

This is a sample trip!!! The order of travel, excursions, hotels, it can all be adjusted.

A different hotel? Look at the range of hotels per region or city: <https://explore-ecuador.com/the-mainland/hotels-in-ecuador/>

A different excursion? You can choose per region or city: <https://explore-ecuador.com/the-mainland/excursions-in-ecuador/>

Classic - 6 days Andes (Otavalo - Papallacta - Cotopaxi - Quito) - COMFORT

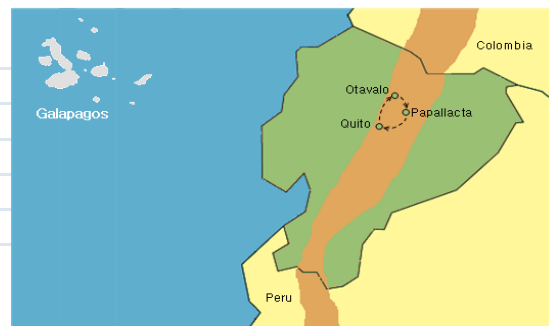
Guide price 973 USD per person (based on min. 2 people)

TRAVEL SCHEDULE

- day 1 arrival in Quito + transfer to Otavalo
- day 2 acclimatization - Indian market - Peguche on your own
- day 3 Tour around Cuicocha Lake and to Papallacta
- day 4 Laguna de Baños and to Quito
- day 5 day trip Cotopaxi National Park
- day 6 City tour of Quito and airport transfer

- all excursions with English speaking private guide
- all transfers with private cars!
- For info and support, you can always contact our EN-language staff member in Ecuador.

GOOGLE MAPS? CLICK ON THE MAP



day 1

Arrival in Quito

Transfer from Quito to Otavalo in private car (SP-language driver)

You will be picked up by a Spanish-speaking driver at the hotel (or airport) and taken in a private car to the hotel in Otavalo. This drive through the Andes Mountains takes about 2 hours.

Hotel Otavalo - Deluxe room double with breakfast buffet

Hotel Otavalo is located near the center of the city. The hotel has been closed for a long time for renovations; the works were only completed in 2018. Fortunately, the hotel has retained the beautiful style of the original house. However, a modern touch was added to the hotel and all rooms are luxurious and comfortable. There is a lot of art present from famous modern artists. There is a cozy restaurant in the authentic basement where the old vaults have been preserved. There is also a 'roof top' bar with a view of the Imbabura volcano.

For more info see www.hotelotavalo.com

day 2

Acclimatization - we suggest two activities that can be done on one's own:

Otavalo - visit to the indigenous market (on your own)

This market in the Plaza de Ponchos is without a doubt the most famous indigenous market in Ecuador. You will find a huge selection of artesanate. The best day to visit this market is on Saturday. There are 4 markets going on simultaneously in different parts of the city. But the artesanate market now also goes on the other days of the week - it is much quieter then. This in turn has its advantages.

Hike to Peguche waterfall (on own)

The 18-meter-high Peguche waterfall is located 4 kilometers south of Otavalo in a beautiful natural park... The local population of Otavalo celebrates the solar festival of Inti Raymi there on June 21. During several days purification rituals are held here. But also during the rest of the year the park is worth a visit.

Hotel Otavalo - Deluxe room double with breakfast buffet

day 3

Hiking around the crater lake of Cuicocha

Cuicocha is one of the most famous lakes in Ecuador. With a private car we drive to the entrance of the reserve Cotacachi-Cayapas, where we start a 5-hour hike that goes between 3100 and 3500 meters above sea level. Along the way we enjoy the biodiversity, the views of the picturesque Lake Cuicocha with its two islets and the view of the peaks Cotacachi, Imbabura and Cayambe.

Difficulty: moderate

Duration: approximately 7 hours

Included: English speaking local guide, private transport, meal or packed lunch

Required: good walking shoes, sun protection, mosquito repellent, fleece or pullover, water (min. 1 liter)

Recommended: camera, binoculars, rain jacket, reasonable physical condition also at altitude

Transfer from Otavalo to Papallacta in private car

You will be transferred from Otavalo to Papallacta. On this 3-hour drive through the Andes, just after Cayambe you pass a small equator monument and the pilgrimage site of El Quinche, known for its cathedral and typical Indian cemetery.

Thermas de Papallacta - double suite with breakfast (weekdays)

Thermas de Papallacta is a vast domain high in the mountains, on the edge of the Cayambe-Coca National Park. The domain has a hotel with thirty-two rooms, three of which have a jacuzzi. There are also two family bungalows and a few small houses. All this is scattered among the numerous volcanic hot water pools. In the morning you can enjoy an extensive breakfast and for dinner the freshly caught trout in the restaurant is highly recommended. You can also enjoy a drink in the Chacana bar in between bathing. Access to the baths is included in the price.

For more information see www.termaspapallacta.com

day 4

Hiking Tour - The Lakes of Baños (Papallacta)

This walking tour lasts about 3 hours and starts at the entrance of the thermal baths in Papallacta. By car we drive 15 minutes steeply up the mountain to the entrance of the National Park Cayambe-Coca at 3800 meters above sea level. From here we walk to the lakes of Baños. In clear weather you have a beautiful view of the Antisana volcano. Along the way we look out for the spectacled bear, the mountain deer, the mountain tapir, paramo wolves etc.

Included: local guide with limited knowledge of English, transportation by private car H/T from the entrance of the thermal baths.

Transfer from Papallacta to Quito in private car (SP language driver)

You will be picked up at the hotel and taken to Quito in a 2-hour drive by private car.

Casa El Eden - double superior room with breakfast (4 rooms)

This small, charming boutique hotel is located in the colonial center of Quito, within walking distance of Plaza Grande, Plaza San Francisco and other tourist attractions. There are only six rooms: 1 standard, 4 superior and 1 luxury room. The property is built in colonial style. The interior and the rooms, which are located around the courtyard, are adapted to this style. The owners, Blanca and Mario, real Quiteños, will help you with advice and assistance for your visit to the city center and even reserve a place for you at the best restaurants in town.

For more info see www.casaeleden.com

day 5

The National Park Cotopaxi

At 5,897 meters, Cotopaxi is the highest active volcano in the world. The National Park is just over an hour's drive from Quito. We first visit a small museum in the park and then walk around the Limpiopungo Lake with its typical flora and fauna. Then we continue with the car to the final place at 4500 meters. From there it takes us about an hour to walk to the mountain hut at 4800 meters. After a short stop we continue to the glacier.

On Thursday you can combine this visit with a visit to the beautifully authentic indigenous market of Saquisilí. In the late afternoon we are back in Quito.

Included: English speaking guide and transport in private car. Not included: meal en route. Duration: all day

Casa El Eden - double superior room with breakfast (4 rooms)

dag 6

Colonial Quito

For this excursion, the guide will pick you up at the hotel by car. We will visit the old and the new Quito: the parliament, the presidential palace, the Plaza de Independencia and the churches of San Francisco, La Compania and the cathedral. Then we go to El Panecillo, the statue of the angel and viewpoint that perches high above Quito. The guide provides information about Quito and Ecuador. The entrance to the listed sights is subject to opening hours.

Included: English speaking guide and private transportation.

Not included: any meal, entrance to museums and churches.

Duration: 4 to 5 hours.

Transfer from hotel to Quito airport in private car (SP-language driver)

You will be picked up at the hotel and taken to the airport

Return flight from Quito

Total price of this travel proposal per person

973 USD

Notes

- * Prices quoted are in US Dollars and apply only when paying in USD directly to our Quito - Ecuador office. Transfer costs are borne by the customer.
- * All transfers are done with a private car and Spanish-speaking driver unless otherwise stated
- * Listed trips and excursions are examples from a wider range. Check out our website for more choice.
- * This travel proposal is based on 2-person standard rooms, unless stated otherwise. Supplements for single or deluxe rooms are available on request.
- * This travel proposal is non-binding, depending on the travel period and subject to availability.
- * The final travel program must take into account certain fixed days of activities, such as native markets, departure dates of cruises and flights, etc. We do everything possible to optimally insert mentioned activities into the program.

Included

- * All hotel stays with breakfast, transfers, domestic flights and excursions as mentioned in the program.
- * Lunch and dinner in accordance with the program if stated.

Not included

- * Drinks, tips and expenses of a personal nature.
- * **International flights to and from Ecuador.**
- * Travel or cancellation insurance.

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