La Casa in Mezzo

I strive to leave a place better, cleaner, and more beautiful than before. Then I will always be welcome and the world will be a better place for those who come after.

—*Daniel Waterman*

Dear visitor(s),

The following information will help make your visit in Zonca more enjoyable and answer some, if not all, questions you may have about the house, or our village.

Important:

Visitors are assigned a contact who is present in the village throughout your stay. This person will welcome you to the house and accept your payment. He or she will make sure the house is clean and ready for your stay and can help with any issues that arise during your stay.

In case the owner, *Daniel Waterman* is not present, you are advised to contact Satya. We both speak Dutch, German, English and Italian. Due to poor telephone reception, please use Whatsapp to make contact (written is easier to translate with Google).

Daniel Waterman: t. +31 6247 205 49
Satya Roos: +41 7926 280 01

It is important that you make contact prior to arriving (on the day of your arrival) to let us know what time we should expect you. This, just in case you have problems finding your way. *Please make sure that you carry a headlamp if you are arriving on foot after dark!*

Arriving in Zonca:

Arriving from the direction of Villadossola-Dommodossola, you can reach Zonca from a variety of starting points.

- You may park behind the Church in Seppiana and follow the signs to Zonca. This route takes about 30-40 mins. on foot. Make sure you pack appropriately; use backpacks and don't carry too much in your hands, *have a headlamp after dark.*

- Alternatively, you can park at the recycle bins just up the main valley road past Seppiana. There is a red and white barrier because it is a private road. There is a parking place next to the barrier. *Do not attempt to drive past this point as the road is in very bad condition* and only for locals. You can walk up this road and continue on the unpaved road. In 20 minutes this will bring you to the bottom of the gardens of Zonca. Just before the parking place there is a path with steps on your right. Follow it to the Church and then continue straight to reach the

house.

- The Barboniga route starts when you turn right off the main valley road at Cresti. Continue past Montescheno and you arrive at Barboniga which has a parking place. From there it is a 20 minute walk through Barboniga and the forest. This route will take you straight into Zonca, past the church. Continue and you arrive at the house.

Recognising the house:

As you come to the Church of Zonca you will find a main path leading right through the village. You will pass under an arch and then you will see a house with an icon of the virgin Mary. (see image) Go up the steps and the door to the house is directly on the left.

Next to the front door there is a code lock. **The code is 9207.** The code lock contains a set of keys, including one to the house.

Care of the house:

During your stay it is perfectly ok to leave the doors to the house unlocked. *If you leave the village, please lock the doors!* There is a small supply of food in the house. If you use stuff, please replenish when you do shopping. *Please do not leave perishable goods in the house when you leave.*

Waste disposal:

Waste needs to be sorted. Paper can be left outside on the balcony with firewood. Plastic trash and glass should be taken down to the main road in Seppiana and deposited in the recycling bins. There are two sets of recycle bins: right at the turn off to the Church of Seppiana and just beyond the village in the opposite direction to Villadossola. Please do not leave waste for others to clear up.

Cooking:

The cooker uses bottled gas and can be turned on under the sink. Feel free to use the cooking equipment. *Please make sure to turn off gas upon leaving.*

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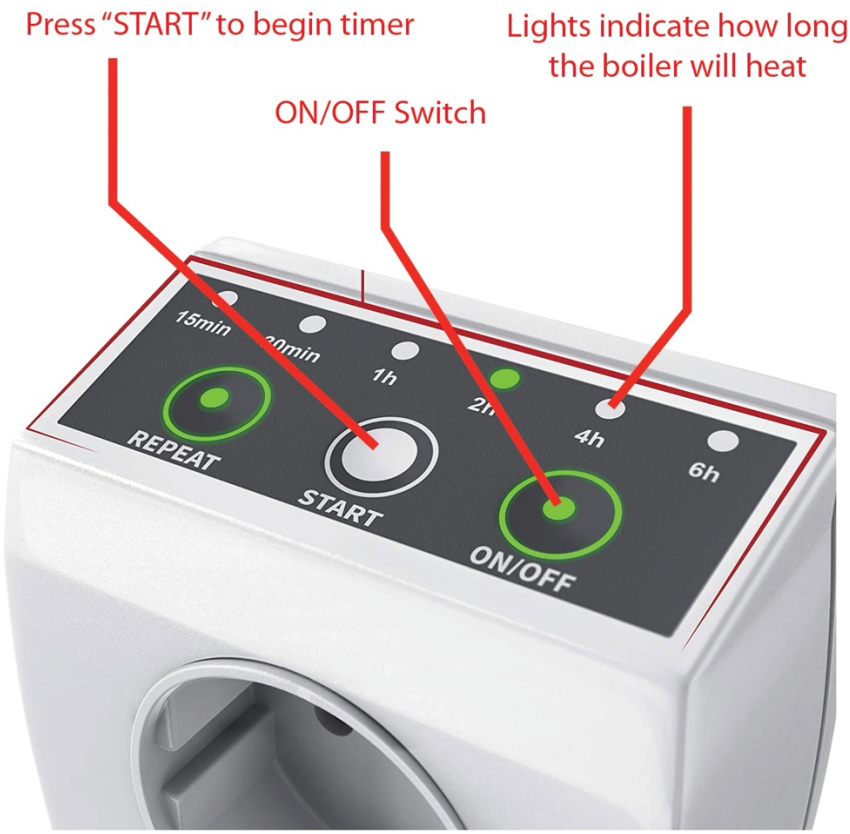
Heating:

Use the wood stoves. There is a supply of wood in the house and some more in the shed on the other side of the street.

Hot water / Shower:

The boiler can be turned on using the timer buttons (which limit the time the boiler is on). The Left button is ON, the middle button determines how long the timer is on (usually on 3 hours). The boiler requires about 1.5 hours to heat up so you can have a shower. *Please make sure the boiler is OFF when you leave!* During the summer the solar panel heats water and you can use the tap near the shower head to switch from electric to solar. *Be careful as the water can be very hot.*



Electricity:

The house has a 12 volt solar array for lighting. It also has 220 volt outlets. If you need to use a 220 volt outlet (charging phones or laptop) you may use the one next to the front door. There may be an orange cable plugged in there. You can unplug it. *Please do not use the electric sockets near the balcony. These are strictly for the Wifi router and receiver/transmitter.*

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Wifi:

The Wifi is on by default. The network for guests is called “Gasten” and the password is: **Casainmezzo!**

Telephone reception:

Reception in the village is not great but you ought to be able to get two stripes on the balcony (TIM or Vodafone). If not, you will need to walk higher up in the village.

Refrigerator:

The refrigerator is off by default, however you can switch it on using the switch mounted on the wall under the sink. *Please turn it off when you leave and leave the door open to prevent mould.*

Shopping:

A drive down the road to Villadossola will bring you close to 3-4 supermarkets. There is one situated right in Villadossola near the main square. There is also an open air market on Tuesdays. If you drive straight instead of turning right into Villadossola there are three other supermarkets just off the main road to Dommodossola. There is also a pharmacy on this road and a gas station. There is one small grocery store in Montescheno (just above the church) which you can reach on foot from Barboniga.

Sleeping:

The upstairs room of the house is the bedroom and has a double mattress and one single (another single may be provided on request). Everything should be prepared for your stay, however you may find extra blankets and sheets in the chest under the bench on the balcony.

What not to bring:

Please do not bring stuff that might harm the environment, chemicals, cleaning stuff, shampoo, soap, plastic stuff, single use stuff. *Do not leave batteries. Please don’t drop cigarette butts.* Don’t leave stuff behind because that means we will have to carry it down!

Community:

In general everyone will welcome you to Zonca. You may be invited to join meals and you are welcome to join in work if you like. Feel free to ask whether there is anything you can do to help! Whether just gathering or hauling wood, bringing some shopping, helping to prepare meals or clear up afterward, all these things will make you very welcome and will be much appreciated, and you will enjoy your stay more! *Guests of Socialbnb are of course under no obligation to work or participate. <u>If you value your privacy feel free to say so</u>.*

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Exploring:

Feel free to explore the village but please don't walk into houses; even if they look empty they may be owned or inhabited. You can go on long walks just above the village. Ask people to show you where paths begin. Don't be afraid to walk for several hours, but always make sure you have enough food and proper clothing. Just above the village there is a path that takes you up the mountain. You will pass springs and a waterfall with a pool. From the end of the valley at Cheggio you can hike up to 2400 meters. You can also go up the valley to Bordo, a Buddhist retreat centre, (either via the road through Seppiana or on foot by the path just below Zonca) or to Lago Antrona, both really nice places to visit and walk around.

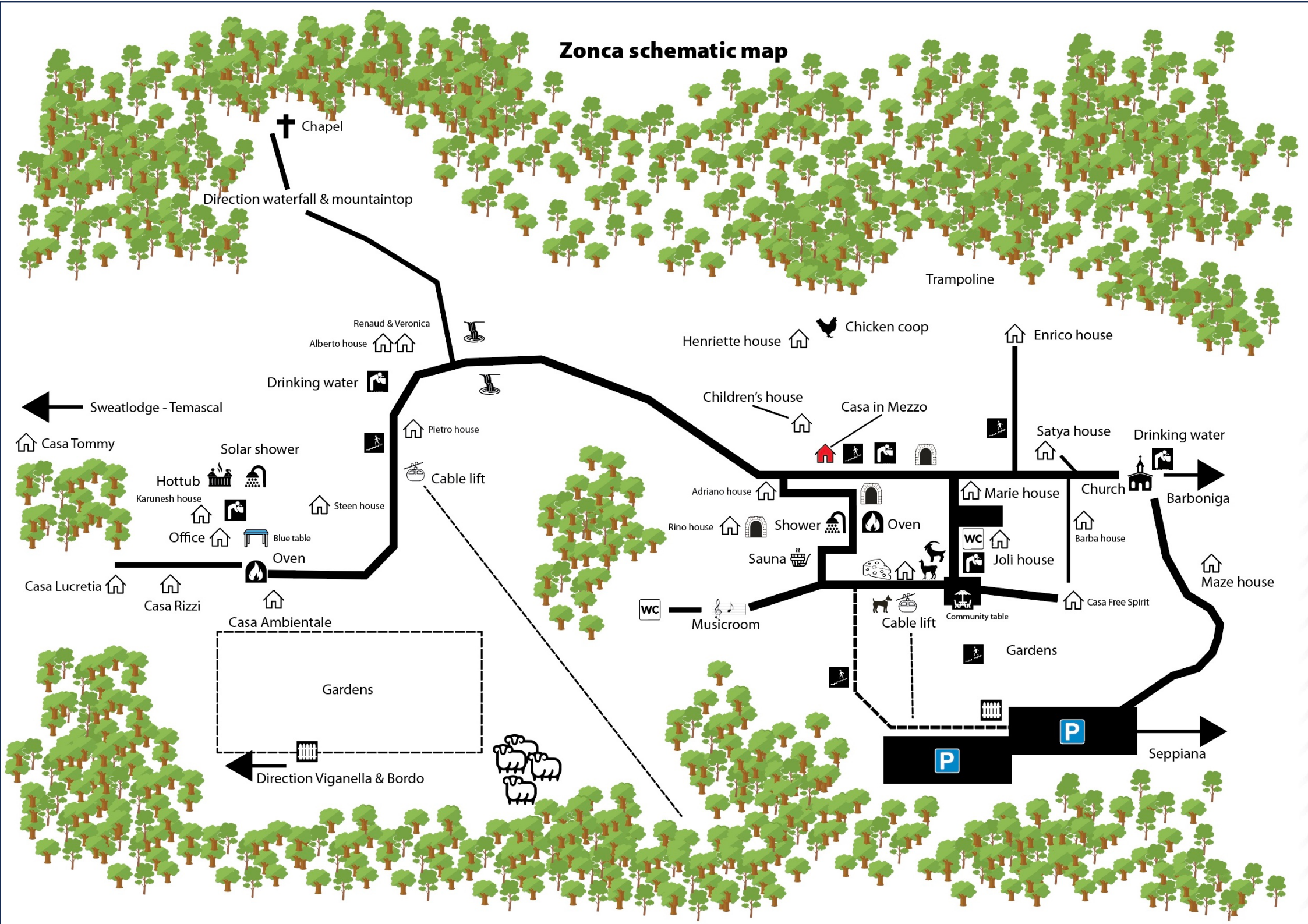
Dogs, Chickens, Cats, Sheep and Goats:

There is a stable at the centre of the village. The goats are out during the day. They are guarded by several large dogs. When the dogs are working, they may bark but they are safe with people. Please keep your distance, do not feed them and *definitely do not touch them*. If they want to sniff around you, that is ok, they are just curious. When hiking, do not get between working dogs and goats or sheep. If you need to pass, pass on the outside so you pose no threat.

Goats and Chickens may be roaming free, so please keep doors and fences closed at all times. Cats may come to visit but feeding them is our responsibility!

Beware

- Be aware of snakes and scorpions! Check bedding, shoes and clothing. Sweep daily! When climbing around ruins or rocks you may encounter snakes. Also, check for ticks, especially if you have been lying in the grass.
- Do not leave food out for flies and rats.
- Keep cats out of bedroom.

Enjoy your stay in Zonca!

Zonca schematic map