

# EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

## Pre-Conference Insight Trip to Cartagena

OCTOBER 11-13, 2011

**YOU ARE INVITED** to join Opportunity supporters and members of our Board of Governors for a two-night Insight Trip to Cartagena, Colombia, before going on to the Opportunity International Conference in San Francisco from October 14 - 15.

**DISCOVER HOW CLIENTS** in Colombia have used Opportunity's financial services for the past 40 years to work their way out of chronic poverty. You'll see firsthand why Opportunity is creating a finance company to serve the millions of displaced persons in Colombia who struggle to support their families.

**PUT ON YOUR WALKING SHOES** to be inspired by the richness found in the life experiences of our clients, loan officers and staff as you explore their world. Meet people filled with new hope and shake hands extended in gratitude for the financial services offered by Opportunity Colombia. Take part in Trust Group meetings where you'll hear stories of our clients' struggles and successes and see development in action. Discover the transformational impact of savings, small business loans, insurance and training on families and communities.

*Like many of Opportunity International's clients, Norma Vergara of Henequen, Colombia, needed only a small amount of money to take advantage of a business opportunity that could make a significant difference in her life. She met with Opportunity Loan Officer Diana Araujo and then joined a Trust Group that helped her secure a loan.*

*In the last one and a half years, Norma's loans have gone from \$76 to \$190. Every few days, she purchases a bundle of used plastic bags gathered from the city dump. Norma contributes to the economic development of her community by employing her neighbors to clean and sort the bags. "Normally, I hire three people, but when I have more bags, I have five people helping me." With her profits from the sale of the bags, she is able to pay school fees and purchase supplies for her two children, Carlos David, 11, and Jonathan, 8.*

*Norma says that receiving the loans has empowered her and given her hope. She feels more confident and secure, believing that with the help of Opportunity International, she can continue to rise above her circumstances.*



# Itinerary

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11:** Depart in the morning for Cartagena Colombia. Local Opportunity staff will meet you upon arrival and take you to your hotel. Dinner and orientation with senior leadership from Opportunity Colombia.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12:** After breakfast, travel to the field and meet individual clients. Hear their personal stories, learn about their businesses and discover how they are working their way out of poverty. After lunch, continue to interact with our amazing clients and their families. Return to the hotel to rest and then have dinner with the leadership staff in Cartagena.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13:** Fly to the Opportunity International Conference in San Francisco carrying with you a renewed vision of microfinance as a solution to poverty and stories to share.

**OUR PRIMARY FOCUS IS YOUR SAFETY AND COMFORT**  
In our 20 years of conducting Insight Trips, we have always provided a safe and rewarding visit for our participants. Every trip is carefully planned in conjunction with local Opportunity staff and hospitality experts to ensure your safety and comfort. We will also offer you a guidebook that includes everything you need to know about traveling in that particular country.

## Spotlight on Colombia

**LOCATION:** Northern South America, bordering the Caribbean Sea between Panama and Venezuela, and the North Pacific Ocean between Ecuador and Panama

**CLIMATE:** Tropical along coast and eastern plains, cooler in highlands

**TERRAIN:** Flat coastal lowlands, central highlands, high Andes Mountains, eastern lowland plains

**POPULATION:** 45 million

**LANGUAGE:** Spanish

**GDP PER CAPITA:** \$8,800

# Registration

## HERE IS HOW TO REGISTER FOR YOUR INSIGHT TRIP:

- 1) Contact your regional director or Susana Georgescu in Opportunity's international education department, at [sgeorgescu@opportunity.org](mailto:sgeorgescu@opportunity.org) or 630-242-4127.
- 2) Go to [Opportunity.org/insight](http://Opportunity.org/insight)  
Complete the registration form and submit payment to secure your place. **Registration deadline is August 30. (Early registration discount of \$150 per person applies if registered by July 11, 2011.)**

### SUMMARY OF COSTS:

\$659 payment to Opportunity

*Includes all meals and beverages, local transportation, translator services, emergency evacuation insurance, partner and staff costs.*

\$950 estimated airfare

*Airfare to be booked and paid for by the traveler.*

\$436 hotel costs

*Hotel costs are paid by each traveler upon checkout. We will be staying at the Hotel Caribe, [www.hotelcaribe.com](http://www.hotelcaribe.com).*

### **\$2,045 total cost estimate**

*\*Incidentals, shots, passports, visas, souvenirs and optional sightseeing are not included in this cost estimate.*

- 3) Make travel arrangements once all of the trip participants have registered. We strongly discourage booking before you hear from us. If you require booking assistance, contact Opportunity's preferred travel partner, Travel Inc., at 877-548-2995.
- 4) Prepare for departure.  
Make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after your intended departure date. Visit [www.vp2go.com](http://www.vp2go.com) for assistance in obtaining a passport.  
Consult your doctor for any necessary immunizations and vaccines. For a traveler's health clinic near you, go to [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel).
- 5) Please feel free to contact Susana Georgescu  
[sgeorgescu@opportunity.org](mailto:sgeorgescu@opportunity.org)  
800-793-9455 x 4127 or 630-242-4127  
Fax: 630-645-1458

To learn more, visit [opportunity.org](http://opportunity.org)

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