



WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

At Brave Earth (Tierra Valiente) our mission is to create a new type of model, a living laboratory, that is anchored in the principles of reciprocity, regeneration and resiliency. Here amidst the jungle, thermal pools and cloud forest, we are exploring new and ancient ways of living.

We believe it requires bravery to step out of the traditional constructs of globalized monoculture and step into alternative systems grounded in the reality of what is possible when we align ourselves to the wisdom and power of Nature.

You are a part of this ecosystem and your participation in creating the collective field matters. This guide outlines our shared agreements, general information and prompts for deeper inquiry.



JUNGLE SURVIVAL GUIDE

You are in a tropical rainforest, a diverse ecosystem home to many more-than-human life-forms including frogs, insects, birds, snakes, and even jaguars. This is their home. Please respect the jungle and its residents. We encourage the use of shoes at all times to protect your feet.

Below is a list of things that will be very useful during your stay:

- Light waterproof rain jacket
- Headlamp (ideally) and/or flashlight
- Hiking shoes and/or rubber boots
- An umbrella
- Mosquito repellent (natural and organic)
- Sunscreen and sun hat (natural and organic)
- Bathing suit
- Reusable water bottle (no plastic bottles please)

Please let us know if there's anything you need to make your stay more comfortable.

Check-In

Once you have checked in, please ensure you set up a time for an orientation with your facilitator or Brave Earth host. We ask that all guests check after 1pm and before 6pm the day of arrival.

Check-Out

Please ensure you are checked out and fully paid before you leave. Check out is 11am on your day of departure. If you need more time, please make a request with your host or Tete (our general manager).

Shared Spaces

As guests in a community-run retreat center, we ask you that you respect our shared living



environment. For example, this means taking care of your own dishes in the designated dish wash station in Rumi's Kitchen.

Recycling

We strive to reduce the amount of packaging and inorganic waste that is brought onto the land. Please be mindful of what you bring into the community (e.g. plastic bags). We have a recycling system with clear instructions posted in relevant areas.

Smoking

We encourage smokers to smoke around the fire pit area in front of Rumi's Kitchen. Please no smoking inside the rooms. If you are lighting candles or incense, please be mindful of where you light them and put them out before you leave the space.

Toilets

We use compost toilets to create a closed-loop system that alchemizes waste into resources that nourish the soil. After you're complete, please put two scoops of saw dust into the toilet along with any paper that is used. We ask that nothing else goes into the toilet. Please use the provided trash cans for anything else.

Water

All water that comes from the faucets on the retreat center is mountain spring water and is safe to drink. Remember to hydrate!

Showers

We provide biodegradable shampoo, conditioner and body wash in our showers. If you choose to bring your own toiletries please make sure they are natural, organic and biodegradable as the grey water is cycled back into our ecosystem.

Sound

We ask that you stay attuned to your surroundings and neighbors, especially related to



sound. Quiet time in shared spaces is between 9pm and 7am. Sound travels in the retreat center so please be mindful when playing music in your rooms and consider using headphones past 9pm.

Light

It's dark out there. Remember to always bring a flashlight when walking through the grounds at night. Mosquitoes and other critters are drawn to light. Turn off the lights in your room when you leave to avoid inviting them in. If you are staying in an Earth Tambo, please use the reading light inside your mosquito net after it is securely closed and ensure your outside light is off.

Parking

For parking, there are signed designated spots just past Casa Valiente. Please do not park in front of Casa Valiente or on the retreat center grounds.

Pets

There are no pets permitted on the property. This is partly because we are based in a sensitive jungle ecosystem that is not conducive to domesticated animals. If you are traveling with a pet, please notify us before making reservations.

Wet items

The rainforest can get quite damp, especially during the rainy season. Please use the bamboo ladders in your room to hang wet towels and clothes.

Laundry

We offer laundry service for \$7 for a half load (10 items or less) or \$12 for a full load. There is a laundry basket and bag in your room. Leave the bag filled with your laundry outside the door for the cleaning staff. We encourage you to launder wet, muddy items as soon as possible to avoid molding. They will return your fresh, clean, folded laundry to your room within 24 hours. At the end of your stay you can pay for this service on your room bill.



Nourishment

All of our produce is either grown on our farm or sourced from local, organic farms. We cook primarily plant-based meals with the occasional local-sourced fish.

Meal times are as follows:

Breakfast - 7:30am to 8:30am - (\$7.50)

Lunch - 12:00-1:00pm - (\$12.50)

Dinner - 5:30-6:30pm - (\$12.50)

If you are joining for breakfast, please let Tete know by dinner the night before. If you are joining for lunch or dinner, please let Tete know by 9am that day at latest. You can Whatsapp/Signal her at +506 8845 0550.

The kitchen is for Brave Earth staff only. If you require anything to be refrigerated please ask your hosts or the kitchen staff. Between meals there is a smoothie and snack bar available at Rumi's Kitchen. Please inform your host or reception about any dietary restrictions or preferences before arrival.

Shoes

Please feel at home and remove your shoes before entering your rooms, the Malocca and Rumi's Lounge.

Wifi

The password for Rumi's Kitchen is "buh-hum0". If you require strong bandwidth for video calls, you can use the fiber connection at Finca Luna Nueva while enjoying something from their delicious menu.

Umbrellas



We are located in the rainforest, so having your umbrella handy is recommended. You can sign out an umbrella with your Brave Earth host. Please return it at check out. There is a \$20 fee for lost umbrellas.

Council

Community Council is held on Tuesdays at 6:30pm. We gather together and use the ancient technology of circle to create a safe space to connect, share, and express what's alive for us in the moment and what inquiries we are holding. It is encouraged but not mandatory.

Fuerza De Amor

Creating true resiliency means supporting the surrounding community and the ecosystem in which we are embedded. Part of the mission of Brave Earth is to be a contributing member of the local community through acts of solidarity, reciprocity and service. This is possible through our volunteer-driven, service-based, not-for-profit, community resilience network, Fuerza De Amor.

Just by visiting Brave Earth you are supporting this initiative and contributing to our resilience network. For each night, up to four nights of your stay, a \$5.00 solidarity fee will be added to the cost of your stay. Through this act of reciprocity we are creating more resilience and regenerating the very ecosystem that we inhabit.

Fuerza De Amor has the following offerings and programs in place to support and enrich the local community:

- Community-powered home renovations to ensure safe and dignified living conditions
- Goods & service exchange marketplace to serve as an alternative to the dominant capital-based marketplace
- Cooperatively run community farm to create food sovereignty
- Neighborhood safeguarding service
- Micelio, the community center to gather, receive support and education



- Waste management program to sequester plastic and keep the community clean

If you wish to learn more about Fuerza de Amor and the impact you are helping us make by staying with us, we offer a Fuerza de Amor community tour. Please contact our reception or your host for details.

Feedback

We're learning as we're growing. If you have any feedback, questions, concerns, praise, reflections or suggestions we'd love to hear from you! Speak directly to your Brave Earth host or write to hello@braveearth.com.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Recommended Restaurants in La Fortuna

- Don Rufino's
- Italianesimo
- Organico Fortuna
- Arabigos Coffee Shop

Contacts

1. Aly Khan (site manager) +506.8521.9819
2. Tete (retreat center manager) +506.8845.0550
3. Sara (land manager) +506.8907.8912
4. Police Chachagua +506.2479.0163
5. Red Cross San Isidro +506.911
6. La Fortuna Private Clinic Benditas +506.8879.8023
(Monday-Saturday 7am-9pm, Sunday 8am-4pm)
7. Easy Travel Transportation +506.7019.9888



WHAT IS YOUR INQUIRY?

You are entering an animate, living field that will be in dialogue with you and responds to your presence. Although this is generally true for all spaces on the living planet, we have witnessed this land trigger and support people's processes in very explicit ways. To navigate this requires both responsibility and humility. Whether you are staying at Brave Earth for one night or one month we ask that you come with an inquiry you want to explore during your time here.

Our three areas of inquiry as a community are Polis (understanding our relationship to the whole and creating new systems & structures); Gnosis (cultivating a direct relationship with wisdom); and Eros (rethinking relationships to ourselves, each other and the more-than-human world). Here are some questions we encourage people to contemplate before and during their time with us:

- Late-stage capitalism is destroying the planet. As a result of our collective activity, our generation may be the last human beings on this planet. How does this change the way you show up in the world? Are you contributing in a way that is contextually relevant?
- There is a Sufi proverb attributed to the Great Mother. She says to her children: "You are entrusted with everything and entitled to nothing." Contemplate what you believe you are entitled to and why. What privileges and responsibilities come with the gifts you've been entrusted with?
- Why do you think you incarnated in the body you have (e.g. think of your physical attributes like race, gender, sexual orientation, etc. as well as psychological disposition)? What is your relationship with your ancestors? What redemption work wants to happen through you?
- What is your relationship to the natural world? How do you cultivate your ability to listen? What does the natural world teach us about reciprocity, regeneration and resiliency?



MYSTICAL ANARCHIST ETIQUETTE:

Live Theory for a Living Community

The following document is used internally as a guide for Brave Earth community members. We share it with guests who may be interested in learning more about us. Brave Earth was born out of many years of studying alternative communities, various healing modalities and experiments in post-capitalist living. Our community members come from diverse backgrounds and culture from all around the world, as well as local Costa Ricans. We became stewards of this land in December 2016 and operate as a partner-run co-operative.

Mysticism and anarchism share a root belief system; namely, we are all heirs to a direct, disintermediated relationship to the Wisdom (some may say the Divine). We are sovereign and free to decide on how we want to live our lives, in collaboration with the community we have chosen to live amongst the social/spiritual/cultural contexts we find ourselves in. This collaboration is based on etiquette or *Adab* (an Arabic word that more accurately means 'cosmic tact' or the 'art of divine etiquette').

Etiquette is pre-law, pre-tradition, pre-lineage, pre-language and pre-cognition. It is the manner by which we approach. It is the manner by which we show up in the world. It is a negotiation with the energetic forces of a living planet, the ancestors, the celestial beings, the plants, the animals, the wind, the sun, the moon and the universe itself as it becomes self-aware through us.

Anarchism does not mean anarchy. Anarchism is about self-governance and self-mastery. We adhere to a lawless etiquette that is based on shared principles and is *contextually relevant*. The following principles are initial guideposts to design agreements as a community.

Principle 1: We are creating a new way of being for a new type of community



All members of Brave Earth are involved in a deep evolutionary process of their own, and within a broader process of creating an emerging culture for our community. As we develop principles for how we live and work together, old short-hands, patterns and rules may not necessarily apply.

In practical application, this means that we do not hold onto old universals like Golden Rules or categorical imperatives, but rather, we embrace a more *Quantum Ethics* that takes into account co-agency, entanglement and context. Co-agency is about taking responsibility for your part of the co-creation; entanglement is trusting that nothing is happening to you, but rather, through you, including the actions of others; and context is about awareness of various levels of reality that are occurring simultaneously.

This does not mean we can do whatever we want, but rather, the opposite. We are creating a culture with shared principles that are constantly adapting to facilitate the expansion of healing. We are perpetually testing, remixing and remaking the principles by which we live to be increasingly *contextually relevant* to the type of humans we are becoming.

This means you still have to do your dishes, but if the deity of Durga comes through you before you've had a chance, one of us will pick up the slack knowing you'll explain the relevant context and find new ways to adhere to the responsibilities you want to embrace as a community member.

Principle 2: Intention and values are the foundational base of our community

Our highest aim is to create a community of beings whose core intention is to create regenerative models for post-capitalist living. Our aim is to enter every space, physical or psychic, with the intention of raising the frequency and praying for all beings. If someone believes that is not the intention at hand, we will start with asking intentions rather than assuming knowledge. Of course, as new information and omens present themselves, we will adjust our responses/hypotheses/intentions accordingly.



In practical application, if someone comes to you with a complaint about another member of the community, we can bear witness without judgement, be a reminder of best intentions, and suggest a direct conversation. If you yourself question the best intentions of the person in question, then you can request a community Council. Direct dialogue is our preferred avenue for dialectics and this can often be supported in a Council environment.

Principle 3: We are aware that there is a broader context in which we are embedded. We are students of our culture and understand that we are in the midst of the Kali Yuga. Catastrophic, anthropocentric climate change has already set in and will only get worse. We are preparing and being prepared for a level of chaos beyond our deepest imagination. We trust that with the increase in chaos will also come an increase in beauty and resilience.

In the practice of *Chaos Yoga*, we live between manifestation and surrender, learning when to be in the creation of either or both simultaneously. *Chaos Yoga* does not mean we create chaos, but rather, we cultivate an ability to embrace it, dance with it, and shape it as it arises.

We are refining our overly-developed sense of preference, entitlement and expectation (that is the logical outcome of the dominant culture) into a more selfless service that helps bring us back into symbiosis with the living planet, with each other and with ourselves.

In the Greek holy trinity, first comes Chaos, then Eros, then Order. After the first creation or Big Bang, this trinity is not linear, but discursive. However, it reminds us that we can only achieve a higher Order if we can transmute Chaos collectively through Love.

Principle 4: Entitlement versus entrustment. As the Sufi proverb goes, “You are entitled to nothing and you are entrusted with everything.” Regardless of our respective roles/archetypes/historical precedents, we approach our social contexts with a sense of gratitude (*Shukran*, Arabic entanglement prayer) and interdependence (*Bhu Hum*, Sanskrit mantra meaning “Earth I Am”) that manifests in a potent awareness that we are faithful



stewards who have been entrusted with this beautiful land, our respective incarnations, and the ability to influence the lives and lineages of those around us. We are in a constant process of becoming worthy students of the endowments we have been gifted. When we forget this practice, our community gently and patiently reminds us of this, and through that dialogue, we are all reminding ourselves.