

An Ecuadorian non-profit NGO driven by the enthusiasm of its staff and volunteers to promote sustainable development in marginalized communities throughout Ecuador and to promote Cultural Exchange for mutual benefit in our increasingly globalized world

## Stay up to date with all the news at Yanapuma and True Ecuador Travel!

A bimonthly newsletter

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### Introduction

As the summer drew to a close we began to see a gradual slow down in the number of students arriving, as well as volunteers

While the summer itself has been pretty busy, though not as busy as in past years, we have all been kept on our toes juggling the Spanish school with the Foundation and volunteers and True Ecuador Travel, our travel agency.

Towards the end of September there was a dramatic shift in the weather as the "winter weather" pattern kicked in early with sudden and torrential rains arriving in the late afternoon with thunder and hail storms in Quito. This type of weather usually occurs between late October and April, with bright and sunny mornings giving way to dark clouds and rain for a couple of hours in the afternoons.

But with the general shift in weather patterns that are being seen all over the world it is becoming harder to predict what the weather will be like at any particular time of the year.

While this is just a minor annoyance for those of us who live in the cities, for farmers it is a worrying

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time as they are never quite sure when to begin sowing for the season, and how the crop will fare in varying weather conditions.

For the volunteer department, this year has seen quite a slow down in the number of groups arriving over the summer. In past years when we may have seen as many as fifteen groups arriving over the summer months, this year we have seen just four.

Many organizations have been unable to fill groups and have had to cancel, reflecting a general uncertainty about the world economy. This is especially true from the UK where the continuing Brexit debacle is at the top of everyone's worry list.

Fortunately, our travel agency—True Ecuador Travel—has been busy this year as we continue to develop our programs and extend our contacts to new international agencies seeking educational travel opportunities and regular travel programs in Ecuador.

### ¡El Primer Grito de Independencia!

El 10 de agosto de 1809, marcó el inicio del proceso de Independencia del Ecuador. Ese día fue destituido el Presidente de la Real Audiencia de Quito, Manuel Urriés Conde Ruiz de Castilla.



De inmediato las autoridades españolas decidieron eliminar la rebelión movilizando tropas desde Guayaquil, Popayán y Pasto con la misión de tomar Quito y acabar con los insurrectos. Pero el pueblo luchó para mantener su independencia de España.

El Ministerio de Cultura y Patrimonio del Ecuador, rememora 205 años de la "Revolución quiteña", conocida también como "Primer Grito de la Independencia".

### New Species of Orchids Discovered!

On 24 September, 4 new species of orchids were discovered in Ecuador.



They were given the names of famous scientists. These new species were discovered in the province of Azuay in the south of the country:

*Telipogon Humboldtiana*,  
*Telipogon Montufariana*,  
*Dichaea Bonplandiana*, and  
*Caucaea Kunthiana*.

### Learn Spanish Online!

Yanapuma offers online Spanish classes with live native-speakers to students of all ages and skill levels.

Students range in age from just 5 -years-old to retired persons and from absolute beginners to advanced speaker.

[Try a free trial class!](#)

## True Ecuador Travel News . . .

**This year has been a very busy year** for True Ecuador Travel, with increasing sales for our land-based island-hopping tours of the Galapagos. August and September continued this trend with many arrivals from various parts of the globe to experience the wonders of the Galapagos Archipelago.

**Additional sales began to be generated** through adding our programs to the TourRadar website, a popular travel website where travelers can browse offerings from all over the world and purchase directly.

**We have also been busy** creating itineraries for a variety of international visitors for programs of just 2 weeks and upwards. These may combine Spanish classes with travel to the Amazon rain forest, tours through the Andes Mountains and along the Pacific coast, and of course to the Galapagos Islands.

**Finally**, as we moved more into the second half of the year we were busy updating prices and offerings for 2020 in preparation for sending out the new price lists to the international agencies and organizations that we collaborate with. In general it seems that prices in Ecuador are not going up much at all, if anything. Many hotels have kept their prices the same for next year, which is an indication that they fear a slow-down in the number of tourists arriving in Ecuador. And as the government contemplates increasing sales tax and the cost of the park entry fee for the Galapagos Islands, there well may be challenges ahead for the tourism industry in Ecuador!



### Study Abroad Itineraries for Ecuador!

**We are always happy to help** faculty create the perfect study abroad / service learning / global citizenship program for their students.

**We can create itineraries** to stay within your budget while offering a reliable and inclusive service to ensure that the program runs smoothly from start to finish.

**We can also supply translators/guides** for groups to accompany them to their projects and on their travels, or to stay with them during their research and service programs.

Check it out here: <https://true-ecuador-travel.org>

## Spanish School News . . .

**August was a fairly busy month** for the Spanish schools, especially in Cuenca. September continued thus in Cuenca but in Quito it was much quieter. There were students of all ages in both schools, from young children with their parents to youth, older students on sabbatical and retired students exploring Ecuador and Cuenca as a possible retirement spot.

**As the numbers of Spanish students** arriving in Ecuador has diminished over the past few years, we are waiting to see how the market will develop in the future before launching any new initiatives. As we are busy with the travel agency, etc., we can maintain the schools in Quito and Cuenca and see how the market changes with time.

**At the end of September** we sent out the prices for 2020 to the agencies that we are collaborating with, as well as updating them on our websites. In general there is very little change in the prices. Classes have gone up around 50 cents per hour only, and many hotels and other tourist services have not raised their prices for next year so our costs remain pretty unchanged.



## Staff News . . .

**At the start of July** our coordinator for the school in Cuenca, Cheryl Sterling, left us after working for us since January 2018. We are very grateful for all her hard work during this time and wish her well in the future!

**At the start of August** our administrator for the school in Cuenca, Carina Nicolalde, also left us to move to the US. Carina has managed the school in Cuenca from the very start in March of 2013. We are extremely grateful for her efforts and reliability during all these years and wish her all the best for this new phase of her life in the US.

**Both Cheryl and Carina** were replaced at the start of October by Maria Quimbita. Maria has worked with us for several years already, although for the last couple of years she has only given online Spanish classes due to taking care of her elderly father. But she has been able to arrange everything so that she will move from Quito to Cuenca to take up her new post. Maria has already worked as administrator of a language school and will be dedicated full time to keeping things organized in Cuenca.



## Foundation & Volunteer News . . .

**In July and August** we received 3 groups from UK organization Outlook Expeditions. Two groups went to work with the Tsa'chila while one group went to the Selva Vida project in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

These groups of high school youth travel during the summer months to South America and other destinations around the world for adventure and volunteering.

**The groups worked on** infrastructure projects, reforestation and general maintenance alongside local actors. These groups spend a week volunteering as part of a longer program of adventure in Ecuador, so we get everything set up ahead of time so that the group can arrive and get started on their project, knowing that all the materials and resources needed are ready for them from the start.

**In addition to these groups** we have continued to place individual volunteers in a variety of programs around the country from the Amazon rain forest to the Andes Mountains and the Galapagos Islands. Our volunteers help us to fulfill our mission of promoting sustainable development in Ecuador.

**As the year 2019 approaches its end**, we begin to look forward to 2020. International volunteer and study abroad organizations are struggling to adapt to changes in the market and economic cycles as well as changes in the expectations and preferences of a new generation of youth who see the world differently.

**We have seen less interest** in social and cultural interaction from volunteers and more focus on ecology and climate change as the pressing issues to be addressed. From this perspective, our focus on the concept of the "edible forest", analog forestry that combines reforestation with native species with introduced species that have nutritional and economic value for local populations is increasingly relevant.

**Where we have carried out such projects** over the past 4 years, locals have been pleased to note the return of species of plants, animals and birds that had been absent in previous decades due to the destruction of their habitats. Recovering the environment is an important step towards developing their community tourism offerings.



## Donation News . . .

We are always happy to receive donations for our continuing work. One hundred percent of small donations goes towards direct project expenses. We cover our admin expenses from our own for-profit activities.

Contact us to learn more!