Although El Salvador is Central America’s smallest nation at a little over 8,000 square miles, the quality and quantity of its natural wonders are astounding. This pocket-size country boasts a wide diversity of dramatic terrain and fascinating sights that can be accessed easily on day trips from the modern capital city of San Salvador. Walk the cobblestone streets of Suchitoto with its adobe houses and churches decorated in wrought iron, and visit the tomb of the modern-day human rights martyr, Archbishop Oscar Romero. View remnants of the Mayan civilization at the archaeological site of Joya de Cérén, preserved under layers of volcanic ash for 1,300 years. Travel the mountain road, Route of the Flowers, to the heart of coffee country where we enjoy a private visit to a coffee plantation before riding in 4x4 vehicles to a hidden lagoon. Visit Volcanoes National Park and walk through its lush forests, populated by some 127 species of birds. Join us on this big adventure to a tiny country!

**FACULTY LEADER**
Professor William Durham, ’71, past chair of the department of anthropological sciences at Stanford is an innovative teacher and administrator whose primary interests are ecology and evolution, the interactions of genetic and cultural change in human populations, and the challenges to conservation and community development in the tropics, especially the Galapagos and the Amazon. Professor Durham’s first published book, *Scarcity and Survival in Central America*, is an environmental history of El Salvador and its neighbors, focusing on the causes and consequences of poverty in the region. He remains active in promoting conservation in El Salvador and continues to conduct fieldwork in Central America.

“It was a privilege to have Professor Durham as our faculty leader. Bill Durham’s involvement and expertise were the key reasons we joined this trip in the first place.”
— Cameron Ward, Galapagos Field Seminar, 2009
ITINERARY

Friday, February 10
U.S. / SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR
Depart for El Salvador arriving this evening at the International Airport in Comalapa. Transfer to our hotel in the upscale neighborhood of San Benito in the capital city of San Salvador, a vibrant, historic, intellectual city, and the second-largest in Central America. Located at the foothills of the Quetzaltepec, or San Salvador Volcano, the city has a long and fascinating history, with origins dating to a time before the arrival of the Spanish Conquest. Enjoy a relaxing evening at leisure. HOTEL SHERATON PRESIDENTE

Saturday, February 11
SAN SALVADOR
Explore San Salvador’s historical city center, including the beautifully restored Metropolitan Cathedral and its tomb of Monsignor Romero, the elegant National Theatre, plazas and avenues. In the afternoon, pay a visit to the impressive American Embassy. Tonight enjoy a welcome reception and dinner at a restaurant with breathtaking views of the city. HOTEL SHERATON PRESIDENTE (B,L,D)

Sunday, February 12
SUCHITOTO
This morning, depart for Suchitoto, a colonial village where time has stood still. View the impressive Lake Suchitlán, which was formed upon completion of the Cerrón Grande hydroelectric dam on the Lempa River in 1973. Enjoy a boat ride on the lake and visit the various islands that dot the lake, including Bird Island, home to many migratory birds such as flamingos, storks and many species of ducks. Return to Suchitoto to further explore the town and learn about indigo, an herb that is prevalent in El Salvador. Walk along the cobblestone streets and admire the colonial adobe houses and churches decorated in wrought iron and wood carvings. Tour the theater, art galleries and the private museum of filmmaker and avid arts promoter, Alejandro Coto. Return to our hotel in San Salvador for an evening on our own. HOTEL SHERATON PRESIDENTE (B,L)

Monday, February 13
JOYA DE CEREN / SAN SALVADOR
Depart for the Mayan archaeological site of Joya de Cerén, a UNESCO World Heritage site. It features a pre-Columbian Maya farming village that was preserved under layers of volcanic ash and is remarkably intact. Continue to the nearby archaeological site of San Andrés followed by a journey to the top of San Salvador Volcano where we admire its enormous crater, El Boquerón, and admire the incredible views of the capital city. The cones of more than 25 extinct volcanoes punctuate El Salvador's horizon, with many small and large craters popping up above old lava flows. The name, El Boquerón (“wide mouth”), was given to the crater due to its sheer size of approximately 1,476 feet deep and 3.1 miles wide. This afternoon, stop at a San Salvadorian artisan market to absorb the wonderful sights and sounds of a bustling Central American market. Enjoy a sunset dinner tonight with vistas of the Pacific Ocean. HOTEL SHERATON PRESIDENTE (B,L,D)
Tuesday, February 14

SAN SALVADOR / ROUTE OF THE FLOWERS
The volcanic mountain chain that dominates El Salvador’s landscape provides ideal conditions for coffee cultivation, which has been the mainstay of the Salvadorian economy for more than a century. This morning we travel the mountain road called Ruta de Las Flores (“Route of the Flowers”). Some 23 miles long, it is a dramatic ride that traverses the mountains of southwest El Salvador and connects a series of charming towns and villages in the heart of the coffee country. Visit Nahuizalco, famous for its wood carvings and works of wicker. Stop in Juayua to see its colonial church that houses a 15th-century sculpture of the Black Christ. Next, journey to the rural town of Apaneca, which in the Nahuat language means “river of the wind.” Located at an elevation of 4,757 feet, the town is surrounded by fertile coffee plantations whose high elevation helps to grow some of El Salvador’s best coffee. Enjoy lunch at a local coffee plantation, then continue to the pre-Columbian village of Ataco, one of the main producers of coffee in the nation. Spend the night at a mountain lodge surrounded by coffee plantations. HOTEL ALICANTE DE MONTAÑA (B,L,D)

Wednesday, February 15

VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK / SAN SALVADOR
Visit a private coffee processing plant, or beneficio, and learn about the coffee-making process, from planting and harvesting, to selecting coffee for export, followed by a coffee tasting. Continue to Apaneca via dune buggies on back roads on which there are panoramic views and a hidden lagoon in a forest. On the way, observe the lush vegetation and be on the lookout for exotic birds. From Apaneca, journey to Cerro Verde, a dormant volcano located within Volcanoes National Park that rises 6,670 feet and contains one the few cloud forests in the country. Walk through the woods that have flourished inside this extinct volcano’s crater. The woods are home to nearly 125 species of birds, including 17 species of hummingbirds, and a wide variety of flowers. From the top of Cerro Verde, gaze upon the awe-inspiring landscape, dominated by the Izalco and Lamatepec volcanoes off to the west. This evening we return to our hotel in San Salvador. HOTEL SHERATON PRESIDENTE (B,L,D)

Thursday, February 16

SAN SALVADOR / COSTA DEL SOL
This morning visit the botanical garden, La Laguna. Located in the crater of an extinct volcano, it hosts a huge collection of plants and flowers from around the world, including a 200-year-old ceiba tree. In the afternoon, depart for the nearby Pacific Coast. After we check in to our beachfront hotel, the afternoon is free for us to relax and enjoy the ocean. Gather this evening for a farewell reception and dinner. HOTEL PACIFIC PARADISE (B,L,D)

Friday, February 17

COSTA DEL SOL / U.S.
Transfer from our hotel to the nearby Comalapa International Airport for flights home to the U.S. (B)
INFORMATION

DATES
February 10 to 17, 2011 (8 days)

SIZE
This program is limited to 32 participants.

COST*
$3,995 per person, double occupancy
$4,795 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $200 per person.

INCLUDED
• 7 nights of hotel accommodations
• 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 5 dinners
• Welcome and farewell receptions
• Bottled water on excursions
• Gratuities to porters, guides, and drivers for all group activities
• All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary
• Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
• Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
• Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials
• Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
• International and U.S. domestic airfare
• Passport and visa fees
• Immunization costs
• Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
• Independent and private transfers
• Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
• Excess-baggage charges
• Personal items such as email, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on American Airlines from San Francisco to San Salvador via Dallas is approximately $680 as of June 2011 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our designated agent.
WHAT TO EXPECT
We consider this program to be moderately strenuous. El Salvador’s tourism industry is developing, thus patience with local service standards will greatly improve one’s enjoyment of the trip. Flexibility is essential, since local conditions may require alterations in the schedule. Full days of touring are balanced with free time on one’s own. Daily excursions involve one to three miles of walking on city streets, reserves or rural areas, which are, in some cases, uneven or cobblestone. Some of the walking takes place at ancient sites or on natural terrain, where paths can be rocky and uneven. Our journey at times requires travel by motorcoach, the longest drives being up to 2 hours. Typically the weather in El Salvador is marked by warm days balanced by cool evenings. Accommodations are at a 5-star hotel in San Salvador; a simple, yet comfortable, mountain lodge in Apaneca; and a beachfront hotel in Costa del Sol. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT
A $1,000 per-person deposit is required to hold your space on this program. Complete and return the attached reservation form or sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?/elsalvador2012. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS
 Deposits and any payments are fully refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

INSURANCE
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. We strongly encourage that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation. The product offered in this brochure includes a special Waiver of Pre-Existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency and Terrorist Acts if you postmark your insurance payment within 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter.

ELIGIBILITY
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association; the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, call (650) 725-0692 or visit www.stanfordalumni.org/membership.

RESPONSIBILITY
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to
be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on ‘board their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in June 2011 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50
Stanford Travel/Study

Reservation Form

Focus on El Salvador
FEBRUARY 10 TO 17, 2012

MR. / MRS. / MS.
MISS / DR. / PROF.  AGE  STANFORD CLASS

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE  WORK PHONE  CELL PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

I/we have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them.

SIGNATURE

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

☐ I wish to have single accommodations.

or ☐ I plan to share accommodations with ________________________________

or ☐ I’d like to know about possible roommates.

Here is my deposit of $_________ ($1,000 per person) for ______ place(s).

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to “Stanford Alumni Association”).

or ☐ Charge my deposit to my ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ American Express

CARD #  EXPIRATION DATE

AUTHORIZED CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE  DATE

Mail completed form to Stanford Travel/Study, 326 Galvez Street, Stanford, CA 94305-6105
or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?elsalvador2012.
Please submit your payment only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.