

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 - 14 days Andes - LUXURY

Guide price 4 193 USD per person (based on min. 2 people)

TRAVEL SCHEDULE

day 1 arrival in Quito and transfer to Otavalo
day 2 acclimatization - Indian market or Peguche waterfall on your own
day 3 hike to lake Cuicocha and Papallacta
day 4 trekking Laguna de Baños and to Quito
day 5 visit to the city and museum of Ecuador A Mindo
day 6 the waterfalls of Mindo
day 7 trekking to Casa Amarilla road and Cotopaxi
day 8 excursion to Cotopaxi National Park and to Baños
day 9 Baños free day - we suggest a hike to the Luna Volcano
day 10 waterfalls route and to Riobamba
day 11 visit to Chimborazo volcano and Guamote
day 12 visit to the villages of Guamote and via Ingapirca to Cuenca
day 13 visit to Cajas National Park
day 14 visit to the city of Cuenca and Guayaquil - flight back



- 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.

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.

Hacienda Cusin - standard room double with breakfast

Hacienda Cusin is a restored, 17th-century estate. The hacienda is located at an altitude of 2,600 meters, near Lake San Pablo and 5 minutes by car from Otavalo. You can stroll through the five acres of landscaped gardens with beautiful vegetation, ponds and patios. In addition, the hacienda offers views of the mountains Imbabura and Cotacachi. You can dine in the restaurant, with its own fruit, vegetables and spices, or in one of the restaurants located on the shores of the lake.

For more info see www.haciendacusin.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.

Hacienda Cusin - standard room double with breakfast

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 - deluxe (jacuzzi) double 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 Gangotena - Luxury Room double with breakfast

Casa Gangotena is a very nice luxury hotel, located in the heart of colonial Quito, on the Plaza San Francisco. Around the hotel are the main attractions of colonial Quito. The building was built in neoclassical and Art Deco style. The interior was also completely adapted to this style. The hotel has twenty luxury rooms, eight plaza rooms and three suites. Casa Gangotena has a well-known restaurant of a very high culinary level and there is an excellent cocktail bar with a view of the city.
For more information see www.casagangotena.com

day 5

Colonial Quito and the Equator Museum

First you visit the historic colonial center of Quito, its churches and squares, the modern city and the panoramic point of the Panecillo hill with the English-speaking guide. Then we drive to the monument at the equator Mitad del Mundo and the Intiñan museum, where several tests show that we are indeed on the equator line. Also fun for children!
Included: English speaking guide and transport in private car.
Not included: entrance to museums and meal en route.
Duration: 5 to 6 hours

Transfer from Quito to Mindo in private car

This ride with SP-language driver in private car takes about 2 hours.

Mashpi Lodge - Wayra room double incl all meals, excursions, lectures,

Tucked away in a private 1,200-acre nature reserve, this state-of-the-art, high-end lodge is one of National Geographic's Unique Lodges of the World. The design is completely adapted to the surrounding nature. You move around here on foot, by electric trolley, by cable car or by aerial bicycle. There are seventeen very spacious rooms and three suites, all with large windows overlooking the forest. There is a wellness with jacuzzi and a beautiful yoga room. In the restaurant you get to know the different regions of Ecuador through the flavors on your plate. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are prepared with fresh Ecuadorian ingredients. The stay is all-in: meals, excursions, English-speaking guides and specialized lectures are included. Only the cable car "DragonFly" has to be paid for on the spot (49 USD pp). Upon arrival, you put together your own program from a choice list of activities.
For more info see www.mashpilodge.com

day 6

Mashpi Lodge - Wayra room double incl all meals, excursions, lectures,

day 7

Transfer from Mindo to Cotopaxi in private car

This ride in private car with Spanish-speaking driver takes about 3 hours.

Hacienda San Agustin - standard room double with breakfast, lunch and dinner

This small beautiful hacienda is located among the fields at the foot of the majestic Cotopaxi volcano. You will spend the night here in an original Inca building, unique in Ecuador! The original Inca fort is integrated into the main building, the chapel and the dining room. The main building (Casa Inca) is located around the patio and has 2 suites and 3 standard rooms. Casa del Callo is a separate building with 1 suite and 2 standard rooms plus a common area with kitchen and is therefore more suitable for families. Casa Cotopaxi is a beautifully restored stable with 2 suites and has views of Cotopaxi. The suite at Casa de Callo also has a view of the volcano. Ije gets here an extensive tour of the estate. Also feeding the llamas is included in the package.
Included are the three meals, a welcome drink and the use of bicycles.
For more info see www.incahacienda.com

day 8

The Cotopaxi volcano

The driver will pick you up at the hotel in the morning. The National Park is an hour's drive from Quito. On clear days you can admire the mountain from afar. After a short stop at the Mariscal Sucre information point, where you will receive some explanation about the region and the volcano, we continue to 4500 m altitude. From here we go to the refuge which is 365 meters higher. It is a very steep walk that takes us at least an hour due to the high altitude. Then we descend to the Limpiopungo Lake which lies at the foot of the volcano. This lake is fed by a volcanic glacier; you often see wild horses grazing and Andean foxes hunting. Then we return to the hotel by car.
Difficulty: light-moderate.
What to bring: sun and rain protection, water, sports footwear, camera and warm clothes.
Duration: 6 hours
Includes: English speaking guide, transport and lunch box

Transfer from Cotopaxi to Baños in private car

The Spanish-speaking driver will pick you up at the hotel and take you to the hotel in Baños. This drive through the mountains takes about 2 hours.

Luna Volcan - romantic room double (Tungurahua or Llanganates view) with breakfast and dinner

Luna Volcan is one of the most beautiful mountain hotels in Ecuador. This luxury hotel has 29 rooms and suites and is located in Sangay National Park, 20 minutes from Baños, atop a mountain with incredible views of the town of Baños and the surrounding volcanoes. The 4 outdoor pools and hidromassages are filled with volcanic hot water. The hotel is great for relaxing - there is a very good spa. You can set up hiking trips through the hotel (there are 11 trails), rafting, mountain biking, horseback riding, etc. The restaurant is excellent and not pricey.
For more info see lunavolcan.com

day 9

The town of Baños

Due to its location at the foot of the active volcano Tungurahua and surrounded by natural and medicinal hot springs, Baños has quickly developed into an all-round tourist town with many restaurants, hotels and countless opportunities for relaxation. You can set up beautiful hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, rafting and rainforest excursions in and around Baños, and then end an active day with a visit to the thermal baths. Don't forget to visit the beautiful church in the main square (a local pilgrimage site).

Acclimatization - we suggest this activity that one can do on his own:

Hiking from Baños (1800 mts) to Luna Runtun (2350 mts) - under your own power.

At the end of Avenida Maldonado, a path leads up into the mountains. After one or two hours of walking you reach the back of the most beautiful hotel of Baños: Luna Runtun. Here is a cafeteria with a beautiful view of the city and the surrounding mountains. You can eat or drink something cheap there. Slightly higher than the cafeteria, follow the fork to the right and descend back to Baños via el Mirador de la Virgen. Duration: 3 to 4 hours. Optional: English speaking guide

Luna Volcan - romantic room double (Tungurahua or Llanganates view) with breakfast and dinner

day 10

The route of the waterfalls by car

Today the guide will let you discover several beautiful places in and around Baños by car. You will be able to visit the beautiful waterfall El Pailon del Diablo, cross the Pastaza with a cable car and visit la Casa Del Arbol, where the famous swing is located.
Including: transport, English speaking guide, snack and entrance to the visits
Duration: 7 hours

Transfer from Baños to Riobamba in private car

This 2-hour drive through the Andes will take you to Riobamba. You will drive with a Spanish-speaking driver past the active volcano Tungurahua.

Hacienda Abraspungo - junior suite double with breakfast

This beautiful hotel is housed in an ancient hacienda. The hotel has thirty-eight comfortable rooms, all named after a mountain in Ecuador and decorated with great attention to the colonial style. All rooms have direct access to the beautiful gardens. In the restaurant, the chefs surprise you with culinary excellence of Ecuadorian cuisine. From the hotel you can participate in various activities, such as horseback riding, hiking, etc. You are here in a quiet suburb of Riobamba, about five minutes drive from downtown.
For more info see haciendaabrapungo.com

day 11

Visit to the Chimborazo volcano (private)

A guide will take you to the National Park. The white peak of Chimborazo (6310 meters) is the center of the nature reserve of the same name. The chances of encountering vicuñas (a relative of the llama) there are high. There is a first mountain hut at 4800 meters from where you can start walking to the second hut which is located at 5000 meters. You can optionally combine this beautiful day trip with a spectacular descent by mountain bike (20 USD pp - min. 2 pers). Includes: guide (English spoken); transportation; warm jacket; packed lunch; entrance to National Park.
Duration: 5 hours without the bike - 7 hours with the bike

Transfer from Riobamba to Guamote in private car (SP language driver)

You will be picked up by a local driver at the hotel and taken to Guamote in a private car.
Duration: 1 hour

Inti Sisa - standard room double with breakfast

Guamote is a small mountain village, known for its indigenous people and traditions. As part of an integral development project, Inti Sisa offers 23 beautiful guest rooms here. All rooms have a private bathroom. In addition, you can eat in the guesthouse. The project offers support to the local inhabitants of Guamote. On Thursday morning you step out of the door and end up at the most beautiful indigenous market in Ecuador. The project is run by a few Flemish volunteers.
For more info see www.intisisa.com

day 12

Visit to the indigenous villages around Guamote - private excursion

Today we take a closer look at how the indigenous people live here in this region. After visiting the center of Inti Sisa in Guamote, we head into the mountains. We visit an indigenous school where the children explain how they are taught here. We visit a local weaver who makes ponchos out of alpaca wool and end at an indigenous family who tells about their life in the village. Along the way, you'll get info on the history of the area and the local culture. Those who wish can then return to Guamote on foot (1.5 hours).
Duration: 4 hours.
Included: English speaking guide; snack and drink.

Transfer from Guamote to Cuenca with visit to Ingapirca on the way (SP-language driver)

From Guamote you will drive in a private car to Cuenca. On the way you will visit the most famous Inca ruins from Ecuador.
Duration: 5.5 hours (3.5 hours driving and 2 hours visit to Ingapirca)
Excluding the entrance to the ruins to be paid on the spot: 6 USD.

Cruz del Vado - deluxe room double with breakfast

Hotel Cruz del Vado is located on the banks of the Tomebamaba River, near the historic center of Cuenca. The hotel is housed in a restored mansion that retains its original pink marble facades. This small luxury hotel has twenty-six modern rooms, all soundproofed and with private bathrooms with bathtubs. You can dine in the restaurant and afterwards have a coffee or cocktail in the roof top bar that offers views over the whole city.
For more info see hotelcruzdelvado.com

day 13

Visit to Cajas National Park - private excursion

The Cajas National Park has about 200 lakes and lies between 3200 and 4600 meters above sea level. We leave Cuenca in the morning and first visit the lower areas of the National Park, called Llaviucu, which are at about 3200 meters above sea level. We hike here for about an hour and a half before moving on to the higher ground. There, one of the most beautiful and largest lakes in the park, called La Toreadora, rises. On the shores of this lake grows the Polylepis or paper tree. We hike here for about two hours and a half and then head back towards civilization for lunch in a restaurant that offers typical dishes of the region.

Difficulty: light - moderate.

Bring with you: protection from the sun and rain, camera, water, warm clothes and sturdy walking shoes.

Duration: +/- 7 hours

Includes: English speaking guide, transportation and meals

Cruz del Vado - deluxe room double with breakfast

day 14

City Tour Cuenca (Half Day) - Private Excursion

With an English speaking guide we visit the most beautiful places in the city. We walk through the San Sebastian district and visit the most beautiful squares, streets and small churches. We make a stop at the Museum of Modern Art and then continue to a workshop where the famous Panama hats are made. We visit the panorama point of Turi where we have a beautiful view over the city and then return to the hotel. The guide is happy to adapt the visit to your interests and preferences.

Duration: +/- 4 hours

Includes: English speaking guide and transport

Exclusive: entrance to museums.

Transfer from Cuenca to Guayaquil in private car (SP language driver)

On this scenic drive, you'll ride with a local SP-language driver from Cuenca to Guayaquil. The road descends gradually from the Andes Mountains to the coastal plain.

Duration: +/- 4 hours.

Return flight from Guayaquil

Total price of this travel proposal per person
4.193 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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