



Unearth Nicaragua:

Harper College Connects with the Global Community

March 22 – April 1, 2018

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

Get ready to spend time immersing yourself in Nicaraguan history, culture, cuisine and service through meaningful experiential learning with La Mariposa Spanish School. Students will engage in cross-cultural exchange, service, day trips, and guided reflection with the goal of breaking down barriers, educating, and promoting global leaders.

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Unearth the World's partner in Nicaragua is a sustainable eco-hotel and Spanish school. This partner stimulates the local economy, brings responsible tourism, jobs, and sustained income into the community. The profits from the Spanish school are used to fund various local initiatives like school libraries, an organic farm, a reforestation project, afterschool programming and a school working with children with disabilities.

The eco-hotel has created sustainable employment by hiring more than 60 local people as staff at the eco-hotel. Over the past 7 years, they have pumped approximately \$500,000 into the community which has improved quality of life and been used to fund many local community projects. These projects have provided 26 families with clean water and vegetable gardens, allowed 15 disabled children to go to school, improved infrastructure at several primary schools serving close to 1,000 students, and rescued close to a hundred animals (cats, dogs, horses, birds and monkeys).

Your group will play an integral role in advancing the mission of the eco-hotel while simultaneously gaining a deeper understanding of Unearth the World's approach to global service and partnership model. Students will stay in the group study center, engage in several site visits, learn about the mission and vision of Unearth the World's partner and examine foreign aid from a macro and micro perspective.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Students will stay at the private group study center, El Piscacho, that is owned and operated by the eco-hotel. Students will stay in bunkrooms; chaperones will stay in private rooms on the same property. All meals will be eaten together at the study center and transport to/from volunteering will be provided.

SERVICE:

As part of your visit, the students will be able to spend several hours per day volunteering with local community projects. It has been determined that the group will be split into small groups and focus their efforts on Los Pipitos, the Nature Reserve and one/more of the education programs.

DAILY ITINERARY:

Unearth the World
Kathryn Pisco
kathryn@unearththeworld.com

Date	Activities	Assignment
Thursday, March 22	Travel day. Pick up at Managua airport by hostel shuttle to La Bicicleta Hostal, Managua.	N/A
Friday, March 23	Morning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private transport to the eco-hotel • Orientation to Unearth the World's partner and volunteer projects. • Introduction to the El Piscacho Study Centre (eco building and reforestation), visit organic farm, visit some of the community projects (the primary school projects, the community gardens, the community center). (Local staff) • Walk and tour of the local town - La Concha (including discussion of religion, culture and local issues such as education and water supply) (Local staff) <p>Afternoon: ENG 102 coursework Evening: reflection</p>	Journal 8 due Read Conclusion in Green and Johnson, pp. 243-49. Blog 1
Saturday, March 24	Morning : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on environmental issues facing Nicaragua, and deforestation in the area. (Local staff) • Trip to Cana Onda (land that is being reforested by the eco-hotel) for a hike. (Local staff) <p>Afternoon: ENG 102 coursework Evening: reflection.</p>	Stoecker, Chapter 2, pp. 10-22 Blog 2
Sunday, March 25	Private transport to Laguna de Apoyo volunteering (Estacion Biologica)	Blog 3
Monday, March 26	Morning: (first day transport to service project locations) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service (Nature Reserve, Los Martinez, Los Pipitos) <p>Afternoon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours of Spanish lessons • ENG 102 coursework </p>	Stoecker, Chapter 3, pp. 21-28 Blog 4
Tuesday, March 27	Morning: Service (students get themselves to locations) Afternoon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours of Spanish lessons 	Shared Inquiry on Walker, Chapter 7, pp. 151-189

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture on recent history of Nicaragua (story of Sandinista revolution) (Local staff) <p>Evening: reflection</p>	Blog 5
Wednesday, March 28	<p>Morning: Service</p> <p>Afternoon: excursion to Masaya Volcano</p> <p>Evening: lecture on ecology of central Nicaragua and environmental goals of the eco-hotel foundation (Local staff)</p>	<p>Journal 9 due</p> <p>Blog 6</p>
Thursday, March 29	<p>Morning: Service</p> <p>Afternoon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours of Spanish lessons • ENG 102 coursework • Conversation with founder of eco-hotel <p>Evening: reflection</p>	<p>Shared Inquiry on Stoecker, Chapter 8, pp. 95-113</p> <p>Blog 7</p>
Friday, March 30	<p>Morning: Service</p> <p>Afternoon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours of Spanish lessons • ENG 102 coursework <p>Evening: live music</p>	<p>Read Walker, Chapter 8, pp. 191-218</p> <p>Blog 8</p>
Saturday, March 31	Departure for day trip to Leon. (Local staff)	N/A
Sunday, April 1	Private transport to MGA for flight home.	N/A

COSTS AND INCLUSIONS:

Pre-trip training (Unearth the World's 5-part Global service-learning curriculum)
 Pre-trip logistical support
 All accommodations (MGA hostel and Group study center rooms)
 All in-country transportation (Airport pick-up/drop off, transport to Leon)
 All meals
 Volunteer projects and intentional cultural exchange
 Post-trip support/coaching (led by Unearth the World)
 Daily Spanish lessons
 Evening excursion to Masaya Volcano
 Environmental Lecture and Trip to Canada Onda
 History Lesson with local Historian
 Salsa Lessons and Live Music
 Day trip to Leon and guide
 Day trip to Laguna de Apoyo

Costs Not Included

Airfare to Managua
 International Health Insurance

