



Saraguro, Ecuador

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Tao of Photography Workshop – Ecuador 2009

‘Exploring the Golden Light’

The object of the “Tao of Photography” workshops is for all of us to share an adventure and to open up the creative receptors within your self. There is no level of expertise or advanced equipment necessary as we will be addressing more of the intuitive side than technical aspect of photography. A digital camera, thumb drive, and knowledge of how to download photos will be necessary.

The workshop will be facilitated by the curator of photography at PanTerra Gallery, Chuck Feil, who has led numerous photography workshops in Arizona and Mexico.

http://www.panterragallery.com/feil/feil_bio.php

This journey to Ecuador will fill your digital cards with the magic of light, place, and wonderment. Chuck has been to Ecuador twice and has strong relationships with the places and people we will be visiting. Traveling with one who knows the lay of the land provides you the freedom to experience the environment at hand without worrying about the details and concerns of traveling in a foreign country.

This 9 day workshop (including travel days) will take you from dry forests, rainforests, and beaches on the coast of Ecuador, to the ‘Golden Light’ of the Andes in Vilcabamba, Ecuador.

On the coast we will stay and work at “Samai” an eco-retreat nestled in the rainforest just above the Ecuadorian coastline. www.sacred-journey.com

Accommodations are comfortable and the food is irresistible. A large covered outdoor conference center is ideal for our evening photo critiques. We will have 3 full days of photographing rainforest, beach environments, and a day trip to the fishing villages of Salango and Puerto López. The charming Tania Durant will be our host and interpreter during our stay at Samai.

On the 4th day we will travel along the coastline to Guayaquil to catch a flight to Loja and then will be transported to Vilcabamba in the valley of the ‘Golden Light’.

We will be hosted by Brian O'Leary (a former astronaut) and his artist wife Meredith Miller at their amazing retreat Montesueños <http://www.montesuenos.org/>

Spending 3 full days photographing the landscape and people will only tantalize your creative taste buds for more of the same and the yearning to return. Chuck guarantees that all of you will come back home with images to drool over for the next year! There will be opportunities to take horse back trips into the Andes or settle into Montesueños... being still and watching the ever changing light and evening show of rainbows dropping into your lap. Chuck has planned many exciting assignments for this workshop with nightly critiques, and the opportunity to put a multimedia show together of every ones work at the end of our experience to take home and share with friends and compatriots.

The journey home will take us back through the historic city of Loja and on to Guayaquil where we will catch our flight back home.



View of the Ecuador coast from Samai



View of the Andes from Montesueños

The Details:

When: Departing on **Thursday May 14, 2009** from Los Angeles, CA or Miami, FL
Returning on **Saturday May 23, 2009** late evening to Los Angeles, CA or Miami, FL
(Whether you are traveling out of Los Angeles or Miami we will all meet in Panama City. Together we will continue our journey to Guayaquil, Ecuador and onward.)



Costs: \$2,500.00 includes airfare from Los Angeles or Miami to Guayaquil, Ecuador and all travel expenses in Ecuador including lodging, food, and workshop fee. Does not include non-itinerary excursions, personal, or alcohol expenses.

Deadlines and Deposits: There are only **12 spaces available** for the workshop. A **\$1,000.00 non-refundable deposit** will hold you a place in the workshop and allow us to make early airline reservations. **Balance will be due on January 15, 2009.**
(You can make monthly payments on the balance due through the deadline.)



Make checks out to: **VFA Publishing - PO Box 124, Winthrop, ME 04364**

Los Angeles, CA Departure

Depart – Thu 14 May 2009



	COPA Panama Flight 303	Departs: 1:12a Los Angeles (LAX)	Arrives: 10:30a Tocumen Intl (PTY)
	Coach Boeing 737-800 (Narrow-body Jet) 7h 18m [Layover in Panama City, Panama (PTY) for 1h 42m]		
	COPA Panama Flight 273	Departs: 12:12p Tocumen Intl (PTY)	Arrives: 2:17p Simon Bolivar (GYE)
	Coach Boeing 737-700 (Narrow-body Jet) 2h 05m		

Return – Sat 23 May 2009



	COPA Panama Flight 272	Departs: 3:50p Simon Bolivar (GYE)	Arrives: 5:52p Tocumen Intl (PTY)
	Coach Boeing 737-700 (Narrow-body Jet) 2h 02m [Layover in Panama City, Panama (PTY) for 1h 10m]		
	COPA Panama Flight 302	Departs: 7:02p Tocumen Intl (PTY)	Arrives: 11:04p Los Angeles (LAX)

Miami, FL Departure

Depart – Thu 14 May 2009

	COPA Panama Flight 491	Departs: 7:39a Miami (MIA)	Arrives: 10:36a Tocumen Intl (PTY)
	Coach Boeing 737-700 Passenger (Narrow-body Jet) 3h 57m [Layover in Panama City, Panama (PTY) for 1h 36m]		
	COPA Panama Flight 273	Departs: 12:12p Tocumen Intl (PTY)	Arrives: 2:17p Simon Bolivar (GYE)
	Coach Boeing 737-700 Passenger (Narrow-body Jet) 2h 05m		

Return – Sat 23 May 2009

	COPA Panama Flight 272	Departs: 3:50p Simon Bolivar (GYE)	Arrives: 5:52p Tocumen Intl (PTY)
	Coach Boeing 737-700 Passenger (Narrow-body Jet) 2h 02m [Layover in Panama City, Panama (PTY) for 2h 34m]		
	COPA Panama Flight 490	Departs: 8:26p Tocumen Intl (PTY)	Arrives: 11:21p Miami (MIA)

(Please note regardless of whether you are traveling out of LA or Miami we will all rendezvous in Panama City and travel together to Guayaquil, Ecuador.)