

The awakening of naturism in Latin America

Text and images: Pedro Ribeiro



Participants of the VIII Latin American Meeting of Naturism pose for the infallible official photo of the event.

It is with the mission of awakening and developing Naturism in Latin America that on March 6, 2020, the eighth edition of the Latin American Naturism Meeting (VIII ELAN), opened in Quito, capital of Ecuador. This edition is historic because it is the first time that ELAN is carried out by CLANUD (Latin American Confederation of Nudism), created in the previous edition of ELAN, held in Brasilia, in 2018.

Realization of a dream started in 2007, at Praia do Pinho, in Santa Catarina, Brazil, when organized naturists from Latin America were first invited to participate in a specific event for ourselves.

This achievement, now confirmed, began with a commitment made by the Brazilian Federation of Naturism to INF (International Federation of Naturism) during the International Congress held in Cartagena, Spain, in 2006.

Since then, several attempts to form a single group in this region of the planet, which could help and guide the implantation of organized naturist groups, have been put into practice through ELANs, based in different countries, in events organized by local associations. It was at the ELAN held in Chihuahua, Uruguay, in 2014, that the decision was taken to form a single group for the whole of Latin America. But this decision was only consolidated in the event's edition in 2018, in Brasilia. Mexico being elected as the first host country of the new entity, which will have its headquarters changed every two years and who will assume the administrative presidency.

Many virtual meetings have since resulted in the construction of the statute. It was decided that Ecuador would be the headquarters of ELAN, which will choose the new board of CLANUD.



ELAN VIII started at 9 am on a cold and cloudy Friday, but soon had the sun back and a pleasant temperature. The participants' registration, welcome and recognition of the place were the first moments.

Quinta Gracia Guayllabamba is the property where all the activities of VIII Elan were developed. It is a small place very well maintained and with good facilities in a suburb of the capital of the country.

A main tent was erected on the lawn where meeting activities are taking place, as well as lunches and dinners. Breakfast is on account of the event's official hostel, hostel La Cocina Tipica, located right in front of the Quinta. However, you cannot practice Naturism in the modest and comfortable facilities of the inn.



▲ A large tent was set up and decorated with the flags of the participating countries and with colors typical of Ecuador

During the whole event the participants chatted, reunited with their friends and acquaintances, made new friends, enjoyed the pool or played volleyball and tried typical local dishes, based on corn and other grains, chicken, soup and fruit juice from the region.

The Meeting had several attractions. Lectures given by the official delegates of the countries present, addressing themes related to Naturism that could help in the development and sustainability of philosophy in these countries.

Two general assemblies also marked the event, one that proposed changes and adaptations in the statute of the newly created organization and another that elected the new board and headquarters of CLANUD for the next two years: Ecuador is the CLANUD's new headquarter



▲ The extraordinary general meeting was chaired by Florencia Brenner (Argentina), as secretary, Mayte Roldan (Ecuador) and Juan Castañeda (Mexico)

▼ Mayte Roldan, from Ecuador and Daniel Gomez, from Colombia (center), were elected the new leaders of CLANUD.



and Colombia will be ELAN's new headquarters in 2022. But other playful attractions on both nights made the event even more interesting, such as a bingo with the distribution of gifts typical of the countries present and a great dance festival with the countries being invited to show their typical rhythms.

Eight countries were represented at the general meetings: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru.

ELAN was closed on Sunday, March 8, in the morning, but the activities did not end there.



Official photo of the opening of Jupiter beach as a nudist by Naturismo Ecuador.

A good part of the participants went to Mompeche, on the coast of the country for another important event, the inauguration of the first official nudist beach, located on the island Jupiter, celebrated with picnic and red wine.

Events July

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The naturists may stay!

Important fundamental decision in favour of the naturists in the canton of Bern (Switzerland)

There are 2 camping grounds in the Bernese community of Gampelen, at the southern end of the Lake Neuchâtel. On the one hand the camping ground "die neue zeit", founded in 1937 by Edi and Elsi Fankhauser-Waldkirch (see the Focus edition of August 2019), which is exclusively accessible for naturists, on the other hand the camping of the Touring Club of Switzerland (TCS, situated slightly more to the east, delimited by a wide belt of reed, forest and meadows.

Both grounds are located in the highly sensitive nature- and bird protection area of "Fanel". This area is protected by several laws. Especially regarding the water- and migratory birds, wetlands and moors. Initially, the lease contract with the TCS was to be extended for another 35 years. But the administrative course partially approved complaints from five environmental organizations and the Federal Office for the Environment and overturned the government council's decision to extend the contract. For that reason, the TCS must end its camping operation latest in 2024. The buildings will now orderly be dismantled during the remaining time and subsequently the area will be renatured.

However, the publicly accessible bathing area with the jetty will remain. It is located as an open space in the corresponding communal utilization zone.

In contrast, due to different protection rules and building regulations, the naturist ground has

slightly better conditions. The camping site of the TCS is on ground belonging to the Canton of Bern. In contrary, the site of "die neue zeit" is privately owned (since 1961 a property of a foundation). But also, thanks to the location. The ground "dnz" is largely along the "Zihl Kanal" and has only a small part of access to the Lake Neuchâtel. This part is also less protected. In addition, the foundation board of the "dnz" has secured itself with planning. A shore protection planning is applicable on its area since 1997. This defines what is allowed in which area.

Based on these principles the naturists may continue to operate its camping ground in the future!

Rolf Hostettler

Source: <https://www.nau.ch/news/schweiz/camping-in-gampelen-be-muss-weg-65608721?>



The TCS campsite in Gampelen BE on Lake Neuchâtel in the middle of the Fanel nature reserve. - Keystone

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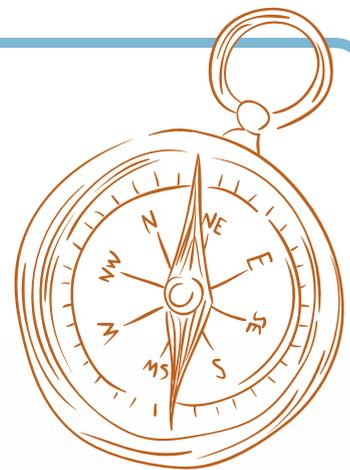


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France 

A vacation in France gives you the choice: vacation on the beach, cultural vacation or city trip? The list of places, regions and objects of interest worth seeing, is long. Most of the tourists are initially enchanted into one place - Paris. But France has more to offer than just the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre. The Côte d'Azur and the Provence, with their azure coasts, beautiful beaches and Mediterranean villages, as well as Normandy with its jagged rocks and sheer endless sandy beaches, delight thousands of tourists each year.

Croatia 

With its picturesque coastline, Croatia is one of the most varied landscapes in Europe. Besides the many historical sights, one can find endless beaches of sand, pebbles or rocks, inviting to swim, on both the numerous jaggy islands and on the mainland.



The lowlands are characterized by hills, with majestic castles, and between which medieval villages are spread.

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Spain 

Breath-taking beaches are lined up, the nightlife pulsates, and tapas as well as paella make your palate dance of joy. Here, both city vacationers and beach fans will get their money's worth. Madrid, Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca and Co. are among the Germans' most favourite travel destinations of. Spain's cities delight with spectacular architecture and lively bustle. Beaches, shells and sea can also be found on the archipelagos of the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean and the Canary Islands in the Atlantic. They are also called "The Islands of eternal Spring".

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Portugal 

Spectacular nature, centuries-old culture and good wine - these are the attributes that best describes Portugal. But the country also excels with fascinating cities and fantastic beaches. The marvellous coasts of the Algarve and the dream island of Madeira are the number 1 tourist destinations in Portugal. In addition to the well-known travel destinations such as Lisbon, the baroque city of Porto, or the harbour cities of Sagres, Lagos and Faro at the south coast, there are plenty of charming towns to discover, small and large.

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Italy

Wide mountain landscapes, 7.500 km of coastline with marvellous sandy beaches, rich in history and a paradise for gourmets. Italy really has something to offer to everyone: active vacationers get their money's worth in the mountains. The kilometres-long coast offers beach fans enough space to relax. And if you want to plunge into the bustle of the large Italian cities, you will be amazed by cities like Bologna, Florence and Rome.



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Austria

Austria attracts active holiday makers, friends of nature and city travellers alike. In the warm season, the idyllic Alpine worlds invites to hike, climb and jump into the clear mountain lakes. In the cold season winter sports enthusiasts will find their fun on the numerous ski runs. The capital Vienna with its historic buildings is always worth a visit.

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Netherlands

A holiday in the Netherlands is always something special and is particularly popular with the German holiday makers. The most preferred travel destinations are by the sea and are ideal for a relaxing beach vacation. The inland regions also have their advantages. Because of the flat land, this region is particularly suitable for extended bike tours. But the friends of nature will also get their satisfaction and pleasure in the rural regions with their beautiful nature reserves.

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Germany

Why roaming the distance? With wonderful landscapes between the Baltic Sea and the Alps, cities between modernity and tradition, promising a wide range of art, culture and cuisine, Germany can offer something for everyone. The different regions each have their own charm. Southern Germany impresses with mighty mountains and an endless view into the distance. In the north, one can rely with a fresh sea breeze and feel the fine sand under one's feet.

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