



ECUADOR

February 16 to February 24, 2019

Faculty Leader: Wendy Langley (Education)

Fee: \$3000

Ecuador has a population of approximately 14 million people. The population is a mix of indigenous natives whose forebears were the Quechua speaking Inca, and Mestizo people with Spanish roots.

The main exports of this country are oil, bananas, shrimp, and other agricultural products.

There are three distinct regions consisting of the coastal lowlands, the tropical rainforest, and the highlands. Quito, the capital, is situated in the highlands at an elevation of 2850 meters. It is a city rich in history with well-preserved colonial architecture alongside newer modern developments. This region is also home to a chain of snowcapped volcanoes of varying seismic activity and size.

This Immersion Service Learning experience introduces participants to ecotourism, grassroots environmental conservation and community development projects in a cloud forest community, including environmental restoration and habitat conservation efforts. Students will also explore the Intillacta cloud forest ecological reserve, learn about chocolate production at a cacao farm, and visit the Mindo waterfall sanctuary.

Transportation

Group members fly into Quito and will use various ground transportation methods during their stay.

Housing & Meals

Accommodations may include hostels or modest hotels, with private bathroom facilities. Students will share double or triple rooms. Meals are provided on location. Vegetarian diets may be accommodated with prior notice. Menus are limited, based on locally available foods. Students will NOT have a choice of foods. Please note: host cannot guarantee an allergen free trip, including gluten, and peanut products.

Service Placements and Group Sessions

Service participation may include organic farm work, tree nursery maintenance and reforestation, helping in an artisan craft shop, and trail development. According to the current needs of the community, other projects may include improving local school infrastructure, building water tanks, improvements to the local meeting center, or building a school vegetable garden.

- Sunday 17** Halifax to Quito flights. Transfer to hostel and overnight
- Monday 18** Visit Quito Old Town and view the changing of palace guards. Walking history and culture tour.
- Tuesday 19** Travel to host community in the heart of the cloud forest. Welcome lunch, cultural introduction and service project groundwork.
- Wednesday 20** Community service work.
- Thursday 21** Community service work.
- Friday 22** Transfer to eco-reserve developing sustainable livelihoods through eco-tourism, agro-ecology and active nature conservation. Zip line through the canopy and discover the biodiversity of the forest. Work in the organic vegetable garden & organic shade grown coffee plantation.
- Saturday 23** Eco reserve greenhouse maintenance and zeforestation activities. Farewell dinner and evening departure for return flight
- Sunday 24** Arrival Halifax.



Please note this schedule is subject to change based on a number of factors. Flight delays, available space and staff at facilities, to name a few factors, all play a role in the scheduling process. Students should be prepared to be flexible.