



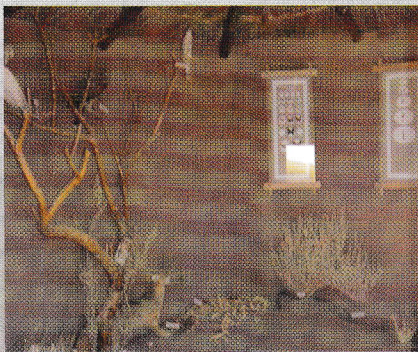
Aldea de
Tulor

SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA
REGIÓN DE ANTOFAGASTA - CHILE
E-mail: aldeadetulor@yahoo.com

THE TULOR VILLAGE

(800 AC. - 500 D.C.)

MILLENNIAL ATACAMA SETTLEMENT



It is located at 10 Km. southeast from San Pedro de Atacama, between the emblematic Cordillera de la Sal and the sand dunes which evidence the progressive dessication of the surrounding. This old village whose existence was made public in 1956 by Gustavo Le Paige who was a Jesuit priest.

Placed between the Tolor and the Coyo ayllu, this village was made of a series of interconnected circular structures which had different uses and functions according to the activities carried out inside it day by day. This village belongs to one of the oldest sedentary archaeological places in the northern Chilean region. Its architecture is very similar to the precolombine cultures of the Center-South Andes: Bolivia (Wankarani), Occidental Valleys (Guatacondo, Caserones) and Argentinian Northeast (Potrero Grande, Campo Colorado)



By producing more than destroying their natural resources, they consolidated a new way of life, thus; they complemented the millennial tradition of the shepherds. At that time, the waters from the Rio San Pedro drained naturally into the proximities of the site. This, enabled the development of the agricultural practices which resulted in social changes and a more sedentary life of the community who inhabited this place.

As a consequence, the stratification of the social group was arised.

LOS AYLLOS (Oasis) DE SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA

The strong commerce and interchange of products effected by the Tulo inhabitants is clearly illustrated through their archaeological remainders which are possible to observe nowadays: big quantities of pearls made of shells from the Pacific, intrusive ceramics (Vaquerias style) and other cultural goods show the high grade of mobility articulated by these populations and their important rol of mediators between the cultural area (Andina Cultural Area). This is why this village, at the beginning of the christian era, must have been an important traffic and interchange port. Through the llamas caravans, they could integrate a vast territory (Altiplano, Puna, the Atacama desert and the Coast) placed up in the proximities of the biggest salt deposit in Chile: The Atacama Salt Lake. The archaeological materials recovered in this place show the significant cultural interchange, already explained, about the economical strategies used by these precolombine populations wich were expressed in different material supports such as clay, wood, bone, leather and textiles.

The ceramics in their houses is related to the daily practices of preparing food and transportation of liquids, emphasizing the gray types, thick polish or smooth polish, mainly. It can also be found the fragments of the classic samples defined as polished black, wich makes us think about the site occupation until the century V. a C. when the cultural influences of the Tiwanaku State, from Lake Titikaka (Bolivia at present) appeared. They have not been detected in Tulo yet.



PRESERVATION STATE

The Tulo Village and its archaeological sites are being the witnesses of the accumulative effects due to the climatic changes developed during these last two thousands years. Silently, but not less effective, is the advance of the sand dunes. The rain and wind effects have also been the responsible facts for today's preservation of the place (eroded head-board wall), and moreover; the human presence have also contributed to it.

Nowadays, the Tulo Village is the first experience of touristic administration and cultural patrimony in Chile handled by an indigenous community. Through the years, the Coyo community has clearly demonstrated confidentiality and self support wich was recognized in public during the year 2002 by the State of Chile, when the Coyo community in Atacama was given the prize for the National Monument Preservation.

The facts mentioned above are developed in a strategic alliance where the following entities take part: the Coyo Indigenus Community (Comunidad Indigena de coyo), the National Forest Corporation (Corporacion Nacional Forestal - CONAF), the National Monument Council (Consejo de Monumentos Nacionales -CMN) and the National Indigenous Development Corporation (Corporacion Nacional de desarrollo Indigena - CONADI). They promote the protection and worth of this millenial precolombine village.



— Camino Pavimentado

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Camino de Tierra

SUGGESTIONS

- WEAR HAT AND SUN BLOCK LOTION.
- CARRY WATER OR LIQUIDS.
- ENTER INTO THE PLACE WITH A LOCAL GUIDE.
- WALK THROUGH THE SIGNED ROADS ONLY.
- DO NOT THROW ANY GARBAGE AWAY.
- PLEASE RESPECT THE ATACAMA CULTURE.
- PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE LITTER OR CAUSE OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE.
- PLEASE LEAVE NO TRACE OF YOUR VISIT TO THIS PLACE.



COMUNIDAD ATACAMEÑA
DE COYO

comdecoyo@yahoo.com