

Ecotourism and Services Learning in the Galapagos and Amazon Basin

This two-week adventure features opportunities to traverse the highlands of the Andes, explore the intricacies of the Galapagos, interact with local community members, conduct a service project and participate in conservation and environmental studies all the while discovering the magnificent natural beauty of Ecuador. Special emphasis is on developing a cross-cultural awareness and service ethic within an environmental worldview.

PROGRAM LEADERS

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COURSES

REC 480 (3 hours) - Ecuador: Recreation and Tourism

IDST 350 (3 hours) - Study Abroad

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotels

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

REC 480 (3 credit hours)

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

- Develop an appreciation for and an understanding of the historical, sociological, and ecological character of Ecuador and the Galapagos;
- Develop and build an appreciation for and an understanding of the diverse geographical character of Ecuador and the Galapagos;
- Discuss the influence of the diversity of natural wonders of Ecuador and the Galapagos and ensuing influence on ecotourism and community development;
- Explain and discuss the various natural resource management challenges facing private recreation operators and government planners in highly traveled areas such as the Galapagos National Park;
- Demonstrate group and personal leadership skills that include effective communication, judgment, decision-making, tolerance, inclusion, and risk management;
- Develop an appreciation for the strong contribution of service projects to local people, communities, and the environment;
- Recognize the various methods of instruction for learning;
- Discuss and articulate your role in a global society through community service in the host county.

IDST 350 (3 credit hours)

Upon the conclusion of this course, students will gain the ability to:

- *Describe, comprehend at deeper levels, and apply basic multicultural leadership perspectives and cultural competencies in an ever-changing global society.*
- *Analyze and compare behaviors of effective multicultural leaders*
- *Describe and apply leadership theories and models through real world examples*
- *Understand, compare, and contrast tools available for measuring and improving diverse, multicultural leadership effectiveness*
- *Recognize differences between leadership behaviors across time periods and cultural dimensions*
- *Utilize the knowledge and experiences gained from this course to continue developing their leadership competencies*
- *Apply gained leadership knowledge to various contexts and situations*

PROGRAM DETAILS

LOCATION: Ecuador: Quito, Ambato, Tena, Isabela Island, and Galapagos

ACADEMIC TERM: Winter 2019: January 6 – 18, 2019

ITINERARY (subject to change) for full itinerary see syllabus

January 6	Nashville, TN to Quito, Ecuador	January 14	Galapagos
January 7	Quito	January 15	Galapagos
January 8	Ambato	January 16	Galapagos
January 9	Ambato	January 17	Galapagos/Quito
January 10	Tena	January 18	Quito, Ecuador to Nashville, TN
January 11	Tena		
January 12	Quito		
January 13	Galapagos		

The schedule is subject to change due to educational opportunities that may arise unexpectedly, variation in weather, and other factors beyond the control of the course instructors and staff.

ELIGIBILITY

Student Eligibility - Program leaders may determine stricter eligibility requirements, but at a minimum, all applicants earning credit in a program would meet these requirements:

- Current WKU student eligible to enroll in WKU courses OR students from outside WKU may participate as non-degree seeking student,
 - Good academic standing as defined in the Undergraduate Catalog or Graduate Catalog,
 - A minimum of 18 years of age at time of departure.
 - No current disciplinary sanctions as verified by the WKU Office of Student Conduct
 - Students who become ineligible to attend the program after applying due to disciplinary sanctions will be subject to standard program cost penalty rates. Students are responsible for notifying the Office of Study Away when they become aware of this ineligibility. For eligibility questions pertaining to disciplinary sanctions, students should contact the WKU Office of Student Conduct.
 - Students must complete [Study Abroad & Global Learning application process](#) prior to being registered in this course. All students studying abroad are required to pay \$150 application fee.
 - Students must select program on TopNet and pay \$250 deposit to finalize admittance process,
 - Student must possess passport book valid for a least six (6) months after return date.
 - Students must complete pre-departure orientations,
 - Full payment prior to departure, and
 - Permission of instructor(s) is required.
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BASE PACKAGE

Cost: \$3,500

Included in Base Package

- Undergraduate and graduate tuition for 3 credit hours
- All lodging and accommodations during program in Ecuador and Galapagos
- Entrance fees for all group program related excursions
- Course-related ground and air transportation in Ecuador and Galapagos
- Round-trip flight between Nashville, TN and Quito, Ecuador
- Round-trip flight between Quito, Ecuador and Galapagos
- International medical insurance
- Some meals – ask professors for more information

Excluded from Base Package

- Independent travel (non-program travel) or optional excursions
- Personal expenses such as laundry, phone service, and Internet access
- Transportation to and from hometown and Nashville Airport (BNA)
- Travel cancellation/interruption insurance. *Highly recommended.*
- Meals, services, and beverages outside group meals – ask professors for more information
- Airline baggage fees for extra bags or excess weight
- SAGL Study Abroad Application fee of \$150

Study Abroad courses are not eligible for employee tuition waivers or discounts.

Final program fee subject to change due to travel arrangements.

Green Sheet subject to change due to adjustment in program or pricing.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

<p>Your TopNet Account will be billed according to the following Payment Schedule:</p> <p>September 1 – Program Fee will be charged to student's TopNet account (minus \$250 non-refundable deposit). Balance must be paid prior to program departure. Students applying after this date will be billed on a rolling basis.</p> <p>* Deposit paid by student directly with a credit card – NOT billed to student account.</p>	<p>Penalty for Withdrawal or Non-payment:</p> <p>After September 1: 25% of program cost billable to student After October 1: 50% of program cost billable to student After November 1: 75% of program cost billable to student After December 1: 100% of program cost billable to student (No refund)</p> <p>If a balance remains after the payment due date, the participant may be dropped from the program. A student may remain in the program by providing an award notification from WKU's Student Financial Assistance that verifies ability to pay the program fee immediately after aid is received.</p>
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The total amount due in your semester invoice may reflect the combined charges for multiple terms (i.e. Fall and Winter or Spring and Summer) and includes program fees for your Faculty-Led Study Abroad program. Please see your TopNet account for a breakdown of amounts due per term. Refer to your Faculty-Led Study Abroad program's Green Sheet for final payment due dates and billing information. If you have any questions, please email facultyled.abroad@wku.edu.

LOGISTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **Passport Requirements** - Each participant must have a passport that includes an expiration date, which is 6 months beyond the last date of the program.
- **FAFSA** - In order to qualify for financial aid, student should apply for FAFSA at time of application.
- **Physical Requirements** - This program includes a wide range of activities. These activities involve varying physical requirements and levels of challenge and risk. The activities planned require no prior experience, but some skills are needed such as swimming. Participants are ultimately responsible for making personal decisions about participating in activities. See syllabus for some sample activities, requirements, and things to consider

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER

Western Kentucky University and its associates are not responsible for any loss due to theft, personal injury, flight or weather delays, negligence, or default of suppliers, or suppliers changing of itineraries. They and their associates are not responsible for any loss due to travel/flight delays or changes in travel plans due to Acts of Nature or other unforeseen circumstances, nor are we responsible for accidents and medical care. Tour services are furnished by independent contractors who are not agents or servants of Western Kentucky University. Refunds are not available for unused portions of the package.
