

ICJA17 Wukania Biesenthal 11.09. - 21.09.17
CONS/ENVI/MANU/RENO/STUD Vols: 17

Age: 18-26

Languages: English, German

Project: „Wukania Projektehof“ is a community, where people work and live together. In the time of the GDR (German Democratic Republik), the compound was a college of physical education with lots of facilities to train various kinds of sport. Situated next to the lake Wukensee, it is part of the little town Biesenthal (approx. 5500 citizen). The region is a protected area, called “Nature Park Barnim”. In the project of Wukania, people come together to practice a self-determined and sustainable lifestyle. There are lots of different projects: two housing projects, a flat for refugees, a forest kindergarten, facilities for groups to run seminars, a place for camping including outdoor facilities like solar showers and composting toilet, an outdoor kitchen and some little gardens. Some people are working in the workshops for wood and metal. A few horses and chicken are also living in the yard.



There are many plans for the future like another housing project with facilities for people who need care will be build and a collective will work as catering service for schools and kindergartens in the region.

It is important to know that Wukania is kind of a living example for a human utopia: houses, facilities, projects are self-organized, decisions are made in the spirit of consensus. Inhabitants like to learn from each other and to support each other.

Wukania wants to work and live in sustainable manner; renovation works in buildings are often made with clay, the heating in the buildings runs with wood, hot water is prepared with solar power, composting toilets help to save water and give fertilizer. Food is prepared vegetarian or even vegan.

Inhabitants show a high commitment in political, social and cultural projects and they are well connected within the region. For instance, they work together with the

„Kulturbahnhof“ in Biesenthal, or a shelter for refugees next town and keep in contact with different vegetable farmers nearby. For more information please visit <http://www.wukania.net/>



Work: There are different construction sites in Wukania. Volunteers are invited to help with renovation and maintenance work like clay plastering and painting. Every help is welcome, certain skills are not required. Skilled volunteers can learn how to work with wood like a carpenter, for example how to lay tiles on a wooden floor. Furthermore, help in the garden is needed. As heating is run with wood, firewood will be prepared and stored. There are some more ideas like building wooden boxes for storing vegetables in the winter, maintenance work in our library and to construct a shelter for drying clothes.

Important part of the work is to prepare food for the group of volunteers and to keep facilities clean. For sure there will be the possibility to find any work in accordance with abilities and interests of the volunteers.

Study: Inhabitants of Wukania would like to show you their life style and would like to discuss certain aspects of a life which is mostly self-determined, self-organized and community based. Possible questions for discussions are: What's the motivation to join this project? Does it really work? Which kind of problems appear? What are reasons, in the context of a sustainable lifestyle, for such projects like Wukania?

If interested, we introduce you to other interesting projects by showing pictures and telling stories.

Study part will follow interests of the volunteers.

Leisure Time: Volunteers can enjoy the nature around Wukania and can go swimming in the beautiful Wukensee as often they want. An excursion to Berlin and to other projects can be arranged.

Accommodation: Accommodation will be very basic. Volunteers are invited to sleep in empty rooms which are only equipped with mattresses or simple beds. It is also possible to bring your own tent. Facilities are nearly the same like on a camping site: Food will be prepared in a big outdoor kitchen, showers are run with solar power, toilettes are composting toilettes, a fire place and a baking oven made of clay can be used. In case of bad weather volunteers can use a saloon and the several seminar rooms for their stay. There is no heating in the rooms.

Remarks: Please do not forget to bring with you: sleeping bag, swimming things, work clothes, raingear and sturdy shoes. Food will be mostly vegetarian.

Due to the effects of climate change, it would be great, if you could find a way to travel without aviation. For more information please see:

https://www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/aviation_climate_change.pdf

Terminal: Train Station Bernau, Bus Stop Biesenthal



Meeting Time:

Please try to arrive in Biesenthal on 11th of September around 5 pm

Venue of the workcamp:

Biesenthal WUKANIA e.V.

Ruhlsdorfer Str. 45

16359 Biesenthal

www.wukania.net

Personal contact

Greta weiss@riseup.net

Location map:

You can find a map of the location of your workcamp with the link:

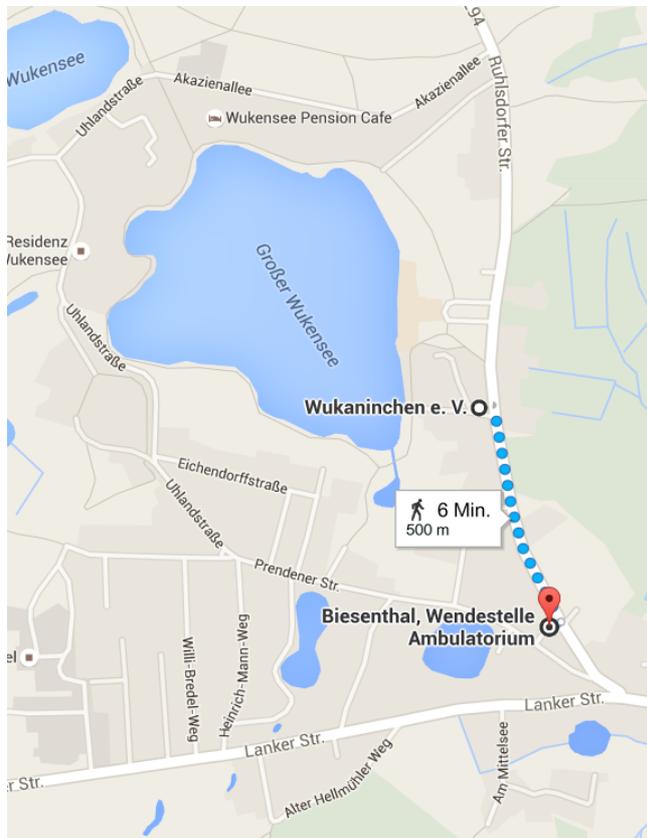
<https://www.openstreetmap.org/way/267398834#map=14/52.7641/13.6433>

or use <https://www.openstreetmap.org> and search for Wukania

How to get there - With public transport:

First go to Berlin main station (Hauptbahnhof), take train (S-Bahn) from Berlin to Bernau. Go out of the station and continue with bus line 896 to Biesenthal (last stop "Wendestelle Ambulatorium"). There your bus will return back. You trop out,

go back to the road and turn left. Then you walk for 6 minutes to Wukania. Search for a painted door on left side of the road. Inside please ask for the workcamp or follow the signs.



Entrance Wukania



Bus Stop Biesenthal
"Wendestelle Ambulatorium"



your bus comes from this direction