



Ecuador Highlights

Note: Price printed on this PDF is valid until **17-06-2025** and is subject to change without notice due to Partner changes and currency fluctuations

Visit: Quito-Otavalo-Amazon-Banos-Chimborazo-Palmira-

Small Group Tour

- Local Guide Service

Tour Guide

Local English only guide

Detailed Itinerary

Day 01: Day 01: Arrive Quito

Welcome to Quito! The largest, best-preserved colonial city in America -was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978. The city is considered the Cultural Capital of South America and is located on the equator in a valley at the foothills of the Pichincha volcano. Depending on your arrival time, you can spend your day exploring the old town of Quito and the surrounding area. GGTS can help you to organize a day trip (please request in advance). In the evening, one of our trip leaders will meet you at the hotel's lobby for a welcome briefing at 18:00 hours. At this time, we will discuss the details and questions you may have regarding the adventure. Our first day is an acclimation and information day.

Hotel/Other Details

Sheraton Quito Hotel or similar.

Day 02: Day 02: Otavalo Market

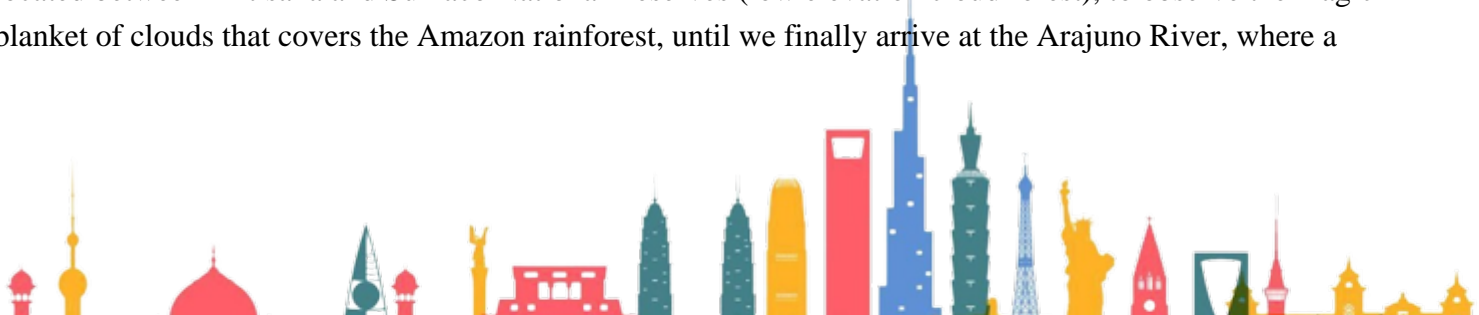
We take an early departure from Quito and drive north through the majestic Andes. On our way we will stop at a viewpoint to admire the Imbabura Volcano and Lake San Pablo. We will head to Pijal, a small village located in the heart of the Andes to visit one of the AJ sustainable projects called Sacha Warmikua, women from the mountain. After this beautiful experience we will visit Otavalo, you will have plenty of time to stroll along the narrow cobblestone streets, filled with the Otavalo Indigenous people wearing the traditional blue ponchos, white trousers and long braided hair. Learn all about their daily activities, typical food and native language. Explore their famous handicraft market, with its wonderful textiles, alpaca throws and rugs, knitted clothing native paintings, ceramics, jewellery, tapestries and more at bargain prices. Later we will arrive at the beautiful and comfortable Hacienda Las Palmeras Inn where we will stay overnight.

Hotel/Other Details

Las Palmeras Inn or similar.

Day 03: Day 03: First Exploration to the Amazon

Early in the morning, we will drive down along a curved panoramic road towards the Amazon Rainforest; as we descend from an altitude of 3000 m to 500 m (9843 ft to 1640 ft), you will observe how the landscape and vegetation change drastically between climates. Later, we also stop at the "Guacamayos-Macaw Lookout," located between Antisana and Sumaco National Reserves (low elevation cloud forest), to observe the magic blanket of clouds that covers the Amazon rainforest, until we finally arrive at the Arajuno River, where a



motor canoe will take us 20 minutes up the river to the Eco Lodge.

Hotel/Other Details

Amazon Ecolodge

Day 04: Day 04: Amazon Hike and Kichwa Community

In the morning, we will hike to explore the Tropical Rainforest and have an interpretation from our guide and learn about medicinal plants and we will search for wildlife. Later, we will enjoy a cultural activity where an Amazonian Kichwa community will receive us, and we learn about their way of life and the interaction they have with the forest. Appreciate the skills of the indigenous women manufacturing handmade pottery (ceramics). This little business helps to support the indigenous people in their daily life. Today we will also have the chance to learn how to make our own chocolate from the raw fruit.

Hotel/Other Details

Amazon Ecolodge

Day 05: Day 05: The Road Of Waterfalls-Banos Outdoor Town

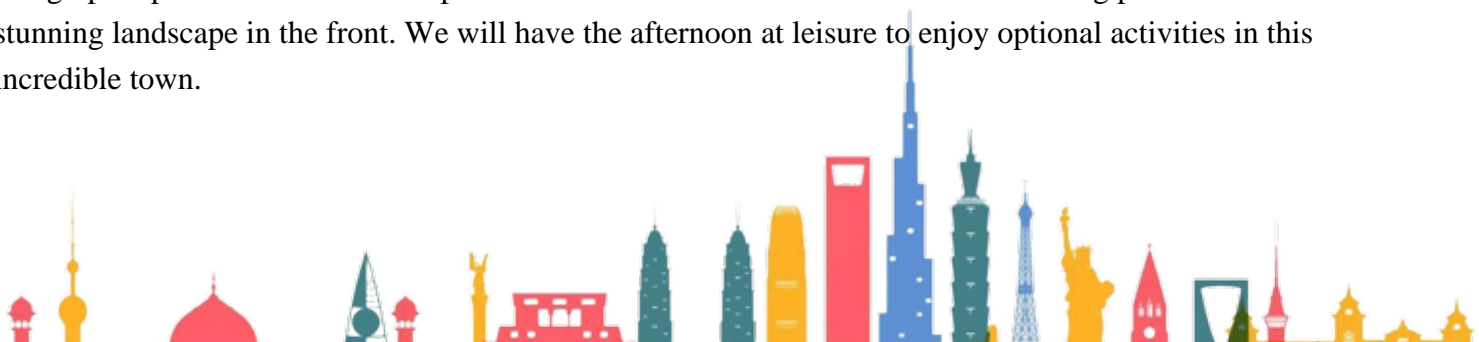
After breakfast, we will reach Rio Verde, located in the UNESCO World Heritage site, Sangay National Park. Here, we will hike down to the second highest waterfall in Ecuador, the Pailon Del Diablo, where pounding water cascades on the rocks and mesmerizes you as you watch from a suspension bridge. You may also take an optional hike behind the falls. After another quick drive, we will arrive at another incredible waterfall called El Manto de la Novia, where we will ride in a cable car traversing the canyon of the Pastaza River. In the late afternoon we will arrive at Baños, located right on the foothills of the Tungurahua volcano, which has been active since 1999. It has some eruptions every few months which delights visitors with lava and steam displays that can be viewed from a number of safe viewpoints in the region. Here in Baños you can also visit a spa or another place to enjoy the hot springs of the area.

Hotel/Other Details

Hotel Casa de Luis or similar.

Day 06: Day 06: Tree House

In the morning, we will visit The Swing of the End of the World, where the winner of the 2014 National Geographic photo contest took his photo. You will have some time to take the amazing picture with the stunning landscape in the front. We will have the afternoon at leisure to enjoy optional activities in this incredible town.



Hotel/Other Details

Hotel Casa de Luis or similar.

Day 07: Chimborazo Volcano

Early in the morning, we will drive through valleys and farming villages to reach the Chimborazo Volcano, the highest mountain in Ecuador with an elevation of 6310 m (20702 ft) above sea level; whose summit is also the furthest point from the centre of the earth on the entire planet. On a clear day, the majestic peak of Chimborazo dominates the view for many kilometres. There will be a short hike for 0.9 km (0.57 mi) to reach the elevation of 5000 m (16404 ft) where the glacier begins. On the hike, we will spot a few of the animals that inhabit this volcanic wonderland such as the Andean condor, caracara, hummingbirds, and the timid vicuñas. Once extinct in Ecuador, they have been reintroduced and are now protected; this beautiful animal is related to the alpacas and llamas.

Hotel/Other Details

Hacienda La Andaluza

Day 08: Palmira Desert

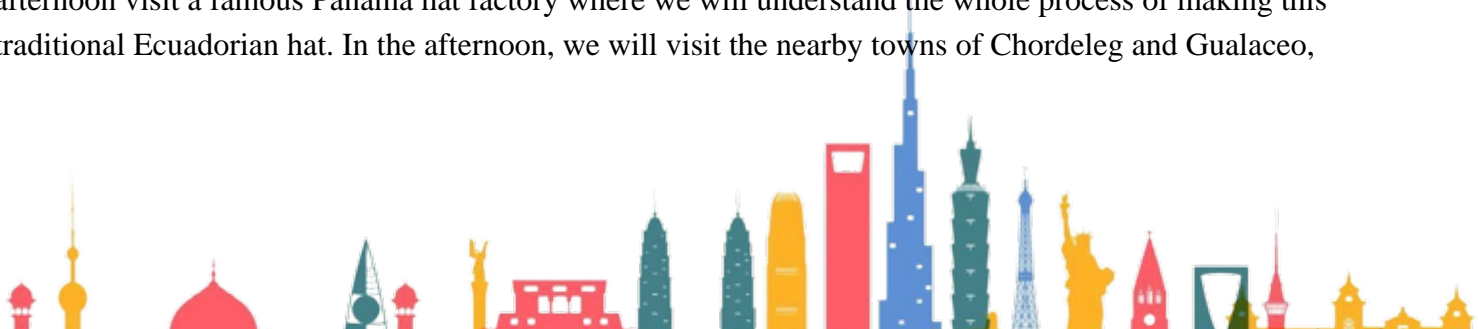
After an early breakfast, we will take a scenic drive to the small town of Alausí. Here, you will hear about the story of the train of the Devil's Nose, where the tracks wind through the countryside in a zigzag formation, creating a travel experience like no other. After this visit we will continue to this small town of Palmira. Here we see a desert located at 10498.69 feet's, which seems like the Sahara Desert. We will continue our visit towards Ingapirca, the most impressive Inca ruins of Ecuador. We will spend the afternoon learning about this archaeological site, notable for its unique fusion of Inca and native Cañari architecture, as well as for its religious meaning. Later, we will head up to Cuenca, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its colonial architecture.

Hotel/Other Details

Hotel Carvallo or similar.

Day 09: Cuenca Unesco City

Starting in the morning, enjoy a fantastic city tour, visiting the most important buildings and notable places in Cuenca, such as Calderon Square, the New Cathedral, El Barranco and El Turi lookout point. In the afternoon visit a famous Panama hat factory where we will understand the whole process of making this traditional Ecuadorian hat. In the afternoon, we will visit the nearby towns of Chordeleg and Gualaceo,



unique destinations that can be enjoyed on this tour. Chordeleg is well known for his jewellery, especially his silverware. And Gualaceo is a picturesque market, where locals gather to exchange their products and crafts. Here you can find traditional Macana shawls, fabrics of fabrics with intense colours and folkloric designs.

Hotel/Other Details

Hotel Carvallo or similar.

Day 10: Day 10: Free Morning - End of services

You will have this free morning the enjoy the charming city of Cuenca and its surroundings. Today our trip will end. Take with you your memories and photos and leave a piece of your heart, as you will want to return to Ecuador soon to experience more of this enchanted land. We wish you a “buen viaje”!

Inclusion

Transportation: Private and comfortable land transportation and motorized canoe.

Accommodation based on double occupancy: 5* hotel in Quito, 4+ hacienda in Otavalo, 3* Amazon Ecolodge, 3* hotel in Baños, 5* Experience Hacienda in Chimborazo, 3+* star hotel in Cuenca.

Meals: 9 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners.

Activities: Indigenous Market, encounter with indigenous people, the road of the waterfalls, hiking up the glacier of Chimborazo, trekking, bird watching in the Amazon, canoeing, and wildlife observation in the rainforest, cultural visit of Cuenca.

Outdoor gear: hiking sticks.

Trip Leader: Certified AJ expert English-speaking adventure Trip Leader and local guide.

Exclusion

International flights.

Flight from Cuenca, to Quito or Guayaquil on day 10.

Airport transfers (international flights).

Travel insurance (suggested).

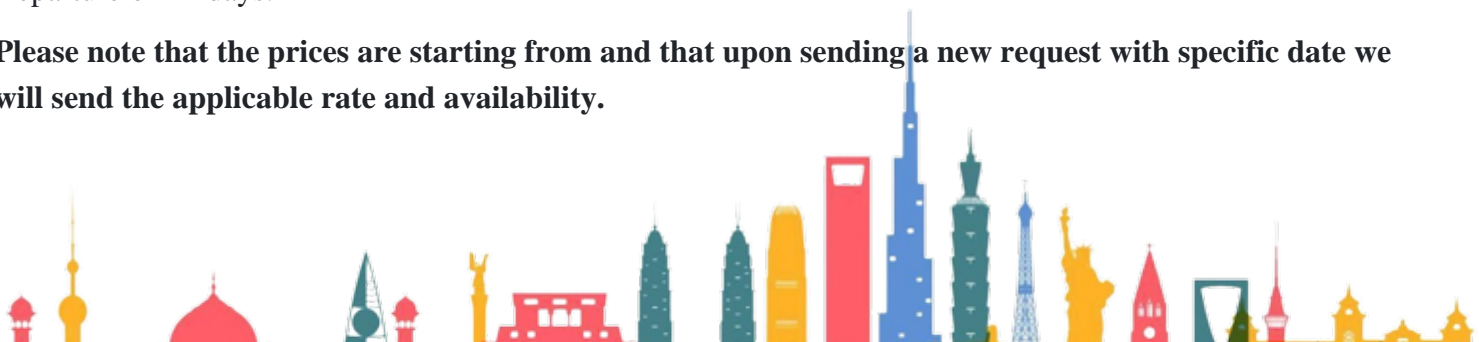
Meals not described in the itinerary.

Tips for guides and drivers.

Note

Departure on Fridays.

Please note that the prices are starting from and that upon sending a new request with specific date we will send the applicable rate and availability.



Tour Dates & Pricing

