



About Austin: Medicine Man & Founder of The Huachuma Project

Hi, my name is Austin. I'm the medicine man and founder behind **The Huachuma Project** in Portugal. This project is my heart's work—building a grounded, no-nonsense, heart-centered community for all ages. Here, we value real talk, family values, deep connections, healing, containment, and healthy boundaries.

People often ask how I got into plant medicine, so I've put together this brief biography to share my journey and help you get to know me before we meet in ceremony. I also sincerely invite anyone who's genuinely curious to visit and break bread with us, to see who we are and what we're building.

My Journey Into Plant Medicine

Growing up, I was rebellious and obsessed with nature. I was labeled neurodivergent, and I matured fast. By age 12, I had several part-time jobs—delivering leaflets and working on a campsite, which, to this day, remains one of my favorite jobs because it allowed me to be outdoors. But as a teenager, I took a darker path. I fell in with the wrong crowd and used drugs and alcohol to feel confident and fit in. One night, while under the influence of substances, I was attacked and woke up in a hospital bed. My parents were by my side, and I was lucky to be alive.

This experience pushed me to want to build a **holistic rehab center** for people struggling with addiction, hoping to help them recover and reintegrate into society. However, in 2015, my life took another turn when I was introduced to **Ayahuasca**. My then-partner had an autoimmune disease and was planning to travel to Peru for healing, and I was determined to join her. But before we made that trip, I visited a good friend of mine who had started an **Ayahuasca retreat center**. It was there, in that first ceremony, that everything changed.

During that experience, I received a clear message: I needed to drop my plans for the rehab center and instead train to become a shaman as a way of helping others. This insight shifted my life's path entirely, and I knew from that moment forward that my calling was in **shamanism**.

Commitment to the Shamanic Path

After that ceremony, my commitment deepened. I went on to participate in over **200 Ayahuasca ceremonies**, which solidified my path. By mid-2016, I had fully committed to studying the **shamanic arts**, and by late 2017, I left my welding career behind. I founded **Kambo Dots**, my first healing practice as a **Kambo practitioner**, which continues to thrive today. To date, I've served over 2,000 people globally and now offer training courses for new practitioners.

I deepened my practice through trips to the **Peruvian Amazon**, where I studied with indigenous teachers and engaged in my own inner healing work. I also trained in Europe, combining plant medicine practices with modern psychology, to create a balanced and grounded approach to healing.

Why I Work With San Pedro

In 2018, I encountered **San Pedro** (Huachuma), and it all made sense. The first time I worked with this medicine, I felt an immediate, powerful **yes**. I knew this was the path I'd been preparing for all along. Unlike other plant medicines, San Pedro is not about ego death or out-of-body experiences. It asks you to show up fully and face yourself. It's like a wise, compassionate grandfather—strict, yet safe.

San Pedro doesn't take away your problems; it gives you the tools to face them head-on. It teaches **radical self-acceptance** and responsibility, guiding you toward healing not just on a spiritual level, but across your mind, body, and heart. Since that first ceremony, I've dedicated myself fully to working with San Pedro, and it has become the foundation of my healing practice.

The Huachuma Project

In March 2023, I moved to Portugal, following my heart and vision, and began building **The Huachuma Project**—my third retreat center. This project is my life's work. It's a grounded, heart-centered community where people of all ages and walks of life can come to heal, connect, and transform. We value real talk, deep relating, and creating a safe space for everyone who enters.

What You Can Expect Working With Me

In my work, I bring a blend of shamanic practices and modern therapeutic approaches. Whether it's through **San Pedro ceremonies**, **Kambo sessions**, or just a simple conversation, I bring authenticity, compassion, and integrity to every encounter. I believe in sitting **knee to knee**, **eye to eye**, and really understanding why you're seeking this experience, so we can set clear intentions and create the conditions for deep healing.

Most of all, I believe in being real. I'm not here to pretend I have all the answers or that I don't face challenges of my own. Like you, I've been through my own struggles, and I continue to grow and learn from them every day. That's what allows me to hold space for others in their healing journeys.

A Bit About Me Personally

Today, I'm a father to a young lad who inspires me daily. I'm a friend, a partner, and a business owner. I love **interior design**, music, deep films, and poetry. Above all, I value **human connection**—that's where I find the most meaning. The work I do at The Huachuma Project is my way of offering that connection and healing to others.

I look forward to meeting you and sitting in circle together.

Austin Romero

Medicine Man & Founder

The Huachuma Project