

EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

Insight Trip to **NICARAGUA**

Family Week

June 24 – 30, 2012

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. Take part in Trust Group meetings where you'll hear stories of our clients' 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, learned how to hand-filee jícara gourds when she was 11 years old, and 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. Under the "Ojala" brand, Opportunity has been working with this group to help them sell their products and develop new ones. As a second-generation artisan, Silvia is proud that her products contribute to her household income.



Itinerary

SUNDAY, JUNE 24: Depart in the morning for Managua, Nicaragua. Local Opportunity staff will meet you upon arrival and take you to Granada. Check into hotel.

MONDAY, JUNE 25: Join your fellow travelers for breakfast, followed by an orientation. Put on your walking shoes for an eye-opening visit with our clients in their homes and businesses learning about the lives of hard-working entrepreneurs who are using our microfinance services to transform their lives. Enjoy dinner at an authentic restaurant in downtown Granada.

TUESDAY, JUNE 26: After breakfast visit Opportunity's agricultural program and see how the work is providing transforming opportunities for farmers and their families. Visit a farm family and get a glimpse of rural life in Nicaragua. Dinner at a local restaurant.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27: Attend a NicaWorks meeting and hear from the artisans how Opportunity's work supports their business growth. Visit workshops of artisans and see beautiful, hand-made products that reflect their culture and traditions. After lunch, participate in a service project.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28: Travel out to local villages to meet community leaders that have partnered with Opportunity to confront and resolve critical community problems. In the afternoon, participate in a service project with teenagers from the Young Life Club.

FRIDAY, JUNE 29: Sightseeing day. After breakfast, enjoy some of the activities for the day: Canopy tours, boat rides, horse/carriage tours of colonial Granada, hiking up a volcano, horseback-riding and shopping in a 15th century converted Spanish fort. Debrief dinner at a local restaurant.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30: After breakfast travel back to Managua 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.

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.

To learn more, visit opportunity.org
Opportunity International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

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 or 630-242-4127.
Registration deadline is April 24, 2012.
Early registration discount of \$150 per person applies if registered by March 24, 2012.
- 2) Go to opportunity.org/insight
Complete the registration form and submit payment to secure your place.

SUMMARY OF COSTS:

\$2,141 payment to Opportunity International
Includes, all meals and beverages, hotel (based on double occupancy), gratuity, local transportation, airport transfers, translator services, emergency evacuation insurance, partner and staff costs, and park entry fees. Does not include U.S. – Nicaragua round trip, incidentals, shots, passports, souvenirs or alcohol.

\$800 estimated airfare (from Chicago)
Airfare to be booked and paid for by the traveler.

\$2,941 total cost estimate

- 3) Make flight arrangements on your own or contact ADTRAV, Opportunity's preferred travel partner, at opportunitytravel@adtrav.com.
- 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.

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