

EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

Insight Trip to Nicaragua

APRIL 14 - 17, 2011

JOIN US on a life-changing journey to the second poorest country in the Western hemisphere. Because 75% of Nicaraguans live below the poverty line, Opportunity International has implemented a holistic program blending economic development strategies with microfinance to help alleviate poverty. You'll discover how Opportunity helps provide training and finance for small and medium enterprises in promising local industries like tourism and agriculture. And you'll see how the Nicaraguan people are working their way out of poverty and creating healthy, vibrant and sustainable communities.

EACH MORNING, 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. Walk in markets filled with newfound hope and shake hands extended in gratitude for the financial services offered by Opportunity Nicaragua. Visit with clients and hear their stories of struggles and successes and see development in action.

THROUGH THESE EXPERIENCES, you'll be able to envision a world in which all people have fair access to economic opportunities along with the inspiration to move beyond poverty. And you'll have a renewed sense of how you personally can help make that world a reality.

Silvia Elena Canda, 27, lives with her husband and 1½-year-old daughter in Buenos Aires, Rivas. When she was 11 years old, Silvia learned from her aunts how to hand-filigree jícaro gourds. She used the earnings from her beautiful gourd products to pay for her high school education. In 2006, she and 32 other women formed the Women's Artisan Cooperative of Buenos Aires. Opportunity has been working with this group to help them sell their products and develop new ones. The hand-filigreed natural gourds are some of the unique products Opportunity offers under the "Ojala" brand. As a second-generation artisan, Silvia is proud to continue her family tradition and contribute to her household income.



Itinerary

THURSDAY, APRIL 14: Arrive in Managua, Nicaragua by 12 p.m. Opportunity staff will meet you at the airport and take you to Granada. Check in to hotel and participate in trip orientation during lunch. After orientation, visit with Opportunity Clients for the remainder of the day. Enjoy dinner with Opportunity Nicaragua staff.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15: Meet your fellow travelers for an early breakfast and orientation. At the office, attend devotions and interact with the local staff. Next, meet farmer clients and have lunch with staff members. In the afternoon, visit Opportunity's co-investment partnership with the poor to solve chronic community problems. Visit community library, water project and home building repair program. In the evening, enjoy dinner with the group.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16: Travel to the field to visit Opportunity partnerships with artisans. Learn about their traditions, abilities and culture through sewing work, ceramic art and soap making. After lunch at a school site, learn about Opportunity's vision to create a model Entrepreneurial Technical Highschool. Relax or spend free time by taking in the sights and sounds of Granada. Enjoy dinner with fellow travelers.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17: After breakfast, attend devotions and final group debrief. Depart to the airport for your flight back home carrying with you wonderful memories and the inspiration to become more involved in Opportunity's mission to help end global poverty.

Spotlight on Nicaragua

LOCATION: Central America, bordering both the Caribbean Sea and the North Pacific Ocean, between Costa Rica and Honduras

CLIMATE: Tropical in lowlands, cooler in highlands

TERRAIN: Extensive Atlantic coastal plains rising to central interior mountains; narrow Pacific coastal plain interrupted by volcanoes

POPULATION: 6 million

LANGUAGE: Spanish

GDP PER CAPITA: \$2,800

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.

Registration

HERE IS HOW TO REGISTER FOR YOUR INSIGHT TRIP:

- 1) Contact your regional director or Adele Nandan in Opportunity's international education department, at anandan@opportunity.org or 630-242-4147.
- 2) Go to Opportunity.org/insight Complete the registration form and submit payment to secure your place.

SUMMARY OF COSTS:

\$703 payment to Opportunity
Includes all meals and beverages (excluding alcohol), local transportation, translator services, emergency evacuation insurance, partner and staff costs.

\$850 estimated airfare (from Chicago)
Airfare to be booked and paid for by the traveler.

\$330 hotel costs
Hotel cost estimate is per person, based on double occupancy. Hotel costs are paid by each traveler upon checkout.

\$1,883 total cost estimate*

**Incidentals, shots, passports, visas, souvenirs and optional sightseeing not included.*

- 3) Make travel arrangements once all of the trip participants have registered. We strongly discourage booking your air travel 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 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.

To learn more, visit opportunity.org

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