

# Finca Bayano

Newsletter February 2013

Las Palmas, a village in Panama

Inhabitants: 1,500

Distance to Finca Bayano: 4 Miles

Average temperature during the day: 28°C - 80°F

Average temperature during the night: 22°C - 70°F

Precipitations: sufficient



If the real crisis breaks out it certainly will take a while until it reaches Las Palmas - if it does...

If you google Las Palmas in the Veraguas region of Panama, you get a few results only. The water fall is the only point of interest, otherwise it's a small village which is hardly visited by anyone. At times there are some tourists, travelling on their motorbikes from Bocas de Toro to Santa Catalina, stopping over for a short while. However, there is no hotel, no gas station, no bank and the village has no website.

Like LAX for Los Angeles, we are calling it LPX for Las Palmas. No one would think of making a Newsletter about this village. Here it is.

One more time, LPX is below the clouds. My suggestion, to call it Las Nubes (The Clouds) was rejected. Possibly because it sounded too pessimistic to others, but as a matter of fact, it is raining nine months in the year.

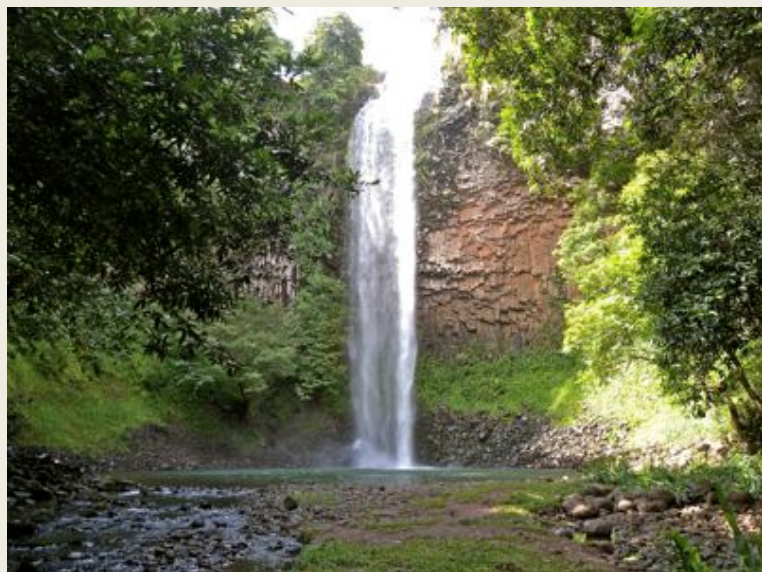
Las Lluvias (The Rainfalls) would have been an alternative.



Same day, a bit later.  
With a little bit of sun,  
LPX looks much better.

When it comes to sight-seeing, there is not much this village has to offer.

Apart from Finca Bayano, there is only the Waterfall. Someone told me it's the highest in this country, but I am not sure about that.







This is one  
of the nicest  
pools in the village.

From here the water  
runs to ...

... another pool ...

(which is more  
like a puddle  
in the dry  
season)



... and then the water  
runs to the  
cliffs from where it  
falls about  
100 feet deep.



When I came  
here for the  
first time I  
was wondering  
how long ...



... it took the water ...

... to carve these  
forms.







Otherwise, there is only the hollow tree to be mentioned.

It's time might run out soon and for that reason I have taken one more shot of it.

Sightseeing in Las Palmas - that's about it! A normal brochure would end right here. We are just about to start.



This is how an average house looks like. One storey, glass windows in the best case, a small garden and some trees.

Air condition and heating are not needed. Most of the houses are paid for and the gardens are full of fresh things. To find a house for rent is difficult.



If the budget is too small, people build their houses with concrete block windows and leave the walls unplastered. There are no planes flying over Las Palmas, but the missing noise is compensated once a tropical shower comes down on a corrugated iron sheet roof. Then, people have to shout at each other to make themselves understood.



A natural roof is cheaper but it needs repair every now and then. Of course, bugs feel at home in such houses, too, but it's not as loud inside when it rains and it does not become as hot when the sun is shining. The angle of the roof should be 60 degrees in order to reduce the impact of the water. Otherwise, rain easily passes through the roof.

The traditional way of building a house, with thatched roofs and clay walls, is hardly used anymore, though the climate in such a building is much better. Whereas a house with a thatched roof is cool inside, a corrugated iron sheet makes a stove out of the house. And whereas clay is breathing, concrete blocks are sterile.







Like everywhere in the world, the church is well looked after.

In LPX, even this building is a bit more modest.

Unfortunately, this newsletter has no sound. The manual ringing of the bell is done with a lot of devotion.

The poorer part of the population is depending on transport that ends in misery sometimes.



Most of the markets are in chinese hands.

They are called 'Mini Super' though 'Super Mini' would be a better term.

A native family has come from their village to Las Palmas for shopping. Mostly they bring yuca, or other vegetables, to barter.



The village place around christmas.

There were thoughts of piling up white sand as a snow imitation, like they do in Panama City.

But they did not do it because it would have been too complicated to remove the sand from the lawn.

To round up this news letter, there is an impression from the cemetery. On the photo it looks like visitors are coming frequently as the flowers seem so neatly arranged. In reality, the flowers are from plastic, and visitors may have left them a long time ago.

One wonders what they will do when there are no more plastic flowers from China.







At LPX police station, crime exists only on TV, as there is no bank to rob, as the murder rate is at 0.0, and as no one is stealing a car. Police men keep themselves busy by cleaning the prison cell, which is always empty.

Occasionally, however, chicken end up in someone else's sauce pan.

A police man would rather die from being bored than of bullets flying around.

"Dios y Patria" (God and Home Country) – is written on the emblem at the left, which was painted affectionately on the wall.

"Proteger y servir" means: serve and protect.



There is no car dealer, no car repair shop and no gas station. They don't sell any spare parts and there is no junk yard.

A horse is much slower than a car, but there are no accidents and there is no aggression in the streets. Furthermore, horse fuel is growing naturally everywhere.

Who wants to ride a horse should be able to put horse shoes on the hooves.



Also, the soccer field is not a prestigious project, but the village did not have to take a seven digit loan for it. There is an inclination of about 3%. The team that has to play upwards in the first half, is tired in the 2nd half time, anyway.

31 December 2012, 6 pm, Maria and Miguel are waiting for the new the year.

The last day of the year is the day with the biggest air pollution in LPX. As they do not have much money to spend on firecrackers people are burning self made puppets. With the 'execution' of the puppets, all bad things of the last year are supposed to be burnt, as well.







The same place  
six hours later.  
The puppets are  
burning to  
welcome 2013.

Life lawnmowers make  
sure that the grass on  
the soccer field is  
always very short and  
that we have  
enough horse dung  
for our plants at  
Finca Bayano.



Many young people  
are leaving the village  
to go to Panama City,  
Santiago, or David. On  
christmas, many of them  
come back 'home', and  
one wonders where all  
the strangers are  
coming from.

But they will come back  
to live in LPX, once there  
is no more electricity in  
Panama City, or no  
more work.

The Town Hall is the only two storey building with an air-condition.

For that reason, employees have to wear pullovers.



It's January 2013.  
This photo could also  
have been taken in  
January 1913.  
Only clothing was  
different.

In sharp contrast to Las Palmas, Panama City is not modest at all.

People are engulfed in a consume-driven frenzy, but no one can imagine what will happen when the wheel cannot be pushed anymore.

