

ECUADOR 2012



Encuentros

Ecuador



GALAPAGOS





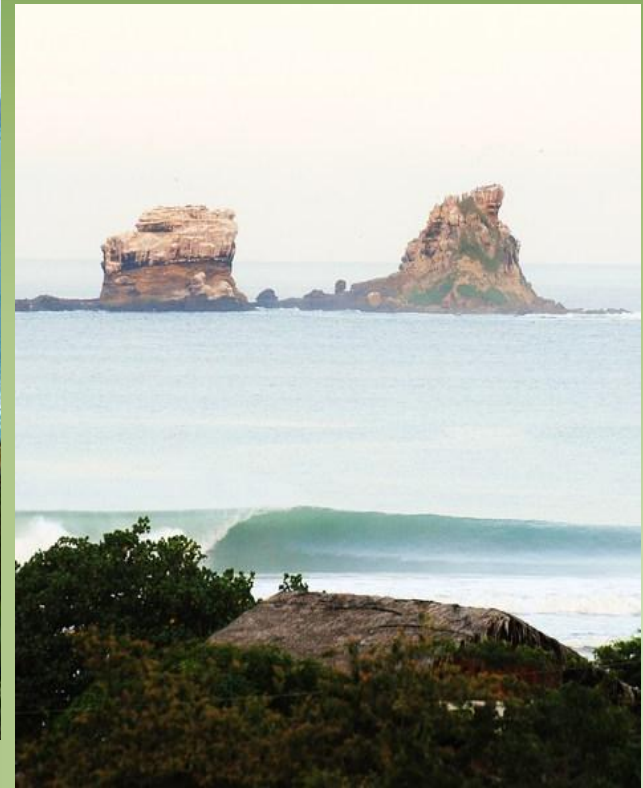








Coast



SIERRA





AMAZON



Amazon



ITINERARY

WEEK 1: SIERRA

- Orientation in Quito, UNESCO Cultural Heritage Site of Humanity
- Spanish language through classes and home-stays
- Visits to **Otavallo** (world renowned Latin American indigenous market), **Mitad del Mundo** (Middle of the World), **Mindo** (Cloud Forest); activities include festivals, hiking, tubing, ziplining, and butterfly and bird watching

WEEK 2: AMAZONIA

- Begin community service working with the *Quichua* tribe in *Archidona*, in collaboration with Fundación Runa
- Plant, harvest, and process Guayusa (ceremonial tea)
- Nature walks, visit local families, white water rafting, visits to wild animal reserve and rehabilitation sites.

- **WEEK 3: SIERRA**
- Climb from 200 feet above sea level in the Amazon to ***Banyos*** (Ecuador's leading resort town) for biking, canyoning, trekking
- And volunteering in the virtual library with elementary school students in the afternoons.
- From Banyos to ***Salinas de Guaranda***, an extraordinary mountain village with cooperatives that produce cheese, chocolate, herbal teas, mushrooms, and handicrafts
- Homestays with assignments to projects of preference by participants.

- **WEEK 4: COAST**
- Visit to ***Puerto Lopez*** for an excursion to the ***Isla de la Plata*** (Ecuador's poor man's Galapagos).
- Includes whale watching (humpback spawning season), snorkeling, trekking, and volunteering at ***Machalilla National Park***
- Return to ***Quito***, for ascents of Cotopaxi (the world's highest active volcano), and the peaks of ***Ruccu*** and ***Guagua Pichincha***, culminating in the program farewell.

- **WEEK 5: (OPTIONAL in GALAPAGOS)**
- Visit the islands of ***San Cristobal, Santa Cruz, and Isabela***, with snorkeling, biking, visits to the Galapagos turtle colonies
- Excursions to swim with sharks at ***Kicker Rock***, dolphins and penguins in ***Puerto Villamil***, and the opportunity to become acquainted with Lonesome George, the lone surviving Galapagos of his species, at the ***Charles Darwin Foundation***.
- Community service includes working in schools (in session during the summer) as well as planting trees (reforestation) in the highlands.

LOGISTICS

- **LIVING:** Home-stays and Hostels
- **TRAVEL:** Local bus transportation, plane and private boat to Galapagos Islands
- **COST:** \$3,200 (February 28th 20% discount)
\$3,500 (March 31st)
 - Covers: Food, lodging, excursion fees, guides, Spanish instructors, facility use of Quito orientation session
 - Does not cover round trip airfare from/to U.S (Approx. \$700)

- **PASSPORT:** Required for international travel
 - Minor rates: \$40-\$110
 - Can take up to 3 months to complete
- *Spanish skills are not required*

Web References

- www.chacay.org
- http://www.usaid.gov/locations/latin_america_caribbean/country/ecuador/
- <http://travel.state.gov/passport/>
- <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/ecuador.htm>