

ANNUAL REPORT: COLOMBIA CIUDAD PERDIDA 2017 FIELD SCHOOL

Director: Dr. Santiago Giraldo, Latin America Director, Global Heritage Fund

Co-Director: Mr. Eduardo Mazuera, Architect, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia



Students at Ciudad Perdida Field school digging shovel tests in the Canal Sector

During the field season we accomplished some of the objectives planned for 2017, which included sampling about 35 structures in Ciudad Perdida, doing conservation work on the staircase leading to the river and visiting some of the other sites in the vicinity, most notably Alto de Mira. As planned, students also learned how to use a total station and received lectures on conservation, archaeological park management, and archaeological and anthropological research. We were unable to complete a survey portion of the field school due to significant amounts of tree fall caused by hurricane Mathew in 2016 on the path leading in to the site of Tigres. Access to the site was complicated by this event and posed significant risks for students, so that both co-directors decided to concentrate on pending activities within Ciudad Perdida

Given our small class size, students were able to actively participate in all phases of research, including survey and sampling, conservation, and excavation. One of the benefits of having small groups of students is that the amount of time actually spent by each one of them handling the total station and acquiring data, as well as excavating test pits and processing finds is very high. This also includes conservation work, which they were able to participate in by restoring a small section of a staircase (about 40 feet). Students were also able to interact with the archaeological park rangers, local archaeologists, and our architectural mapping crew. In addition, a French film crew and Luisa Fernanda Herrera, the Colombian archaeologist who was part of the ICANH team that found Ciudad Perdida in 1975.