

Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanis Governor's Tour To Columbia and Ecuador, February 2008

Shown below is the complete itinerary for the Governor's Tour to Columbia and Ecuador. A first of its kind, I am calling it "Kiwanis Hands Across the Americas." As you read about this trip, you'll see it encompasses both Kiwanis and cultural highlights that will make it a most memorable experience. A seasoned traveler who has already committed himself and his wife to the trip was quite pleased at the cost, considering all that it encompasses. He really got excited after an online search about the Carnival in Barranquilla. We checked it out also, and it is listed as second only to the one in Rio.

20% of the airplane seats have been spoken for. Litwack Travel has given us a generous deadline to commit to the trip by mid-November.

A \$500 per person deposit, payable to Litwack Travel, should be put in the mail as soon as you are able to make a decision, and mailed to Mark Holmer, 2515 E State Street, Algona, IA 50511.

Don't let this opportunity slip through your fingers. I hope to hear from you soon. Please call me at 515-295-9537 or send e-mail to revmark@netamumail.com with any questions.

February 01: USA/BARRANQUILLA

Enjoy your afternoon flight from Miami to Barranquilla. Greeting and assistance upon arrival in Barranquilla and transfer to your hotel. Dinner at your hotel. (D)

Overnight Barranquilla (Hotel Royal)

February 02: BARRANQUILLA

Morning panoramic tour of Barranquilla; we start at the Prado neighborhood where most of the beautiful colonial houses can be seen, on to the Amira de la Rosa Theater, the Metropolitan Stadium, a shopping stop in one of the large malls and an optional visit of the Zoo. Following the city tour, the afternoon and evening will be spent basking in Carnival. Dinner at your hotel. After dinner an optional Carnival party at the Hotel El Prado (to be paid separately in Barranquilla). (B,D)

Overnight Barranquilla (Hotel Royal)

February 03: BARRANQUILLA

Today, we will have the pleasure of meeting with the Olid Rueda, Kiwanis Governor of the Andean-Central American District. Time should allow an encore presentation of Carnival, a festival of dance, orchestra, parades and parties. Dinner at your hotel. (B,D)

Overnight Barranquilla (Hotel Royal)

February 04: BARRANQUILLA/CARTAGENA

Morning transfer on by bus to the beautiful city of Cartagena, where you will be taken directly to your hotel. Afternoon tour of the city, traveling through residential neighborhoods along Cartagena Bay, visit to La Popa and its monastery and the Virgen de la Candelaria Chapel. A panoramic view of the city will be admired from this point. Visit to the Castillo de San Felipe de Barajas fortress, the greatest military engineering work of the New World. Visit to the Las Bovedas Craft Center, ending with a sample of emerald work at a jewelry store. Dinner at your hotel. (B,D)

Overnight Cartagena (Hotel Capilla del Mar)

February 05: CARTAGENA

Tour of the Rosario Islands, starting with a one hour crossing of the Cartagena Bay and ending at the beautiful Rosario Islands. Stay at a private island with a typical lunch (coconut rice, fried fish, banana chips, salad and beverage), fruit buffet. Optional: Visit to the aquarium where the different sea-life species found in our oceans can be seen, including a dolphins and sharks show and snorkeling. Dinner at your hotel. (B,L,D)

Overnight Cartagena (Hotel Capilla del Mar)

February 06: CARTAGENA/BUCARAMANGA

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Bucaramanga via Bogota. Upon arrival in Bucaramanga, greeting and assistance at the airport and transfer to your hotel. Dinner at your hotel. (B,D)

Overnight Bucaramanga (Hotel Chicamocha)

February 07: BUCARAMANGA

Kiwanis Hands Across the Americas takes us to Rincon de la Paz School. In 2005 over \$40,000 was donated by the Kiwanis International Foundation to rebuild the school after being devastated by an avalanche. In the evening we will visit the La Hormiga Kiwanis Club which initiated this project at it's regularly scheduled meeting. (B,D)

Overnight Bucaramanga (Hotel Chicamocha)

February 08: BUCARAMANGA/QUITO/OTAVALO

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Quito. Greeting and assistance upon arrival in Quito, a colonial masterpiece in the high Andes, at the base of the Pichincha Volcano. Drive to Otavalo through the fertile valleys of Guayllambamba – famous for its orchards and local fruits – and Cayambe, known for its local cheese and savory shortbread. Arrive at your hotel. Dinner at your hotel. (B,D)

Overnight Otavalo (Hotel Puerto Lago)

February 09: OTAVALO

Morning visit to the colorful Otavalo Indian market, one of Ecuador's best shopping markets. The "Otavaleños" are superb craftsmen and weavers: The market is filled with colorful ponchos, textiles, blankets and rugs. Dinner at your hotel. (B,D)

Overnight Otavalo (Hotel Puerto Lago)

February 10: OTAVALO /QUITO

Drive to Quito and transfer to your hotel. Dinner at your hotel. (B,D)

Overnight Quito (Hotel Dann Carlton)

February 11: QUITO

Today, stroll cobblestone streets; view the elegant cathedrals of San Francisco, La Compania, with its golden altar, and San Augustin, Quito's oldest monastery. Continue to the modern Legislative Building with its murals of Ecuador's history: enjoy the view of the city and the snow-capped mountains from atop Panecillo Hill. Following the city tour, we shall visit the Tierra Nueva Community Health Mobile Medical Unit. This was partially funded by a \$15,000 grant from the Kiwanis International Foundation in 2006. Dinner at the hotel. (B,D)

Overnight Quito (Hotel Dann Carlton)

February 12: QUITO

Tour of the Equatorial Monument including lunch. Stand with one foot in each hemisphere. Following this tour and an afternoon of exploring we will meet with the Kiwanis Carita de Dios Club in Quito for it's evening meeting as we extend again our Kiwanis Hands Across the Americas. (B,L,D)

Overnight Quito (Hotel Dann Carlton)

February 13: QUITO/CUENCA

Transfer to the airport for your short flight to Cuenca. Greeting and assistance at the airport and transfer to your hotel where we will meet with Leonardo Alvarado, Kiwanis Governor of Ecuador. Cuenca Kiwanis Club meeting at 6:30 P.M. (B,D)

Overnight Cuenca (Hotel El Dorado)

February 14: CUENCA/QUITO

Full-day exploration of Cuenca, considered one of Ecuador's most beautiful cities, marked by narrow, cobblestone streets, adobe houses, wrought-iron balconies, quaint parks and romantic plazas. Tour the town of Gualaceo; see the skilled crafting of ceramics, jewelry and the famous Panama hat. Late afternoon transfer to the airport for your flight to Quito. Transfer to your hotel for dinner and your last night in Ecuador. (B,D)

Overnight Quito (Hotel Dann Carlton)

February 15: QUITO/USA

Early morning transfer to the airport for your return flight to the USA and connecting flights to Nebraska and Iowa.

Included in Colombia and Ecuador Governor's Tour

- ★ Air Miami/Barranquilla/Bucaramanga/Quito/Miami (flights from Barranquilla to Bucaramanga and from Quito to Miami are via Bogota).
- ★ Air Quito/Cuenca/Quito.
- ★ All hotels.
- ★ Breakfast daily at the hotels.
- ★ 3 lunches.
- ★ Dinner daily at the hotels.
- ★ All hotel taxes and service charges with the exception of hotel taxes in Barranquilla and Bucaramanga, which are \$3 per person per day.
- ★ All transfers and sightseeing as per the suggested itinerary via private vehicle with private English speaking guides.
- ★ Private bus (or 2 buses) with driver available for private visits as specified in itinerary
- ★ Baggage handling at the airports and at the hotels.
- ★ Latour Documents' Wallet.
- ★ \$1 Million USTOA Protection.

Included Air Itinerary

AV 3	1FEB	MIAB AQ	320P	557P
AV9755	6FEB	CTGBOG	600A	720A
AV9474	6FEB	BOGBGA	836A	936A
AV 49	8FEB	BOGUIO	845A	1013A
AV 66	15FEB	UIOBOG	630A	750A
AV 6	15FEB	BOGMIA	1020A	200P

Price per person, double occupancy (set for 40 participants) = \$3,499.

Single Supplement = \$612.

Not Included

- ★ Airline fuel surcharges and taxes of \$217.63 per person, subject to change.
- ★ Hotel taxes of \$3 per person per day in Barranquilla and Bucaramanga, to be paid directly to the hotel.
- ★ Tickets for the Carnival party in Barranquilla, which have to be purchased directly from the hotel.
- ★ Rate does not include airport departure fees or taxes in Colombia and Ecuador, which will be collected locally (\$40 departing Bogota and \$40 departing Quito).
- ★ Optional Travel Insurance (\$169 per person).
- ★ Tips to driver and guides.
- ★ Other meals or items not mentioned in the itinerary.
- ★ Beverages with meals.

Important

Deposit for the air is refundable if Litwack Travel receives cancellations or changes in writing by November 28th.

Balance and/or final payment is required no later than 65 days prior to departure.

Health requirements: No vaccinations are required for these areas of Colombia and Ecuador. However, as this is subject to change, please check with the Center for Disease Control at (404) 639-3534 for updated information or go to their Web site at www.cdc.gov/travel. Due to areas of high elevation in Colombia and Ecuador, please confirm with your physician that you are in good health and able to tolerate the extremely high altitude before reserving the tour.

Thank you for considering this unique trip with me and Linnea. “Kiwaniis Hands Across the Americas” is a one-of-a-kind experience you will always remember. Call me today.

Governor Mark Holmer