

Along the roads...

Ecuador in total freedom, 10 days ~ 9 nights tour





Program -

10-day local bus tour accompanied by your guide to melt into local life at the pace of public transport. We will begin the tour with a visit to the **Otavalo region** with its famous market full of colors, kindness and joy of living.

We will continue to the **heights of the Andes and its Andean populations with the visit of the Quilotoa region** that inhabit 4000 meters above sea level and then we will go to the warm spa town of Baños with a more humid and tropical vegetation.

We'll finish with a hike in the **wildlife reserve of Chimborazo**, vicuñas reserve, but it is also the highest mountain in Ecuador with an altitude of 6268 meters.

Note: We leave when possible the meals at your expense.

Ecuador is not a country specialized in gastronomy, but it still fulfills all the travelers' desire to discover. It is a country rich enough in a variety of menus, gourmet restaurants or simply small dining rooms in markets or towns. Meals mentioned in the program are included in the service and those that are not left at your choice. Your guide and travel companion will suggest places or restaurants of interest, he can also accompany you in your discovery, if you wish.

Meals included are indicated as follows: *B: Breakfast / L: Lunch / D: Dinner*

Day 1 – Colonial Quito – Local bus to Otavalo – Otavalo



Meeting with your guide and then departure to colonial Quito, walking with your guide: Basilica, Plaza Grande, San Francisco square and convent. In the afternoon, departure to Otavalo by local bus. **Hotel night in Otavalo.**

In colonial Quito, we will climb the Panecillo, we will go to the Panecillo, a small hill crowned with the statue of the Virgin of Legarda that dominates Quito and that delimits the colonial town of San Francisco de Quito.

We will continue to the Plaza Grande where we can see the Presidential Palace, the Cathedral and the Archbishop's Palace. On the way to the Plaza de San Francisco, we will visit The Church of Compañía de Jesús. Visit of the Monastery of the Franciscans, a baroque monument located in the San Francisco square and visit of the Fray Pedro Gocial religious art museum located next door of San Francisco church.



Day 2 – Otavalo market – Peguche community – Otavalo

Breakfast. Visit of the traditional artisan market of Otavalo. In the afternoon, excursion to the community of Peguche and its waterfall. Continuation to the banks of the sacred lake of San Pablo. Return to Otavalo by local bus. **Hotel night in Otavalo. B**

The **indigenous Otavalo market** is with no doubts one of the most important markets in South America. It is the ideal place to buy gifts and souvenirs for family and friends. The market was developed in the 60s and still remains, Ecuadorians come from all over the country to see the wide variety of products at their disposal. Tourists also marvel at the colorful textiles, straw hats (Panama), ponchos and silver jewelry



Day 3: Otavalo – Cuicocha Lagoon – Cotacachi – Otavalo

Breakfast. Departure to Cuicocha. Walk around the lagoon. Box lunch during the excursion. Visit the town of Cotacachi famous for its leather crafts. **Hotel night in Otavalo. B - L (Box lunch)**

The **Cuicocha lagoon** is one of the most beautiful lagoons of altitude in Ecuador along with that of Quilotoa. It is part of the Cotacachi-Cayapas Ecological Reserve. We will do a little walk to admire the landscape.

Day 4: Ruins of Cochasquí – Middle of the World – Quito – *Private transport*

Breakfast. Departure to Quito by private transport. Along the way, we will visit the Cochasquí pyramids and the site of the "Middle of the World". **Hotel night in Quito. B - L**

In the Middle of the World, we will visit the symbolic site that represents the passage of the Zero parallel or Equator line and its ethnographic museum. We will also visit the Inti-Ñan museum that demonstrates some physical laws related to gravity and its influence and astronomical knowledge that the Inca and Pre Inca aboriginal groups had.





Day 5: Free morning in Quito - Latacunga

Breakfast. Free morning in Quito. At 14 hours, departure to the south bus station of Quito to take a local bus to Latacunga. *Hotel night in Latacunga. B*

Day 6: Latacunga - Quilotoa

Breakfast. Departure by local bus to the Quilotoa lagoon, located 2 hours in the Western Andes mountain range. Visit of the community. Descent of 320 m of difference in altitude inside the crater along a path of approximately 1600 m. This volcano is still active and we can observe the presence of carbon dioxide that leaves the surface of the water, a source of water that contains an appreciable amount of iron. Possibility of riding in mules from the bottom of the crater to the community (optional). *Dinner and overnight in lodge at Quilotoa. B - L - D*

The Quilotoa Volcano is a unique site in Ecuador with more than 3 km. in diameter and an altitude difference of 320 m. between the edge of the crater and the lagoon. The indigenous community that lives there offers lodging, which allows for closer contact with local people.

Day 7: Hike from Quilotoa to Chugchilán

Breakfast. At 8 am, walk from Quilotoa to Chugchilán following the edge of the Quilotoa crater at ¼ of its circumference before beginning the descent to Guayama and the bottom of the Sigüe river canyon.

The end of this hike will be an ascent of 400 meters from the bottom of the canyon to the town of Chugchilán (12 km in total). Box lunch during the day. *Dinner and overnight in lodge at Chugchilán. B - L (Box lunch) - D*





Day 8: Chugchilán - Baños - Free in Baños in the afternoon

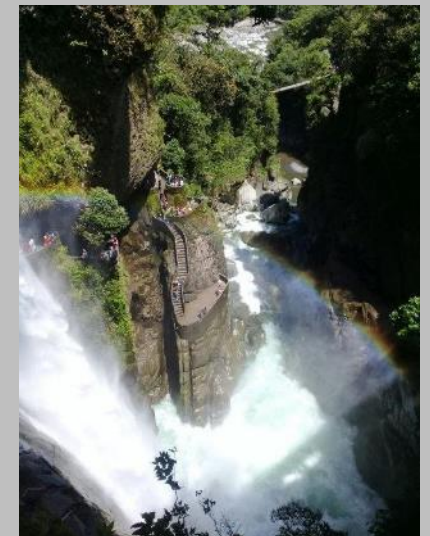
Departure to Baños all morning by local bus. Breakfast in Latacunga. Continue to Baños by local bus. Afternoon free to walk around Baños or if you prefer to relax and enjoy the hot springs of the town. **Hotel night in Baños. B**

Baños is a lovely summer resort, with its hot springs, located at the gates of the Amazon and on the edge of the Andes. The beauty of the site and the hospitality of its inhabitants make it a very popular destination. Nestled in a green valley, the city, surrounded by forests, waterfalls and backed by the active volcano Tungurahua 5016m, offers lush vegetation.

We will visit the impressive waterfall **Pailón del Diablo (cauldron of the Devil)**. Beside the Manto de La Novia waterfall, we will also cross the Pastaza river in a tarabita, a suspended gondola that serves as a means of transport for the residents of this river surrounded by cliffs. If the weather is adequate, we will observe the almost permanent activity of the Tungurahua volcano.

Day 9: Baños - Smugglers Route - Manto de la Novia - Pailón del Diablo - Baños

Breakfast. Visit the route of the orchids walking along the smugglers' path to the Manto de la Novia waterfall. Ascent of the bottom of the canyon in tarabita (suspended basket). Continue to the Pailón del Diablo waterfall. Waterfall excursion, box lunch during the walk. Return to Baños in the afternoon. **Hotel night in Baños. B - L (Box lunch)**





Day 10: Chimborazo wildlife reserve – Private transport

Private transport this day.

Breakfast. Departure to the Chimborazo wildlife reserve. Ascent to the refuge at 5000m above sea level. Box lunch in the refuge. Approach to the glacier and vicuñas observation. Possibility of climbing to the Whymper Needles at an altitude of 5250 meters (according to the wishes of the group on this day). Return to Baños or Quito. **Hotel night in Quito o Baños. End of program. B - L (Box lunch)**

Chimborazo Wildlife Reserve: For several years, a reintroduction program of vicuñas and llamas began with the cooperation of indigenous communities living in these areas of the paramo. They are very easy to observe. In addition, the Chimborazo, the highest peak of Ecuador 6310 m. is a volcano that is a great attraction for mountaineers and for those who appreciate the beauty of the landscapes.



Price per person

Shared tour on fixed dates – exclusive tour individual circuit

Base 2 participants :	1530 Usd	+ 100 Usd
Base 3 participants :	1250 Usd	
Base 4 participants :	1120 Usd	
Base 5 participants :	990 Usd	
Base 6 participants :	930 Usd	
Base 7 participants :	860 Usd	
From 8 participants :	820 Usd	

Our rate includes

Transportation and activities mentioned in the program
Accommodation in 2nd category hotel with private bathroom.
All meals mentioned in program
Entrance to the different sites.
Spanish speaking guide

Our rate doesn't include

International flights
Personal expenses
Meals not mentioned in the program.
Drinks
Gratuities
Your personal repatriation / Cancellation insurance (in case of serious illness or accident)
Supplement for hotel accommodation in a superior category

For this adventure, a backpack is preferable to carry your belongings instead of a suitcase.

Our hotel selection

Quito - Auberge Inn <http://www.auberge-inn-hostal.com/fr/index.html>

Otavalo - Doña Esther www.otavalohotel.com

Latacunga - Rodelu <http://www.rodelu.com.ec/>

Chugchilán - Mama Hilda <http://mamahilda.com/>

Baños - La Chimenea <http://www.hotelchimenea.com/index.html>



Note:

*The hotels are given as indicative subject to availability at the time of booking the tour.
In case of unavailability, a hotel of the same category will be offered.*

It is possible to select superior category hotels for an additional charge, contact us if you are interested.

«Even the longest journey begins with a first step»

Lao Tse

