



YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING
Ecuador

Summer Program



Ecuador

All you need is Ecuador!! Did you know that?... Come to Ecuador, the country of the middle of the world, to live a entirely **new experience**. Learn about the culture through a caring and loving family who will show you who we are and why family is so important to Ecuadorians. They will share not only the immediate family life, but the extended family as uncles, aunts, grandparents among others, by visiting and sharing with them... because in Ecuador, family is the most important part of the culture.

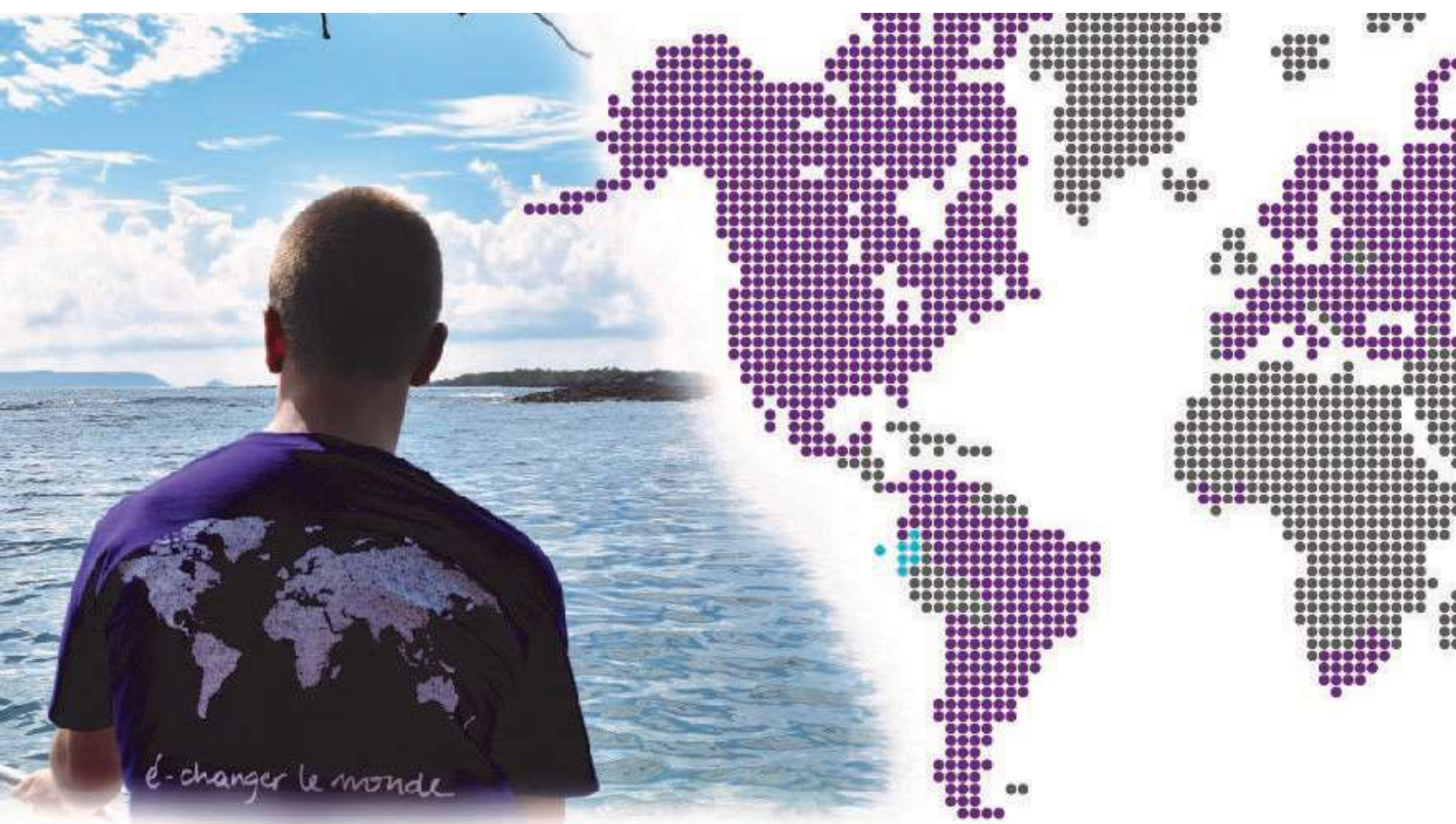
Ecuador is a **beautiful** country! Even though it is a very small country, the richness of its **nature, landscapes** and **scenery** is one of a kind. This little country has an immense geographical diversity and has been described as the microcosmos of South America. With four great regions: coast, highlands, jungle and Galapagos Islands and thanks to its compact size, within hours you can travel from beaches, to mountains, to tropical forests and to the enchanted Galapagos Islands.

This incredible experience will be **unforgettable**. Not only will you grow as a person as you learn to overcome obstacles and different situations that are part of the exchange experience, but you will also discover and learn about a new culture and language filled with many native **traditions**. Open your mind and your heart to Ecuador and have a wonderful experience in our little, yet beautiful country.

So...are you ready to take part in a life-changing experience?

**see
the world
up close**





The Program

This six-week program was designed to be the perfect plan for you to enjoy your summer vacations while you learn as much as you can about an entirely new country for many: Ecuador. Because of the school system in Ecuador, you won't be attending school, but you will use this time to immerse yourself in the culture in other ways. With all hands-on experiences, you will be able to experience to the fullest what Ecuador has to offer.

Everyone coming on the summer program will be placed with host families in Quito, giving you the opportunity to be part of the buzzing life in the capital of Ecuador. Because of the nature of the program, previous Spanish knowledge is not required.

This is a short but wonderful experience you never will forget!!!



take part
in a
lifelong
journey

The Experience

There are three different activities: Spanish lessons, day-trips, and longer trips.

The Spanish lessons will happen two or three times a week depending on the other activities you have. During your lessons, you will work towards improving your language skills, increment vocabulary and test what you've learned in fun activities such as cooking.

With this program you will have four day-trips, each with a different topic and various learning opportunities. The first one is a visit to one of the many local markets you can find in Quito. There you will get to see and try some of the fruits that you have never tasted before, such as: mora, taxo, naranjilla, and granadilla. Plus, you will get to try some fruits you are used to eating but with the difference that these were hand picked from their trees or bushes no longer than two days ago. Believe us, you will taste the difference.

The second trip will be to a market of hand made products made by the local community of the Otavalos. Here you will not only have the chance to see all the astounding products they create, but also the way they live their everyday lives combining their ancestral traditions with the globalized ways of living.

The third trip is entirely dedicated to learning about the colonial history of Ecuador. You will visit the Old Town of Quito, which used to be the center of the Spanish Empire in Ecuador. There you will get to see the old way of living, learn about the various artistic expressions that were developed in that time, and also see some breathtaking places, such as the churches covered entirely of gold, a convent with a unique story about how it was built, and the basilica which took over 100 years to build and has some of the strangest gargoyles in the world.

The last trip will be to visit the Mitad del Mundo. Do you know where does Ecuador get its name from? This trip and some fun experiments at the equator will tell you all about it.

