

**ECUADOR COLORFUL EXPERIENCE**

**Quito – Quilotoa – Cotopaxi – Papallacta – Amazon Rainforest – Baños  
– Cuenca – Guayaquil – Puerto Lopez – Manta – Mindo  
16 days / 15 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 at Wyndham Garden Hotel.

**Day 02:**

**Quito – Mitad del Mundo - Teleferico / (B)**

Breakfast at 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 to Quito. Overnight at Wyndham Garden Hotel.

**Day 03:**

**Cotopaxi Volcano/ (B, L)**

Breakfast at the hotel. The excursion starts at 8 am from your hotel in Quito. Our guide will pick you up at your hotel to move to one of the most emblematic points of Ecuador, the Cotopaxi volcano, considered the largest active volcano in the world at 5897 meters high (19,347 feet high). During our stay in the National Park, we will admire its natural environment, its Flora and Fauna with the explanations of your naturalist guide. We will try to ascend to the refuge located at 4,810 m (15,392 feet high). We will also hike around Lake Limpiopungo which is at the foot of the volcano to observe some birds from the Páramo region (Andean Pastures). On a clear day, the view of the volcano reflected on the lake's surface is magnificent. We make a short visit to the small museum that talks about the park, its nature, wildlife, and the eruptions of the centerpiece of the park. Once we are up, we will take a short break at the refuge before continuing to the nearby glacier. Enjoy incredible photo opportunities and spectacular scenery on ice walls and deep crevasses. Overnight at Los Mortiños Hacienda in Cotopaxi.

**Day 04:**

**Quilotoa Lagoon (B, L)**

Breakfast in the hotel. Travel through the Avenue of the Volcanoes and pass through the Pujilí small town. You will also visit an indigenous local house from the “Paramos” to learn about their traditions and way of life. After your visit, head to the town of Tigua, famous for its naive paintings. Continue up to the Quilotoa volcano, where you will be able to descend to the lake located inside the crater or just walk around the crater. You will also be able to enjoy an unforgettable experience by mule back riding or kayaking in the lake. Lunch and continue up our trip to Baños. Visit the famous “Swing at the End of the World” at La Casa del Árbol and take in an amazing view of the gorgeous mountain landscapes. Overnight at Wyndham Garden Hotel in Quito.

**Day 05:**

**Termas de Papallacta – La Casa del Suizo Jungle Lodge / (B, D)**

After breakfast, we will head to the east of Quito. Our first stop will be the Termas de Papallacta, this beautiful spa with thermal waters where you can relax and enjoy swimming pools perfectly suitable for relaxation and fun. In a magical and natural environment with cozy facilities that offer exclusivity combining high quality treatments with the benefits of thermal water. (Entrance to the general pools included) We will continue the trip to the Guango lodge for a brief bird watching and we will enjoy the wonderful number of hummingbirds around this place, it is not uncommon to see 14 species of hummingbirds in

an hour, and the sword-billed hummingbird with its long and unique beak is sure to surprise you. We will continue to the city of Tena and then to Huano to stay at La Casa del Suizo Lodge. Upon arrival, we will receive a welcome cocktail, and then we will move to your bungalow. If you wish, you can take a dip on a sandy beach on the Napo River. A delicious dinner will be served at the lodge and the site manager will explain the next day's activities. Overnight at Casa del Suizo Jungle Lodge.

**Day 06:**

**La Casa del Suizo Full Day Exploration /B/L/D**

Breakfast at the hotel. We will start with a canoe ride down the imposing Napo River crossing the enchanted Ecuadorian jungle. Soon we arrive at the village of Misahualli, where we'll have to make a short stop for routine inspection by the local Marine officers. With a stroll through this tranquil little town, we will be able to see a group of Capuchin Monkeys. We continue our canoe ride until we reach the Arajuno River. Here we will visit the animal rescue center "AmaZOOnico". This is a specialized organization dedicated to the rescue of wild animals and restoring them to their natural habitat. We will observe a great variety of species such as toucans, parrots, all kinds of monkeys, ocelots, capybaras, and much more. After our visit to this beautiful sanctuary, we'll enjoy a scrumptious picnic by the river shore. Afterward, we can swim in the refreshing river waters or simply rest in the peaceful surroundings. We'll head back to our lodge, making a short stop in one of the many local indigenous communities by the Napo River. One of the native Quichua families will show us their ancestral costumes like gold washing, pottery techniques, the making of the typical drink "chicha" made of yuca, and blowpipe hunting. Dinner. Overnight at La Casa del Suizo Jungle Lodge.

**Day 07:**

**Secondary Forest – Waterfalls – Indigenous Quichua Family  
/B/L/D**

After breakfast, you depart by canoe upstream for ten minutes, arriving at a small shore where you begin a fun and thrilling one-hour walk, discovering the jungle's secondary forest's diverse flora and fauna. After the short walk, you will get to the breathtaking waterfall Las Latas where you can take a refreshing bath in its clear crystal waters and enjoy the surrounding views, which mixed with the jungle sounds, make it an unforgettable experience. Then you will return to have lunch at the lodge. In the afternoon you will visit a Quichua family and learn about their millenary culture and traditions such as gold rinse on the river shoreline, traditional pottery making, making of the typical drink "chicha" made of yuca (traditional Ecuadorian manioc), and the use of the "serbatana" (blowpipe for hunting use). After this amazing encounter with Quichua culture, you return to the lodge by foot over secondary jungle pads. Upon arrival enjoy a snack. At night after dinner, you will have the usual meeting around the fireplace to share the day's experiences. Overnight at La Casa del Suizo Jungle Lodge.

**Day 08:**

**La Casa del Suizo – Puyo - Baños / B**

After breakfast, we will travel to Puyo and Baños all the way we will be able to observe an incredible number of landscapes that the Ecuadorian jungle offers and several rivers and tributaries that are next to the road. You have the afternoon free to visit the zoo or simply relax near the thermal waters of Baños. Overnight at Samari Hotel in Baños.

**Day 09:**

**Baños – Route of the Cascades – Baños / B**

After breakfast, we will visit the surroundings of the town and we will take the "way of the waterfalls" where you will visit the different waterfalls in the area, and you will do trekking to get to "El Pailon del Diablo", a beautiful and majestic waterfall. We will also enjoy la Casa del árbol, Manto de la Novia waterfalls, and Mano de la Pacha mama. Overnight at Andaluza Hosteria in Riobamba.

**Day 10:**

**Riobamba – Ingapirca - Cuenca / B**

We will enjoy a visit to the Colta lagoon and the Balbanera located in a picturesque Andean town, where there is a peaceful lagoon in whose waters the Chimborazo is reflected on clear sunny days; the railway line and the town of Cajabamba. This beautiful lagoon is known in the Puruhá language as "Kulta Kucha", which means "Pato Lagoon". Our trip continues to the most important Inca Archaeological Complex in Ecuador, the Ingapirca Fortress. In the surroundings, we will see how the famous artisans make the "Panama Hats." After this interesting visit, we headed to Cuenca. Overnight at Mansion Alcazar in Cuenca.

**Day 11:**

**City Tour in Cuenca – Gualaceo - Chordeleg /B/L**

Breakfast at the hotel. On this day we will have a city tour through the city of Cuenca, a city declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, and discover its cultural and architectural diversity. Visiting the most important churches and monuments of this city, we also observe the broken bridge, and we visit the tourist viewpoint of Turi, where we can have a panoramic view of the entire city of Cuenca. Enjoy the history and architecture of the city on this picturesque tour! In the afternoon we will visit Gualaceo and Chordeleg, two of the most important towns near the city famous for their handicrafts made with gold and silver, and for their colonial traditions. Overnight at Mansion Alcazar in Cuenca.

**Day 12:**

**Cajas National Park – Guayaquil City / B**

After breakfast, we go on a short excursion to El Cajas National Park or the Gualaceo Valley (depending on weather conditions), and then we will travel to Guayaquil. El Cajas National Park has several small lagoons (more than 230). They are the remains of the last ice age. The lakes are connected by small rivers, whose crystal-clear waters flow into the Pacific. We will have a short walk through this protected area. We will continue the trip to Guayaquil. Overnight at Hotel Wyndham Guayaquil.

**Day 13:**

**Guayaquil City Tour – Puerto López / B**

Breakfast at the hotel. On this day, we will have one of the most important routes of the tour we will take part of the "Ruta del Sol". In Ballenita, you have a panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean from a high cliff. Small fishing villages can be visited during the complete tour and beautiful mostly rustic beaches will join us during our trip. Salango and Montañita. Then we continue to Puerto Lopez. Puerto Lopez is one of the iconic places in Ecuador and has the privilege of receiving the humpback whale show every year, its main attraction. But there is also Isla de la Plata, the best place to practice scuba diving. Overnight at Mandala Hosteria in Puerto Lopez.

**Day 14:**

**Isla de la Plata Full day / B**

Breakfast at the hotel. On this day get ready because we will visit the fantastic Isla de la Plata. Known as the little Galapagos, it is the perfect destination for nature lovers looking for a unique adventure with incredible landscapes and diverse fauna. We will see species like those of the Galapagos, such as sea lions, blue-footed boobies, and frigates, it is one of the most famous places to snorkel due to its richness and diversity of marine fauna. From the months of June to October, this package includes the observation of humpback whales during their love rituals. Overnight at Mandala. Overnight at Mandala Hosteria in Puerto Lopez.

**Day 15:**

**Manta – Santo Domingo - Quito / B**

Breakfast at the hotel. On this day we will make a trip from Puerto López, a brief stop at Los Frailes beach, it is one of the most beautiful beaches in Ecuador, because of its extension, white sand, because of the tranquility it offers as it is separated from the road and because it usually is empty. It belongs to the Machalilla National Park and is surrounded by cliffs and a viewpoint. To get to the beach you must go through a beautiful dry forest that exhibits species of flora and fauna typical of the area. Then we will continue to Manta, Santo Domingo, and then Mindo. Overnight in Terra Bambu Lodge in Mindo.

**Day 16:**

**Mindo Cloud Forest – Transfer out /B/L**

Breakfast at the hotel. We will drive northwest to the unique Hummingbird Garden. See 15 to 20 different species of hummingbirds, depending on the season or time of the day, and try local tropical fruits. Take a 1- 2-hour walk into the cloud forest to admire the diverse flora and fauna up close. Look for endemic species of plants and some birds found nowhere else on earth as you encounter a series of beautiful waterfalls. Reach the protected Mindo Cloud Forest Reserve to experience the astonishing beauty of one of the highest biodiverse sites in the world. Avail of all the activities at your own expense, such as a zip line across the forest canopy, chocolate tour, tubing, or rappelling down rocks. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant that offers typical Ecuadorian meals and finally return to Quito.

**Include:**

- 15 nights of lodging at selected hotels
- Transport in a private SUV or VAN
- English/Spanish speaking certified guide
- Admission fees in Quilotoa, Cotopaxi, Chimborazo Volcano, Casa del Árbol, Pailon del Diablo and Manto de la Novia Waterfalls, Nido de Mera, Manos de la Pachamama, boat trip to Isla de la Plata, Cajas National Park, Ingapirca Ruins, Termas de Papallacta Spa, Guango Lodge hummingbirds, and Los Frailes Beach.
- Meals: Breakfast x 17 days, lunch x 6 days, dinner x 4 days
- Teleferico, Inti Ñan Museum, chocolate tasting tickets
- All activities described in the program in Casa del Suizo
- All airport transfers in and out of Quito

**Not Include:**

- International flights
- Personal expenses
- Meals not described in the program
- Tips
- Travel insurance
- Cost of extra activities not described in the program