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## **III INTERNATIONAL WORKCAMP DE AMICITIA GARGANTILLA**

**DATES: 7/08-21/08/2008**

**Nº OF VOLUNTEERS: 14**

**LANGUAGE: Spanish & English**

**CONTACT: Ignacio González Martínez (Nacho) Cell.- + 34 655 25 47 09**

Dear participant,

We are happy to send you the information about the **III International Workcamp DE AMICITIA of Gargantilla** organised by De Amicitia-SCI Madrid. This is a very special project and we want you to be motivated and ready to put your energy and enthusiasm into it.

We would like to remind you that De Amicitia and SCI are NOT an alternative travel agency and that we expect you to get involved with the existing problem the generated the reaction of De Amicitia to prepare this workcamp. Therefore we expect from every volunteer motivation, cooperation, flexibility and open-mindedness!

Our workcamps are based on self-organisation and self-management and this is also what makes them unique and enriching! Please don't expect the camp leader (Nacho) to organise everything for you, and remember that participants are asked to work and prepare tools and things at home, clean dishes and also to organise part of the activities that will be running during the event, so be ready to contribute with your own ideas and personality.

### **THE PROJECT**

De Amicitia is an NGO located 80 km north on the mountains of Madrid. We are a group of lawyers that give legal assistant to other environmental NGOs. We also promote an alternative environmental friendly life style and organise workcamps in the spot where environmental conflict has occurred. We own a house in the countryside with solar panels and just prepared to hold meetings, small seminars and workshops, for groups of different people from all over the World to share and learn.

Gargantilla and Pinilla are 350 inhabitants towns crowded in Summer time and weekends by population living in Madrid. The municipality is facing now a problem of environmental development and tries to promote environmental friendly tourism. There are old paths that long ago were used by shepherds that could turn to trekking and cycling trails. Cleaning up the area is also essential since there is also a problem with managing wastes and prunes, as they don't have infrastructure to face it, the Environmental Regional Administration does not give a reasonable solution. Neighbours are suffering the consequences, and the traditional irrigation ditches are

full of rubbish. De Amicitia wants to join all parts involved and try to find a solution to the problem.

The work time will be making signals for the trekking and cycling trails. It is therefore necessary to be able to cycle for some kilometres per day. Also some activity will be done for cleaning up the area and watering trees that were planted in Winter time. We are trying to get local people to work for one or to days with the work camp volunteers in order to make local population be aware and get involved with their local environmental problem and with volunteer work.

After the workcamp is finished participants may stay four more days to enjoy the local fiestas of Gargantilla.

### **Work**

60 % of the time will be used to sign post paths for Cycling and Horse Riding. The first day we will help to settle a stage for a flamenco concert in the night.

20 % of the work will be done at Wub-Wub (De Amicitia) such as cutting trees and building a green house; joining the daily work on gardening, agriculture and preparing the food.

The rest of the time will be use clean up in the area. We are trying to get local people to work for one or to days with the workcamp volunteers. It is essential that a good impression and good atmosphere is created.

### **Study part**

Local and Global Environmental Problems, Workshop about United Nations *Aarhus Convention*

### **Accommodation**

Very basic accommodation: big tent. Sleeping bag and torch needed.

We will have shower at the local swimming pool.

Sauna available.

### **Language**

Spanish preferably and English.

### **Extra**

No wheelchair accessibility.

Vegetarian food will be provided.

### **IMPORTANT FEATURES**

**1<sup>st</sup>.**- Participants are really asked to try their best if they speak Spanish to communicate with the locals. Creating a good atmosphere will be the key for workcamps in future!!

**2<sup>nd</sup>.**- The workcamp will take place during the local fiestas of the area. Be prepared for lot of work in the day and lot of fiesta in the night.!!!

**3<sup>rd</sup>.**- Volunteers will have the chance of checking email daily. Travelling around the town will be done in bicycles.

**4<sup>th</sup>.**- It will be hot in the day and a bit chilly in the night. Be prepared for 35 ° Celsius temperature. Nevertheless it will be possible to go to the lake and the swimming pool.

**5<sup>th</sup>.**- You can check the result of last years workcamp in

[http://www.deamicitia.org/es/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=42&Itemid=45&lang=en](http://www.deamicitia.org/es/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=42&Itemid=45&lang=en)

**6<sup>th</sup>.**- Volunteers are asked to cook their own food.

**MOST IMPORTANT.**- Conditions will be a bit hard in the place where we are living: we will not have too much water, or electricity and we will sleep in tents.

### **What to bring**

Sport shoes or trekking boots (we will be in the country side most of the time), some old working clothes, light summer clothes, a pullover for chilly nights, sun cream protection, mosquitoes repellent, very important a swimming-suit, sleeping bag and a flashlight.

### **The free time**

It will depend a great deal on your own initiative. There are nice trekking possibilities and other trips to the surroundings. Bring instruments, music, cards, stories and other things to share.

## **TRAVEL INSTRUCTIONS**

The *workcamp* will take place in Gargantilla del Lozoya, village at 84 km north from Madrid. The only way to get there is by bus that departs from the Bus Station of Plaza Castilla - underground passage.

From the Madrid Barajas airport:

If you arrive in Terminals 1, 2 and 3, you will find the entrance to the metro station in Terminal 2. You need to buy a ticket (1 €) for the metro, but with the airport supplement it is 2 €. You buy the metro tickets from the machines before entering the metro.

There is also a metro station in Terminal 4 which is further away from terminals 1, 2 and 3. Should you arrive here, follow the same procedure.

-Catch a metro on the pink line (line 8) in the direction of Nuevos Ministerios. Get off at Colombia.

-Catch a metro on the violet line (line 9) in the direction of Herrera Oria. Get off at Plaza Castilla.

-See metro map - attached file.

From the Bus Station Plaza Castilla:

Bus 191

- From Madrid to Buitrago.
- Stop in Lozoyuela, in front of Bar Flores.
- Departure each hour o'clock. Arrival in Lozoyuela 1 hour 20 minutes later.
- Price around 4,50 €.

Bus 194

- From Madrid To Rascafría.
- Stop in El Tomillar.
- Departure at 18:00. Arrival at El Tomillar at 19:50.
- Price around 4,94 €.

#### Bus 195

- From Madrid to Braojos.
- Stop in Gargantilla del Lozoya.
- Departure Friday at 17:00. Arrival in Gargantilla at 19:00.
- Price around 5,06 €.

Just call us when you arrive, and we'll pick up you at the bus station. If you don't find anybody, please phone us +34 655254709.

Please, check timetables and prices at the website of the Consorcio de Transportes de Madrid:

- <http://www.ctm-madrid.es/>
- [http://www.ctm-madrid.es/como\\_ir\\_a/bus/como\\_ir\\_a\\_bus1.jsp?CODPANTALLA=1&COBOTON=202](http://www.ctm-madrid.es/como_ir_a/bus/como_ir_a_bus1.jsp?CODPANTALLA=1&COBOTON=202).

In case you know when you will your plane arrive to Madrid, and doesn't fit with the proposed buses, send us an email and we may find the best bus for you.

We will send more information if you need so, send us an email to [info@deamicitia.org](mailto:info@deamicitia.org).

**We are looking forward to hosting you in our workcamp!  
See you soon. Amities**

**De Amicitia**

REMEMBER!! IF YOU HAVE ANY TROUBLE PLEASE CONTACT NACHO +34 655254709