

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 + 4 days Amazon + 4 days Coast - **COMFORT**

Guide price 4 289 USD per person (based on min. 2 people)

TRAVEL SCHEDULE

day 1 arrival in Quito + transfer to Otavalo
day 2 Acclimatization - indigenous market - Peguche
day 3 Journey around Lake Cuicocha and to Papallacta
day 4 Laguna de Baños and to Quito
day 5 (flight) to Amazon - day 1 Amazon
day 6 day 2 Amazon
Day 7 Day 3 Amazon
day 8 day 4 Amazon - (flight) to Quito
day 9 city tour and visit to the equator museum. To Mindo
day 10 the waterfalls of Mindo
day 11 hiking Yellow House Path and to Cotopaxi
day 12 excursion National Park Cotopaxi and to Baños
day 13 Baños free day - we suggest hiking to Luna Volcan
day 14 route of the waterfalls and to Riobamba
Day 15 Visit Chimborazo volcano and to Guamote
day 16 visit villages around Guamote and via Ingapirca to Cuenca
day 17 visit National Park Cajas
day 18 Cuenca city visit and transfer to Puerto Lopez
day 19 Machalilla National Park: Los Frailes
day 20 Machalilla National Park: Isla de la Plata
day 21 to Guayaquil and return flight



- 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.

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

Acclimatisatie - we suggereren twee activiteiten die men op eigen krachten kan uitvoeren:

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

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

Flight from Quito to Coca

You will be met at the airport by a representative of the lodge who will help you check in. After a 30-minute flight over the peaks of the Andes, we land at the small airport of Coca from where we take a small van to the pier on the Río Napo.

Canoe trip from Coca to the lodge

A large comfortable covered motor canoe now takes us in a 2.5 hour trip to the pier of the Napo Wildlife Center (NWC). Along the way we take a packed lunch. During this trip you can already spot several local bird species (herons, kingfishers,...). At the pier of the NWC we refresh ourselves and then continue for about 1.5 hours by tree canoe, paddling along a narrow creek, under the trees to the lodge on the other side of the lake. Along the way there is a good chance of seeing monkeys, and several larger bird species such as parrots, toucans and macaws. In the late afternoon you arrive at the lodge on the edge of the beautiful Añangu Lake. You will have a welcome drink and get to know the lodge and its people. After dinner there is the opportunity to participate in the search for caimans around the lake.

Napo Cultural Center - 4D/3N standard cabin double

Napo Cultural Center is located deep in the Yasuni Reserve on the banks of the Río Napo. It is the sister lodge of the prestigious Napo Wildlife Center and is managed by the women of the local community of Añangu. You get there from Quito via a 35-minute flight and a two-hour trip downstream by motor canoe. The Yasuni Reserve, with almost 1 million hectares of rainforest, offers more biodiversity in one hectare than the entire European continent. The lodge has a dozen beautiful and luxurious cottages, all with bathroom and balcony. From the lodge you can make full-day or half-day excursions, where nature exploration goes hand in hand with the exploration of the local culture.

Napo Cultural Center offers all-in tours of several days.

For more information see www.napoculturalcenter.com

day 6

Napo Cultural Center - day 2

day 7

Napo Cultural Center - day 3

day 8

Napo Cultural Center - day 4

Flight from Coca to Quito

The canoe and plane will take you back to Quito from the lodge in a few hours.

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

You will be met at the airport and taken to the hotel.

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

day 9

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.

Las Terrazas de Dana - deluxe double room with breakfast

This small luxurious ecolodge, run by Spanish brother and sister (Ana and David), has arguably one of the best views of Mindo. It is surrounded by nature, yet you are only a ten minute walk from the center of Mindo. Here you will find yourself in a small, green oasis of peace. There are 4 luxury bungalows. In 2 of them there is room for a smaller double bed. And then there are 2 deluxe bungalows with double bed and 2 individual beds. All rooms have a private terrace where you can have breakfast and the lodge also offers massages and spa treatments. The pool is a must!

For more info see www.lasterrazasdedana.com

day 10

The waterfalls of Mindo

By car, after a 20-minute drive through the forest, we reach the entrance of the park. Here you cross a valley with a width of 530 meters with a cable car. Once across, there are trails that lead to seven different waterfalls. It is a beautiful walk with the opportunity to swim and with beautiful views. However, it can be quite busy on weekends.

Duration: 4 hours. Included: transport, English speaking guide and entrance.

Las Terrazas de Dana - deluxe double room with breakfast

day 11

Walking along the Yellow House path

This extensive private forest - 500 hectares in size - has well-maintained paths that lead you high into the forest and offer beautiful views of the valley. Along the path you will find butterflies, birds and beautiful flowers. And if you're lucky, you might see armadillos, porcupines, anteaters, and maybe even the Andean spectacled bear. The trail is a five minute walk from town but is a world apart. The walk takes about three hours.

Included: transport, entrance to Yellow House and English speaking guide

Transfer from Mindo to Cotopaxi in private car

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

El Porvenir - traditional double room with breakfast

This colorful hacienda lies at the foot of 2 volcanoes: the Cotopaxi and the Rumiñahui. On cloudless days you can see them majestic volcano shining behind the hacienda and on a clear night sky you can see thousands of stars. The hacienda has eight beautiful suites and five standard rooms. All rooms have private bathrooms. The suites have a fireplace and access to the spa. In the spa you will find a Jacuzzi, Temascal baths and you can get a massage. The hacienda rents horses and mountain bikes and has an extensive hiking network. For the children there is a nice climbing course and lots of space to play. There is a restaurant with Ecuadorian and foreign dishes.

For more info see www.tierradelvolcan.com

day 12

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.

Casa del Balcon - apartment 2 or 3 people with breakfast

Casa del Balcon is located in the cozy center of Baños within walking distance of the cathedral and thermal baths. It offers six rooms of different sizes. You have individual rooms but also an apartment with kitchen, bathroom, terrace and bedroom. Included in the price is the entrance to the thermal baths of the Luna Volcan hotel which is about fifteen minutes drive from Casa del Balcon and to which you can also walk from the town.

For more info see casadelbalcon.com

day 13

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).

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

Casa del Balcon - apartment 2 or 3 people with breakfast

day 14

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 - standard room 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 a lot of attention to the colonial style. All rooms have direct access to the beautiful gardens. In the restaurant, the chefs surprise you with a culinary high-quality Ecuadorian kitchen. 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 a five-minute drive from the center.
For more information see haciendaabrapungo.com

day 15

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 16

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.

Santa Lucia - standard room double with breakfast buffet

Santa Lucia is located in the center of Cuenca and belongs to the well-known Veintimilla family. This is regarded as a concept for the hotel industry in Cuenca. The house that housed the hotel was built in 1859 by the province's first governor, Manuel Vega. The building has since been thoroughly restored, preserving the colonial style, with the addition of modern luxury and comfort. The hotel has beautiful rooms and suites. You can choose from 2 restaurants here. There is a choice of gourmet cuisine, national and international cuisine and oriental cuisine. After dinner you can enjoy a delicious cocktail in the bar.
For more info see santaluciahotel.com

day 17

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

Santa Lucia - standard room double with breakfast buffet

day 18

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 Puerto Lopez in private car (SP language driver)

This scenic drive takes you from Cuenca with a local driver through the highest peaks of the Andes to sea level. You pass all types of climate and vegetation on the way. You leave in the morning from the paramo vegetation and eucalyptus trees (around 4000 meters above sea level) to reach the beach in the afternoon between banana plantations, kapok trees and sugar cane plantations.
Duration: 7 hours
Not included: meal on the way

Mandala lodge - superior cabin double with breakfast (high season)

Hosteria Mandala is located on the beach of Puerto Lopez, a few minutes walk from the village. This very nice hotel, run by a Swiss-Italian couple has standard cabins, superior cabins and family cabins (with refrigerator). The Mariposa cabin also has a kitchenette. The hotel is located on the edge of Machalilla National Park and you can make beautiful excursions in the area. The hotel breathes the tropical atmosphere of the Ecuadorian coast.
For more information see www.hosteriamandala.info

day 19

The beaches of Los Frailes and Agua Blanca

Today you will visit Ecuador's most beautiful beach. You can get to the beach by car or by bike. Los Frailes is about three kilometers away from Puerto Lopez. At the beginning of the hike you will first get some explanation about the area. The hike then leads you to La Tortugueta, a beach with black sand, a lookout with a view over the coast to finally reach a beach with beautiful white sand. Here you can stay for a while before we leave for Agua Blanca. Agua Blanca is an archaeological site in the middle of a nature reserve. Here you can immerse yourself in a lake that has medicinal properties due to its volcanic origin. Then we return to the hotel. Difficulty rate: light.
Duration: approximately 6 hours. Included: English speaking guide, transportation, entrance to the archaeological site and lunch. Bring with you: protection from the sun and rain, sport shoes and swimming gear.

Mandala lodge - superior cabin double with breakfast (high season)

day 20

La Plata Island or small Galapagos

During this excursion you will visit this beautiful island, also called little Galapagos. It is located 25 km (about 1.5 hours by boat) off the coast of Puerto Lopez. You will find, in addition to frigate birds and tropicbirds, blue-footed, masked and red-footed boobies and even some Galapagos albatrosses. The island can only be visited with a guide from the park and you may not deviate from the official paths. You take a 2 hour and a half hike there with the nature guide. Then you return to the boat where you can spot turtles. Then you can snorkel in the bay for an hour among sea turtles and colorful fish. On the way to the island you can spot humpback whales between June and September, which use the area in large numbers as a nursery. Level of difficulty: light. Duration: 7 hours approximately. Included: English speaking guide, transportation, lunch box and snorkel gear. Excluded: entrance to National Park 1 USD pp. Bring: windbreaker for the boat, sneakers, water bottle, sun protection, swimming gear and camera.

Mandala lodge - superior cabin double met ontbijt (hoogseizoen)

day 21

Transfer from Puerto Lopez to Guayaquil airport in private car (SP language driver)

You will be transferred from the hotel in Puerto Lopez to the airport in Guayaquil (drive of +/- 4 hours).

Return flight from Guayaquil

Total price of this travel proposal per person
4.289 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.

Quito, 14/03/2022

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