

“San Lorenzo”

San Lorenzo's Villa belongs to the local council of the same name, located west side of the Capital Department (Province of Salta), north of Argentina. It borders to the north by the “Vaqueros” River; to the east by the “Campo General Belgrano” (local area), following the course of the “San Lorenzo” River to the railroad tracks and to the south up to the “Arenales” River; to the west by the “Rosario de Lerma” department.

Today it has jurisdiction over the areas known as “Castellanos, La Montaña, Villa San Lorenzo, Las Costas, La Ciénaga, El Ceibal, Atocha La Lonja, San Rafael, Nueva Esperanza and San Lorenzo Chico”.

Origins

With the recovery of the first development map of the San Lorenzo's Villa, dated July 5, 1889, that day is considered as the foundation date of San Lorenzo.

“San Lorenzo Martir” (Local Saint)

San Lorenzo place name is associated with “San Lorenzo Mártir” (a local Saint). Every 10th of August, its patron saint is celebrated, and this event is commemorated for years in the streets of the Villa with a large procession and different folk activities.

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San Lorenzo's Hymn:

Stanzas

Noble land of green contours
Blessed with Yungas by God
The one that cherish the hopes of a town
Of a future composed of love

From the south, the poem in Atocha
And "Las Costas" ancestral corn
his ravine covered with charm
Lulled in her dreams is

San Lorenzo is your name my Land
under your sky you saw me grow up

your Ceibos are the memories of a time
Silent witnesses of this rebirth

On the hill sighs from the sky
A song is hearing in the echoes
Countrymen and elves of the hill
San Lorenzo I meet you again

Fruitful land of tales and myths
From your flora and its warm humidity
The pennyroyal in your scent can be sensed
A quiet space of Freedom.

Lyrics: Martín Diez Villa / Music: Francisco Benavidez

Shield:

In our shield our flora and fauna is exhibited: integral natural heritage.

Author: Teresa Vargas

Flag:

Authors: students from "Colegio San Pablo's" school.

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San Lorenzo's Lung

The "Yungas" or "Yunga" are regions or ecoregions of Andean Forest and rain forest of the mountain throughout the eastern side of the central Andes.

San Lorenzo's Ravine is part of the phyto-geographic Province of the Yungas with extraordinary environmental features, since these forests have an essential role in water collection and hydrologic regulation of the main river basins of the region, in erosion control and carbon fixation.

The Yungas' biome is essential to the ecological balance of most South America.

The Yungas have four different landscapes, which change according to the temperature and humidity of the environment. They are called "altitude of the surface" because they are at different heights above sea level.

The term Yungas or "Yunga" has its origin in the Quechua (language in central Andes) word: "yunka" and meant "warm valley".

Biodiversity is its most precious treasure.

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Testimonies of the past

Human occupation in the Yungas began thousands of years ago, when hunter-gatherer people made use of the many resources of these rain-forests.

In neighboring regions, such as the "Puna Jujeña", elements have been found that show that about 10,000 years ago the hunting people of the Puna used resources of the Yungas, such as nuts, reeds, skins, feathers of multicolored birds and freshwater snails. The importance of the Yungas for the Puna's population remained over time, showing a complementarity of the use of the area over the centuries in the history of the population of the Andean World.

Shortly before the arrival of the Spanish, the territory was inhabited by the "Omaguacas" and "Diaguitas" (native people). These native people practiced agriculture and shared the same local language: the "cacán".

In the 15th century, the Inca Empire from Cuzco spread over a vast territory, which included the valleys of Bolivia and Argentina, commanding the local population. Later, with the fall of the Inca Empire and the entry of the invasive Spanish, there have been population shift, deserted towns and relocation in other valleys.

The conquest of the "Andes of the south" carried out by the Spanish begins in 1535, year in which Diego de Almagro arrived to Tupiza, with an expedition that crossed, in his journey towards the south, probably, the current provinces of Jujuy, Salta, the northwest edge of Tucumán and Catamarca, reaching Chile.

Other times ahead

The independent period began in 1810, during this year a decisive political and social change took place in the history of Argentina. However, the situation strengthened when most of the cities of Argentina supported the new creole government. The independence wars between 1810 and 1822, the emergence

of an international border and internal reorganizations marked a profound change in the region.

Regarding to the territory of San Lorenzo, the independent government confirmed the titles deed of property of the large country houses, so that the landowners managed to maintain control over lands and people who inhabited them.

Withstanding in San Lorenzo

In 1814, during the second royalist* invasion of Salta, after the defeat of "Vilcapugio" and "Ayohuma", an armed confrontation was fought between the patriotic troops and the Spanish forces.

General Manuel Belgrano, with most of his army withdrew to Tucumán and in the rear guard stayed General Manuel Dorrego and the "Granaderos" (Cavalry Regiment) on horseback trying to enter Salta through the hills of San Lorenzo. Here, Saturnino Castro who was in command of the royalists* and more than 900 soldiers, was waiting for them. The ambush was guaranteed. They tripled in number the troops of the Argentine Army.

***term used to describe the people who recognized the authority of the king of Spain and supported the continuity of the American territories as part of the Spanish Empire.**

On 21 January 1814, the two armed forces confront each other around three in the afternoon. The royalist chief begins the advance with cavalry, confident of defeating Dorrego and the patriot army. But these last ones, defended themselves on the hills of San Lorenzo using them as natural trenches. They managed to resist the Spanish siege by harassing them for four hours. In this way, Belgrano and the majority of the Argentine Army could reach "Juramento" River, therefore being out of royalist reach. Dorrego caused great damage to the enemy. On the patriot side there were only three dead and two wounded soldiers. After this battle, the Argentine rear was established in "Cerrillos", south of Salta, to begin the war of resources and to join what would be called the "Guerra Gaucha" (a famous war carried out in the north of Argentine against the Spanish forces).

San Lorenzo's Villa

In August 1585, shortly after the foundation of the city of Salta in 1582, the current lands occupied by San Lorenzo's Villa were given to "Sancho Pérez Morillo" as a royal grant.

In 1700, the Jesuits bought the property and settled in the area beginning with the first large-scale crops with western techniques.

Nowadays, we find traces of Jesuits settlement in the facade of the Chapel of the current building that houses the Primary and Secondary school "Instituto Humanista de la Santísima Trinidad".

In 1889 takes place the foundation of San Lorenzo, registration/map: San Lorenzo's baths. In 1905 it was transferred free of charge to the city council of Salta.

And since the '80s (XIX Century), the first houses began to be built in the area creating a small village.

Throughout the XX Century, what it was a summer village of the upper class of Salta gradually began to be transformed into a place of permanent residence, process that was enhanced in the '90s. Between 1991 and 2001, the village growth population was of 103%. This process currently continues.

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"Dr. Robustiano Patron Costas" Park

In this area where we find ourselves is called: "Quebrada de San Lorenzo". It belonged to the "Finca or Estancia La Montaña" a country house of the "Patrón Costas" Family. Mr. Eduardo Patrón Costas P.E. donated this area to the city council of San Lorenzo on March 23, 1973; it was represented by Nestor López Serrey a local neighbor, at the time.

"San Lorenzo", protected landscape.

The local council harbor several protected areas that preserve the flora, fauna and spring waters: "Finca Las Costas" Provincial Reserve, "Huaico" Private Reserve, "Polígono A" a local council Reserve, and Preservation Area "Campo General Belgrano", all of them with different categories of administration but with a common objective, to preserve the natural resources of the place.

Local Council Reserve "Las Yungas" ("Polígono A")

This local reserve, is located at the end of "Mariano Moreno" Street, it is a land of 66 hectares that harbors the ecosystem of Yungas or "Nuboselva" (phytogeographic region made up of rain forests, woods and meadows), which is developed at an altitude ranging from 600 MAMSL to 3000 or 3800 MAMSL. Here you can do some tourism activities such as hiking, paragliding and bird watching. The area has 4 trails: "Los Miradores", "La Cruz", "Norte" and "Cerro Elefante".

"Huaico" Natural Reserve

It is a private natural protected area adjoining to "Las Yungas" Local Council Reserve. "Huaico" Reserve is considered a bird sanctuary because it shelters more than 200 species that can be seen when you go through the 15 km of trails inside the "Yungas".

It belongs to the "YUCHAN" Foundation and is open to the public for educational and guided tours with prior reservation. (reservadelhua2004@gmail.com <https://www.facebook.com/reservadelhuaico>).

"Finca Las Costas" Natural Reserve

San Lorenzo is contained between "Castellanos" River to the North, "San Lorenzo" River and "Arias" River to the East, "Arenales" River to the South, and to the West by the high peaks of the mountain range of the "yungas" system which belongs almost entirely to "Finca Las Costas" Natural Reserve which covers a large area of 105 square kilometers, that is 53% of the local council territory.

Its trails and ravines can be visited on horseback, by bicycle or walking, while enjoying the landscape and also getting to know the rural areas.

Preservation Area "Campo General Belgrano"

The Preservation Area "Campo General Belgrano" was created in 1996 by National Act N° 24.758, later amended by National Act N° 25.339, with the idea of guaranteeing the existence of a "greenbelt" for the people of Salta, without losing its "Military Operation Area" nature.

The Preservation Area "Campo General Belgrano" is also what has been called Natural Area of Special Interest for the Conservation of Biodiversity (ANEI), and is considered as a Natural Defense Reserve (NDR).

It has approximately 3,300 hectares of which about 3,040 hectares are natural areas of Native Forest. It is located in the Province of Salta, Capital department, cadastral N° 140.418, in the ecoregions of "Chaco Serrano" and "Selva Montaña de Yungas".

The strategic location of this natural reserve, as well as its large area, make this place suitable for biodiversity conservation, environmental education and local recreational activities and touristic outdoor activities.

The Preservation Area "Campo General Belgrano" remains under the National State - Argentine Army jurisdiction, which will be the unique and exclusive Enforcement Authority of current National Act N° 25.339.

Enjoy protecting the environment!

Home sweet, Biodiverse home!

More than 40 tree species, more than 30 mammal species and 230 bird species coexist in San Lorenzo's Yungas.

Enjoy Protecting the environment!

Natural Heritage

Different forest species can be found among the plants of the area such as "Tipa Blanca" (*Tipuana tipu*), "Cebil Colorado" (*Anadenanthera colubrina*), "Lapacho Rosado" (*Handroanthus impetiginosus*), "Nogal Criollo" (*Juglans australis*), "Pacará" (*Enterolobium contortisiliquum*), "Tarco" (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), "Cedro Rosado" (*Cedrela lilloi*) and "Horco Cebil" (*Parapiptadenia excelsa*), many of which are included in the RED BOOK of endangered species of the International Association for the Conservation of Nature.

The Yungas' "Tomate arbol" (*Solanum betaceum* Cav.)

The Yungas' "Tomate arbol" (*Solanum betaceum* Cav.) is a native species of the NOA (Northwest of Argentina). Also known as "chilto, tomate arbol (tomato tree), tomate del cerro (tomato of the hill), tomate de las Yungas (Yungas' tomato), tomate andino (andean tomato) and tamarillo".

It is a bush of short and fragile trunk. It has soft and brittle wood. It lives about 10 years. Its height is from 2 to 4 meters.

The flowers are white-pink cluster, formed by 10 to 50 flowers. They produce 1 to 6 fruits per cluster. The flowers are fragrant and attract insects.

The fruit is an ellipsoidal berry of 4 to 10 cm x 3 to 5 cm, which has a long appendix in which the calyx of the flower lasts. At the maturity stage, the fruit is red or orange, sometimes an intense purple, with stretch marks of lighter color. The pulp is juicy, slightly acid, with numerous seeds.

The leaves are large (40 cm. long and up to 25 cm. wide), simple and perennial.

The "tomate arbol" produces many large fruits (85-100 grams each). A single plant can bear approximately between 8 to 10 kg.

It is a multipurpose species, since it is for food supply, and also for decorative and ecological purposes.

Some of its benefits:

- environmental and social function: it is typical of the Fog Forest. It regulates the temperature by its abundant foliage and large leaves.
- Provides highly nutritious food. Rich in vitamin A, B, C and E and possesses antioxidant properties.
- Culinary uses: juices, sauces, chutney, and jams.

In turn, it is an appropriate species to enrich degraded areas of the Yungas. It highlights its ecological role and potential value for the development of productive renovation projects in the NOA, as it is adapted to the place and does not require special care.

The importance of ecological restoration

The "tomate arbol" (tomato tree) assists the recovery of damaged ecosystems, helping the conservation and replacement of natural resources.

To restore means to rebuilt and repair. Ecological restoration seeks the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded by different factors.

Ecological restoration seeks to increase biodiversity.

Approximately 230 species of birds live in San Lorenzo's ravine.

The fauna is mainly represented by a colony of birds, among which we can mention: "Pava del Monte Común" (Band-tailed Guan/Penélope obscura), "Urraca Comun" (Plush-crested Jay/Cyanocorax chrysops), " Carpintero Real Comun" (Green-barred

Woodpecker /Colaptes melanolaimus), "Pepitero de Collar"(Golden-billed Saltator/Saltator aurantiirostris), "Naranjero 7 Colores" (blue and yellow tanager/Thraupis bonariensis), "Picaflor Yungueño" (Speckled Hummingbird /Adelomyia melanogenys), "Tucàn Grande" (Toco Toucan /Ramphastos toco) and "Yapù" (Crested Oropendola /Psarocolius decumanus), among others.

Threatened and Protected

The loss of natural habitats that birds need to live is a common cause for the extinction of all species.

San Lorenzo's Ravine has been distinguished as an Important Bird Area (IBA).

Enjoy protecting the environment!

Even though we can't see them, they're always there...

DNA "sanlorenceño" (from San Lorenzo)

Stories, knowledge, poetry, dances, music, handicrafts, songbooks, celebrations, habits, meals, festivals, markets fairs, are part of the "Sanlorenceña" Identity.

Great Figures

"Juan Carlos Dávalos, Jaime Dávalos, Joaquín Castellanos, Walter Adet, Jorge Federico Klix Comejo, Zulema Usandivaras de Torino, Susana Martorel de Laconi" are some of the many personalities in the world of Art and Poetry, where San Lorenzo is a real hotbed of talented artists.

"Juan Carlos Dávalos" (1887-1959) is an icon for San Lorenzo. Master of letters, high school teacher, poet, writer, a "story-teller" as he liked to say. Native of San Lorenzo, he published six poems and thirteen collections of folk tales and short stories. His undeniable value lied in producing a literature of his native land, where regional matters were addressed. At the time, in the rest of the country, most writers were dominated by foreign influences, with French predominance. "Dávalos" writes as he speaks, in a prose that incorporates the linguistic tradition of the North of Argentina, of predominant Hispanic lineage. He has the gift of synthesis, of a brief and enjoyable story. Some of his books, such as "Los casos del zorro", are a collection of folk tales, invented or transcribed from the popular tradition of the country people of Salta. His tale "El viento blanco" (The White Wind) is considered a masterpiece.

"Jaime Davalos". (1921-1981), son of the writer "Juan Carlos Dávalos". Author of the famous "zamba" (folk music with a distinctive rhythm), "La Sanlorenceña".

Poet and song writer, son of "Juan Carlos Dávalos". Creator of an original and expressive trend full of metaphors linked to the land and its mysteries.

With the guitar players "Eduardo Falú" and "Ernesto Cabeza" wrote countless songs -nowadays traditional- they are part of the folk music collection of folk roots.

Download QR code and listen.

"Don Justo Saura", "el Tata Sarapura", was the great friend of "J.C.Dávalos". He was "the oldest of the hill's ranch hand", lived in his quiet small ranch, covered by clouds; and planted corn, potatoes and local pumpkin. Peculiar person in deep San Lorenzo. "Azucena", "Dorís" and "Ercilia", women with "sanlorenceña's" mark and identity. In San Lorenzo, women culinary artisans such as "Azucena Flores" and "Doris Olivares", are the oldest "bakers" who, together with "Doña Ercilia", the "tamalera" (a person who cooks "tamales" a traditional food made of corn) and "quesillera" (a person that prepares different types of local cheese), have left their mark on the culinary knowledge of this region. Today it is their descendants who keep the trade alive.

Popular celebrations

Commemorations, festivities or celebrations are popular events that are repeated in the local council's calendar.

They have a varied origin. In some cases, very ancient or ancestral and in others, much more modern. The truth is that both incorporate artistic, aesthetic and recreational elements, usually manifested with rites or customs, music and dances, crafts and traditional meals. Therefore, they remain in the memory of the village bringing to light their identity or culture.

"La carpa del ciego Nicolas", a meeting place and local entertainment.

It was a general store, among the first of the Villa, at the same time that it functioned as a carnival's dancing marquee and local festivities.

Traditional dances contributed to the local identity, not only through singing, oral tradition and "gaucho's" skills, but also by the traces that still exist deep inside and a particular construction style: closed porch, where dances were performed, and a back room reserved for food sales.

Today it is a small warehouse and family home.

Religious Festivities

Different religious events are held throughout the year and each one has its own particular style.

"Live Stations of the Cross Scene" with local actors who revive "The Passion of Christ" through the streets surrounding the Church and it finishes in the dramatic scene of the Crucified Christ.

"El socorrito" with its traditional event of "Misachicos"(small processions organized by small towns/ carrying the image of The Virgin/ Jesus Crist or a local saint.), the march of gauchos on horseback and local institutions.

"La Fiesta Grande del Pueblo" in August where the local saint "San Lorenzo Martir" is honored with a march of gauchos on horseback, and procession of holy images through the streets of the town.

The "vestida del Santo" (dress of the saint), rooted in the peculiarities of women of San Lorenzo ("sanlorenceñas").

The morning before the Sunday procession, women from different parts of the Villa make floral arrangements between mates((a local warm drink) and snacks, local bass drums and violins.

The festivity: "Virgen del Carmen" (local Virgin) at "La Cienaga" is celebrated in the month of July and "Nuestra Señora de Atocha" (Our Lady of Atocha) at "Atocha" in december, make up some of the many festivities held by the Local Council.

To do, to think, to believe, to feel, to sing....

Many locals know how to braid or work leather, others are focus on cutlery and many participate in local festivities. This set of common knowledge is the living support of their identity. And in this context the presence of the "Fortines de Gauchos" (a group of

gauchos in horseback with distinguishing names) plays a key role of social and cultural organizations.

The "FORTINES"

The Gaucho's culture of San Lorenzo is reflected in its more than 9 "gaucho fortines".

The "fortines" keeps alive the gaucho's tradition and customs.

One of its biggest events is the gathering of adults and children (all dress up as "Gauchos") on horseback for its traditional march on June 17 of its greatest history hero: General Güemes.

Some of the many cultural elements of this "sanlorenceño" (from San Lorenzo) feeling are: Local drums and violins, creole skills and "locro" (local food, a stew made of pumpkin, corn and beans).

Enjoy protecting the environment!