



## The Jewel of the Andes Tour - 10 Days (#20090)

**Note:** Price printed on this PDF is valid until **20-11-2024** and is subject to change without notice due to Partner changes and currency fluctuations

### Overview

This 10-day tour takes you through Ecuador's magnificent Andes, blending rich cultural experiences with breathtaking landscapes. From Quito's colonial beauty and indigenous markets to the towering volcanoes of Cotopaxi and Chimborazo, the tour offers a comprehensive look at Ecuador's highlands. Explore ancient ruins, ride through vibrant markets, and enjoy the peaceful towns of the Andes in this well-rounded adventure.

### Trip Highlights

Quito-

### Detailed Itinerary



**Day 01**

**Day 1 : Arrival In Quito**

Arrive in Ecuador's capital, Quito, and transfer to your hotel. The city, located at over 9,000 feet, is surrounded by lush Andean peaks and boasts a beautifully preserved colonial center. Spend the day at leisure, adjusting to the altitude or exploring nearby streets. Quito offers stunning mountain views and a mix of cultural and modern attractions. You can take a short walk to La Ronda, a historic neighbourhood with cafés, art shops, and restaurants.

**Meal:** No Meal

**Day 02**

**Day 2 : Quito Historic Center & Middle Of The World**

Dive into the heart of Quito with a tour of its UNESCO-listed historic center. Begin by exploring Independence Plaza, where the Presidential Palace and the Cathedral stand. Visit La Compañía de Jesús, famous for its golden interior, and San Francisco Church, one of the city's oldest structures. After lunch, travel to the Mitad del Mundo monument, located on the equatorial line. Here, you can stand in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres and learn about the significance of the equator in Ecuador's history.

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 03**

**Day 3 : Quito's Six Senses Tour**

On this day, experience Quito through its unique Six Senses tour. Engage with the city's rich traditions by walking through the old town and visiting artisan workshops. Taste local delicacies, such as traditional sweets and chocolates, and interact with local artists who keep ancient craft-making techniques alive. End the day with a panoramic view of Quito from the top of El Panecillo, a small hill that offers stunning views of the surrounding mountains and the Virgin of Quito monument.

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 04**

**Day 4 : Cotopaxi National Park**



Embark on a scenic drive to Cotopaxi National Park, home to the world's highest active volcano, Cotopaxi. Hiking from the parking place up to the refuge and visit Limpiopungo Lake, surrounded by stunning vistas of Cotopaxi and Rumiñahui. You'll see diverse wildlife, including wild horses and Andean birds like the condor. Take in the rugged beauty of the páramo, a high-altitude grassland unique to the Andes. Enjoy a night in an Andean hacienda, where you can relax and soak in the peaceful atmosphere.

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 05**

**Day 5 : Baños – Adventure Capital**

Head south to Baños, a lively town known for its adventure sports and hot springs. Spend the day exploring its natural wonders, from the famous Pailón del Diablo waterfall to the thermal baths, which are perfect for relaxation. For thrill-seekers, there are options for zip-lining, canyoning, and swinging over deep valleys. Baños is also home to vibrant nightlife and local artisan shops, offering a mix of excitement and leisure.

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 06**

**Day 6 : Chimborazo Volcano**

Visit Chimborazo, Ecuador's tallest peak, whose summit is the farthest point from the Earth's center due to the planet's equatorial bulge. The base of the volcano offers scenic hikes through Andean landscapes rich with unique flora and fauna, including the iconic vicuña. As you explore, take in the majestic views of snow-capped Chimborazo. The surrounding páramo is a haven for birdwatchers, and the Chuquiragua flower, also known as the "flower of the Andes," blooms here.

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 07**

**Day 7 : Guamote Market & Ingapirca Ruins**

Begin the day at the indigenous Guamote market (only Thursday), one of the most authentic markets in Ecuador, where locals come to trade livestock, produce, and handcrafted goods. This bustling marketplace offers a deep dive into Andean culture. In the afternoon, visit the Ingapirca ruins, Ecuador's largest Incan archaeological site. Walk through the Temple of the Sun and learn about the region's fascinating pre-Columbian history, blending both Incan and Cañari cultures.



**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 08**

**Day 8 : Cuenca City Tour**

Spend the day exploring Cuenca, another UNESCO World Heritage site. Known for its colonial charm, Cuenca offers cobblestone streets, red-tiled roofs, and artisan markets. Visit landmarks like the New Cathedral and the Turi viewpoint for a panoramic view of the city. Cuenca is also home to Panama hat makers, where you can learn about the intricate process of making these iconic Ecuadorian hats. The city's relaxed atmosphere and beautiful architecture make it a memorable destination.

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 09**

**Day 9: Return To Quito**

Fly back to Quito in the morning. Once back in the capital, you'll have a free afternoon to explore the city at your leisure. Take time to visit more museums, stroll through local markets, or relax in one of Quito's many parks. This is the perfect day to reflect on the journey and enjoy the city's vibrant culture before your departure.

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 10**

**Day 10: Departure from Quito**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your international flight. Say goodbye to Ecuador's stunning landscapes and rich cultural experiences as you return home with memories of the Andean highlands, colonial cities, and vibrant markets.

**Meal:** Breakfast

## **Inclusions**

All transfers from arrival to return in private vehicles, sightseeing and overland tours as per program, accommodation in hotels mentioned or hotels of the same category (double room with private bathroom), meals as per program, all entrance and national park fees, English-speaking tour guide.



## Exclusions

Meals and services not mentioned, alcoholic drinks and soft drinks, single room supplement, personal expenses, tips, travel insurance package, domestic flight Cuenca-Quito.

## Note

Hotel Ikala Quito

Hacienda Los Mortiños

Hotel La Floresta

Hotel Wanderlot

Hotel Los Balcones

Hotel Ikala Quito

### Highlights

Explore Quito's historic centre and the Middle of the World monument.

Hike around Cotopaxi and Chimborazo, two of Ecuador's iconic volcanoes.

Visit the indigenous markets of Guamote and the ancient Ingapirca ruins.

### Travel Tips

Bring warm layers for the highland temperatures, especially in Cotopaxi and Chimborazo.

Comfortable walking shoes are essential for hiking and city tours.

Don't forget sunscreen and a camera for capturing the stunning landscapes.

### Weather Preparedness

The Andean highlands have cool, crisp mornings and evenings, with mild daytime temperatures. Expect warmer conditions in Baños. Rain gear is useful in the páramo and cloud forests.

### Fitness Requirements

Moderate fitness is recommended, with activities like light hiking, exploring markets, and walking through archaeological sites. Adjust to the altitude by taking things slowly on the first few days.

Rates are based on 3 star hotels, in case of upgrade please let us know enable quote accordingly.

All prices are indicative and starting from prices. Final price will be available based on availability and dates of travel.

## Program Touring / Guide



Private touring

## Periodic Departure

01 Jan, 2025 to 31 Dec, 2025

3 Star

AUD 3,724 P P twin share

AVAILABLE

