



ECUADOR

QUITO | CUENCA

| Optional |
Galápagos Islands Extension

SPONSORED BY



The Association
OF FORMER STUDENTS[®]

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY[®]

Traveling Aggies

MARCH 23-APRIL 2, 2016



Quito

C

olorful, compact and bursting with cultural splendor, Ecuador offers the ultimate South American escape.

Stand with a foot in each hemisphere on the Equator, inhale the fragrance of orchids and crystalline lakes and gain insights into the deep-rooted traditions of indigenous people. From the cobblestone streets of colonial Quito, to the ruins of the Inca city Pumapungo, embrace the beauty of Ecuador on this fascinating journey.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Stay four nights total in **Quito** and six nights in **Cuenca**.
- ▶ Visit **Otavallo Market**, home to the country's largest collection of indigenous Andean arts and crafts.
- ▶ Journey to the middle of the Earth at **Mitad del Mundo**.
- ▶ Experience a taste of local life during a specially guided visit to the villages of **Chordeleg** and **Gualaceo**.
- ▶ Explore the **Ingapirca Ruins**, Ecuador's most important archaeological site.



Alumni Campus
Abroad® Advantages

The unique, value-added features of Alumni Campus Abroad® programs deliver an outstanding educational travel experience.

- **Carefully selected hotels** with comfortable accommodations are the perfect base for exploring the region's renowned landmarks and off-the-beaten-path treasures while providing opportunities to immerse yourself in the local culture and lifestyle.
- **Groups are limited to 36 travelers** to maximize your travel experience.
- **An extensive meal plan** is seasoned with traditional specialties.
- **Meet the People** opportunities allow you to interact with local residents and gain personal insight into their everyday lives.
- **Knowledgeable guides** lead your excursions and **local experts** present insightful educational lectures.
- **An experienced Campus Director** ensures attentive service for the duration of your stay.
- **All gratuities** for excursion guides and drivers are included.

Left: Young mother in traditional highland attire carries her baby on her back, Otavallo

Howdy, Ags!

Join us as we discover the charms of Ecuador. Slightly smaller than Nevada, this easy-going country is known for its friendly people, historic sites and incredible diversity — from a wide range of indigenous groups to its varied wildlife and terrain.

Kick off your journey in Quito, one of the world's first cities to be designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, and spend time in Cuenca, widely loved by Ecuadorians as well as American expats.

Afterward, make the most of your journey with an optional extension to the Galápagos Islands. Just 600 miles west of mainland Ecuador, enjoy a rare opportunity to experience a naturalist's Eden and walk in the footsteps of Charles Darwin on hallowed scientific ground.

Throughout this adventure, an experienced Campus Director will take care of every detail. Best of all, expert guides lead fascinating excursions that provide an in-depth look at Ecuadorian culture and history. Also, ample free time allows you to enjoy age-old markets, leafy plazas and the great outdoors.

This Ecuador program brings together a small group of travelers while leveraging the convenience and value of group travel. It is sure to be a popular program, so we encourage you to make your reservation today.

Gig 'em!

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.
Director, Travel Programs
The Association of Former Students

"The more trips we take with the Traveling Aggies, the more we want to take! We have NEVER been disappointed. We always love having people we trust along with us when we venture into unknown countries and settings. We always come home counting our new 'best friends.'"

**-Tim '74 and
Judy '78 Turner**

"Absolutely unbelievable scenery, you have to see to believe. Pictures just don't do it justice."

-Hubert Hillman '75

"Traveling Aggies trips are always exemplary! We look forward to more of their well-planned and perfectly executed trips in the future."

**-Robert '66 and
Darlene Mosty**

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AggieNetwork.com/Travel



ECUADOR

QUITO & CUENCA

Kick off your adventure in Quito, with its terracotta roofs, gilded churches and grassy riverbanks. Rub shoulders with locals in traditional garb as you stroll an Andean market and hear the lovely lilting accent of locals in Cuenca, the artistic heart of Ecuador. Enjoy fascinating art, architecture and enriching discussions, perfectly balanced by Ecuador's robust biodiversity. Extend your journey in the Galápagos, the best spot on Earth to observe wildlife living in harmony.

DAY ONE

Depart your gateway city for Quito, Ecuador.[†] Upon arrival, transfer[†] to the Swissôtel Quito.
[†]Provided for AHI FlexAir passengers.

DAY TWO

B | D

QUITO

Educational Focus: *Cultural Ecuador.*

Learn about Ecuador's famed Quito School of Art, which blossomed when Spanish teachers trained indigenous people how to produce religious art. The result was a bold and exuberant new style of art and architecture that makes Quito a feast for the eyes.

Excursion: *Colonial Quito.* View the lovely Old Town from atop Panecillo Hill, then enjoy a guided tour of the colonial district, including two beautiful churches built by the Spanish. Visit Plaza San Francisco and its namesake church, the oldest in Quito, followed by gloriously gilded La Compañía de Jesus. Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

DAY THREE

B | L

QUITO | OTAVALO

Excursion: *Volcanoes and Markets.*

Venture through the fertile Guayllabamba Valley to Laguna San Pablo, Ecuador's largest lake, and see the massive Imbabura Volcano rising in the distance. Continue to Otavalo, home to one of the greatest outdoor markets in the Andes. Visit easygoing Cotacachi, known for its handcrafted leather and its namesake lake in a volcanic crater.

Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch at a hacienda.



La Compañía de Jesús, Quito

UNESCO

Quito and Cuenca, Ecuador, are the UNESCO World Heritage sites featured in this program.

DAY FOUR

B | L | D

QUITO | CUENCA

Excursion: *Middle of the Earth.* Take advantage of this fun photo opportunity and stand on Mitad del Mundo, the spot where Charles-Marie de La Condamine made measurements in 1736 showing the equatorial line. Then, visit the Middle of the World Museum.

Continue to the Quito airport for your flight to Cuenca, a colonial gem at the heart of the Andes Mountains.

Upon arrival, check in to El Dorado Hotel.

Local Flavor: Enjoy regional specialties during dinner at a local restaurant.

DAY FIVE

B | L

CUENCA

Excursion: *Gualaceo and Chordeleg.*

Browse the Craftsmen Center and festive Sunday market in pretty Gualaceo. Continue to nearby Chordeleg, a Cañari village known for its talented artisans. Explore the jewelry museum, then visit an impressive orchid farm, blooming with color.



El Cajas National Park



Otavalo market



DAY EIGHT

B | D

CUENCA

Excursion: Cultural Cuenca. From rainforest groups to cowboy-like farmers, witness traditional clothing from Ecuador’s diverse indigenous cultures at the Museo Pumapungo. Continue to a Panama hat factory before heading to hilltop Turi to witness artisan ceramics.

DAY NINE

B | L

CUENCA

Excursion: El Cajas National Park. Drive through the Andes to rugged El Cajas National Park, home to scenic trails, crystalline lagoons and diverse wildlife, including llamas. A favorite spot for anglers, the park boasts hundreds of glacial lakes and waterfalls.

Local Flavor: Enjoy fresh Andean air and a traditional trout lunch at a park resort.

DAY TEN

B | D

CUENCA | QUITO

Relax in Cuenca, and then transfer to the airport for the flight back to Quito. Upon arrival, check in to the Swissôtel Quito. Tonight, celebrate your adventure with your fellow travelers during a Farewell Reception, Graduation Ceremony and Farewell Dinner.

DAY ELEVEN

B

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight.[†]

Note: Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change. This program operates at high altitude. Excursions may require walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths or other uneven surfaces. Included meals indicated each day as B/L/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.

DAY SIX

B | D

CUENCA

Excursion: Cuenca. Enjoy a guided walking tour featuring Cuenca’s cobblestone streets, sun-drenched plazas and 16th-century colonial landmarks built by indigenous cultures. This quaint city is known for its people and customs.

Educational Focus: The Andean Culture. Learn about the local people and their unique culture.

Cultural Experience: Savor the flavors of Ecuador during a cooking demonstration.

Local Flavor: Dine on local specialties during dinner at a Cuenca restaurant.

DAY SEVEN

B | L

CUENCA

Educational Focus: The Inca Empire and the Spanish Conquest. Learn about the Inca Empire in Ecuador and how a few Spanish conquistadors wrested these spectacular lands from the Inca.

Excursion: The Ingapirca Ruins. Visit the 500-year-old complex of hilltop ruins built by the Canari, a pre-Inca people.

INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations

- **Four nights** total in **Quito, Ecuador**, at the deluxe **Swissôtel**.
- **Six nights** in **Cuenca** at the first-class **El Dorado Hotel**.

Meals

- Enjoy an **extensive meal plan**, featuring 10 breakfasts, five lunches and five dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample authentic regional specialties during select meals at featured local restaurants.
- Take advantage of leisure time to try the local cuisine independently.
- Attend a Welcome Reception and Dinner.
- Gather for a Farewell Reception and Graduation Ceremony followed by a Farewell Dinner.

Your Exciting Travel Program

(For details, see the day-by-day itinerary.)

- **Informative educational programs** presented by local experts will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions:**
 - Stroll through the colonial district of Quito.
 - Witness Imbabura Volcano and Laguna San Pablo en route to Otavalo, home to a renowned market.
 - Visit the Middle of the World Museum and stand on the equator.
 - Admire handicrafts at the Sunday market in Gualaceo, then discover Chordeleg.
 - Tour the open-air museum of Cuenca.
 - Explore the Ingapirca Ruins.
 - Discover the treasures in Museo Pumapungo and learn about Panama hats.
 - View the natural beauty of El Cajas National Park during a tour.

Transportation

- All flights and deluxe motor coach transfers in the Land Program itinerary and baggage handling on these transfers are included.

Many Included Extras

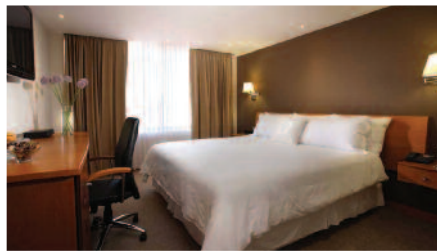
- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Campus Director** throughout your stay.
- Tipping of excursion guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

ACCOMMODATIONS



SWISSÔTEL QUITO QUITO

With its excellent service and luxurious amenities, the Swissôtel Quito is set within easy access to the city's historic Old Town. With stunning views of the Cotopaxi and Pichincha volcanoes, the hotel offers six restaurants, a spa, an indoor/outdoor swimming pool and more. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available.



EL DORADO HOTEL CUENCA

Located in the heart of Cuenca's historic center, El Dorado Hotel is a uniquely modern oasis featuring soothing design, memory foam mattresses, marble decorated bathrooms and all the comforts of home. Enjoy two restaurants, a fitness center and a spa, featuring a sauna, steam room and massage services. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available.

FASCINATING
OPPORTUNITY



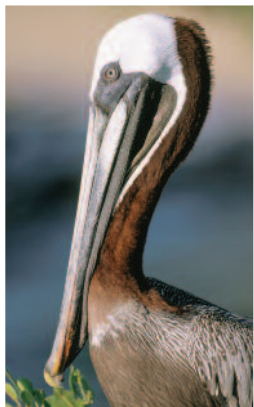
| OPTIONAL | POST-TRIP EXTENSION TO THE *Galápagos Islands*

After your adventure in Ecuador, take advantage of an opportunity to discover the wonders of the Galápagos Islands and the mind-boggling native wildlife that prompted Charles Darwin's world-changing theories of adaptation and evolution. **Spend four nights** on the islands at all-inclusive Red Mangrove lodges. Discover pristine Santa Cruz, Seymour and Isabela islands, each with its own ecosystem, including white sandy beaches, scenic trails, and prickly pear cactus forests.

Witness unique creatures unfazed by admirers in this precious wonderland. Highlights include a visit to the Charles Darwin Research Center; a cruise to Seymour Island on a catamaran; and lunch at Campo Duro, a stunning farm home to giant tortoises. Includes hotel accommodations; four breakfasts, lunches and dinners; excursions; transfers between airport/hotel+; and baggage handling.

\$3,695 per person, double occupancy

\$4,390 single occupancy



Reserve your trip to Ecuador, today!

Trip #:9-22602W

Send to: The Association of Former Students
Attn: Traveling Aggies
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840-2918
Phone: **979-845-7514** Fax: **979-845-9263**
Toll Free: **800-633-7514**



Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

Guest 1: _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Guest 2: _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home: (_____) _____ Cell: (_____) _____

Sharing room with _____ (Form sent separately.)

Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

(1) _____ (2) _____
Class Year Class Year

Optional Four-Night Post Extension

Please make _____ reservations for me (us) on the Galápagos Islands Optional Post extension.

I/we authorize you to make my/our reservation(s) as follows:

Land Program and AHI FlexAir

I/we reserve the Land Program and request the AHI FlexAir to and from Quito, Ecuador, to depart from:

Departure City

- Please contact me/us regarding air options.
- Please send me/us information on upgrading my flights.

Land Only Program

I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.

Single Accommodations

- I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$695 (limited availability).
- I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Reservations are subject to availability and are processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations are to be paid in full by Jan. 8, 2016 (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex. Make checks payable to AHI International.

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Enclosed is a deposit of _____ (\$600 per person required) to reserve _____ place(s).

- Accept my check made payable to **AHI International**.
- Charge my: MasterCard Visa Discover Amex

Card # _____

Expires _____ / _____

(Signature as it appears on credit card)

Please note: Any payment to AHI International constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

LAND PROGRAM

March 23-April 2, 2016

Full Price

\$3,045

Special Savings

\$250

Special Price*

\$2,795*

*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.
VAT is an additional \$295 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations are an additional \$695 (limited availability).

NOT INCLUDED-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas, entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL-The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

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BAGGAGE-Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

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CANCELLATION-In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$250 per person administrative fee. (Please note that you may choose, at the time of cancellation, to apply the withheld administrative fee to a future AHI Travel program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following.) Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75-30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. **TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE.** All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI International Corporation.

AHI FLEXAIR

March 23-April 2, 2016

Our personalized air program allows you to select your flights, routing, class of service and dates of travel in consultation with one of our experienced Passenger Service Representatives. Airfares will vary, depending on airline, routing and class of service. Specially negotiated air rates are often available. In most cases, transfers between the airport and hotel/cruise ship will be included on arrival and departure days. Your Passenger Service Representative will provide you with all of the details you need to guarantee your transfer. Book your air with us to ensure assistance in the case of schedule changes or delays that may impact your air travel plans. AHI FlexAir participants automatically receive flight insurance worth up to \$250,000, subject to policy terms.



Imbabura Volcano

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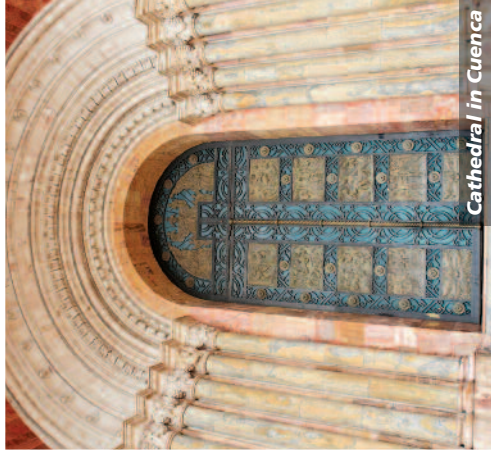
ECUADOR16 37



Indigenous man



Ingapirca ruins



Cathedral in Cuenca

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With AHI you can rely on:

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