

Dear Prospective Participant,

We are excited you have expressed interest in traveling to Ecuador with us next summer! At this point, you probably want to hear more about the trip and the expenses. The trip is planned for Sunday July 6, through Sunday July 21st, 2014.

To some extent the cost of the trip will depend on the total amount of travelers, because with more participants, economies of scale lower the price for each individual. The cost of the trip will be *no more than* US\$4,300 per person. This would be dependent upon having 14 people sign up (the minimum number needed) and would decrease about \$200-300 with a group of 22, which would be our maximum allowable group size due to guiding and accommodation limitations. **The first deposit of US\$2,000.00 will be due on Sat. Nov 9.** At this time, the decision will be made of whether the trip is feasible or not. If it is, the final payment will be due Feb 1 and the amount will depend on the actual final expenses, not to exceed \$2400. Priority will be based heavily on when deposits are received, which will allow us to firm up our plans. Make checks out to Chontacuro Travel, LLC, and mail them c/o Scott Taylor, 404 West Story, Bozeman MT 59175.

This cost would include:

- All ground and inter-island transportation and transfers
- Accommodations (double occupancy) in Quito, Sacha Lodge, Termas de Papallata, and in the Galapagos Islands
- Flights between Quito and Sacha and Quito and the Galapagos Islands
- Meals: all at Sacha Lodge, all breakfasts, some dinners in Galapagos, dinners at Termas de Papallata
- All activities listed in the itinerary
- All gratuities, except for those associated with non-included meals.

What is NOT included:

- Travel to and from Quito and your home (variable depending on where you live)
- Medical expenses, vaccinations
- Galapagos Park Entrance fee (currently US\$100)
- Meals indicated in the itinerary (this gives you considerable flexibility, but estimate \$150-250)
- Shopping (El Ejido park market is where you will want to flex your wallet – cheaply if you can bargain!)
- Travel insurance (recommended)
- Passport valid for a minimum of 6 months after arrival

Other things about the trip:

I want to emphasize that we are teachers and NOT travel agents; we are making the arrangements to the best of our abilities and arranging for most of our travel through Ecuadorian companies with whom we have developed excellent relationships over the past ten years. You are welcome to contact them if you have any questions about their legitimacy, and if you plan on bringing your own students in the future (like Paul and I have done four times), their services come highly recommended. Their websites will be found on the trip webpage.

As mentioned, the price assumes **double occupancy** for accommodations. It was simply too challenging to find single availability for each hotel, so it will not be an option. The type of people who would be interested in this trip hopefully also have an adventurous spirit and would not be uncomfortable rooming with a like-minded person. We will ensure that numbers allow for strictly same-sex accommodations, unless you are bringing someone – then it's entirely up to you!

Many **meals** will be provided, but to allow for maximum flexibility for you, some are not included as indicated by the space on the itinerary for each day.

Flying to Quito. Until it is certain there are enough participants, **DO NOT** make flight arrangements. You should get an idea of the cost of a flight so you can make your own decision of whether you are going to go or not. Once we have met the minimum, you will be informed so you can begin to make your travel arrangements.

Your deposit check WILL NOT BE CASHED until we have enough participants to guarantee the trip will happen. If it turns out that the trip will not happen, your check may be returned to you or destroyed at your request. If you would like it to be mailed back to you, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your deposit. I will return that to you in the event the trip happens.