

## May 2014

### General Update

Another month has passed at Fundación Aldeas de Paz. Over the past few weeks we sadly departed from several of our long-term volunteers. Of course none of them would miss the opportunity to travel before leaving to their home countries. Lara and Katharina went on a trip together through Venezuela before their eventual departure to Germany at the end of May. Sara decided to travel through several places in Latin America before she returns to Austria. Julia, Rick and Manuel went on a long-planned trip through Colombia. While Manuel has already returned to us, Julia and Rick are travelling a little longer and will return to Austria and England in a few weeks. We are grateful to all of them for their contribution and dedication of their time at our foundation.

### Volunteers travel through Venezuela and Colombia

Lara and Katharina had a wonderful trip through lovely Venezuela. They went to Merida, Coro and Las Islas de Chichiriviche. They went paragliding, sand boarding and saw the desierto del coro. Especially the desierto del coro was “muy muy chévere”, according to Lara.

Julia, Rick and Manuel had the unique chance to get to know a bit of Colombia. Beginning their journey in Bogotá, they then went to Medellin, Santa Marta and Cartagena. The two grand cities Bogotá and Medellin proved to be a welcome change from lively but small Santa Elena. Santa Marta and Cartagena are medium-size cities located at the Caribbean Sea of Colombia. Both places are quite touristy yet excellent beach resorts. In every single place of their visit, relatively cheap, cozy and safe accommodation was always available. Colombia left a great impression on our volunteers as a beautiful, safe and friendly country.

### Work at Fundación Aldeas de Paz

With the absence of lots of our volunteers, the work still had to continue. Every twelve weeks two to three new groups of children are welcomed at the foundation. Miriam and Kelvis successfully commenced schooling and horse-back riding with two new groups of children between the ages 6-8 and 9-12. This time it started with but a handful of children; however, Miriam and Kelvis worked so impressively that after just one week the number of children coming to our foundation reached its maximum capacity. While Miriam and Kelvis are primarily occupied in preparing excellent work with the children, Manuel has just begun his research on new and promising fundraising projects. We will keep you updated.



This picture shows one of the several beautiful alleys in Cartagena, Colombia.

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### Santa Elena de Uairén

Unfortunately, there are still politically motivated riots taking place in parts of Venezuela. It is to be stressed that mainstream international news does not always adequately reflect what is taking place. Above all, Santa Elena remains free from any riots least to say violence.

### Fights to Venezuela

The reasons why some airlines, including Air Canada and Air Europa have temporarily cancelled international flights in and out of Caracas are far too complex to describe them in detail in this newsletter. They are partially political and partially a result of Venezuela's exchange rate system. The good news is that a recent agreement between the Spanish airline Iberia and Venezuela has allowed for cheap flights from several European destinations to Caracas and back, especially German cities (e.g., Frankfurt am Main, Dusseldorf, Munich). From North America a variety of airlines (e.g., Copa Airlines, Avianca) are operating to Caracas.

In addition, there are several other convenient options to get to Venezuela via neighbouring countries. Venezuela is easily reachable by plane from several Colombian cities, including Bogotá. Another frequently used way of getting here is through Manaus, Brazil – Boa Vista – Santa Elena. There are relatively cheap flights from North America (e.g., Miami, NYC, Toronto) or Europe to Manaus. From Manaus you can either fly (1h) or take another luxury bus (10h) to Boa Vista, which is so close to Santa Elena that busses and taxis operate daily (2:30h; taxis cost no more than €10). We are always there for advice in case you have any inquiries.

### Get in touch

To get in touch with us write you can write us an E-Mail at [mail@peacevillages.org](mailto:mail@peacevillages.org). Don't forget to follow us on our new Twitter account, [@AldeasDePaz](https://twitter.com/AldeasDePaz), and to like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AldeasDePaz) for frequent updates on our projects here at the foundation!



It's time to say good-bye to a group of happy children and volunteers. Two new groups of children have now come to Fundación Aldeas de Paz.