

# GLOBAL EXCHANGE REALITY TOURS

## Sample Itinerary for December Ecuador Delegation

### Thursday, December 27th

Start of GX Tour! Arrive in Quito and transfer to hotel  
Activities: Relax, Call home

### Friday, December 28th

**8:30 AM** Breakfast at restaurant run by a cooperative of Amazonian artists that sell fair trade crafts and organic chocolate beans in their restaurant and abroad in order to promote sustainable development, rainforest conservation, and preservation of indigenous cultures.

Presentation by a *compañero* or *compañera* about the cooperative being visited.

**10:00 AM** Orientation: Review of itinerary and discussion regarding socially conscious travel.

**11:00 AM** Presentation by a representative of the government. The group will also discuss the socio-political, cultural and historical aspects of Ecuadorian reality, power relations, gender issues, the rise of Correa and regional integration, and the Constitutional Assembly.

**1:00 PM** Lunch

**3:00 PM** Presentation about TEXACO legacy in the Amazon rainforest and communities and the current situations of the indigenous and *mestizo* communities in the Northern Ecuadorian Amazon. Talk led by an organizer in charge of the judicial case against TEXACO former president of the FDA Amazon Defense Front.

**5:00 PM** City Tour of the old colonial town declared by the UNESCO as Cultural Patrimony of Humankind.

Informative talk about Ecuadorian History during the tour  
Shopping

**8:00 PM** Dinner at a restaurant that serves traditional Ecuadorian food

**Night** Overnight at hotel. The rest of your night is free. You should rest because we have a full day tomorrow!

**Saturday, December 29th**

**6:00 A.M** Breakfast

**6:45 AM** Leave for the airport

**7:10 A.M** Check in

**8:30 A.M** Flight to Coca by ICARO

**10:00 A.M** Leave for the Toxic tour organized and lead by a group that was formed to “fight Texaco now Chevron in the worst case of oil pollution on the Planet” and to make Chevron-Texaco accountable to the communities that have suffered years of contamination.

**3:30PM** Lunch at La Mision Hotel or in the town of Sacha.

**4:30PM** Check in at the airport

**5:30 PM** Leaving Coca for Quito

**6:30 PM** Arrival into Quito

**7:30 PM** Dinner in Quito at a local restaurant

**Night** Overnight at Hotel El Arupo

**Sunday, December 30th**

**7:00 AM** Breakfast at the hotel, Briefing during breakfast about the itinerary of the day.

**7:30 AM** Leaving for Intag via Otavalo

**10:00-noon** Visit to the Otavalo market, a world famous indigenous market

**12:00 noon** Lunch in Otavalo.

**1:00 PM** Leave for Apuela a two and a half hour drive; we need to arrive early in the afternoon to rest, enjoy the cabins, and have a talk by the leaders of the

struggle of the community of Intag against the Ascendant Mining Company from Canada.

**3:00 PM** Arrival to Apuela-relax, enjoyed the cloud forest, or swim in the pools, rest before night's presentation.

**Night** Talk by Polivio and Marcia community leaders. Cultural activity organized by local youth group. Overnight stay at the cabins, run by the Community Tourist Project in co-management with the municipality of Cotacachi.

### **Monday, December 31st**

**7:00 AM** Breakfast in Apuela

**8:00 AM** Leaving for Cotacachi

**10:30 A.M** Visit to the Municipality of Cotacachi, an example of participatory government. This particular municipality has been internationally recognized for its ecological sustainability, as well as its lack of illiteracy.

**1:00 P.M** Lunch by the sacred lake of Cuicocha at a mix enterprise made of a cooperative and the municipality. This restaurant features traditional food from the region. (Optional, because lunch is on your own)

**2:30 PM** Leave for Atuntaqui, a half an hour trip

**3:00 PM** Visit to the town of Atuntaqui. Here we will witness and celebrate the end of the year. There is going to be life music, indigenous dances. Although this is a western celebration indigenous people also participate.

**6:30 PM** Leave for Cotacachi to celebrate New Years Eve. We will celebrate New Years Eve in this multicultural and multiethnic canton (county). There will be lively music and dance.

**Midnight** Celebration of New Years Eve with the very Ecuadorian tradition of "la Quema del Año Viejo" which means Burning of the Old Year. Many people design and create these dummies (Años Viejos), which are made from paper or wood and sometimes filled with fireworks. The imagination goes beyond the limits at the time of creating these dummies; you can find everything from government people, relatives, neighbors, to the most popular cartoons and sport personalities. In many cases, a stage is set to place the dummies and to represent a whole scene that needs to be burned or make fun of. At midnight neighbors, family and friends get together to say farewell to the old year by burning them on the streets.

**Tuesday, January 1st**

**9:00 AM** Breakfast at the hotel in Cotacachi

**10:00 PM** Leaving for Quito,

**1:00 PM** Lunch in Quito

**2:30 PM** Leaving for Tena (a 5 hour trip)

**8:30 PM** Arrival to the hotel in Tena

**Wednesday, January 2nd**

**8:00 AM** Breakfast at the hotel in Tena

We will spend the next two and half days in the Rio Blanco Ruku Causay Cavins. To get to Rio Blanco we have to go one hour by canoe and a two-hour walk. This is a good example of community eco-tourism, we will experience walks into a primary rainforest, visits to waterfall caverns, also we will learn about medicinal plants and shamanic ceremonies. This community also practice eco-tourism as an alternative to oil exploitation

*The rest of the program to be arranged with the people of Rio Blanco.*

Program in Yurac Yacu (Rio Blanco)

**6:00 PM** Meeting to evaluate the trip.

**Thursday, January 4th**

**8:00 AM** Breakfast at the Rio Blanco Cavins

**9:00 AM** Leave Rio Blanco for Tena

**1:00 PM** Lunch in Tena

**2:00 PM** Leave Tena for Quito (a five hour trip)

**7:00 PM** Arrival to hotel El Arupo

**8:30 PM** Goodbye dinner in Quito

**Overnight** Hotel

**Friday, January 5th**

Free time for shopping and formal End of Program

*This is a tentative itinerary. All events are subject to change.*