

Encuentros 2013: An Unforgettable, Life Changing Summer

Have you ever:

- ✓ Ridden a bicycle through a waterfall?
- ✓ Handled a boa constrictor?
- ✓ Built a home during the course of a weekend and practiced Spanish with its new residents?
- ✓ Climbed a 4800 meter (14000 foot) volcano at sunrise?
- ✓ Had a spider monkey snuggle with you, and then make off with your cell phone?
- ✓ Watched whales breach in the Pacific Ocean?
- ✓ Traveled from the Amazon through the Sierra to the Cloud Forrest in a single day?
- ✓ Sung tunes strumming a guitar in the back of a pickup riding into the sunset?
- ✓ Frolicked underwater with a sea lion in the Enchanted Isles of Galapagos

Come to Ecuador, an extraordinary bio-diverse and cultural wonderland, for five weeks guaranteed to change your life!

Bienvenidos a Ecuador!

Ecuador, one of the smallest countries in South America, is also one of the most biologically and culturally diverse in the world. The Andes Mountains divide the country into three regions: **Amazonia, Sierra and Costa.**



The Amazon Rain Forrest proliferates with flora and fauna, and new species continue to be discovered each year. Archidona and surrounding Quichua communities are 2013 destinations.



The Sierra, the most populous region of the country, is home to many of the descendants of the Incas. Excursions include trekking, canyoning, rafting, and biking through the famous Valley of the Waterfalls.



The Coastal Region reaches from the foothills of the Andes to the great Pacific, and includes the Cloud Forest with multiple species of humming birds and butterflies, extensive plantations, and spectacular beaches. Projects in Manabí include home stays, community service and park restoration in beautiful Machalilla National Park. The tour includes a visit to the Isla de la Plata where the

famous pirate Sir Francis Drake may have buried his treasure.



Program Overview, Encuentros Summer 2013: Activities by week

Week 1: Orientation in Quito, UNESCO World Heritage Site, includes home stays with daily language training, straddling the Equator at the Mitad del Mundo and adventure tourism including trekking, biking through waterfalls, canyoning and rafting in the resorts of Baños and Mindo in the Cloud Forrest. Community projects include literacy and work with children in libraries.



Week 2: Travel to the Amazon jungle via Papallacta hot springs for a week long stay, including visits and workdays around Archidona with the Quichua indigenous people. Guided nature walks through primary forest to explore flora and wildlife. Community service includes agricultural projects, and teaching English and computer skills to high school students in the jungle.



Week 3: The final week includes home stays and community service in picturesque Salinas de Guaranda, with a visit to Chimborazo, Ecuador's highest peak at 6,310 meters. In Salinas, projects include working in the chocolate, mushroom and cheese factories, making soccer balls, and handicrafts.



Week 4: Travel to the Coast for a stay in Puerto Lopez in Machalilla Park, and an excursion to Isla de la Plata for whale watching, snorkeling, and treasure hunting. The mainland portion of the program concludes in Quito, with a trip up the Teleferico and scaling the peak of Rucu Pichincha, our farewell program, and a final day of shopping in Quito.

Experience your Metamorphosis of a lifetime in Ecuador, and make a difference in the lives of others!

Week 5: Participants also have the option of an additional week on the Enchanted Islands! The visit includes island hopping, snorkeling and home stays on San Cristobal, the capital of the Galapagos Archipelago. Service projects include building a children's park and conservation, both underwater and on the beaches.



Program Expenses

The total cost of the program excluding the Galapagos portion is \$3500, and covers room and board, home stays, educational activities, excursions, and all local transportation expenses. It does not include travel to and from Ecuador, or travel and health insurance. A \$500 deposit guarantees a place in the 2013 program. The balance of \$3000 is due April 30th. Ten percent of the cost goes toward community development in Ecuador. **Full program cost for early bird registration by March 30: \$3200!** For those interested in week five in Galapagos, the cost is an additional \$1200 (includes air fare and park fees).

The program begins in Quito on July 1, and participants return home on Tuesday, July 31st, with flexibility on travel dates to allow for lowest air fares. The Galapagos portion is from July 31st to August 8.

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Encuentros Ecuador and Galápagos 2013

A Life Changing Summer!



Sierra: Climbing Cotopaxi, at 4800 meters

**Unforgettable Encounters focusing
on leadership, public health, and
community service**



Costa: Celebrating on the beach, Machalilla Park