



USFQ Summer Archeology Field School

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Program Objective

The north coast of Ecuador housed one of the most remarkable societies of the New World, known as the Jama Coaque culture, circa (300 B.C-1540 A.D). The Jama Coaque chiefdoms survived despite many difficulties they faced, including constant ash fall from the highland volcanoes, combined with constant flooding as a result of ENSO events, and heavy seismic activity due to nearby substantial geological activity. We are studying the area from a regional perspective to understand these long-term processes that made the Jama Coaque a very resilient society.

Archaeological research has been centered on the Coaque River valley, and the nearby Cojimíes estuary, where a series of regional polities developed since around 1200 B.C.

Since 2014, USFQ as part of the community archaeology program has been working with the Coaque River valley communities conducting a regional survey and identifying various archeological sites as a result. Our community engaged efforts to include local community development and other social programs that includes the construction of a community cultural center (museum, library) in the village of Coaque.

As part of this program, national and international students will enroll in a 6 week, 9-credit program and will receive training on archaeological field and laboratory methods, including archaeological survey and excavation. Both surveys and excavations will take place at the site of Coaque, near the town of Pedernales. In addition to housing, students will have access to basic laboratories and on-site activities facilitated by the community.

Coaque is located on the coast, less than 10 miles from Pedernales, and along the chains of touristic beaches known as the Ruta del Spondylus (route of the Spondylus shell), that runs through the pacific coast from Salinas to Esmeraldas.

Program Details

Duration:

May 29 – July 9, 2022

Credits:

9

Language:

English

Campus:

Cumbayá-Quito + field work off the Ecuadorean coast (Pedernales)

Academic Backgrounds: Open to archaeology, anthropology, social sciences majors.

Language:

English

Staff:

Professors from Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ)

Representative from USFQ to accompany group on tours / excursions

Elective program:

Optional Spanish language lessons

Travel across Ecuador

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Prices:

Application Deadline: April 20, 2022

Program Fees: \$3,891.00

Cost per student | we require a minimum of 8 students to run the program

Program Includes:

Health & Safety Orientation

Access to facilities and placement locations, depending on track

Transportation to and from Quito's airport at the start of the program

Accommodation for the duration of the program

Support in case of medical emergencies

Does NOT include:

International Health Insurance (required)

International Flights

Personal expenses

Gratuities (Strongly recommended)

Additional expenses related to meals, travel & accommodation beyond what is covered by the program

Covid-19 Policies

All students must be fully vaccinated with authorized brands by the WHO.

Program Activities

Week 1: Welcome to field school

Orientation in USFQ campus (Quito)

Travel to the field (Pedernales)

Setting up field

Week 2: Ecuadorian Archaeology

Introduction to Ecuadorian archaeology: geography, chronology, and ancient cultures.

Principles of archeological Survey: beginning of fieldwork in the Coaque region, within community-based participatory research.(de Capua, 2002)

Week 3: Ancient societies of Manabí

Pre-Columbian societies of Manabí: Valdivia, Jamacoaque, Tiaone, and Manteña.

Archaeological Survey in the region of Coaque: material collection, cleaning, and classification.(Usillos, n.d.)

Week 4: The archaeological evidence of the Coaque Valley

Human interactions with the environment of Coaque Valley: research questions

Beginning of archaeological excavations: techniques and practice.(Pearsall, 2004)

Week 5: Laboratory techniques in the field

Laboratory techniques: identification and quantification of materials, database building, drawing, mapping, artifacts photography, and descriptive statistics.(Gutiérrez Usillos, 2014)

Week 6: Report writing

Time for writing a report of the archaeological practice in the Coaque Valley

Travel to USA

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DAY	DATE	ACTIVITY
Sunday	29-May	Arrive in Quito
Monday	30-May	AM Program Orientation & Welcome Lunch USFQ PM City Tour
Tuesday	31-May	AM USFQ International Students Orientation
Wednesday	1-Jun	Class at USFQ
Thursday	2-Jun	Class at USFQ
Friday	3-Jun	Class at USFQ
Saturday	4-Jun	Class at USFQ
Sunday	5-Jun	Full Day Excursion: Otavalo
Monday	6-Jun	Free Day - travel to Pedernales
Tuesday	7-Jun	Archaeological Survey
Wednesday	8-Jun	Archaeological Survey
Thursday	9-Jun	Archaeological Survey
Friday	10-Jun	Archaeological Survey
Saturday	11-Jun	Archaeological Survey
Sunday	12-Jun	Field excursion - Actividad con Lalo Llor
Monday	13-Jun	Archaeological excavations
Tuesday	14-Jun	Archaeological excavations
Wednesday	15-Jun	Archaeological excavations
Thursday	16-Jun	Archaeological excavations
Friday	17-Jun	Archaeological excavations
Saturday	18-Jun	Free day - Isla del amor (lancha + bus Cuaque / Cojimies)
Sunday	19-Jun	Free day - Servicio comunitario
Monday	20-Jun	Archaeological excavations
Tuesday	21-Jun	Archaeological excavations
Wednesday	22-Jun	Archaeological excavations
Thursday	23-Jun	Archaeological excavations
Friday	24-Jun	Archaeological excavations
Saturday	25-Jun	Drive back to Quito
Sunday	26-Jun	Free Day
Monday	27-Jun	Laboratory Analysis
Tuesday	28-Jun	Laboratory Analysis
Wednesday	29-Jun	Laboratory Analysis
Thursday	30-Jun	Laboratory Analysis

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Friday	1-Jul	Laboratory Analysis
Saturday	2-Jul	Free Day
Sunday	3-Jul	Free Day
Monday	4-Jul	Laboratory Analysis
Tuesday	5-Jul	Laboratory Analysis
Wednesday	6-Jul	Laboratory Analysis
Thursday	7-Jul	Laboratory Analysis
Friday	8-Jul	Final Presentations/Farewell Dinner
Saturday	9-Jul	Departure to the US

Readings:

Atalay, S. L. (2007). Global application of indigenous archaeology: Community based participatory research in Turkey. *Archaeologies*, 3(3), 249–270. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11759-007-9026-8>

de Capua, C. (2002). Las cabezas trofeo: un rango cultural en la cerámica de la Tolita y de Jama-Coaque y breve análisis del mismo rasgos en las demás culturas del Ecuador precolombino. In *De la imagen al Icono; Estudios de Arqueología e historia del Ecuador* (pp. 23–94). Ediciones Abya-Yala.

Harmman, Coyer (2016) CERAMIC ANALYSIS OF THE TABUCHILA COMPLEX OF THE JAMA RIVER VALLEY, MANABÍ, ECUADOR, MA Thesis.

Gutiérrez Usillos, A. (2014). Análisis e interpretación iconográfica de las representaciones antropomorfas de la cultura Jama Coaque. *Antropología Cuadernos de Investigación*, 13, 13. <https://doi.org/10.26807/ant.v0i13.55>

Pearsall, D. (2004). *Plants and People in Ancient Ecuador: The Ethnobotany of the Jama River Valley*. Thomson and Wadsworth. <https://doi.org/10.2993/0278-0771-28.2.319>

Usillos, A. G. (n.d.). Análisis e interpretación iconográfica de las representaciones antropomorfas de la cultura Jama Coaque.

Zeidler, J. A., and Deborah M. Pearsall

1994 *Regional archaeology in northern Manabí, Ecuador: Environment, cultural chronology, and prehistoric subsistence in the Jama River valley* 1. University of Pittsburgh Memoirs in Latin American Archaeology 8, Pittsburgh.

For any additional information, please reach out to our email address: opi@usfq.edu.ec
