



Unearth Nicaragua:

Providence College Connects with the Global Community

March 4 - 10, 2018

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

Get ready to spend time immersing yourself in Nicaraguan history, culture, cuisine and service through meaningful experiential learning. 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. The primary focus of this global service-learning program will be on foreign aid.

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Unearth the World's partner in Nicaragua is a sustainable eco-hotel and Spanish school. The eco-hotel 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 the eco-hotel 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 visit and learn about several of the eco-hotel's community projects. Students will also have the opportunity to engage in hands on service on one morning!

DAILY ITINERARY:

Sunday, March 4: Arrival

- Pick up at Managua airport by driver.
- Private transfer to El Piscacho.
- Orientation and overview of the eco-hotel.
- Introduction and short walking tour of the local community.
- Dinner, discussion led by founder of the eco-hotel about foreign aid in general.
- Reflection.

Monday, March 5: El Porvenir site visit

- Breakfast at Group Study Center.
- 7:00 AM Depart La Mariposa for Ciudad Dario
- 9:30 AM Arrive El Porvenir office. Introductions and orientation about Water & Sanitation work
- 10:00 AM Depart for site visit to Las Mesas, a village 20KM west of town consisting of 110 families, with an average monthly income of about \$66. This community has been working with El Porvenir since 2003, beginning with a water system and latrines, and now continuing into reforestation and will share their stories about how these projects have improved their quality of life.
- 11:30 AM Return to Ciudad Dario for lunch.
- 1:00 PM Depart for site visit to a new project site for El Porvenir in Candelaria, a village 15 KM north of Ciudad Dario. This village consists of 79 families with an average monthly income of about \$34.50.
- 2:30 PM Depart for the eco-hotel.
- Dinner, reflection and downtime at the eco-hotel.

Tuesday, March 6: Service & History

- Breakfast at Group Study Center.
- Morning service site visit with the eco-hotel staff.
- Lunch at Group Study Center.
- Afternoon Nicaraguan History lesson.
- Dinner followed by live music and salsa dancing.

Wednesday, March 7: USAID, Embassy & Mercado Oriental

- Breakfast at Group Study Center.
- Morning spent with USAID and the US Embassy in MGA.
- Lunch in MGA.
- Guided visit to Mercado Oriental in MGA.
- Return to the eco-hotel Group Study Center for dinner, downtime and reflection.

Thursday, March 8: Compas de Nicaragua site visit

- Breakfast at Group Study Center.
- 7:30 AM Pick up in passenger van at the eco-hotel. Leave for Women in Action
- 8:30 AM Arrive at Women in Action (La Primavera Neighborhood, Managua)



- Celebration of International Women's Day! Welcome gathering with WIA. Learn about WIA's history, current programs. Participate in icebreaking games and cultural dancing.
- 10:15 AM Informal meeting with WIA about their lives
- 11:00 AM Leave for La Paz, Carazo
- 12:30 PM Arrive in La Paz at Herman Alguere's art gallery/workshop. Visit Herman's gardens and art gallery, short nature hike in search of howler monkeys
- 1:30 PM Quick tour of La Paz (church, park, museum, homemade bread in clay ovens)
- 2:30 PM Visit to organic farm. Meeting with youth environmental group. Learn about organic farming, coffee, reforestation and the miracle moringa tree, biogas systems (methane gas from manure for cooking) and worm composting. Make homemade chocolate from organic cocoa beans.
- 5:00 PM Return to the eco-hotel.
- 5:40 PM Arrive at the eco-hotel.
- Dinner and downtime at the eco-hotel Group Study Center.

Friday, March 9: Service & PEACE CORPS visit

- Breakfast at Group Study Center.
- Morning service at project of students' choice.
- Lunch with Peace Corps volunteers + discussion about their experiences in the region.
- Afternoon activity: Masaya Volcano hike
- Afternoon/evening trip to Granada for dinner, strolling and shopping.
- Return to the eco-hotel Group Study Center for bed.

Saturday, March 10: Masaya Markets & Departure

- Breakfast at El Piscacho with closing discussion on foreign aid.
- Activity: Visit to Masaya Markets
- Depart for US. Private transfer to MGA airport.

INCLUSIONS:

Pre-trip training (Unearth the World's 5-part Global service-learning curriculum)

Pre-trip logistical support

All accommodations (Group study center)

All in-country transportation (Airport pick-up/drop off, transport to various site visits)

All meals

All site visits

Volunteer projects and intentional cultural exchange

Evening excursion to Masaya Volcano

Foreign Aid Lecture

Visit and guide of Mercado Oriental in MGA and Masaya Markets

Salsa Lessons and Live Music

Evening trip to Granada

Post-trip support/coaching (led by Unearth the World)

**Airfare to Managua & International Health Insurance are not included in the cost of this program.*

Unearth the World

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