



Haciendas of Ecuador - 6 Days (#19316)

Note: Price printed on this PDF is valid until **08-09-2024** and is subject to change without notice due to Partner changes and currency fluctuations

Trip Highlights

Quito - Otavalo - Papallacta - Cotopaxi

Detailed Itinerary

Day 01

DAY 01: ARRIVAL IN QUITO

Upon arrival, our guide will welcome and transfer us from the airport to the hotel and accommodation. We will then overnight in Quito. Sitting at 2,850 metres above sea level high in the Andean foothills lies Quito, the capital of Ecuador. The city, at short distance from the Equator and with an amazing backdrop of snow-capped mountains, is known for its stunning colonial architecture and art-work. Quito is actually the first Latin American city to be declared a Unesco World Heritage Site. Founded in the 16th century on the ruins of an Inca city, Quito has one of the largest, least-altered and best-preserved historic areas in the Americas. It was declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 1978.

Meal: No Meal



Day 02**DAY 02: HISTORICAL CENTER - THE MIDDLE OF THE WORLD****LATITUDE 0 0' 0"**

The middle of the world, latitude 0 0' 0": Early in the morning and right after breakfast, you and our local guide start the travel tour at the downtown area, well known as Quito Colonial. You start your journey along the "churches ? trail" by visiting first the cathedral. In the cathedral, you learn about its history and the guide explains the internal design of the cathedral such as the "mudejar ?s" influence on its first stage, the area with 3 longitudinal wings, and a small transversal wing behind the choir. After finishing the round in the cathedral, we have a short walk to the church La Compania along with the guide's expertise. The guide will enlighten you with history and fun facts of every place, in this case La Compania. Its decoration is based on muslin features and the altars are covered by gold leaf along with faces and birds carved. It is considered as an architectonic jewel in the American baroque style. It also has a religious value, because the rest of Saint Marianita of Jesus is located there, and according to some, she was the protector of the city.

Afterwards, we visit San Francisco, which is famous for the Cantuña story. San Francisco is well known due to its legends and stories, which make the place culturally wealthy. At the San Francisco church, there is a local hand craft store called Tianguetz, where you can find a variety of items from the Ecuadorian culture. Here, you can buy postcards, books, Ecuadorian music, natural products, and even get a coffee with Humitas (which is sweet corn tamale) offered at the local Café Cantuña located at the Plaza San Francisco. Around midday, you head to "Mitad Del Mundo", a monument at the equator line that passes through our country. You may choose to either visit the Ethnographic or the Inti Ñan Museums, both located near the monument. Along the way, we will stop for a traditional Ecuadorian lunch (optional and not included). After the tour, you will head up to Otavalo on the way to this city you will try bizcochos and you will arrive at the night to the hotel. Overnight in Otavalo

Meal: Breakfast

Day 03**DAY 03: OTAVALO - PAPALLACTA**

We will spend the day in Otavalo. The indigenous people set up a market in which a bartering manner of shopping is taken. This is one of South America's most famous Indian markets. It offers an excellent selection of woven tapestries, blankets, hand-knit sweaters, pottery and more. It's a paradise for souvenirs. Continue on, you will make another stop at San Pablo Lake before arriving in Otavalo. At the lake you can admire the beautiful landscape and the Imbabura Mountain. From Otavalo we will drive in the late afternoon to Papallacta. This is a small mountain village famous for its natural hot springs. Overnight in Papallacta.

Meal: Breakfast and Lunch



Day 04**DAY 04: PAPALLACTA - COTOPAXI - HACIENDA**

In the morning we can take some time to visit the springs or go on a walk in the morning.

Afterwards we will continue the journey along a scenic stretch of road which takes us to the majestic Mountain Cotopaxi and the National park. Cotopaxi, known as the highest active volcano in the world. You will visit its National Park, which is located 59.54 km from Quito. Its lush endemic flora and fauna will allow us to see the representative species such as the Chuquiragua (also known as the flower of the mountaineer), wild horses, deer's, llamas and more. While we are there, you can explore Limpiopungo lagoon, located near the volcano Rumiñahui (149.96 meters), or hike to observe birds. During our staying at the National Park we will visit the museum which informs of the natural environment of the place, the animals and plants. Then you will spend the night in traditional Andean Hacienda.

Meal: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 05**DAY 05: FULL DAY HACIENDA**

After breakfast we will get introduced into the spirit of the Andean Haciendas and their daily works. Visit the grounds and get suited for an approximately two hours horseback riding along old cobblestone roads and trails leading to a great view point of La Viudita which overlooks the entire valley. Along the way panoramic views. Return to Hacienda house and freshen up to enjoy a typical lunch hosted by the Hacienda owner. After lunch you can spend the day relaxing at haciendas facilities or doing another activity such cycling at the paramos.

Meal: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 06**DAY 06: ANDEAN HACIENDA - AIRPORT**

On this day, you will be transferred to the International Airport Quito for your Galapagos or international flight.

Inclusions

Accommodation in double rooms

Transportation



Bilingual naturalist guide (English, Spanish)

Scheduled Visits

Exclusions

International airfares

Optional activities

Other meals, drinks, tips and other personal expenses or services not specified on the program

Travel insurance

Gratuities

Voluntary tips for guides or drivers

Travel and medical insurance

Any items not mentioned as included

Note

Hotels Used

Quito

Luxury: Illa Experience Hotel or similar

First Class: Patio Andaluz or similar

Tourist Superior: Ikala UIO (Suite) or similar

Otavalo

Luxury: La Mirage or similar

First Class: Hacienda Pinsaqui or similar

Tourist Superior: Hacienda Chorlavi or similar

Papallacta

Luxury: Termas de Papallacta

First Class: Termas de Papallacta

Tourist Superior: Termas de Papallacta

Cotopaxi

Luxury: Hosteria San Agustín del Callo or similar

First Class: Hosteria Los Mortiños or similar

Tourist Superior: Hosteria La Cienega or similar



Program Touring / Guide

Private touring

Periodic Departure

15 Apr, 2024 to 31 Dec, 2024

Tourist Superior

AUD 2,772 P P twin share

AUD 3,340 P P single

AVAILABLE

First Class

AUD 2,868 P P twin share

AUD 3,443 P P single

AVAILABLE

Luxury Class

AUD 4,456 P P twin share

AUD 5,581 P P single

AVAILABLE

