

ANDES & AMAZON RAINFOREST TRIP
Quito – Otavalo – Cotopaxi – Cuyabeno Reserve – Quito
08 days / 07 nights



Itinerary:

Day 01:

Quito

Welcome to Ecuador!

Arrival at Quito's airport, reception, and transfer to the hotel in the Quito district, check in (15:00 hours). Overnight in Quito.

Day 02:

Quito – Teleferico – Mitad del Mundo /(B)

Breakfast in the hotel. Pick up from the Hotel in Quito. The tour will then continue from the Basilica Church, where we will make a brief stop to visit it. After walking through the colonial streets, we will then stop at the Independence Plaza to admire the Cathedral and the Government's Palace. We will also visit La Ronda Street, The Company Church, Santo Domingo's Church, The Sagrario's Church, and San Francisco's Church, which was built during the 17th century. After visiting the historical sights, we will go to Teleferico. This is one of the best ways to enjoy our city with views of beautiful valleys, snow-capped mountains, and the capital, Quito. From a point of more than 13,000 feet (4000 m), you will enjoy magnificent views of the city. After lunch, you will head to the Middle of the World monument, where you can stand right in the middle of the equatorial line and straddle the two hemispheres. In addition, you will have a chance to participate in several experiments at the Intiñan Museum such as watching the water go down a drain in a different direction (only inches away from either side of the equator), or balancing an egg on a nail, or using an ancient sundial and much more. At this place complex, you will also be able to visit a fascinating ethnographical museum that gives a great overview of the

many distinct cultures of this small country. You will also enjoy the amazing landscape in Pululahua inhabited crater just 5 minutes from the Equatorial line. Return. Overnight in Quito.

Day 03: Otavalo Market – Cuicocha Lake / (B, L)

Breakfast in the hotel. This full day starts with early morning pickup from your hotel in Quito. From there, we will drive in a private vehicle to Otavalo and its marketplace to learn all about their culture. On our way, we can admire the gorgeous scenery and the Andes Mountain range. We will stop at San Pablo's Lake viewpoint to take some pictures and where we will try some delicious biscochos (local traditional buttery cookies). Once we will reach Otavalo, you will have the opportunity to walk through the market to see the different stands and local people exhibiting their multicolored handicrafts and souvenirs and purchase some if you'd like. We will also visit a weaving workshop in Peguche. After that, you will enjoy lunch and then visit Cuicocha Lake before heading back to Quito. Return to the hotel. Overnight in Quito.

Day 04: Cotopaxi Volcano (5897-meter) / (B, L)

Breakfast in the hotel. The excursion starts at 8 am from your hotel in Quito. Meet your guide and board a vehicle heading south of Quito and towards Cotopaxi National Park. On the way, you will enjoy the beautiful views of the Andes Mountain range and gorgeous natural scenery. Once you reach the National Park, you will visit the Interpretation Center and Limpiopungo Lagoon. Take a short hike in the surrounding Limpiopungo valley before driving ever-higher into this sky-high region, stopping at the 15,800-foot (4830-meter) Padre Rivas Refuge. Depending on your physical condition, you will get the Glacier (5050-meter) Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant that offers typical Ecuadorian meals and finally return to Quito. At night, you will head to a meeting point to take a bus to Lago Agrio (it should take around 8 hours to arrive at Lago Agrio).

Day 05: Quito – Cuyabeno Reserve / (L, D)

Reception in Lago Agrio and transfer to Cuyabeno River. Box lunch in the route. Here our naturalist guide will give information about the reserve, important recommendations, and other tips to begin the two hours navigation through the Cuyabeno River to the Big Lagoon, where the Lodge is located. Along the river, you will find several species in its natural habitat as monkeys, toucans, parrots, insects, and the exuberant Amazonian vegetation. Arrival and check-in. Night walk in the primary forest to observe amphibians and reptiles for about one hour. Return to the lodge. Accommodation in double rooms.

Day 06:

Cuyabeno Reserve / (B, L, D)

Breakfast. Trek in the primary rain forest for approximately 3-5 hours in the distance you will be able to explore the beautiful and complex tropical ecosystem. You will find a great variety of species of plants, trees, and animal life. Lunch back at the lodge. In the afternoon navigate in the big lagoon, to enjoy the surrounding of the lake, and wait for a very special sunset. Overnight in the lodge.

Day 07:

Cuyabeno Reserve / (B, L, D)

After breakfast, depart to the Siona Indian Community of Puerto Bolivar, the largest ethnic group in the Reserve. During this tour, you will learn about their customs, traditions, and way of life. You will be part of the elaboration of the Casabe; a local dish made of yucca (carbohydrates principal feed of the community). The trip takes 2 hours of navigation downstream to get there, in the route will be possible to admire the existing fauna along the Rio Cuyabeno such as birds, monkeys, snakes, pink dolphins, tortoises, and many others. A visit to the Shaman is also included. This is a full-day excursion with Lunch in the Community. Return to the lodge. Night navigation for watching Caymans. Overnight at the lodge.

Day 08:

Cuyabeno Reserve / (B)

Early in the morning before breakfast, a bird-watching excursion is optional. Breakfast and by 09h30 departure tour back to Lago Agrio to take your flight back.

Include:

- Transfer in and out from / to Quito.
- Lodging for 07 nights at selected hotels + breakfast
- City tour Quito Colonial and Mitad del Mundo
- Cotopaxi Volcano – Otavalo Market.
- 4 days in the Amazon Jungle – Cuyabeno Reserve
- Private transport SUV or VAN
- Meals mentioned or according to the itinerary.
- Certified English/Spanish speaking guides
- Activities mentioned in the itinerary
- Personal assistance
- Night bus (Quito-Lago Agrio-Quito)

Not Include:

- Travel insurance
- Not specified meals
- Overweight in Luggage.
- Tips.
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks
- Personal charges