

Duration: 11 days

Itinerary

Day 1 (includes lunch and dinner) Arrival in Quito. Pick up from airport and transfer to hotel. Depending on arrival time, lunch and free afternoon to rest. After dinner briefing about the program by our tour leader.

Day 2 (includes breakfast, lunch and dinner) After breakfast we leave Quito and drive towards Cotopaxi volcano in the Andes. We will admire the great vegetation typical of the Andes region. Fascinate yourself with all the rose varieties you can imagine and get to know the process from the time they are grown until they arrive to a flower store in the USA or Europe. Each of us will receive a small bouquet as a present. After lunch we will go back to "Cuello de Luna Lodge" where we will enjoy an afternoon at the bottom of the majestic Cotopaxi volcano. We will enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea, while admiring the llamas, local indigenous people working and the sight of the "paramo" in the Andes. At night we will have a delicious traditional dinner.

Day 3 (includes breakfast, lunch and dinner) After breakfast we will continue our trip towards Baños. We will cross the town of Salcedo where we will have a traditional Salcedo Ice Cream and finally we will arrive to the city of Baños. This little nice town lies at the bottom of the active Tungurahua volcano. If lucky we will admire the volcano releasing ashes from the crater. The town of Baños is one of the entrance to the Amazon region, and also stands as one of Ecuador's most visited towns due to the magic of its atmosphere...After a quick rest we will have a fun and interesting walk/hike through Baños waterfalls. At evening we will have a delicious dinner and walk through its colonial streets (lots of coffee shops, bars, restaurants).

Day 4 (includes breakfast, lunch and dinner) In the morning we will enjoy a relaxing massage. We will prepare for our journey and after lunch we will start getting deeper in the Amazon. During this trip we will admire some changes in vegetation, and along the way we will have several stops to stretch, take pictures, eat. We will arrive to Huasquila Amazon Lodge for dinner time.

Day 5 (includes breakfast, lunch and dinner) During the morning we will enjoy the beautiful sights from the lodge, maybe read a book, or simply lie in hammock in our hut's porche..... After lunch we will visit an Animal Rescue Center, which harbors different species of animals that have been recover from illegal trades. We will learn the process of readapting this animals to the wild, which in most cases never happens, but we will have the chance to take pictures with typical animals from the regions, such as monkeys, snakes, alligators, birds, etc.

Day 6 (includes breakfast, lunch and dinner) Today we will have a unique experience....We will visit an indigenous community where we will interact and learn their culture, traditions, costumes, food habits, etc. We will have the opportunity to observe the preparation of "chicha" which is their traditional drink (the most adventurous ones will have the opportunity to try it. After a comprehensive visit to their community, we will visit the petroglyphs, which are amazing stone carved with interesting designs.....We will learn how indigenous in the past related this carving with things in their lives.....It is a mystery how they carved these rocks.....



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Day 7 (includes breakfast, lunch and dinner) Today we will walk/hike through the secondary rainforest. This walk will be very interesting due to the fact we will learn about several plants used in modern medicine. We will observe the talented indigenous guide manufacture different articles out of leaves, stems, etc.....(only then we will realized how talented they are and why they survive in the jungle for so many centuries)..... In the afternoon we will relax visiting the town of Tena, where we can interact with local people living in the town.....We will have a refreshing drink at the shore of the river that crosses the town. At night, at the lodge, we will have the visit of an indigenous dancing group.

Day 8 (includes breakfast, lunch and dinner) After breakfast we will head back to Quito. On our way we will have a 2 hours stop at one of Ecuadors´ hot spot for birdwatching. The views of the landscape from this area are simply magnificent. We will arrive at Quito late afternoon for dinner.

Day 9 (includes breakfast, lunch and dinner) After breakfast we will start our trip towards San Pablo Lake. On our way we will stop at Calderon to observe the talented old ladies manufacture the “mazapan dolls” (bread dough figures). Of course we will have the opportunity to manufacture one. We will arrive to San Pablo lodge for lunch, and after checking in and recovering we will visit the village of Peguche, where they manufacture wind music instruments from the Andes.

Day 10 (includes breakfast, lunch and dinner) After breakfast we will visit Otavalo, the most famous indigenous market. We will experience a mix of exotic colors, sounds and smells. Hundreds of local artists offer their products in this market. We can learn about the process of manufacturing the handicrafts, while we have a conversation with the indigenous. We will have a typical highlands lunch at a restaurant that lies in the Lake San Pablo shore (beautiful view). After lunch we will drive back to Quito.

Day 11 (includes breakfast, lunch and dinner) Visit to Quito’s Colonial Center, declared World Culture Heritage by UNESCO. Visit the churches and squares and get to know their history and most interesting facts. Then we will visit the Middle of the World monument, which is located on the Equator and where you can actually move between the southern and northern hemispheres in one second. We will visit the Inti-Ñam museum where we will observe some experiments that prove we are in the Middle of the World. After dinner we will give you a final overview of the trip with a presentation of all the pictures we have taken during the excursions. We will give every guest a CD with the pictures as a remembrance gift.

Day 12 (includes all meals before flight)

Departure

The price includes:

- All tours and activities specified in program
- Accommodations specified in program
- All entrance fees during tours and activities specified in program
- All meals specified in program



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- Transportation specified in program

The price doesn't include:

- International airfares and airport taxes
- Any expenses not specified in program (personal expenses, alcoholic beverages, souvenirs, laundry, etc)
- Equipment rental or supply (if necessary)
- Personal insurance
- Any medical expenses

