

ECUADOR HIGHLAND EXPLORATION



QUITO (1 night)

Arrive in Quito, at 9,350 feet it is the highest capitol city in the world. Transfer to the Fuente de Piedra Hostel.

OTAVALO (2 nights)

Before leaving Quito, tour the city's historic downtown, a UNESCO heritage site, with guides performing theatrical history for you as you go. Depart Quito and visit the "Mitad del Mundo" equator monument and interactive museum. Head north to spend two nights in Otavalo, visiting the largest handicrafts market in South America. Hiking around Cuicocha Lake—a crater lake in the middle of a caldera formed when Cuicocha Volcano erupted 3,000 years ago, and visiting the Peguche waterfall near your hotel.



SALINAS DE BOLIVAR (3 nights)

Next, head south to Salinas where you will spend the next 3 nights immersed in the daily life of your Ecuadorian host community high in Andean mountains. Salinas is famous for its community co-operatives that, among other things produce cheese, chocolate, and various textiles. In the mornings you will volunteer at one of the coops, and in the afternoons you will meet with the local youth group to explore the area on a short hike.



QUITO (2 night)

On your way back to Quito, visit Chimborazo Volcano National Park. Chimborazo, an ice capped inactive volcano, is the highest mountain in Ecuador (20,564 ft) and is the closest place on earth to the sun due to its proximity to the equator!



Your last full day in Ecuador will be spent at the natural hot springs of Pappalacta. This extensive series of pools sits in a forest at the foot of a line of Andean mountains and is a perfect place to play and relax before the journey home!

ECUADOR TRIP INFORMATION

The price includes:

- Local Guides
- Private in-country transportation
- Accommodations (price is based on doubles/triples)
- Meals as outlined
- Activities and Entrance fees
- Post-departure travel insurance
- Tips

The price does NOT include:

- International airfare
- Expenses of a personal nature
- Recommended \$20/per person for tips

Please budget \$10-\$15 for the two lunches not included in Salinas de Bolivar

AREA	DAY	SAMPLE LODGING & MEALS	MAJOR ACTIVITIES
Quito	Day 1	Fuente de Piedra Hostel Meals included: none	Arrive Quito and transfer to your hostel Welcome meeting
Otavalo	Day 2	La Casa Sol Meals included: BLD	Explore Quito City Center with Quito Eterno Visit Mitad del Mundo & Inti Nam Interactive Museum Drive to Otavalo
Quito	Day 3	La Casa Sol Meals included: BLD	Hike around lake Cuicocha Lunch with local music and dance group Visit Otavalo Market (Saturdays) or shop in Otavalo center Visit Peguche Waterfall
Salinas de Bolivar	Day 4	Home Stays or Hostel Meals included: BLD	Depart early and drive to Salinas de Bolivar (7 hour drive) Welcome meeting & introduction to the community
Salinas de Bolivar	Days 5 & 6	Home Stays or Hostel Meals included: BD	Participate in community service work Visit with the youth group Short hike around area
Quito	Day 7	Fuente de Piedra Hostel Meals included: BLD	Drive back to Quito Visit Chimborazo Volcano enroute
Quito	Day 8	Fuente de Piedra Hostel Meals included: BLD	Day trip to Pappallacta Hot Springs Back to Quito/Farewell Meeting
Depart for Home	Day 9	Meals Included : B	Transfer to Airport