**Nicaragua: Fair Trade and Global Justice**

***In Partnership with Equal Exchange***

**Sample Itinerary**

*Note: this is a sample itinerary and is subject to change.*

**Day 1: Saturday Managua**

12:00-8:45 Arrivals met at the airport by CSJ leaders, transported to CEPAD

4:oo pm Orientation

6:00 pm Dinner at CEPAD

7:30 pm Orientation Part II

9:00 pm Bed

Sleep at CEPAD

**Day 2: Sunday Managua**

6:30 am Breakfast at CEPAD

7:15 am Covenant

8:30 am Leave for History of Nicaragua with Mark Lester

11:30 am Coffee in Nicaragua with Cirilo Otero

12:30 pm Lunch

2:30 pm Leave for meeting and project tour with Yamilet Pérez

4:30 pm Free time

5:30 pm Trip to volcano

7:00 pm Dinner at CEPAD

8:00 pm Worship and discussion

Sleep at CEPAD

**Day 3: Monday Managua-Estelí**

7:00 am Breakfast

7:45 am Morning Check-in

8:00 am Leave for Estelí

12:00 pm Lunch in Estelí

1:00 pm Introduction to FEM; Visit Las Diosas

6:00 pm Arrive at Hotel Las Cornisas

6:30 pm Dinner at Las Cornisas

8:00 pm Worship and discussion (prepare for the campo)

Sleep at Hotel Cornisas

**Day 4: Tuesday Estelí-Quibuto**

7:00 am Breakfast at Hotel Cornisas

7:30 am Morning Check-in

8:00 am Meet with Ligia Lopez of PRODECOOP

10:30 am Leave for Quibuto (Cooperative Zacarias Padilla)

12:30 pm Lunch in Quibuto

2:30 pm Meeting with Board of Cooperative

If there is time, start “Field School” – learning about life of coffee plant

4:30 pm Meet family homestays

6:00 pm Dinner in homestays

Sleep in homestays

**Day 5: Wednesday Quibuto**

6:30 am Breakfast in homestays

7:30 am Pick coffee

12:30 pm Lunch in homestays

2:30 pm Coffee processing (continue life of a coffee plant)

4:30 pm Cultural exchange/activity

6:30 pm Dinner with community

Sleep in homestays

**Day 6: Thursday Palacaguina**

6:30 am Breakfast in homestays

8:15 am Morning Check-in

8:30 am Leave for Palacaguina

10:30 am Meeting at PRODECOOP Beneficio with Adilia Hernandez

12:30 pm Lunch at Hotel Palacaguina

2:30 pm Tour PRODECOOP Beneficio Seco (dry processing); Coffee tasting

5:30 pm Dinner in Palacaguina

Sleep at Hotel Palacaguina

**Day 7: Friday Palacaguina-Managua**

7:30 am Breakfast at Hotel Palacaguina

7:30 am Reflection & debrief at Hotel Palacaguina; begin action planning for ways to bring the experiences home

12:30 pm Lunch in Palacaguina

2:30 pm Leave for Managua

6:30 pm Dinner at CEPAD

7:30 pm Closing worship

**Day 8: Saturday, February 25**

Departures to the U.S.

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**INFORMATION ABOUT PARTNERS**

1. *CEPAD (Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua)* is an organization that provides training to poor Nicaraguan villages to support local community leadership, women’s economic development, food security and care for the environment. CEPAD also operates a guest house, where we’ll stay in Managua.

<http://www.cepadnica.org>

2. *Mark Lester* is the Nicaragua country director for Winds of Peace Foundation and the Co-Director for Central America of the Center for Global Education at Augsburg College. He has lived in Nicaragua for many years. He is well known and respected for his knowledge about development issues in the country, and is frequently asked to give talks about the history and current situation of the country to delegations visiting Nicaragua.

3. *Cirilo Otero* is a sociologist, economist and university professor. He is the editor and producer of Perspectiva Alimentaria (Food Perspective), of the Centro de Iniciativas de Politicas Ambientales (Center for Environmental Policies and Initiatives).

4. *Yamilet Perez* is a community organizer whose original focus was on the poorest communities based around the large municipal dumps of Managua, where she lives and raises her family.

5. *Fundación Entre Mujeres (FEM: Foundation Amongst Women)* is a women’s NGO and social movement founded in 1995, based in and around Estelí in north central Nicaragua. Their mission is to promote empowerment of rural women through a variety of projects. They focus on advancing economic independence with an emphasis on land rights and food sovereignty; preventing violence against women; and promoting literacy as an avenue for empowerment.

6. *Las Diosas (The Goddesses)*, a project of FEM, is a network of four small grower cooperatives dedicated to the respect for women's rights, as well as the promotion of issues with women's rights at the center. In just under 20 years since its founding, this relatively small organization (consisting of only 250 members) has made big strides in both production capacity and social politics.

7. PRODECOOP<http://www.prodecoop.com/>

Based in Estelí, PRODECOOP is a coffee marketing cooperative that gathers together 38 “base” cooperatives of producers located in three major coffee growing regions of Estelí, Nueva Segovia and Madriíz, all in north central Nicaragua. Together these represent over 2,300 small farmers, of whom 30% are women. PRODECOOP is a partner organization of Equal Exchange. The “Beneficio Seco” is PRODECOOP’s industrial plant and dry processing/tasting center located in the small town of Palacaguina. Their property also includes Hotel Palacaguina, where we will stay on Thursday night.

8. Zacarias Padilla Co-op, located in the town of Quibuto, (population of 1,555) has 60 members who are small-scale coffee producers. Each member grows between 2.5 and 37 acres of coffee and does the first stage of coffee processing and then sells it to PRODECOOP. The Co-op has a board of directors made up of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and two at-large members. In addition coop members participate in the gender, education, credit, vigilance, administrative and organic production committees.