



## Spring Break Volunteer Program

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION RATES (December 1, 2014)

Tour Fee: \$1,100 (\$900 Travel w/ Friend)

# COST AND DETAILS

## What is the Volunteer Program?

Our volunteer program is a great opportunity for participants to spend some meaningful time giving back to the community. Our program is designed to work closely with a local child care center for vulnerable children and families. Duties and responsibilities include playing with children, designing activities (i.e., art projects, games, scrapbooks), teaching English, having fun, and helping the staff with daily activities. This is a great volunteer opportunity for participants seeking to work with children. One or more semesters of Spanish, or other experiences with Spanish is preferred but not necessary! As part of this volunteer program, we have designed a carefully planned itinerary that will also allow you to explore Ecuador. Everything is planned for you, so you can come down to Ecuador, volunteer, enjoy, and get to know this beautiful country.



## What is the estimated total budget for this program?

| ESTIMATED BUDGET                                  | Single Traveler<br>(Double Room / Shared Bathroom) | Travel with Friend<br>(Double Room / Shared Bathroom) |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Volunteer Program</b><br>(EARLY BIRD: Dec. 15) | <b>\$1,300</b><br>(EARLY BIRD: 1,100)              | <b>\$1,100</b><br>(EARLY BIRD: 900)                   |
| Roundtrip Airfare<br>(Calculated from MIAMI)      | \$600  | \$600   |
| Extra Spending Cash                               | \$150  | \$150   |
| Medical Travel Insurance Coverage                 | \$50   | \$50  |
| <b>TOTAL COST</b>                                 | <b>\$ 1,900</b>                                    | <b>\$ 1,700</b>                                       |

**\*Accommodations:** Total Fee based on double room accommodations and early bird registration








- a) Each double room has a private bathroom
- b) Double rooms are perfect if you are traveling with a friend
- c) Past participants report spending between \$100 - 150 (i.e., souvenirs, additional food and beverages, tips, miscellaneous).

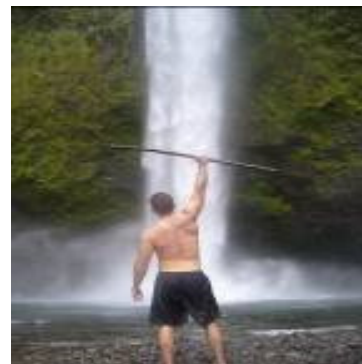
## What is included in the tour fee?

- ☀ Volunteer Activity
- ☀ Small Group Experience (Max. 12 Participants)
- ☀ Fully Furnished Apartments with Host Family
- ☀ All Meals
- ☀ Private Guided Daily Tours (English)
- ☀ Transfer from and to airport in Quito
- ☀ Private Van and Vehicles
- ☀ Entrance Fee for Local Attractions Included in Itinerary
- ☀ Pre-departure information and Staff Assistance
- ☀ Bottled Water
- ☀ Free Internet
- ☀ Farewell Reception



## What is not included in this tour fee?

-  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 (Price Range: \$30-70)



## How and when should I reserve a spot for this program?

The volunteer program is based on a minimum number of participants enrolled (minimum: 4 participants - maximum 12). We recommend that you reserve your spot for the tour as soon as you are ready to commit since there is limited space available. We have a rolling admissions process and will be admitting participants as they apply.

Our application deadline is **January 15 (EARLY BIRD: December 15)**. All applications must be submitted with the \$300 registration deposit. Refer to installments dates for all payments. We aim to confirm the trip immediately after reviewing applications and securing the minimum number of participants for the tour. Please review all trip details and logistics and request an application directly from My Ecuador Trip. **If you are not accepted to the program you will receive a full application refund.**

**Applications After Deadline:** If space is available, participants can apply. Please contact us for inquiries.

## How and When Should I book my airfare?

Airfare is not included on the price of this tour. Because our participants come from many different places, you will book your ticket on your own from the location is most convenient to you! Most participants will flight directly to Quito from MIAMI after their first connection (Quito is only a 3.5 hour flight from Miami). Participants will receive detailed flight information and arrival/departure time for guidance when booking this ticket. All participants must arrived and depart at indicated times.

When should I book my airfare?

Our goal is to confirm the program by December 15, 2014. You will receive a written confirmation and directions about booking your ticket at this point after you have been accepted to the program. **DO NOT** book your ticket without our confirmation in writing.



## Payment Schedule

| Installment Date                         | Installment Amount                                    |  |
|--|---|--|
|  | Single Traveler<br>(Double Room /<br>Shared Bathroom) | Travel with Friend<br>(Double Room /<br>Shared Bathroom) |
| Due w/ application<br>(Deadline Jan. 15) | \$300   | \$300  |
| January 1                                | \$500   | \$400  |
| February 1                               | \$500   | \$400  |
| <b>TOTAL COST</b>                        | <b>\$ 1,300</b>                                       | <b>\$1,100</b>   |

\* Early Bird Registration (**December 15, 2014**): Discount of \$200 will be applied to February 1 payment.

## What can we expect from our accommodations?

Fully furnished apartment style accommodations are provided for all participants. These modern apartments have been carefully decorated and offer amenities such as a living room, dining room, and kitchen space to help you relax and enjoy your visit. We believe it is essential to provide not only comfort and safety, but also a special insight to the local culture. That is why we keep our tour size to a maximum of 12 participants and offer a smaller intimate property for our guests to truly make this visit a unique experience for each visitor. The property is administered by a local family that resides on site.



## How about our meals?

Coming to Ecuador is the perfect opportunity to experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available in this country. All meals included are clearly labeled in the trip description. With our expertise, we have selected a number of places that will offer you an authentic food experience, sampling local flavors, enjoying places where you will come face to face with locals, sharing traditions, and above all, eating like a local. To build rapport amongst participants, groups eat together.

## What is the degree of physical demand for the activities organized?

**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 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.



# GENERAL DESCRIPTION

## Who can take part in this tour? Group Size?

Our Volunteer Program is designed for young adults and college students. We had participants from all over the U.S. and the world. Each tour group is limited to a maximum of 12 participants. We encourage you to invite friends from other schools across the country to enjoy this experience in Ecuador.

## Where is the tour taking place?

On the imaginary line that divides the globe into North and South, Ecuador stands as one of only 17 countries on earth considered as mega-diverse. Ecuador is “home to about 3,300 species of orchids, more than 1,500 species of birds, 350 species of reptiles, 450 species of amphibians, and more than 20,000 vascular plants” This diversity is also reflected on its people, with an ethnically mixed population representing Spanish and indigenous roots. Ecuador is one of the smallest countries in South America and lies 9,000 feet above sea level. Quito, our host city, is the capital of Ecuador. Quito was the first city named by UNESCO a “world heritage” city in 1978, and received the honor of "cultural capital" of Latin American in 2011.



With a population of 2.4 million, Quito offers one of the best preserved colonial centers in the world, combining a rich history with a contemporary metropolitan image. **National Geographic named Quito one of the top 10 places to visit in the world.**

## What to expect from Ecuador as our destination?

Our tours are carefully designed to offer participants the opportunity to explore Ecuador and familiarize with the local culture. The tour has many aspects that are educational, recreational, cultural, and also offer activities to simply relax and have fun. All daily excursions are carefully designed and make up an itinerary that is fun, enriching, and safe. A staff member from My Ecuador Trip will serve as a group leader and will guide the group through their journey. Transportation is provided for every tour. Some of the unique destinations for our tours include:



- |                          |                         |                            |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| ♣ Hike Rain Forest       | ♣ Sacred Lakes          | ♣ Waterfalls               |
| ♣ Volcano Observation    | ♣ Visit the Jungle      | ♣ Hot Springs              |
| ♣ Watch Exotic Animals   | ♣ Pululahua Crater      | ♣ Soccer Games             |
| ♣ Colonial Cathedrals    | ♣ Night Life            | ♣ Local Museums            |
| ♣ Artisanal Craft Market | ♣ Sky-Lift at 13,000 ft | ♣ Ethnic Food              |
| ♣ Shopping in Quito      | ♣ Middle of the World   | ♣ Humming Bird Observation |

## Do you have additional questions?

Please contact us if you have any additional questions or would like to discuss tour details.

# TRIP PREPARATION DETAILS

## Do you need medical / travel insurance to participate in this tour?

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>

Insurance Purchased Through Orbitz when you book your ticket

## 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 in the Andes mountains with high altitude (medically defined as anything over 8,000 feet). We have not have 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.

## Do you need vaccinations prior traveling to Ecuador?

All our programs take place in locations where no vaccinations are needed. These areas have no risk of malaria or yellow fever.

## Do you need a visa to visit Ecuador?

At the present 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.

## Should you bring cash to Ecuador?

Yes. Each trip details an estimated amount of cash participants will need to bring to cover additional expenses (i.e., souvenirs, alcoholic drinks, 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). We highly discourage bringing traveler checks.

Credit Cards: ATMs are available. However, you need to check with your bank before leaving to ensure that your card works internationally. Also, we recommend that withdrawing cash from an ATM will be for emergency purposes only, considering that our itinerary might take us to places where ATMs are not available.

### What should I pack?

Every participant will receive detailed packing information prior departure. We will be happy to answer any additional question.

### What is your cancellation policy?

#### Participant Cancellation:

Cancellation Policy: Refunds will be given for cancellations received in writing 60 days before the trip date less a \$300 processing fee. If you decide to cancel your participation in the tour 60 to 30 days before for any reason, we will refund 50% of your total payments (not including \$300 processing fee). Cancellations under 30 days before the trip dates 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).

Only cancellations under 30 days are eligible for credit for a future tour (travel, study, or volunteer tour) minus the \$300 application fee and any other expenses incurred by My Ecuador Trip. If credit is used, this tour must be booked within one year after the original tour date. No refunds will be given if the tour is not booked within that time frame. My Ecuador Trip will have no further liability with the participant.

#### 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 \$300 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 pertaining 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.

