

Ecuador

Andes Adventure 2025



OVERVIEW

Ecuador is a megadiverse country, and this diversity stems from its location in the Neotropics, the presence of the Andes, and the influence of ocean currents along its coasts.

The Andes stretch along Ecuador like a backbone, separating the coast from the Amazon, with the Galápagos Islands situated 600 miles away.

This journey offers the opportunity to explore the Andes, boasting towering active volcanoes, where indigenous communities cultivate in beautiful valleys. These communities are known for their creativity as artisans, and the Otavalo market is a vibrant display of colors with traditional textiles, ceramics, and jewelry. The vegetable and fruit market showcases products from these fertile volcanic lands.

DAY 1:
QUITO
Welcome to Ecuador

Welcome to Ecuador, and the city of Quito, which at 9,000 ft. (2,800 m) is the second highest capital city in the world! A representative will meet you at the airport to assist with your luggage and transfer to your hotel. Depending on the time of your arrival you may wish to explore your new surroundings, or simply relax and prepare for the big adventure ahead.

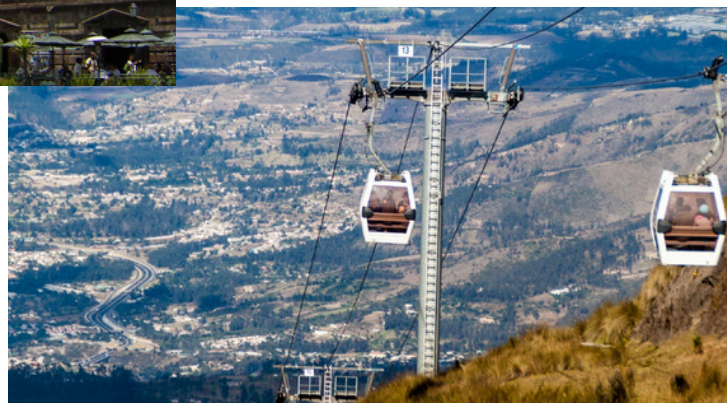
Meals included:
Accommodation: Casona de La Ronda

DAY 2:
QUITO:
City tour + Teleférico + Middle of the World

Our day will begin with a visit to El Teleférico, a cable car in Quito, considered the highest in South America. We will appreciate unique views of the city cradled by the Andes Mountains. Next, we will visit the colonial temples and monasteries of this urban jewel, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will admire the Convent of San Agustin, the Plaza de la Independencia, flanked by the Cathedral, La Compañía de Jesus, the Presidential Palace, the Municipal Building and the Archbishop's Palace. Continue to the San Francisco Church, one of the largest religious buildings in the New World.

Finish this day visiting one of the most emblematic places of the country and learn about the secrets hidden in the Middle of the World. Visit the museums and if you have time, buy some souvenirs.

Meals included: B,L,D
Accommodation: Casona de La Ronda



DAY 3:
QUITO - NORTHERN ANDES
Cuicocha Hike + Huarmi Maqui or Miguel Andrango + Otavalo Market

This morning you will head north on a 2.5 hour scenic drive into the highlands of Ecuador, watch as the landscape becomes more rural and you pass through quaint villages built in the foothills of the Andes.

Your first stop will be the beautiful Cuicocha Laguna, a turquoise crater lake. There is a beautiful viewpoint showcasing not only the lake, but also incredible views of the surrounding volcanoes and countryside. If you are lucky, you might even see the magnificent snow-capped peak of Cayambe Volcano. You will have a 2-3 hour hike to explore this area by hiking along the trail that goes around the whole lake. We may not have time to complete the full circuit, but you will be able to enjoy the magnificent views whilst hiking through the countryside of Ecuador's Northern Andes.



After lunch, we will meet Matico Lemas' house, who, for many years, has worked tirelessly to promote local traditions by helping improve the weaving, music, and cooking skills of local women in her community. The Huarmi Maqui project aims to give local women more confidence and self-worth through the incredible products they make. It is a meaningful cultural experience with a good insight into the lives of the local women. Afterwards, we will head to Otavalo, home to one of the largest indigenous markets in South America. Countless talented, local weavers from Otavalo and the surrounding areas bring their products to be traded at this market. Take your time roaming the market stalls, which sell a huge range of items from textiles, scarves, sweaters, ponchos, and blankets, to hand crafted jewelry, ceramics and paintings. It is a great opportunity to observe the traditional dress and local culture of the people of the Ecuadorian highlands. Transfer to Hacienda Cusín.

Meals included: B, L, D
Accommodation: Hacienda Cusín

DAY 4:
NORTHERN ANDES - PAPALLACTA:
Morning on your own - Afternoon transfer to Papallacta

This day enjoy a morning on your own at the hacienda and discover its treasures at your own pace. You can also do activities for an additional cost if you wish to continue the adventure. It is up to you.

In the afternoon, the meeting point for transfer to Papallacta will be the hotel lobby. We will drive 2.15 hours to Termas de Papallacta, an intimate lodge located at 10,000' in a pastoral setting that is great for hiking, birding, horseback riding, and relaxing in thermal hot springs. The resort is located on the "Cinnamon Trail," the same route that the Spanish conquistador Francisco de Orellana followed in 1542, leading to his discovery of the Amazon River. The lodge has many beautiful pools of varying temperatures and design and a full-service spa. After relaxing in the thermal springs and hiking, you can enjoy some authentic Ecuadorian soups and specialties at the restaurant, and fresh trout caught daily in the area.

Meals included: B, D
Accommodation: Termas de Papallacta

DAY 5:
PAPALLACTA – QUITO - CUENCA:
Enjoy Termas de Papallacta - Transfer to Quito – Flight to Cuenca

Today we can enjoy the hot springs in the morning, relax in the hot springs or discover its natural trails full of unique biodiversity of the area. In the afternoon, we return to Quito, your guide will drop you off at the Quito airport just in time for your flight to the wonderful city of Cuenca.

Meals included: B
Accommodation:

Ecuador

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NET PRICES IN USD PER PERSON (BASED ON DOUBLE ACCOMMODATION)

DESCRIPTION	9 - 10 GUESTS	6 - 8 GUESTS	4 - 5 GUESTS	Single Sup.
5 Days / 4 Nights	\$1059	\$1159	\$1259	\$400 <i>Applies only to a passenger who requests a single room.</i>

What IS included?	What is NOT included?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities as per itinerary • Accommodation based on double or triple occupancy rooms • Transportation as per itinerary • Meals as per itinerary • Tour Leader • Carbon Footprint Charge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air ticket Quito / Cuenca • Carbon Footprint Charge for international flights • Insurance of any type • Tips for Tour Leader • December surcharge

*The funds raised from the Carbon Footprint Charge will be used for the purchase of primary forest in Ecuador to preserve its biodiversity and prevent further deforestation due to cattle ranching in the country.

OTHER COSTS (IN USD)

DESCRIPTION	PER PERSON
Air ticket Quito / Cuenca	\$190 <i>Subject to change</i>
Carbon Footprint for International Flights	\$24

COMMENTS

- A minimum of 4 guests is required to operate this itinerary.
- Each day has a small description, meals included on that day (MEALS: B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner). Detailed as ACCOMMODATION is the hotel included
- Standard rooms are booked for this itinerary.
- These rates are subject to change.
- Suggested tips for Tour Leader to be paid directly: USD 10 per guest per day.