

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 + 4 days Amazon + 4 days Coast - STANDARD

Guide price 2 081 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 Daytrip to Cotopaxi National Park
day 6 (flight) to Amazon - day 1 Amazon
Day 7 Day 2 Amazon
Day 8 Day 3 Amazon
day 9 day 4 Amazon - (flight) to Quito
day 10 flight to Manta - day 1 Machalilla
day 11 Machalilla National Park: Los Frailes
day 12 Machalilla National Park: Isla de la Plata
day 13 to Guayaquil and return flight



GOOGLE MAPS? CLICK ON THE MAP

- 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.

Posada del Quinde - standard room double with breakfast

This beautiful hotel is located in a quiet neighborhood within walking distance of downtown Otavalo and the famous Indian market. All rooms have a private bathroom. There are views of the large gardens or patio everywhere. The native staff is very helpful. There are also two suites: these are actually small apartments with a fully equipped kitchen, suitable for families or groups up to 6 people. Posada del Quinde is a good base for exploring Otavalo. More info and photos see www.posadaquinde.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.

Posada del Quinde - 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 - standard room double with breakfast (during week)

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.

Hotel Antinea - junior suite with terrace double breakfast incl.

Hotel Antinea is located in the bustling Mariscal neighborhood. Here you are close to the Plaza Foch and the Avenida Amazonas, arteries of the capital. In the neighborhood you will find numerous restaurants, bars and terraces. You are within walking distance of two large parks and by cab you can reach the old town center in ten minutes. The hotel consists of two buildings that have been declared cultural heritage. There are 4 standard rooms, 3 junior suites and 1 deluxe suite and there are also some apartments all very stylishly decorated. In the bar you can enjoy a nice cocktail.

For more info see www.hotelantinea.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

Hotel Antinea - junior suite with terrace double breakfast incl.

day 6

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 Lago Agrio

After a beautiful 40-minute flight over the peaks of the Andes, we land at the small airport of Lago Agrio.

Cuyabeno Lodge - 4D/3N standard room double

Cuyabeno Lodge is an excellent place to discover the wildlife of the Amazon. The lodge is located in the middle of the Cuyabeno National Park, one of the most biodiverse places in Ecuador. You can see a wide variety of birds, monkeys, insects, reptiles, mammals and plant species here. With some luck, you may also see the river dolphin swimming from the canoe you are using for your expedition. Cuyabeno Lodge has 7 cabins for 2 people, all with private bathrooms. There are also 3 superior rooms with beautiful views. There is a restaurant and electricity is provided by solar cells. Cuyabeno Lodge offers tours of several days.

For more info see www.cuyabenolodge.com

day 7

Cuyabeno Lodge - day 2

day 8

Cuyabeno Lodge - day 3

day 9

Cuyabeno Lodge - day 4

Flight from Lago Agrio to Quito

After a scenic 40-minute flight in which you climb steeply over the peaks of the Andes, you land at Quito airport.

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

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

Hotel Antinea - junior suite with terrace double breakfast incl.

day 10

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 Manta

A 30-minute flight will take you to Manta Airport.

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

A Spanish-speaking driver will pick you up and take you to the hotel in Puerto Lopez. Duration: approximately 1.5 hours.

Mandala lodge- standard 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 11

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 Tortuguita, 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- standard cabin double met ontbijt (hoogseizoen)

day 12

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- standard cabin double met ontbijt (hoogseizoen)

day 13

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

2.081 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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