

A Life-Changing Insight Trip

COLOMBIA

September 21-26, 2014

Optional excursion September 26-28



*Marleidis C. (left)
Opportunity client,
and her son*

Albornoz, Colombia

An Opportunity International Insight Trip immerses you in the countries, cultures and lives of our clients. Experience how poverty robs people of their dignity and dreams, and witness the hope and transformation that Opportunity brings to the individuals we serve and the communities where we work. On this trip, you'll see big changes... and the biggest one may be the one you see in yourself.



Opportunity International

Colombia Insight Trip

The Crisis

For over 40 years, the Colombian economy has suffered due to political conflict and violence. There is a significant gap between conditions in urban and rural communities, and this poverty limits access to education, social services and employment opportunities in rural areas.

Despite their progress towards rebuilding the economy, over 33% of Colombia's 47 million people are still affected by poverty.

Support That Transforms Communities

Marleidis C. (pictured on front) now lives in the Nelson Mandela community of Albornoz with over 800 families who have been displaced by land violence in Colombia. When heavily armed guerilla forces invaded her village, Marleidis and her family were forced to leave so the army could illegally mine the land. Marleidis fled to Albornoz where she was able to secure an Opportunity International loan to start a small roadside business selling candies and minutes for cell phones. She now supports herself and her family for the first time and is a member of the Christ Is Alive Trust Group which is currently working to bring running water and proper sewage disposal to the community.

How You Can Get Involved

Journey with us to witness how Opportunity empowers Colombians to break the cycle of poverty by providing financial education, skills training, and loans - and helps fuel their desire to build better futures for themselves and their children. Meet women like Marleidis, who are proud business owners, dedicated mothers, community leaders and examples for all of us.



Itinerary

Sunday, September 21, 2014

Arrive in Bogotá, Colombia. Local Opportunity Staff will meet you upon your arrival and take you to your hotel for a good night's rest.

Monday, September 22, 2014

Join your fellow travelers for breakfast at the hotel before venturing off on your first day of visiting Opportunity's work. Visit our local branch before embarking on eye-opening visits with our clients in their homes and businesses.

Tuesday, September 23, 2014

Spend the day visiting with clients at a Trust Group meeting and in their places of business. Depart on a late afternoon flight to Cartagena.

Wednesday, September 24, 2014

Tour an Opportunity branch and meet more inspiring clients. Dig into a service project for our local office and hardworking clients.

Thursday, September 25, 2014

Learn about our clients who have benefitted from the roof and floor project. Watch as they proudly demonstrate their work and share incredible stories of personal transformation. Depart in the morning for the airport with wonderful memories, lasting friendships and a renewed spirit.

Optional excursion

Friday, September 26, 2014

Journey from Cartagena to Tayrona National Park, home to some of Colombia's most unspoiled beaches. Enjoy a guided trip to Arrecifes Beach.

Saturday, September 27, 2014

Discover the natural beauty and crystal clear waters of the Waterfalls of Valencia.

Sunday, September 28, 2014

Depart for home with wonderful memories, lasting friendships and a renewed spirit as you reflect on your role in Opportunity's work to end poverty.

Register now!

Step 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 July 21, 2014.

Step 2: Go to opportunity.org/insight to complete the registration form and submit payment to secure your place.

Step 3: 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.

Summary of costs:

\$3,392 payment to Opportunity with excursion

\$2,661 payment to Opportunity without excursion

Includes: all meals and beverages, gratuity, local transportation, airport transfers, hotel accommodations (based on double occupancy and excluding incidentals), translator services, emergency evacuation insurance, partner and staff costs.

Does not include: U.S.-Colombia round trip airfare, incidentals, shots, passports, or souvenirs.

To register or learn more, visit opportunity.org/insight