



# 2020 ICPEL Ecuador Study Tour



**Dates: May 6 – May 15, 2020**

**Study Tour Fee**

\$2,800

Shared Double Room / 2 Beds

\$2,600

Shared Double Room / 1Bed

\$3100

Single Room / 1 Bed

**Complete Interest Form**

October 15, 2019

**Registration Deposit**

December 15, 2019

**Payments**

Payments: Feb.1 & March 1, 2020

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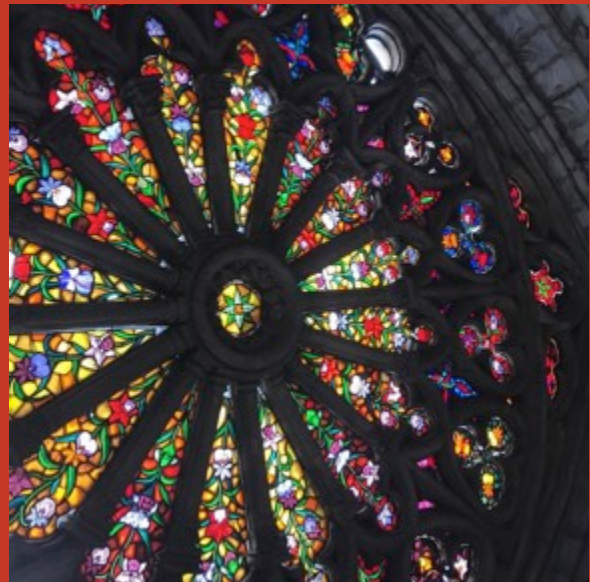
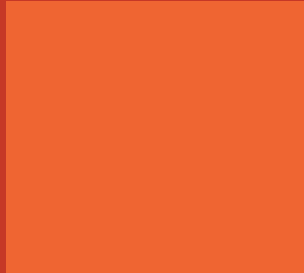
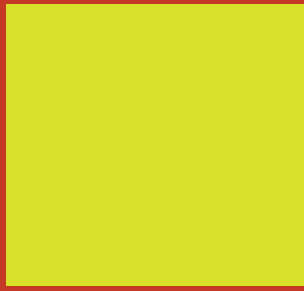
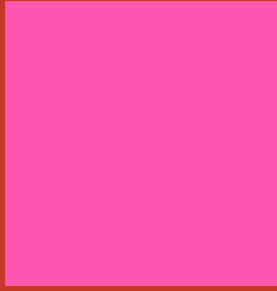
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# General Information



## What is the Ecuador Higher Education Study Tour?

The “2020 ICPEL Study Tour” will take place in Quito, the capital of Ecuador and will blend opportunities for learning about **the educational system** while connecting with locals to learn about culture, food, traditions, and the history of this country. ICPEL is partnering with Dr. Raul Leon, a scholar and native Ecuadorian who currently is a professor in the field of educational leadership. Dr. Leon has organized educational visits to Ecuador for the past 8 years hosting more than 150 faculty, students, and staff representing over 50 institutions.

Founded in 1534, Quito stands as one of the oldest cities in Latin America, and has been named the “**best preserved colonial center in the world.**” Providing a rich professional development opportunity for those interested in expanding their scope and educational perspectives, this tour is an ideal opportunity to explore Ecuador!

## Host Country and City

On the imaginary line that divides the globe into North and South, **Ecuador** stands as one of only 17 countries considered as mega-diverse. This diversity is also reflected on its people, with an ethnically mixed population representing Spanish, Indigenous, and African roots. **Quito**, our host city, is located in the Andes Mountains, and has been named as "cultural capital" of Latin America. With a population of 2.4 million, Quito is home to the best-preserved colonial center in the world, offering an ideal backdrop for the study tour with over 30 colleges and universities, policy and government offices, and access to local stakeholders shaping the educational future of the country.

## **Key Dates:**

**October 15:** Complete Interest Form

**December 15:** Submit application and registration deposit of \$500 non-refundable (application found in ICPEL website)

**February 1 and March 1:** Submit tour fee payments (refer to application)

## **Comparative Perspective**

Visiting Ecuador will allow participants to draw direct comparisons to K-12 Schools and colleges in the United States. The tour will help participants to compare and contrast:

- Notions of student success in Ecuador
- How different types of institutions operate
- Analyze current policies and reform
- Gather information from diverse sources
- Gain exposure to current issues shaping the evolution of higher education in Ecuador
- Understand the day-to-day work of staff and faculty in educational institutions in Ecuador.

## **Participant Experiences**

"I participated in the My Ecuador Trip tour in the summer of 2016 and I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in learning more about the educational system of Ecuador while being emerged in the country's various cultural traditions and unique sociopolitical environment. Dr. Raul Leon plans a balanced study tour where you have opportunities to engage with some of Ecuador's educational professionals and visit their institutions while also experiencing this beautiful country through purposeful sight-seeing excursions."

V. Crespin-Trujillo – Doctoral Candidate –  
UW-Madison

## **Local Perspectives**



Speakers & Experts



Local Stakeholders



Innovation



Current Policies



Meet Gov. Officials



Visit Schools



## **Exploring Our Host Country**

- Tour Quito, named a “Cultural Patrimony of Mankind”
- Interact with locals and learn from their culture
- Enjoy Local Architecture & Design
- Visit the Middle of the World
- Get to know Ecuador’s Culture and its People
- Reenergize in a Hike in the Rainforest
- Discover new Flavors and Local Food
- Learn about History, Politics, Culture
- Capture vibrant memories with photos and snaps
- Climb to the top of the world and hike a local volcano
- Learn about education in Ecuador



Our study tour offers participants the opportunity to explore our host city and familiarize with the local culture. Daily excursions are exciting, enriching, and safe. A group leader will guide the group through their journey.

## **SAMPLE CULTURAL AND TOURISTIC ACTIVITIES**



Volcano



Culinary Tour



Colonial Cathedrals



Shop Local



Hot Springs



Local NGO's



Museums



Tourist Must Does



Waterfall Hike



Local Schools



Art and Music



Adventures



Local Animals



Fruit Market



Handcraft Market



Volunteer

## Our Participant Profile

Our study tour is open to educators (faculty, staff, graduate students, current or retired teachers), professionals in other fields, and individuals with an interest in higher education. Participants do not need to be experts on the study tour topic or region. Our study tour will examine education from an interdisciplinary perspective. Participants come from a number of institutions across the country, at different stages in their career, and with a diverse set of experiences and backgrounds. The tour is conducted in English.

**Participants who have attended the study tour have represented a number of roles, institutions, and careers**

### Graduate Students

Housing  
International Initiatives  
Service-Learning  
Community Engagement  
STEM Initiatives  
Alumni Relations

### Tenure and Non-Tenure Faculty

K12 and Higher Education  
Student Affairs  
Counseling  
Marketing and Business

### Academic Administrators

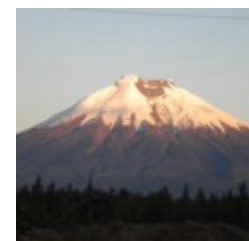
Deans & Directors  
Vice-Provosts  
Center Directors  
Dean of Students  
Student Affairs Senior Officers  
Researchers and Policy Analysts



Buffalo State University  
Missouri State  
Baruch College  
Georgia Southern University  
University of Oklahoma  
Boston College  
University of Minnesota  
University of St. Thomas  
University of Denver  
University of Michigan  
University of Richmond  
Fresno State University  
Eastern Michigan University  
UC – Long Beach  
Michigan State University  
Rutgers University  
Columbia University  
Missouri State University  
Northeastern University  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Texas State University  
University of Florida  
University of Texas – Austin  
Montana State University  
U. of Indiana-Bloomington  
University of Texas – El Paso  
New York University

## TOUR TOPICS

The study tour is designed to better understand Ecuador and its educational system. The study tour is organized across three broad areas: a) Overview of educational system in Ecuador; b) Exploration of educational reform, and c) Learn about the local culture and region. Through lectures from local experts, site visits, readings, and discussions, participants will be immersed in the local context, comparing and contrasting their experiences



### Academic Visits

Ecuador's government seeks to move forward in a globalized world that places great value on developing citizens capable of competing on this knowledge economy. At the center of this process, Ecuador has turned their attention to a major overhauling of the country's educational system. To understand this change, our itinerary incorporates visits to local school and universities, interaction with stakeholders (speakers, policy makers, researchers, business owners, government officials, students), and opportunities to spend time in local sites providing context for our exploration

### Itinerary

A blend of academic, cultural, and touristic activities makes our study tour an attractive option to get to know Ecuador and its people. Each day provides an ideal balance between activities that allow us to learn about education in Ecuador, while also exploring local culture, cuisine, and traditions. Our expert tour leader maximizes our learning opportunities while adding a local touch bringing it all together. Each day is designed to make the most of your time in Ecuador. Participants will receive a detailed itinerary prior the tour.

### SAMPLE ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Arrive to Quito

#### Day 2:

Cultural Visit: Middle of the World and Pululahua Crater

Academic Visit: K12 School

#### Day 3:

Cultural Visit: Colonial Center

Academic Visit: Local High School

#### Day 4:

Touristic Visit: Chocolate Factory

Touristic Visit: Waterfall Hike

#### Day 5:

Cultural Visit: Art Museum

Touristic Visit: Volcano Visit

#### Day 6:

Cultural Visit: Handcraft Market

Academic Visit: University Visit

#### Day 7:

Touristic Visit: Hot Springs

Free Time: Explore Quito

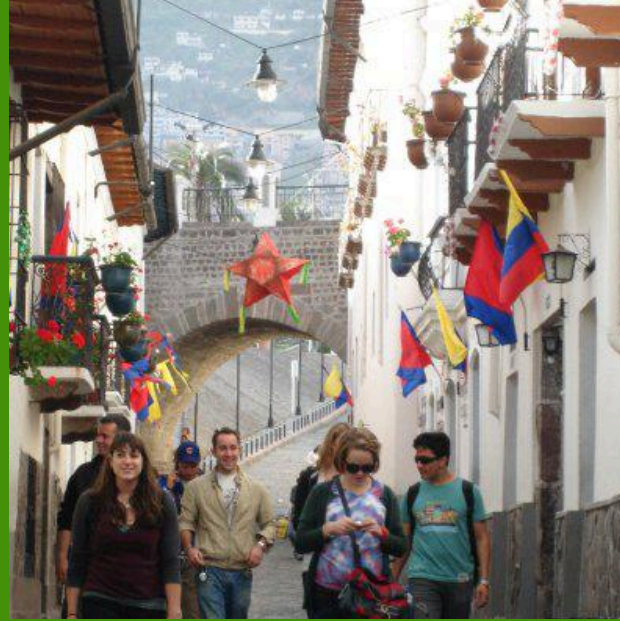
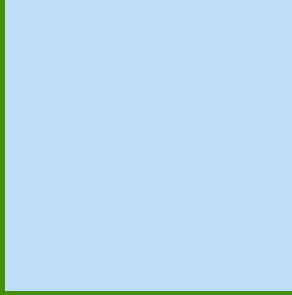
#### Day 8:

Academic Visit: K12 Visit /Speaker

Cultural Visit: Basilica Temple

#### Day 9: Depart Quito

# Support and Expertise



## **TOUR LEADERSHIP**

ICPEL is partnering with Dr. Raul Leon, a scholar and native Ecuadorian who currently is a professor in the field of educational leadership. Dr. Leon has organized educational visits to Ecuador for the past 8 years for more than 150 faculty, students, and staff representing over 50 higher education institutions. Providing a rich professional development opportunity for those interested in expanding their scope and educational perspectives, this tour is an ideal opportunity to explore Ecuador!

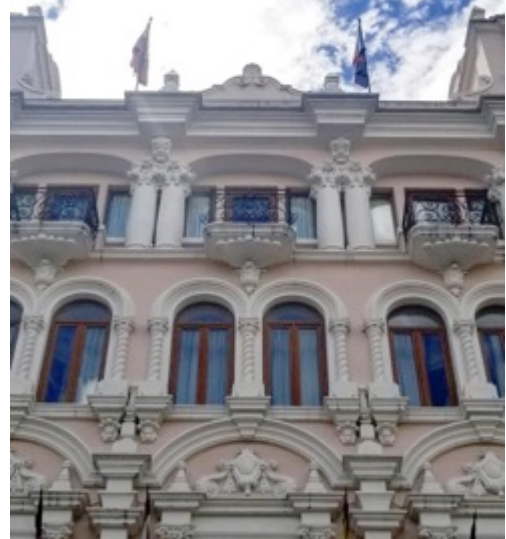
Dr. Raul Leon is an Associate Professor of Higher Education and Student Affairs at Eastern Michigan University. Born and raised in Ecuador, Dr. Leon has a passion for traveling and discovering new places. Dr. Leon earned his B.A. in International Relations from St. Cloud State University (SCSU). He also holds a master's degree in International Public Affairs (International Development in Latin America) and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, both degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As a faculty member, Dr. Leon has received numerous local and national awards recognizing his scholarship, leadership, and impact on campus. As a researcher, he has maintained an active researcher agenda with over 35 policy relevant scholarship contributions. One of his areas of expertise is study abroad. Dr. Leon is eager to lead our next Ecuador Study Tour.



## Participant Experiences

“As someone who lived and studied in Ecuador for 6.5 years, I was eager to take a more critical look at the current k-16 educational system and policies and how they relate to when I was a student there in the early 90’s. Additionally, I was interested in exploring topics related to student leadership development in higher education in Ecuador and how it relates to my work in student affairs in the U.S. The seminars experienced were couples with cultural outings, which were well organized and enlightening.”

JP Laurenceau Medina – Assistant Dean of Students – Washington College



**Our tour offers a unique academic and cultural enriching opportunity with experts in the field with a first-hand knowledge of our destination**

“ This Study Tour is intentional, engaging, and fun! I was exposed to the culture, politics, education system, geography, cuisine, and fantastic hospitality all within a few weeks. If you are considering it, you will not be let down! Highly recommend this program.”

Elizabeth Hernandez – Graduate Student – California State University - Chico

## My Ecuador Trip Report Card



**95%** rate  
overall  
Satisfaction  
good or  
excellent



**98%** rate  
Educational  
Content  
good or  
excellent



**99%** rate  
tour leader as  
good or  
excellent



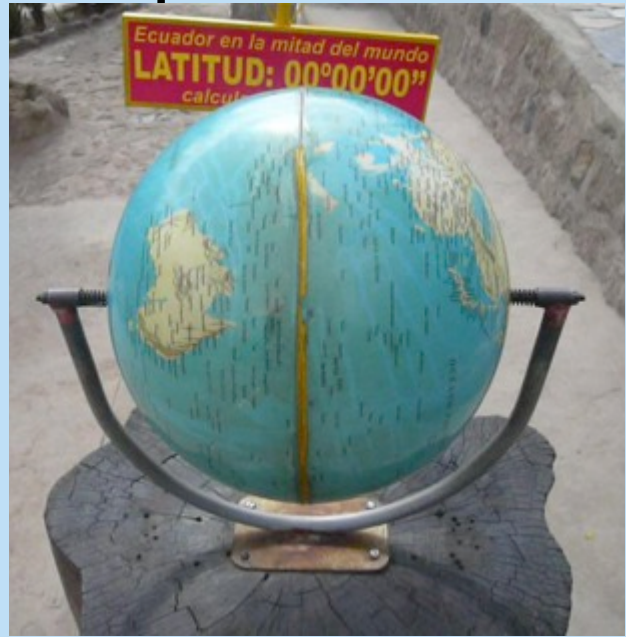
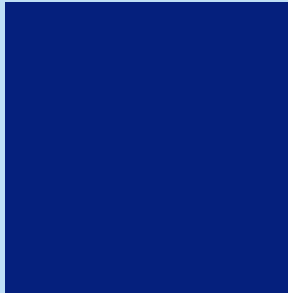
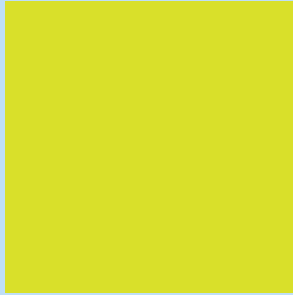
# SUPPORTING YOU ALONG THE JOURNEY

We are committed to crafting an experience that is memorable and exceeds your expectations. With the knowledge, tools, and expertise to lead this tour, we have a team in place to support you all along:

- Pre-Departure Orientation Information
- On-Site Orientation
- Airport Transfers in Quito
- Booking Accommodations
- Educational Tour Leader
- Support from Local Resident Director and Staff
- Entrance Fee for Local Attractions
- Reserve and Plan Group Meals
- Access to Classroom Space
- 24/7 Local Support
- Plan Academic & Touristic Visits
- Arrange Guest Lecturers
- Be a Resource for YOU



# Support and Expertise



## Included In Tour Package

- Pre-Departure Orientation
- Accommodations (9 Nights)
- Private Guided Daily Tours (English)
- Airport Transfers in Quito
- Entrance Fee Tourist Attractions
- Meals (9B, 9L, and 6 D)
- Bottled Water for Full Trip
- Wireless Internet in Hotel
- 24/7 Local Support
- Unique/Authentic Tours

## Not Included In Tour Package

- International Airfare
- Additional Snacks and Meals not Included in Itinerary
- Additional Transportation Services not Included in Itinerary
- Souvenirs and Miscellaneous
- Tipping and Gratuities
- Beverages and Alcoholic Drinks
- Travel and Medical Emergency Insurance

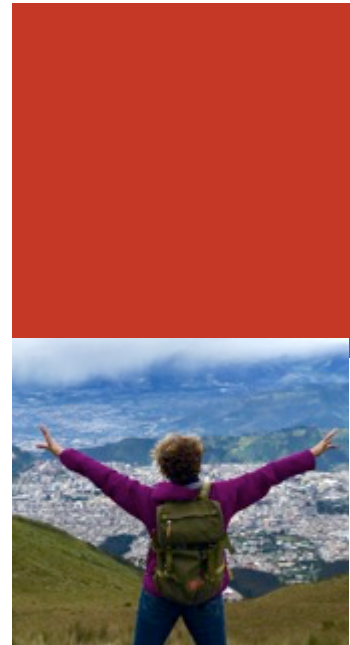
<b>ESTIMATED BUDGET (Per Person)</b>	<b>Shared Room (Double Room / 2 Beds / 1 Private Bath)</b>	<b>Room w/Partner (Double Room / 1 Bed/ 1 Private Bath)</b>	<b>Solo Traveler (Single Room / 1 Bed/ 1 Private Bath)</b>
Tour Fee	\$2,800	\$2600	\$3,100
Round trip Airfare (Estimate from Detroit)	\$900	\$900	\$900
Extra Cash	\$150	\$150	\$150
Medical and Travel Insurance	\$50	\$50	\$50
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>\$ 3,900</b>	<b>\$3700</b>	<b>\$4,200</b>



## Accommodations

My Ecuador Trip takes care of the entire process of participant accommodations. We use our local expertise to identify accommodations that will be suitable for the group needs and give you an opportunity to experience local culture. Currently, we offer hotel accommodations specifically selected for the group. The hotel designation ranges between 3 - 3.5 stars. We have worked with a number of properties in the past and will select a property considering the number of participants registered for the tour. This is our standard accommodation.

We believe it is essential to provide not only comfort and safety, but also a special insight to the local culture. We offer intimate properties for our participants to truly make this visit a unique experience for each visitor. Each property has a staff from My Ecuador Trip ready to assist all visitors.



### Accommodations:

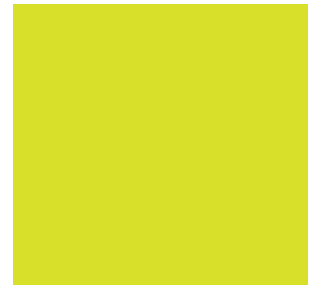
Tour fee based on double room (two beds) with shared bathroom. Roommate requests are accepted.

Single Room: Please request single room in advance when submitting your application.

Additional fees apply.

Couples/Partners: Tour fee based on one bed and one private bathroom.



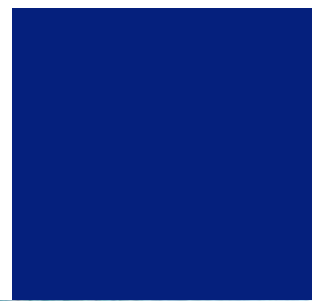


## Transportation

Safety and reliability are our priority when traveling across Ecuador. A professional driver and a vehicle (e.g., small motor coach or van) are included in each package. This vehicle stays with us at all times, which provides maximum flexibility in our schedule, and allows us to make changes and adapt to local conditions if necessary. This is the kind of support and service we are committed to. In some occasions, the tour incorporates the use of public transportation or other methods of transportation. In this case, participants will receive this information during orientation and it will be described in the itinerary.

## Meals

Ecuador is the perfect opportunity to experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available in this country. My Ecuador Trip takes care of the planning process for meals during the tour. With our local expertise, we can offer you an authentic food experience, sampling local flavors, enjoying places where you will come face to face with locals, sharing traditions, or enjoying a meal at the place of residence. To encourage relationship building meals are planned as a group.



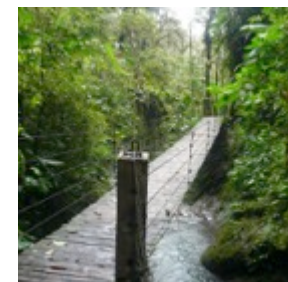
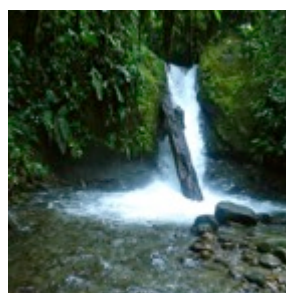
## Payment Schedule

December 15 is the deadline to sign up for the study tour and submit the registration deposit (Please check with us for availability of spots after this deadline). All applications must be submitted with the \$500 registration deposit to officially reserve a spot. We hope to confirm the study tour by February 1. After receiving confirmation, you will be able to book your airfare. DO NOT purchase a ticket without written confirmation from My Ecuador Trip.



<b>Payment Deadline</b>	<b>Room w/Other Tour Participant (Double Room / 2 Beds /1 Private Bath)</b>	<b>Room w/Partner (Double Room /1 Bed/ 1 Private Bath)</b>	<b>Solo Traveler (Single Room /1 Bed/ 1 Private Bath)</b>
December 15 Non-Refundable Registration Deposit	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$500</b>
February 1 First Payment	\$1800	\$1600	\$2100
March 1 Second Payment	\$500	\$500	\$500
Total	\$2800	\$2600	\$3100





## INVESTING IN YOURSELF

### Professional Development

Growing as a professional in the field requires making strategic investments on your development. This study tour offers a rich learning experience, connects you with a network of professionals and scholars with a passion for learning and traveling, and it enhances your professional profile adding an international component.

### Academic Credit

Participants have received academic credit for this study tour (Ranging from 1-3 credits). One option is to coordinate this credit (prior departure and paid fees for tuition) with your home institution. We can share a sample syllabus or projects to complete during the study tour to discuss with your advisor. Please inquire about additional opportunities for independent study credit.

## SECURING FUNDING & RESOURCES

1. Reach out to advisor, chair, or dean
2. Find internationalization initiatives that support faculty/staff / student travel.
3. Identify professional development funds from your department or school
4. Discuss how this tour could help you revamp curriculum on your department
5. Discuss your role supporting the creation or partnership for new study abroad programs
6. Search scholarships for international travel or international immersion
7. Create funding platforms (GoFund Me) to solicit support from friends and family
8. Secure department scholarships to share / present your experience from this tour when you return to campus

## Reserve YOUR SPOT

The study tour is based on a minimum number of participants enrolled (min.: 8 participants). To participate please follow these steps:

**October 15:** Complete Interest Form

**December 15:** Submit registration deposit (\$500 non-refundable) and application

**February 1 and March 1:** Submit first and second tour fee payment

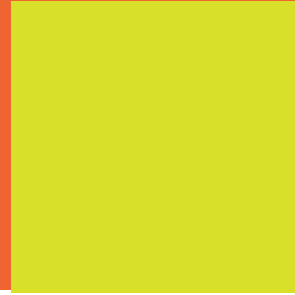
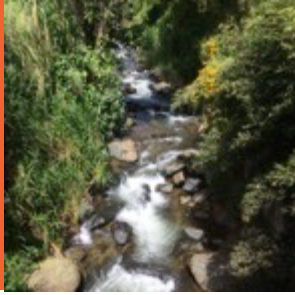
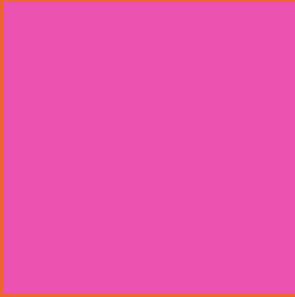
Applications can be submitted after the deadline if spots are still available.

### INVITE A COLLEAGUE

The tour is designed for individuals with an interest in education in Ecuador. We have welcomed participants from all over the U.S. and encourage participants to connect with peers at their institution or across institutions to join in this adventure. As a participant, you play an integral role sharing this opportunity with others in the field.



# To and From Travel



## Airfare

Airfare is not included on the tour fee. Because our participants come from many different places, you will book your ticket from the location is most convenient to you. Several of our participants book round trip tickets to Quito from Atlanta, Minneapolis, Chicago, Detroit, or New York. Price ranges between \$700 – 1100. We will assist you in making travel arrangements.

From the U.S. you can find direct flights to Quito departing from DALLAS, ATLANTA, MIAMI, FT. LAUDERDELE, and HOUSTON. (Quito is only a 4 / 5 h. flight from most of these cities). My Ecuador Trip will provide detailed information to book flights and will support participants through this process.

## Passports and Visas

All participants will need a passport to enter Ecuador and to re-enter the United States. If a participant does not have a passport, they should apply for one as soon as they decide they will be joining the tour. The passport application and process can take 8-10+ weeks.

At this time, U.S. citizens do not need a visa to travel to Ecuador for a period shorter than 90 days. If you are **not a U.S. citizen**, you must check with your own government agency and/or the consulates of all countries visited for entry and visa requirements for your nationality.



## **Orientation and Support**

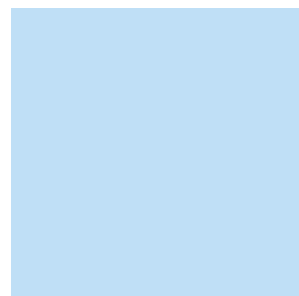
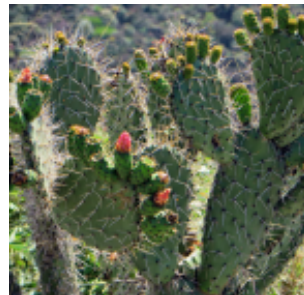
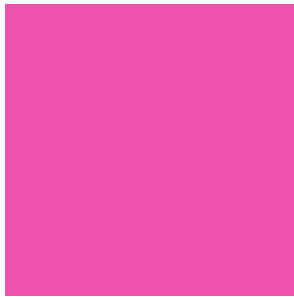
We pride on actively and timely communicating with participants from the initial interest contact to the time you safely return to your destination. Accepted participants receive a detailed orientation packet and support prior each study tour. This packet includes information pertaining to planning your trip, arriving to your destination, packing for the study tour, information about our activities, academic materials needed in preparation for the tour (readings) and a detailed itinerary. Our goal is that each participant is prepared to fully enjoy this experience in Ecuador.



## **Participants Arrival & Departure**

Our programs include airport pick-up and drop-off at the designated airport on the program arrival and departure dates. Early arrivals and late departures are permitted, but on those cases, each participant is responsible for their own lodging and transportation to and from the airport. We can secure transportation for an additional fee with a prior request.

My Ecuador Trip provides participants with specific details on how to book flights, information on when to arrive and depart (window of times), and airport pick-up and drop-off information. Our resident director will welcome participants at the airport.



 <b>My Ecuador Trip Packing List</b> 	
<b>Prepare to Travel</b>	
Renew/Check Passport	0
Obtain Recommended Vaccinations	0
Purchase Travel Insurance	0
Print off Documents (ID, insurance)	0
Check-In online with Airline	0
Check Flight Time	0
Check Baggage Weight	0
Clearly Label/Identify Luggage	0
Notify your bank about traveling abroad to avoid issues with cards	0
Email a copy of all important documents to yourself in case of theft	0
<b>Documents</b>	
Passport	0
Extra Passport Photos	0
Prescriptions for Medications	0
Driver' License	0
Travel Insurance Documents	0
Travel Itinerary	0
Photocopy of documents/ID/Passport	0
Emergency Contact Info	0
<b>Money</b>	
Wallet	0
Cash (Small Bills) \$20s or smaller	0
Credit Card	0
Debit Card	0
Emergency Cash (\$150)	0
<b>Bags</b>	
Main, Large rucksack or suitcase	0
Carry-on bag	0
Purse or tote for city/educational tours	0
<b>Clothing</b>	
Jeans/Trousers	0
Shorts	0
Business casual (dress shirts, pants, skirts)	0
Shirts (t-shirts, polos, casual, etc.)	0
Raincoat/poncho	0
Sweater and Light jacket	0
Undergarments (regular & active)	0
Socks (regular and thicker for hiking)	0
Pajamas	0
<b>Shoes</b>	
Flip Flops/ Sandals	0
2 PAIRS of Walking/Hiking Shoes	0
Business casual shoes	0
<b>Swimwear</b>	
Swimming Shorts / swimsuit	0
Towel	0
<b>Accessories</b>	
Sunglasses	0
Watch	0
Belt	0
Gloves and Scarf (cold weather)	0
Hat/headband (cold weather)	0
Small Umbrella	0
Sunhat / ballcap	0
<b>Toiletries</b>	
Toiletry bag	0
Skin Care/lotion	0
Make-Up	0
Toothbrush/Toothpaste	0
Tissues	0
Feminine Hygiene Items	0
Deodorant	0
Hair brush/Comb	0
Shampoo/Conditioner	0
Soap	0
Q-Tips/Cotton balls	0
Tweezers	0
Baby Wipes	0
Shaving cream/gel/foam	0
Razor/electric shaver	0
Nail clippers/file	0
Wash Cloth	0
Hand Towel	0
Dental Floss	0
Perfume/Aftershave/Cologne	0
Make-Up remover	0
Contacts (and extra contacts)	0
Contact solution	0
Glasses & case	0
<b>Healthcare</b>	
Painkiller	0
Prescription Medication	0
Small First Aid Kit	0
Diarrhoea Medicine	0
Suscreen/cream	0
Lotion (Aloe Vera)	0
Cold/Flu Medicine	0
Vitamins	0
Hand sanitizer	0
Insect repellent	0
<b>Electronics and Gadgets</b>	
Mobile Phone and charger	0
Camera and charger	0
Laptop/tablet and charger	0
Ipod/Music player and charger	0
Headphones	0
Travel hairdryer	0
Curling iron/flat iron	0
USB stick	0
<b>Other</b>	
Waterproof case/bag for phone/gadget	0
Plastic bag/large ziplock bag	0
Ear plugs	0
Pen/pencil/small notebook	0
Travel games / Books	0
Gum	0
Book	0
Water bottle	0
Travel Pillow	0
Snacks /energy bars	0
Small Tokens/Gifts: Items to give away during local visits representing your institution or state	0
	0
	0



# Spending Money in + Ecuador

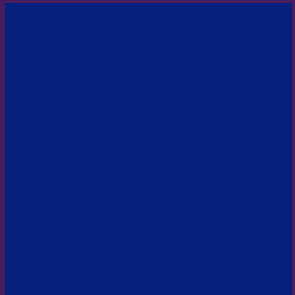
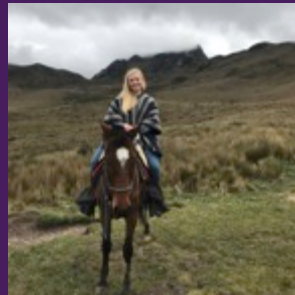
Our tour fee covers most expenses on site. We recommend extra amounts of cash (\$100-150) to cover additional expenses (i.e., souvenirs, tips, miscellaneous). However, because every participant is different, spending money requirements will vary. Please consider your own spending habits. In addition, it is always a good idea to have **extra cash/emergency fund** in case you find the souvenir of your dreams or need to make an unexpected purchase.

Ecuador's official currency since 2001 is the U.S. Dollar. If you bring cash, please bring smaller bills (**locals do not accept \$50 or \$100 dollar bills and rarely accept \$20s**). We highly discourage bringing traveler checks.

**Credit Cards:** ATMs are available (please check with your bank to ensure that your card works internationally). However, please do have cash on hand for the tour.



# Health// Safety // Policy



## Medical and Travel Insurance

All participants must secure medical travel insurance coverage PRIOR the trip. This insurance should cover you for the entire duration of the trip. While many participants may already be covered by a medical insurance policy, your policy for this tour must include travel, medical, emergency repatriation, overseas coverage, and travel/trip cancellation (For additional details and a description of risks, please refer to our liability contract). All participants must present **proof of insurance** in writing to My Ecuador Trip prior departure (i.e., copy of online receipt/policy with your name). My Ecuador Trip does not endorse the following travel insurance providers but includes their contact information for your reference

iNext card: <http://www.inext.com/plans/supplemental/basic.aspx>

CMI Insurance Worldwide: <https://www.cmi-insurance.com/default.aspx>

STA Travel Insurance: <http://www.statravel.com/international-travel-insurance.htm>

## Health Considerations

Each participant should consult a doctor for up-to-date medical travel information before departure. We highly recommend that you carry with you all personal medications needed (e.g., headache tablets, antibiotics, etc). When booking this tour, please carefully read about the physical demands of the itinerary. Please note that Quito is a city that is in the Andes mountains, with high altitude (medically defined as anything over 8,000 feet). We have not had any issues in the past, but because everyone reacts to altitude differently, and only you know your health and fitness level, please consult with your physician prior the trip.



## **Degree of Physical Demand (Activities)**

**Excursions and Tours.** Our tours involve moderate hikes in the city, rainforests, plains, and national parks. Our tour involves getting out of vehicles, walking on uneven terrain, and in some cases hiking in places with high elevation and some humidity. Our tours are suited for anyone who can walk up to 2-5 km (1.5 - 3 miles) per day. Some days there will be no walking and other days walking time may exceed 1-2 hours (broken up into shorter blocks). In the past, we have welcomed participants with different abilities and/or medical conditions. Please send us an email if you would like to find out more information about the level of activity and accommodation for each tour.

## **Vaccinations**

The program does not require proof of vaccinations or vaccination certificates.

Visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website for current information (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/>).

Consult with your doctor for additional information and questions.



# Cancellation Policies

## Participant Cancellation

For cancellations up to 90 days before traveling for any reason, we will refund all your payments minus a \$500 non-refundable deposit. Cancellations between 90 to 60 days before traveling for any reason will receive a 50% of your total payments (not including the \$500 non-refundable deposit). Cancellations under 60 days before traveling will not be entitled to any refunds. No partial refunds are given for unused meals, hotel rooms, airport transfers, or other program activities, for any reason whatsoever. All requests for cancellation and refunds must be in writing to [myecuadortrip2010@gmail.com](mailto:myecuadortrip2010@gmail.com).



## Tour Cancellation

The tour may be cancelled or postponed due to unforeseen circumstances by My Ecuador Trip. In this case My Ecuador Trip will refund all tour fees and has no further liability to the participant. My Ecuador Trip will not be responsible for additional costs, charges, or expenses, including cancellation/change charges assessed by airlines, travel insurance, and/or travel agencies. Please note that under no circumstances My Ecuador Trip is responsible for any flight cancellation or flight change charges incurred. My Ecuador Trip is not responsible for weather or travel-related problems and will not reimburse registration fees for these issues. We would like to mention that we have never cancelled a trip.

## Travel Warning Cancellation

In case of an act of war, terrorism, or the threat of an act of terrorism. Participants will receive a full refund (less the \$400 processing fee that will be applied for a future trip) should all of the following conditions be met: (a) a terrorist act, or threats of terrorist acts occur(s), which is directed against U.S. interests on U.S. soil or in U.S. airspace or directed against U.S. interests in any other country or in international airspace; and (b) as a result of these events, a formal Travel Warning is issued by the U.S. Department of State, stating that Americans should not travel to Ecuador and any other country or countries that are included in the participant's tour itinerary; and (c) the formal Travel Warning by the U.S. Department of State is issued within 30 days of the participant's departure.

## Itinerary Disclaimer

Each participant will receive a detailed itinerary closer to the trip's dates. Each participant will also receive a detailed list of how to prepare, packing, and other pertinent information. While it is our intention to adhere to itinerary described for each tour, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into each itinerary and My Ecuador Trip deserves the right to make alterations when necessary and at the discretion of My Ecuador Trip staff. Travel can be unpredictable, and the itinerary is a general guide to the tour and region. In addition any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered and travel times will be changed according to local circumstances.



Please contact us if you  
have any additional

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- EMAIL: myecuadortrip2010@gmail.com
- Ann Arbor, Michigan
- REGISTERED LLC