

## Global LEAD: Ecuador

July 2 - 28, 2012

\$4750

The Ecuador experience will launch its inaugural program in 2012 with a compelling tour of this small but spectacular country. Affectionately known as the “authentic Costa Rica”, Ecuador brims with the same Spanish charms as its better known counterparts but without the crowds and watered down culture. You begin your adventure in colonial, yet modern Quito nestled 10,000 feet in the Andes Mountains, where you will experience the vibrant culture of this capital city and spend a week serving in a local community and afterschool camp.

From Quito, you will embark on a whirlwind adventure across the country which will surely convince you of the diversity and grandeur of this South American gem. During your journey, you will explore the jungle deep in the Amazon Basin, the hot springs of Pappallacta and the traditional Spanish haciendas (ranches) of the open plain. Action-packed days will be filled with adventures that push you out of your comfort zone and once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to learn more about the culture and yourself.

The leadership and service learning courses, offered for six hours of upper-level elective credit, will emphasize the culture and natural surroundings of Ecuador. Both courses use an experiential learning philosophy to augment classroom instruction with the rich cultural surroundings. You actively participate in field trips and activities outside the classroom including touring the Middle of the World Museum and visiting indigenous communities. Additionally, Global LEAD’s personal development curriculum is designed to engage you wherever you are in life, expose you to new ideas and life-changing experiences and equip you with the tools to make a difference in your community and the world.

## Global LEAD

### Highlights

- **Traverse** active volcanoes, natural hot springs, rugged jungles, wide open hacienda plantations and along the legendary Andes Mountains
- **Serve** and build friendships with impoverished youth through meaningful afterschool programs
- **Raft** class III and IV whitewater rapids as you paddle down the Rio Napo and Amazon Basin
- **Mountain bike** Cotopaxi National Park in the shadow of one of the highest active volcanoes in the world
- **Discover** the Ecuadorian culture through firsthand experiences with locals and indigenous communities
- **Unearth** the diversity of Quito, with its colonial town center and burgeoning cosmopolitan developments
- **Relax** and rejuvenate in the natural hot springs of Pappallacta nestled in a majestic cloud forest
- **Learn** about yourself, Ecuador’s rich culture and a little Spanish, too
- **Shop** and barter for handicrafts and souvenirs in one of South America’s largest indigenous markets
- **Hike** the freshwater-filled caldera of a dormant volcano at Cotacochi Crater Lake
- **Experience** the secrets of the “authentic Costa Rica” before it is discovered by the tourism industry

- **Ride** the teleferico (cable car) up the side of Pichincha volcano to 13,400 feet and enjoy the sweeping views of Quito
- **Explore** a hidden gorge overflowing with cascading waterfalls

## What's Included

### Pre-Departure:

- Pre-departure orientation
- Financial aid and scholarship advisory
- Pre-departure mailings
- Personal assistance as needed
- Transient student registration facilitation
- Group flight coordination (optional)
- Parental communication

### General Ecuador

- Housing
- Daily breakfast
- Weekly group dinners
- All meals while in the jungle
- All program related activities and service projects
- Global LEAD Certificate
- International health insurance
- Transfers to/ from airport abroad
- Emergency Assistance

### Specific Activities in Ecuador

- City tour and orientation
- Scavenger Hunt through the city
- Spanish survival school
- Middle of the World Museum tour
- Guaysamin Museum tour
- Cotopaxi National Park bike ride
- Waterfall Hike
- Indigenous community tour in the jungle
- Jungle guided tour
- Rafting trip
- Hot springs visit



- Cloud forest hike
- Lake Cotacachi visit and hike around the crater
- Otavalo artisan market visit - one of the most spectacular markets in all of South America

**After you return home:**

- Course credit transfer facilitation
- Resume assistance
- Networking group
- LEAD Lifestyle events

**Not included:**

- Airfare
- UGA tuition
- All personal expenses

## Curriculum

You are required to enroll in two courses offered exclusively for Global LEAD experiences through the University of Georgia, for a total of six hours of upper-level elective course credit.

***Leadership and the Arts and Sciences: FCID 3800***

*3 Credit Hours (upper-level elective)*

***Service Learning and the Arts and Sciences: FCID 3900S***

*3 Credit Hours (upper-level elective)*

***Life Change and Personal Development***

Global LEAD is unique in our additional attention to the personal development of our students. Our personal development curriculum is designed to engage you wherever you are in life, expose you to new ideas and life-changing experiences and equip you with the tools to make a difference in your community and the world.

## Housing

The accommodations in Ecuador are highly influenced by the diverse landscapes we encounter during our four weeks exploring this picturesque country. Throughout the trip you will stay in Quito - the nation's capital, Banos - a quaint village surrounded by waterfalls, Ahauno - a jungle community, Pappallacta - a village with natural hot springs and Otavalo - a town of handicraft artists. Each location was chosen for its distinctive cultural characteristics, safety and illustrious beauty.

In Quito, you will be staying in a lovely hotel in the Mariscal district which is within walking distance from dozens of restaurants, cafes and coffee shops. The hotel has internet, laundry services and a restaurant. Each bedroom has two single beds, large closets for storage, a private bathroom and a safe.

Baños is a small town surrounded by waterfalls and natural hot springs. While there, you will be staying in a beautiful lodge situated at the base of a mountain. The lodge has a pool, spa, restaurant and internet is also available. Everything in the town is within a five minute walk of our hotel.

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Casa de Suizo is situated in Ahuano, along the lush jungle. This amazing resort overlooks the river and includes a beautiful pool and quaint rooms. Each bungalow can sleep two or three people and has a private porch and hammock.

In Pappallacta, you will be staying in a hot springs spa. Each cabin can accommodate five to six people, including beautiful bedrooms, bathrooms and a living room. The cabins all have access to private natural hot springs as well. The lodge is also equipped with a full spa if you would like to take advantage of their services (and it will probably feel great after all our hiking!)

Finally, while in Otavalo, you will be staying in a traditional Spanish hacienda, with an enchanting courtyard, pool, entertainment room and restaurant.

## Flights

As an optional service to students, Global LEAD arranges group flights for each experience. We encourage you to take advantage of these flights as it will streamline your transportation and provide a safe, community-driven experience as you make the long journey abroad. We are finalizing the details for the 2012 group flights soon; however, past deposit dates are below:

- March 15: Nonrefundable deposit (\$500) due
- March 30: Balance due

## Service

The Ecuador service experience follows the same people-driven model as its predecessors in Cape Town and Greece. Working with our local service partner, Extreme Response, you will impact the lives of children and families living in Quito's most impoverished neighborhoods. The service projects, which have been creating change for over 15 years, began when the founders noticed more than 300 people gleaning their living by digging through the trash in a Quito garbage dump. Compelled to help, they began small but now the aid has blossomed into a daycare center

and preschool, a medical clinic and a wide variety of additional services such as family counseling, hygiene classes and education assistance.

During your service week in the community, you will have the opportunity to tear down cultural boundaries and build real connections while getting your hands dirty with tangible beautification projects. Through our unique access and service model, you will quickly realize that though you may not speak a common language, you do share a common bond. The small gestures and smiles transcend words and help to create moments that you will never forget.