

8th Grade Spanish Trip: Ecuador Adventure

Spanish students are eligible to participate in our Ecuador Adventure. 7th grade Spanish students should sign up by the end of the month and travel is during April break of their 8th grade year!

Ecuador adventure from the Galápagos Islands to service learning/cultural exchange in the highlands. Anticipated price for next year--\$5,000 (estimate).

This will be the sixth successful year of our Ecuador adventure. This trip begins with 3 days in the one of a kind, unique, and incredible Galapagos islands where students learn about nature and animals while cozying up to the most magnificent wildlife you can imagine. The highlights of this section include:

- *Kayaking
- *Hanging out and taking photos with giant land tortoises
- *Snorkeling with incredible wildlife such as sea lions, turtles, rays, iguanas, tons of fish, and more!
- *Daily boat excursions to various islands
- *Time to shop and bargain at local markets with friends
- *Swimming and beach time
- *Incredible fresh seafood

The second half of the trip is the service-learning component which is rich in language and culture. During this portion of the trip we partner with a rural Quechuan community in the Andes Mountains to work alongside locals, become part of a global community, make connections and learn more about ourselves and the rich Ecuadorian culture.

The highlights of this part of the trip include:

- *Learning about an alternative income Women's Co-op where they will teach us how to shear sheep, spin wool, and weave, all in Spanish!
- *A day-in-the-life exploration where we return with one of the women from the women's group and participate in her family's daily chores to give back, make connections, and experience life in a developing country while further practicing our Spanish.
- *2 days of service-learning work in a rural community where we partner with locals to help them improve their lives. We have worked on water purification projects and started to build classrooms in a rural school
- *A market activity where students will learn about the life of real Ecuadorian families; learn how to budget and bargain in Spanish at a local market as you buy food for your "family."
- *Action planning and tips on how to become an agent of change.
- *Learning about how to create sustainable change in developing communities and how to break the cycle of poverty.
- *Three market adventures where you get to try your hand at bargaining for souvenirs with your friends.

This trip is an amazing and unique opportunity. If your student elects to participate in this trip, we encourage him/her to contribute in some way to the cost of the trip as a way to make the experience more meaningful and impactful.

Thanks for coming! ¡Gracias por venir!

