



# Ecuador



Short-term Faculty-led Study Away Program • Summer Intersession • May 24 - June 1, 2012

Program Name:

## Behind the Scenes in Geotourism: Yachana, Ecuador

Course Numbers & Names:

**HRA 400: Problems in Hospitality and Restaurant Administration**

**GRY 470: Field Study in Geography**

Credit hours: **2** (undergraduate)

### Course Overview & Highlights

This program enables students to observe and participate in the everyday workings of the award-winning Yachana Eco-Lodge near Mandaña, Ecuador. The course provides an overview of sustainability and geo-tourism concepts, as well as the opportunity to see those concepts being practiced successfully.

Students will gain first-hand knowledge of Yachana's agriculture, aquaculture, food preparation and service, energy production, water delivery, and waste management systems, as well as its integrated economic and educational systems.

Participants also will have the chance to:

- Hike through primary and secondary rainforests with a local expert on tropical plants and animals, hunting and gathering traditions, and subsistence farming practices
- Visit the weekly community market on the banks of the Napo River
- Tour a national Andean park, the Museum of the Equator and historic downtown Quito with a local guide

Estimated Cost: **\$2,600**

**Includes:** airfare and ground transportation, lodging, most meals, tour of Quito and various admission fees; Study Away student fee. Separated costs not available.

**Excludes:** MSU tuition for 2 hours of undergraduate credit; passport fees; two dinners in Quito; misc. personal expenses.

**Nonrefundable deposit due with application by Fri., Feb. 3, 2012: \$390**  
(will be billed to your student account)

**Airfare due Mon., Feb. 27, 2012: \$1,275**

**Balance due Fri., April 27, 2012: \$935**

### Voucher Eligibility & Financial Aid

If you entered MSU as a freshman in 2009 or 2010, you may use the **Study Away \$500 voucher**. Students who receive financial aid through MSU may apply that aid to the program, if eligible. Contact the Office of Financial Aid at 836-5262 for more information.

Informational Meetings:

**1:00 PM Thurs., Dec. 8, 2011**

**10:00 AM Fri., Jan. 27, 2012**

**Professional Building #432**

Pre-travel Class Meetings (location TBA):

**9:00-11:00 AM**

**Mon.-Wed., May 21-23, 2012**

Depart Springfield for Quito, Ecuador:

**Thurs., May 24, 2012**

Depart Quito for Springfield:

**Thurs., May 31, 2012**

**(Arrive 8:30 AM Fri., June 1)**

Post-travel Class Meetings;

Student Final Presentations Due:

**9:00-11:00 AM**

**Tues.-Thurs., June 5-7, 2012**

### Interested in going?

Contact Program Director Abbe Ehlers, Senior Instructor, Hospitality and Restaurant Administration Department: 836-6762 or [AbbeEhlers@missouristate.edu](mailto:AbbeEhlers@missouristate.edu)



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# Study Away!

Missouri State University Study Away Programs

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## Course Objectives & Activities:

The National Geographic Society defines geo-tourism as “tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place — its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage and the well-being of its residents.” This program provides students with the opportunity to study and experience an award-winning geo-tourism enterprise. Students will go “behind the scenes” at the Yachana Eco-lodge near Mandaña, Ecuador, to see, work in and learn about:

- The agricultural fields, fish and snail ponds, and livestock facilities that produce the food served at the lodge
- Local cuisine and food preparation and service in the lodge’s kitchen
- The lodge’s utilization of solar and hydro-electric power to provide energy for its facilities, including wireless internet
- The lodge’s water delivery and sewage removal and treatment systems
- The human resource systems utilized to operate Yachana with local indigenous employees and the associated high school for indigenous youth

## Course Schedule & Itinerary:

### Pre-travel Class Meetings: (location TBA)

The class will meet three (3) times prior to travel for lectures and discussions:

**Mon., May 21, 2012** - 9:00-11:00 AM - **Physical and Cultural Geography of Ecuador:** Physical setting - basic geology, topography, climate, vegetation, etc.; how environmental conditions vary between the coast and the interior and the mountains and the Amazonian lowlands. Special attention will be paid to the Napo River and the region surrounding Yachana. Cultural setting - Pre-Columbian people, role/contribution of Incan civilization; Pizarro and the conquistadores; the Columbian Exchange; the emergence of a modern state; Ecuador today

**Tues., May 22** - 9:00-11:00 AM - **Sustainability:** What sustainability means; National Geographic’s geo-tourism initiative; basic information about international travel and an orientation to traveling to Ecuador and the Yachana area specifically

**Wed, May 23** - 9:00-11:00 AM - **Cultural Cuisines** - foods, their production and preparation as part of a region’s “cuisine”; the role of foods as part of cultural norms and rituals, and how these might be incorporated into the idea of sustainable development and farm-to-market planning



**Thurs., May 24** - Travel from Springfield to Quito, Ecuador; overnight in Quito.

**Fri., May 25** - Travel from Quito to Yachana (fly from Quito to Coca, canoe from Coca to Yachana); afternoon hike at Yachana.

**Sat., May 26** - Visit Agua Santa market in AM; tour high school and interact with local students in PM.

**Sun., May 27** - Primary forest hike in AM; culinary demo in PM

**Mon., May 28** - Full day investigating sustainability practices

**Tues., May 29** - Full day investigating sustainability practices

**Wed., May 30** - Travel from Yachana to Quito; overnight in Quito.

**Thurs., May 31** - Tour with local guide of historic downtown Quito; depart on 11:30 PM flight to Springfield.

**Fri., June 1** - Arrive in Springfield 8:30 AM.

**Tues., June 5 - Thurs., June 7** - 9-11 AM - Student final presentations

## Course Requirements & Assessment of Learning:

Students performance in this course will be evaluated based on three factors:

1. **Participation and conduct** in the classroom and in Ecuador
2. A **daily reflection journal** demonstrating critical thinking and evaluation of personal experiences
3. A **15- to 20-minute Powerpoint presentation and written summary or outline** to be delivered to the class on **June 5-7**. These oral presentations will be assessed by both peers and the Program Directors. Students will be asked to choose presentation topics after the classroom portion of the course, but before leaving for Ecuador.

Grades will be pass/fail.

**Required texts:** None. Content handouts will be distributed in class.

## Application & Payment Procedures:

This program is open to students of any major; there are no prerequisites. Students who are approved by the Program Director may apply. Instructions are included on the program application. *NOTE: The GRY 470 course satisfies the week-long, off-campus field trip requirement for Geography and Planning majors.*

A **non-refundable deposit of \$390** will be billed to your student account upon application (due by **Feb. 3, 2102**). Airfare (**\$1,275**) will be billed on **Feb. 27, 2012**, and the balance of the program cost (**\$935**) will be billed to your account on **April 27, 2012**.

The published program cost is based on rates in effect on the publication date of this flyer and may be subject to change.

**Program participants agree to a potential increase of up to 10% in the program fee if costs increase before or during travel.**

## Cancellation & Refund Policies:

- Students who withdraw prior to April 13, 2012, will receive a refund of fees paid, less their deposit and any non-refundable purchases made on his/her behalf.
- If a student is forced to withdraw after April 13, 2012, for a bona fide medical reason, s/he will receive a refund of fees paid, less their deposit and expenses. A certificate of incapacitating illness or injury from a licensed physician is required.
- Students withdrawing voluntarily after April 13, 2012, or withdrawing due to medical reasons not protected under the fees refund policy, receive no refund.
- Once the program has started, students withdrawing receive no refund under any circumstances.
- All notifications of withdrawal must be made in writing and sent to the Program Director and to Elizabeth Strong at the Study Away Office, Jim D. Morris Center, Suite 403. **Non-payment of fees does not guarantee automatic withdrawal.**
- Any plans by a participant not to travel and return with the group must also be submitted in writing to the Program Director and the Study Away Office.
- The program may be cancelled if enrollment is fewer than 8 participants. In this event, students will receive a full refund.