

A photograph of a dense, lush green forest. The sun is shining from the upper right, creating a bright, hazy glow and lens flare across the scene. The trees are vibrant green, and the overall atmosphere is bright and natural.

KALU YALA

"[Kalu Yala is] a sustainable jungle frontier settlement for entrepreneurs and modern day tropical cowboys."

--Jimmy Stice,  
CEO and Visionary

"In San Miguel, we were welcomed like celebrities. Through Kalu Yala's outreach program (SMOT) in this tiny town, the people of this region have come to love the members of the Kalu Yala team, the work being done in San Miguel and the work yet to be done in the valley."

-- Catherine Powell,  
Mother of past Intern

"Seven days ago, thirteen Kalu Yala interns, three directors, a cook and a dog, arrived at Basecamp; a field full of cow patties and shrubs surrounded by hills of thick jungle. After sweating, swimming, building, rebuilding, exploring, and engaging this past week we have established a close-knit community sewn together with unbreakable bonds."

-- Brie Trimm,  
Summer 2011 Outdoor Recreation Intern

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### **Appendix**

To view examples of past intern reports in PDF format please visit the documents portion of our website:

<http://www.kaluyala.com/community/interface/?tileType=4&sort=1>

## Introduction

Kalu Yala (KY) is in the early stages of developing a 7,000-acre river valley property, located within the picturesque scenery of the Panamanian highlands. The project aims to develop a sustainable town, hence, our dream encompasses implementing the efforts of an outstanding group of professionals and individuals who believe in sustainable practices and lifestyles. Kalu Yala Internships, S.A. is an unpaid, full-time internship program which invites students and young professionals from around the world to Panama to engage in the creation of the Kalu Yala culture. Here, interns have the opportunity to openly express and implement their ideas in a work environment like none other. In this unique opportunity, you can set your own course of work and have the chance to make a dramatic impact over the three-month internship.

Kalu Yala Internships, S.A. operates from three locations, each offering an individual environment and personal experience. The first is located in Bella Vista in the heart of Panama City, and serves as Kalu Yala's headquarters and home to the Business and Digital Development Programs. The second is in San Miguel, the rural town closest to Kalu Yala in the San Martin County of Panama and is home to the Community Outreach Program. The third is the actual Kalu Yala property, this remote and captivating environment home to the Living Systems and Outdoor Recreation Programs.

Interns have the option to choose between two internship models. An intrapreneurship model grants you an active role in your Program Director's quarterly projects; an entrepreneurship model guides you in creating your own unique project proposal and bringing it to fruition. Both types demand passion, strong work ethic, and tons of initiative. Program Directors are young professionals who started as interns and found in Kalu Yala a home to develop and nurture their ideals.

Upon arrival, prepare to meet a group of peers where no one knows each other and everyone is eager to learn while getting his or her hands dirty. Kalu Yala has become a home for college students and recent grads from diverse walks of life—over 80 colleges and 11 countries since Summer 2010!

## **Internship Programs**

### **Programs Based in Panama City:**

#### **Business Development and Entrepreneurship Program**

The Kalu Yala Business Program is designed to help interns accelerate entrepreneurial skills and shape Kalu Yala's development model to form the foundation for a groundbreaking new town. The Business Program challenges interns to think outside the box and match all business practices with Kalu Yala's paramount principle: sustainability. The program encourages participants to redesign traditional business models by giving them access to field mentors and hands-on experience. Interns will have the opportunity to work with our most recent up-and-coming business developments which include Kalu Yala Expeditions and Casa Yala. Kalu Yala Expeditions opens the gates of the KY Valley to the public through an array of eco-tourism adventures, while Casa Yala is our month-stay guest house and hub for international travelers.

#### **Digital Development Program**

Looking for designers, developers, digital marketers, and project managers. The Internet provides the Kalu Yala digital team with the ideal platform to build our audience and to create our community virtually, before we gather together in the valley. The members of this team will be web designers, developers, marketers, copywriters and a project manager. This team will maintain and grow our website, social media and search engine presence and carry out email, content and viral marketing campaigns.

The goal of this program is to build a team of experienced, involved digital experts to help carry Kalu Yala through our initial phase of development and on into the marketing and sales effort that will create and define our community. We will work closely with other intern programs to support them, as well as to recruit future interns, investors and citizens. This program will be based in Panama City.

## **Programs Based in San Miguel:**

### **Community Outreach Program**

The Community Outreach Program's mission is to work with the local people from the rural towns surrounding Kalu Yala's site. The team aims to develop and strengthen community and business institutions that can support the sustainable development of the region alongside the growth of Kalu Yala. These interns can create new projects or collaborate with ongoing projects, including an after-school youth soccer program, Recycling Awareness seminars for the school, Pacora River Community Clean-ups, Dental Hygiene awareness seminars, and after school art programs.

### **English as a Second Language (ESL)**

Working closely with the Community Outreach team, our English as a Second Language interns spend their time teaching English courses at the local elementary school as well as teaching adult Spanish classes. Speaking English is extremely important in Panama, as people who are bilingual make about 30% more than those who are not. Prior to Kalu Yala, the people of San Miguel did not have local resources to teach this vital skill and they have welcomed us into their community.

## **Programs Based in The Kalu Yala Valley:**

### **Living Systems Program (Agriculture, Animal Science and Biology)**

The Living Systems Program strives to integrate organic farming, farm animals, and the responsibility of preserving the natural beauty of the land in the process of building a sustainable town. Interns will set down a foundation of tropical cultivation that will allow Kalu Yala's sustainable agricultural system to flourish. This program aims to copy systems found in nature that promote ecologically responsible land use. The program will produce crops using permaculture and sustainable farming techniques. We will begin incorporating chickens, horses, cattle and goats into the Kalu Yala valley as we begin the journey of starting an organic farm. Additionally, this program seeks to design and build basic farming infrastructure such as chicken coops and loafing sheds to provide shade and shelter from the rain.

The Living Systems Program also focuses on conducting biological field research, such as the cataloging of flora and fauna in and around the Kalu Yala Valley. The ultimate goal is to have a self-sufficient, sustainable system for The Valley and surrounding community integrating effective, sustainable practices without disturbing the existing ecosystems.

### **Outdoor Recreation Program**

The Outdoor Recreation Program's objective is to provide the residents and visitors of Kalu Yala with high-quality recreation opportunities that promote health, education and culture by preserving the Kalu Yala valley's extraordinary biological diversity. Interns are required to study different land management practices and will set the standard for approaches used for tourism in the valley. Interns will also be responsible for raising visitor awareness on minimal impact methods such as Leave No Trace, and will have the opportunity to work with Kalu Yala Escapes, providing interpretive hikes, backpacking trips, and horseback tours.

Intern projects entail sustainable development and management of trails, rivers, campgrounds, sports venues, zip lines, ropes courses, rock climbing routes, and other recreation outlets. Ultimately, the Outdoor Recreation Program will be working to create opportunities for all ability levels, and will shape the way residents and visitors of Kalu Yala recreate for years to come.

## Internship Models

Kalu Yala's interns get to experience a foreign country, interact with like-minded coworkers, and reinforce personal strengths. The internship concept is centered on independent project-studies, which are selected with the assistance of a Program Director during the first two weeks of the program. Every intern has the option to choose between two models:

### Intrapreneurship Model

This alternative assigns interns to preselected projects managed by one of Kalu Yala's Program Directors. Directors aspire to cooperate with committed and task-oriented individuals. Collaborating with Directors on a program's principle project fosters mutual respect and a good rapport between interns and Program Directors. Develop and enhance professional skills including competency in WordPress, social media outlets, and the creation of official documents.

Interns might be required to employ a task force approach in order to produce a comprehensive product. An intrapreneur intern is able to implement and hone organizational skills such as project and team management. This opportunity provides direct attention and guidance, in addition to Directors' personal know-how.

- Independent project studies allow interns to set their own course of work and develop entrepreneurial skills.
- *Intrapreneurship Model*: Contribute to a pre-determined project; receive direct attention and guidance from Directors; develop professional and interpersonal skills.
- *Entrepreneurship Model*: Develop and execute a personal project; limited supervision and guidance from Program Directors; hone research and entrepreneurial skills.

### Entrepreneurship Model

This internship option provides the opportunity to enjoy the Kalu Yala experience through an independent and investigative approach in which individuals develop personal projects. Program Directors and entrepreneurial interns collaborate during brainstorming sessions for project formulation and systematic implementation plans.

The entrepreneurship model entails the application of professional research, e.g., desk and field research, the creation of official documents, and the proficiency in the use of WordPress online publishing platform. This is an experience in which individuals can capitalize on personal talents such as creativity and time management, among other salient skills for a successful self-starter.

## **Your Home at Kalu Yala**

The venue where you will live is driven by your chosen topic of focus and the location of the resources needed to complete your project. You will have the ability to visit and work from all three locations, but will spend the majority of your time in the location where your program is based, unless your project requires special circumstances.

### ***Hispania, Panama City***

Hispania is the location of our main office, and Casa Yala. Though all interns will have access to Hispania resources, residing at Hispania will be limited to Business Development and Digital Development interns. If needed, other interns may schedule to stay at Hispania in advance, but this must be cleared by our business director.

The building is located in the Bella Vista neighborhood, directly behind Urraca Park in the center of Panama City. We are located in the penthouse apartments, which have 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, game room, living room, breakfast room, boardroom/dining room, hammock front porch, IT room, washer/dryer, and housekeeping services. The building has a gated entry and a gated parking garage. We also have an open-air porch with the beginnings of an urban garden.

- *Hispania*: Located in Panama City's center with access to the conveniences of an international city.
- *Casa Llena*: Located in the rural town of San Miguel. Town center, riverfront, mountain trails, and the KY Valley all within walking distance. Limited Cell phone and Internet service.
- *The Valley*: Remote and pristine, BaseCamp is a forty-minute hike from San Miguel. Access limited to 4x4 vehicles.

### ***Casa Llena, San Miguel***

Casa Llena is home to the Community Outreach and English as a Second Language interns. It has four bedrooms, three bathrooms, a kitchen, dining area, living room, and game room.

In a small town like San Miguel, there are bars, food vendors ("fondas"), a first-aid health center, and two convenience stores. A forty-minute bus ride from San Miguel will get you to La Doña en Veinticuatro, the closest commercial center with a grocery store, internet cafe, and ATM service. The same bus takes passengers to Panama City, ultimately passing in front of Urraca Park, where there is a bus stop just one-hundred yards away from Hispania's front door. This bus route terminates at the Albrook Station, Panama's largest bus station. Albrook Station is also the most common source of transportation used by interns to explore the country during weekends.

***BaseCamp, The Kalu Yala Valley***

In the summer of 2011, the Kalu Yala Valley's first base camp was established on our 7,000 acre property. It is still completely OTG (off the grid) and only accessible by four-wheel drive vehicles. For the avid hiker, BaseCamp is only a beautiful one hour hike, starting from our house in San Miguel. Interns will spend at least 60% of their time living and working in the Valley. If nature, the outdoors and adventure are what you are looking for, the Valley will live up to your expectations. Interns who choose this location are required to learn Valley survival skills and minimal impact practices.

Valley Interns spend their down time swimming in the Pacora and Iguana Rivers, exploring surrounding jungles, playing volleyball and cards, and socializing around home-cooked meals. All existing structures were built by past interns and directors and include a thatched-roofed community area with a kitchen, two ranchos, a composting toilet, a makeshift shower, and a covered river hang out. We will be building at least two more ranchos for intern sleeping quarters that should be completed by the Summer 2013 semester.

## The Panama Experience

There is more to the Kalu Yala experience than just work. Interns are encouraged to take advantage of all that Panama has to offer. Though a relatively small territory, Panama has a surprising variety of different destinations and environments. This gives our interns the option to form travel groups with other interns interested in the same destinations. You can read all about it from Steven Reed, a spring 2011 Kalu Yala alumni, who after successfully completing his project decided to enlarge his legacy. Steven created a travel guide for future Kalu Yala interns to learn from his experience and get the most out of the Kalu Yala Internship.

Here is an excerpt...

*“So it’s about a month into your semester as a Kalu Yala intern. You’ve seen all the sights in the city. Or maybe you are living in the valley. You’ve been up and down the trails in the rainforest countless times, and you know every nook and cranny of the Iguana River. And to all you future San Miguel interns, how many times can you eat at the Taberna del Rio? And seriously, can you just hear some English, only English, for a day? (Sorry, you can’t run from that one. You’re in Panama.) You just gotta get away for the weekend!”*

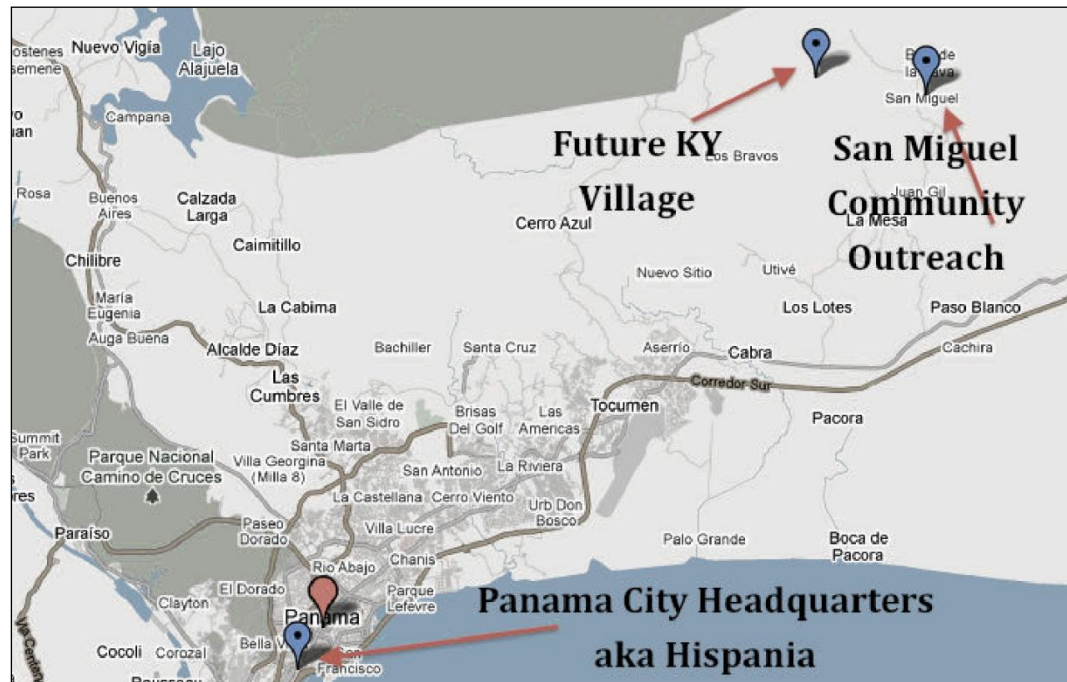
- Easily travel to destinations in Panama using Kalu Yala’s detailed, intern-written travel guide.
- Surfing, SCUBA diving, fishing, mountain climbing, hiking, zip line tours, horseback riding, and island-hopping, to name a few!
- Access to the Pacific Ocean, Caribbean Sea, national parks and mountain ranges.

*Panama is one of the safest, if not the safest, countries in Latin America. The only areas that are recommended to stay away from are Colon and the coastal areas on the Caribbean side near the Darien. Pretty much everywhere else is fair game in Panama to travel to safely. Basically, just use common sense and you will be fine.*

*The buses (chivas) in Panama are cheap, reliable, safe, and always a cultural experience. Yet, if you have never used them before, the process can be a bit intimidating, especially given that you are in a foreign country and may or may not speak any Spanglish. Let me just say this: Don’t be intimidated! Once you get over the initial fear of using the buses and try it that first time, you will be hooked...”*

## Vacation days

Vacation days vary depending on the semester for which you are applying. We take both Panamanian and major American holidays into account. Any special request to get off from work outside of holidays or a special KY event (trips planned during the semester) needs to be approved two weeks in advance, no exceptions.



## **Spring Semester 2013**

The Kalu Yala Spring Semester starts **January 14th** and runs through **April 12<sup>th</sup> 2013**. The Program cost covers basic living expenses, project related expenses and transportation on work days. Due to residential capacity, a **30% deposit is required upon acceptance** in order to reserve a spot in the program.

### **Program Cost**

Early Admission- closes October 1st	<b><u>\$3,195</u></b>
Rolling Admission – starts October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b><u>\$3,495</u></b>

The Kalu Yala Internship Program cost covers:

- Housing
- Meal Plan
- Project Supplies
- House Keeping Service (while in San Miguel and Hispania)
- Laundry Service (while in San Miguel and Hispania)
- Internet (*Valley* programs will not have internet access on site but will have internet access in San Miguel and Hispania.)
- Utilities
- Airport Transportation
- P.O. Box

We accept payment in full but are willing to design payment plans for individuals with extenuating circumstances.

### **Meal Plan**

Interns located in San Miguel and Panama City are provided 9 meals a week, but do not receive breakfast or dinner on Fridays. Due to the nature of their work, *Valley* interns receive 14 meals per week, with meal schedule varying around time spent in the field. Meals are not provided on weekends/off days. Our meal plan manager works to provide filling meals that are delicious and healthy, using what is locally available. Vegetarian options are always available.

## FAQ

**Q:** When will Kalu Yala be built?

**A:** Construction of Kalu Yala is set to begin in January 2014, but we are already beginning to experiment with different construction systems on site in our BaseCamp.

**Q:** Where does our research go after we leave the program?

**A:** All research reports are reviewed in order to see how they could potentially help Kalu Yala make better decisions concerning subjects that are not typically well understood by financiers and contractors involved in real estate. Furthermore, all studies are catalogued to form a fountain of knowledge available to all those who are involved with Kalu Yala.

**Q:** Can we use Kalu Yala as a vessel for our own project?

**A:** Yes, we get lots of proposals from students who want to use us as a project to increase their portfolio. Their time here allows them to build a portfolio piece, as well as professional experience.

**Q:** Do you have to be a student?

**A:** No, 40% of KY interns are still students and 60% are out of college and in their 20's. What everyone has in common is a desire to gain professional experience working on a project unlike any other in the world.

**Q:** What and where is San Miguel?

**A:** San Miguel is the last town, before you enter the Kalu Yala property. Our Community Outreach Program interns live in San Miguel. Each semester interns have different projects they work on within the community. It is in central Panama, about an hour's drive from downtown Panama City and thirty minutes from the international airport.

**Q:** How many residents live in San Miguel?

**A:** About 500 residents.

**Q:** What is there to do in San Miguel?

**A:** There is a beautiful river that runs through the town, basketball courts and soccer fields. It is always fun to hang out at the local cantinas and *fondas* (restaurants) to eat and listen to '*típico*' music. Also, you are close enough to the property to go on hikes through the valley!

## **Kalu Yala Internship Enrollment Application**

Spring 2013 Semester Applications are reviewed on a rolling admission basis based on the availability of space in each program. We strongly encourage applicants to apply early. Participants are selected based on the quality of their application and short answer questions. All applicants will be contacted for a phone interview. Please fill out the application online at <http://tinyurl.com/d6jum52> or email [internships@kaluyala.com](mailto:internships@kaluyala.com) with any questions.