Armas / Main square / La Grande Place / Hauptplatz
- 2** Museo 'azul' Audelio Borquez / 'Blue' museum / Musée Bleu / Blaues Museum (Regionalmuseum)
- 3** Catedral / Cathedral / Cathédrale / Kathedrale
- 4** Fundación Amigos de las Iglesias de Chiloé / Friends of Chiloé's churches foundation / Fondation Amis des églises de Chiloé / Stiftung der Freunde von Chiloés Kirchen
- 5** Iglesia San Francisco / San Francisco church / Église de San Francisco / San Francisco Kirche
- 6** Féria de pescado, verduras y artesanía / Fish, vegetable and handicraft market / Marché aux poissons, légumes et foire artisanal / Fisch- und Gemüsemarkt, Kunsthandwerksmarkt
- 7** Mercado de artesanía / Handicraft market / Foire artisanal / Kunsthandwerksmarkt
- 8** Carabineros / Police station / Commissariat de Police / Polizeistation
- 9** Polvorín histórico / Historical weapon storage / Dépôt d'armes historiques / Alter Pulverturm
- 10** Playa Arena Gruesa / Arena Gruesa beach / Plage Arena Gruesa / Arena Gruesa Strand
- 11** Fuerte San Antonio / San Antonio fortress / Fort San Antonio / Festung San Antonio
- 12** Puerto / Port / Port / Hafen
- 13** Plazoleta & mirador 'Goleta Ancud' / 'Goleta Ancud' square & lookout / Place 'Goleta Ancud' & vue panoramique / Aussichtsplatz 'Goleta Ancud'

- A** SERNATUR / Tourist information / Information touristique / Touristeninformation
- B** Bancos & cajeros automáticos / Banks & ATM / Banques & ATM / Banken & Geldautomaten
- C** Cajero automático & cambio de moneda / ATM & money exchange / ATM & Bureau de change / Geldautomat & Geldwechsel
- D** Terminal de buses 'Cruz del Sur' / Bus station 'Cruz del Sur' / Gare de bus 'Cruz del Sur' / Busbahnhof 'Cruz del Sur'
- E** Terminal de buses rurales / Rural bus station / Station de bus rural / Busbahnhof für das Umland
- F** Terminal de bus municipal / Municipal bus station / Station de bus municipal / Municipal Busbahnhof
- G** Supermercados / Grocery stores / Supermarchés / Supermärkte
- H** Correos / Post office / La Poste / Post
- I** Gasolineras / Petrol (Gas) stations / Stations d'essence / Tankstellen
- J** Custodia / Luggage Lockers / Casiers de sécurité / Gepäckaufbewahrung
- K** Librería 'El Gran Pez' / Bookstore 'El Gran Pez' / Librairie 'El Gran Pez' / Buchladen 'El Gran Pez'
- L** Hospital / Hospital / Hôpital / Krankenhaus
- M** Centro Médico 'San José' / Medical center 'San José' / Centre médical 'San José' / Ärztehaus 'San José'
- N** Centro Médico 'Laboratorio Ancud' / Clinic 'Laboratorio Ancud' / Centre médical 'Laboratorio Ancud' / Ärztehaus 'Laboratorio Ancud'



AVAILABILITY 2014-2015

- Monday 1/12 - Friday 12/12
- Monday 15/12 - Friday 26/12
- Monday 5/1 - Friday 16/1
- Monday 19/1 - Friday 30/1
- Monday 2/2 - Friday 13/2
- Monday 16/2 - Friday 27/2
- Monday 2/3 - Friday 13/3
- Monday 16/3 - Friday 27/3
- Monday 30/3 - Friday 10/4
- Monday 13/4 - Friday 24/4
- Monday 27/4 - Friday 8/5



HOPE TO SEE YOU AT
ALIHUEN!