



KINGUE
adventure school

LEADERSHIP INSPIRED BY NATURE



www.kingue-edu.org





ABOUT US

Kingue is an adventure school that pushes students out of their comfort zone, helps them realize what they are capable of, and builds their connection to the natural world, our local communities, and themselves.

We believe that nature is the best classroom. Our courses take place in the mountains of the Andes, on the beaches of the Galapagos, in the rivers of the Amazon, and more. We believe that this environment provides the most authentic and growthful opportunities for students to build their leadership skills and a healthy relationship with our planet.

We believe that experience is the best teacher. Our students learn by doing. On our expeditions, our students work together to determine the best way down a steep section of terrain, cook their own meals, and plan the upcoming day. Our instructors act as facilitators and coaches—we support students in problem-solving, making and learning from their mistakes, and finding joy even in the challenging moments.

We take pride in teaching in our backyard. Kingue was founded and continues to be run by Ecuadorians. We bring our students to the places that we know, love, and grew up in. Students will learn from local instructors; eat on the steps of our farmhouses; raft the Amazon with indigenous river guides; and more. “Outdoor Education” is a very new industry in Ecuador. Our goal is to build an ecosystem of Outdoor Education in our country—one that fosters growth in our students from both Ecuador and the U.S., builds leadership and education skills in our local instructors, and employs our communities.

VISION

All people are able to live in ways that are sustainable and transformative for themselves, their communities, and the natural world.

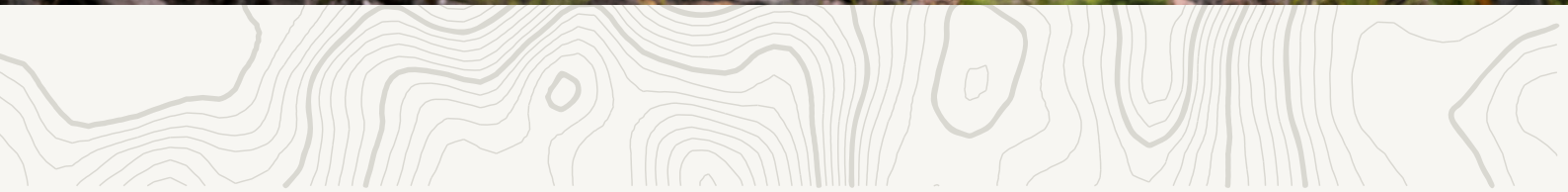
MISSION

To create meaningful connections between individuals and the natural world and cultivate leaders who are empowered to drive positive change.



“I think it's very interesting how most of the trip I kept saying ‘I can't do this,’ but each day got easier and I felt more confident. I seriously didn't think I would be able to make it back, but the hike back was easier than most of the activities we did. I think I could've survived way longer out there... This trip really made me enjoy hiking and backpacking.”

STUDENT SPRING 2024



OUR PROGRAMS

Our programs are designed in close coordination with our clients to meet the interests and needs of the school and students. We can focus on a number of different program objectives, and can meet those objectives through a number of different itineraries.

What remains consistent is our teaching model. Our model is derived from the Kolb Experiential Learning Cycle. We teach students the skills and knowledge they need to be able to complete a task or engage in a discussion. We support them as they try out these skills for the first time, and then give them space to make mistakes and succeed. We then provide feedback, coaching, and space for reflection, so that they learn from the experience, and are able to try again with more insight.

Below are a list of program objectives that you can choose to emphasize, and a few sample itineraries that showcase these objectives.





PROGRAM OBJECTIVES



LEADERSHIP: We believe that the outdoors is an incredible classroom for students to learn to be confident, self-aware, and compassionate leaders.

How we do it:

- **Self-awareness:** Building leadership starts with better understanding of yourself; in particular, what you need in challenging conditions so you can remain present with your group. Just by living outside, students learn how to take care of themselves, whether it's figuring out how to regulate their temperature, hunger, and hydration, or how to keep their gear organized. In addition, they begin to understand what they need mentally to overcome obstacles presented by the natural world. Through lessons, we give them the tools to take care in a challenging environment. Through group discussion and debriefs, we explore how to take care of ourselves mentally and emotionally. Through one-on-one coaching, we support students as they struggle and succeed, so they can find ways to overcome the barriers presented throughout the trip.
- **Confidence:** Each day on a Kingue trip, we have anywhere from 2-4 students as “designated leaders”. These “designated leaders” help our instructors plan the following day, communicate the plan to the group, and then are in charge of motivating the group and facilitating decision-making among their peers so that the group can accomplish its goals. Our aim is for all students to experience the “designated leader” role and see their capacity in conducting their peers. Additionally, students take on leadership roles in their hiking groups, prepare their meals for their cook groups, and give lessons on local flora and fauna.
- **Compassion:** On Kingue trips, we operate as “*una familia*” (a family). Students learn that they need every member on their expedition so that the team can succeed as a whole. If you’re rafting in the Amazon, you alone can’t row the boat. If you’re backpacking in the Andes, you alone can’t carry all of your group’s gear. Students learn to demonstrate a caring attitude for the group by cooking a great dinner, giving each other encouragement, or scouting the route when everyone’s tired. They start to realize the importance of seeing beyond themselves, valuing the people who are around them, and understanding their impact on others.



“Step inside this moment with me: We are standing atop a giant mountain in the Andes with a 360° panoramic view around us. Happiest and proudest moment of the trip, in stark contrast to the day before, when we were trekking through muck, losing shoes, and standing in the rain. Yet that horrible day didn’t matter at all, because we had mustered optimism and took advantage of it to make it here. Living in the present and leading others to do the same being a DL (designated leader) that day marked a shift in my perspective of leadership and optimism, as it allowed the best experience of the trip.”

STUDENT SPRING 2024



PROGRAM OBJECTIVES



OUTDOOR LIVING SKILLS

How do we do it: Our courses focus on developing strong outdoor living skills for all of our students, including learning how to navigate, set up camp, cook, manage risk, move safely through challenging terrain, and more. Our staff also can teach students wilderness first aid to further build their comfortability and risk management skills outdoors.

LEAVE NO TRACE & LEAVE GOOD TRACE

How do we do it: Kingue is an official partner of Leave No Trace (LNT), and at least one instructor on all courses is an LNT Educator. We teach students the Leave No Trace principles so that they can apply them both on this course and at home, building their environmental stewardship. Kingue has taken it one step farther than LNT, and has created the Leave Good Trace principles to make sure that our practices have not just a neutral but a positive impact on the environment.

LOCAL FLORA & FAUNA

How do we do it: Instructors and Kingue partners share their knowledge of local ecology informally on the trail and formally through lessons. In addition, students pick a topic prior to coming to the expedition, research it, and teach their peers about it while on the course.

CONNECTION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES, CULTURES, AND HISTORY

How we do it: On all expeditions, we find opportunities to connect with local communities, whether it's learning from Quechua chocolate makers about their craft, or talking with Andean fishermen about the mountains. Our instructors cover the human history of the different locations we travel through. Additionally, we talk about the social and environmental impacts of our modern society and explore how these play out at the places we are visiting.

SUSTAINABILITY

How we do it: Our courses strive to show students how to build a sustainable relationship with the planet. We do this in a few ways. First, we try to embody this in our own business. We look for ways to reduce our own impact, like housing our headquarters in repurposed chicken barns and using mostly ingredients from our garden and local farms to feed students when at our headquarters. When students are preparing for the course, we take the time to educate them about our farm and its agricultural and dairy practices. This can look a number of ways, including having them compare natural ecosystems to agricultural ecosystems and discuss how best the latter can mimic the complexity and sustainability of the natural forest; having them learn about the ways in which foods and herbs can be medicine for both humans and the earth; and having them experience working on the land, taking care of the cows and planting and tending to our medicinal herbs. Learning how to care for the environment extends to our courses. This includes embodying the Leave No Trace and Leave Good Trace principles to minimize our impact on the areas we travel through, and to push students to think about what they can do in their lives beyond Kingue to positively impact ecosystems close to home.



SAMPLE ITINERARIES



Summit to Stream: Andean Hiking and Amazon Rafting Expedition

Duration: 9 Days

Group size: 6-15 students, 2 chaperones, 2-3 Kingue instructors

Program Objectives: Leadership; Outdoor Living Skills; Local Flora and Fauna; Connection with Local Communities, Cultures and History; Leave no Trace; and Sustainability

- Day 0 - Arrive in Quito. Kingue staff pick up students and chaperones from the airport and drive them to our headquarters, located 45 minutes away from the airport.
- Day 1 - After a delicious homemade breakfast at the Kingue farm house, students receive an orientation on the headquarters, course, and area. The rest of the morning is spent digging into our sustainability program objective. Students examine the ecosystem of the local forest, learn how Kingue's farm replicates this, and support the farm by planting medicinal herbs and trees. After lunch, we talk about dairy production and finish the day off with dinner at the farmhouse.
- Day 2 - After breakfast, we embark on a short hike in the Pasochoa Reserve to help us with the acclimatization process. After, we prepare for the backpacking part of the course. Instructors check all students' personal gear, divide students into 3-5 person tent and cook groups, and teach them how to use camping gear like tents and stoves so that students' transition into the backcountry is smoother.
- Day 3 - We pack all our gear in our backpacks and get on the bus to travel to the high Andes of Ecuador. We begin the backpacking portion of the trip. Depending on our route, students will hike an hour or so before making camp at our first campsite, and practicing the skills they learned the previous day.
- Day 4-6 - We continue with our expedition throughout the Andes. While each day looks different in terms of weather, terrain, and mileage, our routine remains roughly the same. Each day, we will have 2-4 students act as "designated leaders". They wake up their peers, who take down camp and prepare for the day. 1-2 students in each cook group make breakfast. We discuss the route and plan for the day, and begin hiking. We take breaks throughout the day to rest and refuel, enjoy the scenery, scout the route, or learn about the area. Upon arriving at our next campsite, we set up camp, cook, then have evening meeting to process the day, share some laughs, learn about local flora or fauna from a student lesson, and talk about tomorrow.
- Day 7 - We are picked up. The bus drives us to Pacha Eco Lodge, a beautiful lodge in the Archidona area of the Amazon basin. We clean and deissue our camping gear and receive the gear packed away for rafting. We eat a delicious dinner cooked by the lodge and head to our rooms to take a well-deserved shower.
- Day 8 - After eating breakfast and receiving a safety talk from Kayak Ecuador, we raft the Jondachi-Hollin River, a Class III/IV River in a beautiful forested gorge in the Amazon, surrounded by waterfalls.
- Day 9 - After breakfast, we spend the morning learning from local Quechua chocolate makers about the process of growing and making chocolate, with lots of tasting along the way. After lunch, we reflect on the experience, say our goodbyes, and drive to the Airport in Quito for departure.

Galapagos Sea Kayaking and Wilderness Exploration in the Andes

Duration: 9 Days

Group size: 6-15 students, 2 chaperones, 2-3 instructors, 1-3 Naturalist Guides

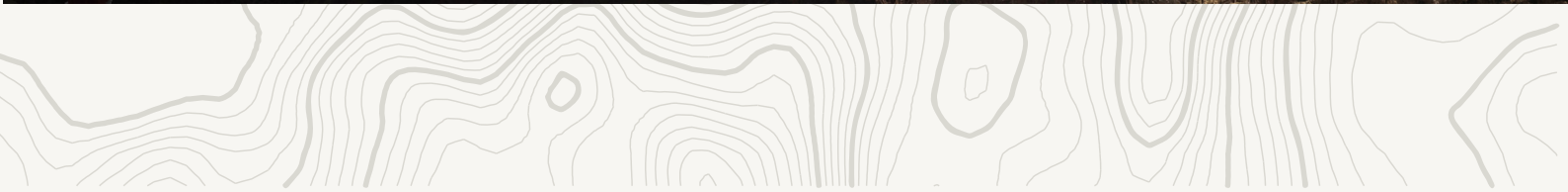
Program objectives: Leadership, Outdoor Living Skills, Leave No Trace, Local Flora and Fauna, and Sustainability

- Day 0 - 5 will look roughly the same as day 0-5 in the previous itinerary.
- Day 6 - The bus picks us up from backpacking and drives us to Casa Ilayaku, a hotel just 20 minutes away from the Quito airport. There, we shower, have dinner, and prepare for our sea kayaking adventure in the Galapagos.
- Day 7 - We wake up early to catch a 1.5 hour flight to the Galapagos's San Cristobal Island. Upon landing in the archipelago's main town, Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, we already begin to see the local wildlife that the islands are known for: sea lions, marine iguanas, blue footed boobies, and more. In the afternoon, we meet our Galapagos nature guides and have a safety briefing on sea kayaking. We eat dinner at our hotel and head to bed.
- Day 8 - After breakfast, we spend the day paddling along the coast to our campsite at Playa Manglecito. While we paddle, we can see green sea turtles, frigate birds and other local wildlife. Once we arrive, we swim, explore, and generally enjoy the beautiful beach where we are camping. We cook dinner, watch the sunset over the ocean, reflect on our experiences during evening meeting, and head to bed.
- Day 9 - We get back in our kayaks and spend the morning paddling along the coastline towards Puerto Grande, a beautiful beach about five miles away. Here, we'll meet a boat that will take us to Kicker Rock, a very small outcrop off the coast of San Cristobal that is known for snorkeling. We'll snorkel with local marine wildlife in the afternoon, then return to the hotel in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno for a final dinner together.
- Day 10 - After breakfast, we do a closing reflection on the trip experience, say our goodbyes, and head home by way of the San Cristobal then Quito airports.



“[Kingue] was my first time out of the country. I had a great time on the hike even though there were many unexpected challenges to the group. All the mud and steep hills seemed to be challenging but were actually lots of fun pushing myself and helping others over the hills. I had a great time taking in nature, drawing, and fishing. It was peaceful and calming to sit at the lake and was the first time I can think of having complete silence and peace in nature. After the hiking and camping section of the trip, whitewater rafting was insanely fun and calming with all the views along the river. The sounds of waterfalls along the river looked like something I’d only seen in movies before, making it such a unique experience to have.”

STUDENT SPRING 2024



RISK MANAGEMENT

Safety is our priority at Kingue. Our instructors are constantly assessing the potential risk of the situations we encounter, and working with our students to mitigate this risk. To best support our teams, our risk management practices include:

- All members of our instructor and evacuation teams are certified Wilderness First Responders (WFR). This certification equips them with the knowledge and skills to address medical needs and emergencies effectively in remote and rugged environments. Additionally, they are trained to role model and coach students in managing risk for themselves and the group.
- We require each student to complete a comprehensive medical form before beginning the course. This information ensures that our staff can provide informed medical care to any student if needed.
- Should an evacuation be necessary, we have multiple means of getting a student to medical care. Each course has an evacuation coordinator who is on call 24 hours per day during the entirety of the trip. Additionally, we have a team of Kingue instructors who are on standby to provide additional medical assistance to a course or transport a student in or out of the field. Each of our instructors carries a satellite device they can use to contact the evacuation coordinator. If we need to evacuate a student, we have multiple means of doing so. Our headquarters houses a helicopter landing pad and helicopters that can reach students in remote locations. If a helicopter is not suitable, we can access students using our vehicles or horsepackers.
- Our risk management practices are managed by co-founder Jorge Ignacio Anhalzer. Jorge is a WEMT (Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician) and a Wilderness Medicine teacher. He is aided by Dr. Christian Fierro, Kingue's Medical Director, who is a cardiologist and outdoor enthusiast.





THE TEAM

The Kingue team is led by:

Jorge Anhalzer is the co-founder and Executive Director of Kingue. Born and raised outside of Quito, Jorge has spent his life exploring the mountains of Ecuador, the United States, Patagonia and the mountains of South America. Before college, Jorge took a semester course in Patagonia with NOLS, one of the leading outdoor education programs based in the U.S., which changed his life. As a college student, Jorge dreamed of bringing outdoor education to Ecuador, and studied sports management with the hopes of making this dream a reality. After graduation, he became a NOLS instructor, and in 2017, co-founded Kingue Adventure School. Since then, he has led countless corporate, adult, and international groups through Kingue, and has taught expedition leadership courses for high school students, MBA programs, senior Navy Seals, and members of the US Naval Academy through NOLS. Jorge instructs training courses for new NOLS instructors, mentoring new industry professionals and evaluating whether they are prepared to work in the field. Additionally, he trains Ecuadorian instructors looking to break into the outdoor education industry domestically and internationally.

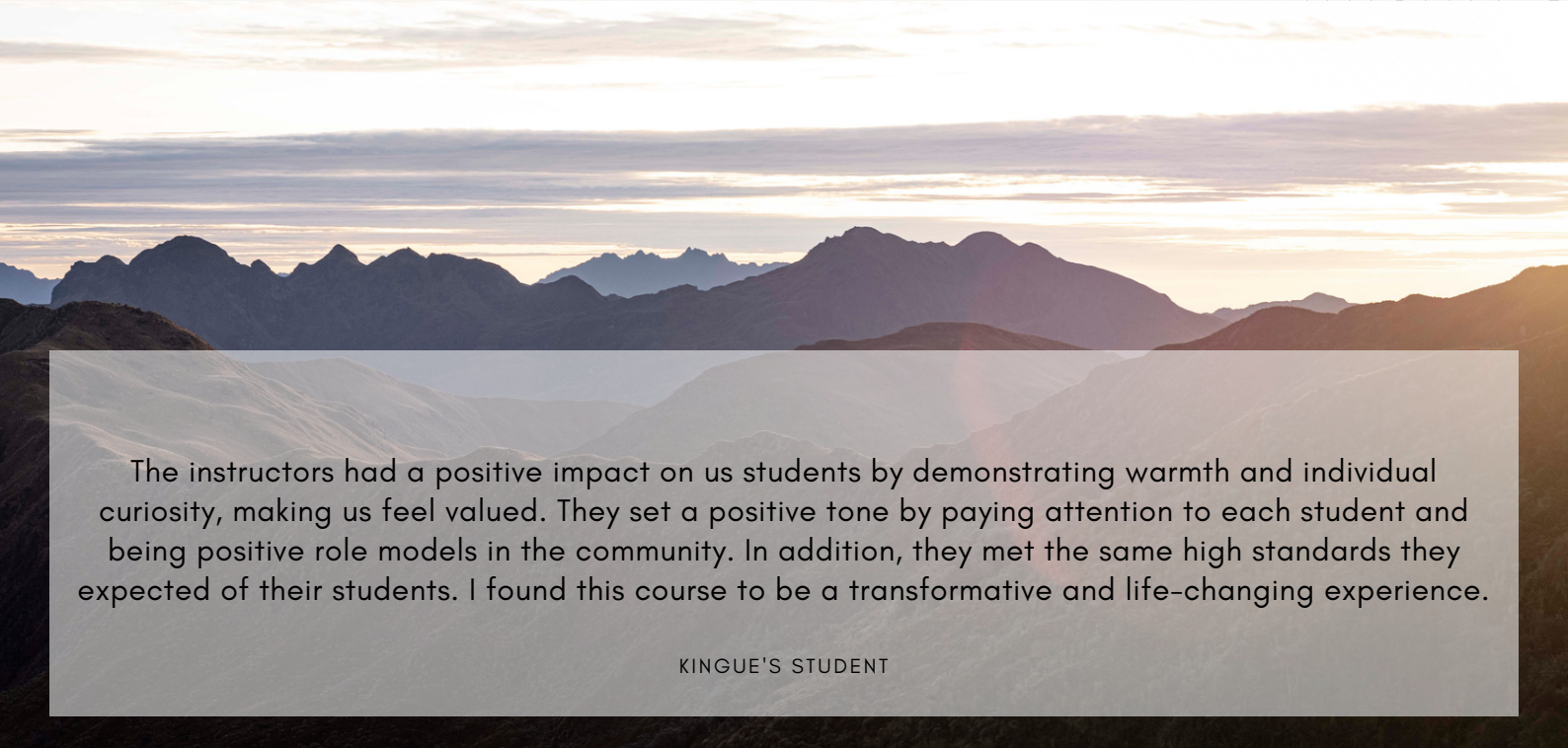
Joaquín Serrano is the CFO of Kingue, and is a passionate adventurer, nature lover, and Lean & Six Sigma certified in supply chain management. Joaquin studied industrial engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and has a Masters in Sustainability and Responsibility from Ashridge Business School in England. He is the mind behind the school's business development, while also ensuring that the school's processes and curriculum include strong sustainability components. When he's not working, Joaquin enjoys the great outdoors.

Anna Santoleri is Kingue's Program Director. Anna is an outdoor educator and classroom teacher with over 10 years of experience working with youth. She is a NOLS Instructor and Program Supervisor, and with Jorge instructs training courses for new NOLS instructors, mentoring and evaluating them to ensure they are ready to work in the field. Additionally, she is the Co-Founder and Director of Revision Education, an U.S.-based non-for profit that works with schools to start or further develop outdoor programming for students. She is a Massachusetts and California licensed middle and high school English and History teacher, WFR (Wilderness First Responder), and LNT (Leave No Trace) Master Educator. She holds a M.Ed. from Harvard Graduate School of Education and B.A. in History and Literature from Harvard College.



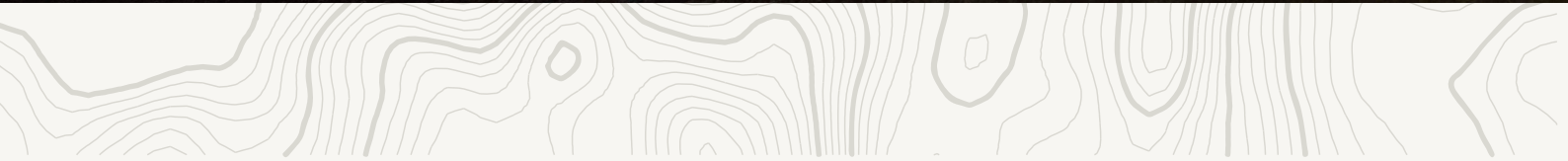
ABOUT LNT

Leave No Trace (LNT) is a U.S.-based organization that educates the public on enjoying nature in a more responsible way. Their seven principles are widely regarded as the backbone of sustainable outdoor recreation ethics. Kingue is the only school or organization in Ecuador that is an official partner of LNT. We ensure all students leave our courses with a sound understanding of LNT. Not only do we teach the principles, but they are interwoven into all of our ways of being in the outdoors—where we camp, how we cook, where we hike, and more. If your school is interested, we can train your students to become certified LNT educators while on our courses. Kingue is committed to going one step beyond LNT—we practice what we call “Leave Good Trace”. To us, this means leaving the environment better than how you found it, both while traveling through it, and as members of a larger ecosystem at home.



The instructors had a positive impact on us students by demonstrating warmth and individual curiosity, making us feel valued. They set a positive tone by paying attention to each student and being positive role models in the community. In addition, they met the same high standards they expected of their students. I found this course to be a transformative and life-changing experience.

KINGUE'S STUDENT







KINGUE

adventure school

CONTACTS

+593 988 19 0530

+593 987 20 8232

info@kingue-edu.org

www.kingue-edu.org

