

ECUADOR LUXURY EXPERIENCE
Quito – Mashpi Lodge – Cotopaxi
08days / 07 nights



Itinerary:

Day 01:

Quito

Welcome to Ecuador!

Arrive at Quito's airport, reception, and transfer to the hotel in the modern district, check in (15:00 hours). Overnight in Casa Gangotena Hotel.

Day 02:

Quito City Tour – Mitad del Mundo - Teleferico /(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 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 in Casa Gangotena hotel.

Day 03:

Transfer from Quito to Mashpi Lodge/ (B, L, D)

Early in the morning, you will be picked up from your hotel in Quito, to begin your journey to the northwest of the Metropolitan District of Quito. During the trip, you will pass by La Mitad del Mundo and continue downhill while you see the vegetation changes. Arrival at the lodge at noon. After lunch and rest, you will begin with a hike through the forest, followed by gliding above and through the forest canopy, aboard the Dragonfly aerial cable car. Then return to the hotel for dinner and end the day with a night walk. Overnight in Mashpi Lodge

Day 04:

Mashpi Lodge activities / (B, L, D)

Breakfast in the hotel. Early in the morning, you can begin with a visit to the panoramic terrace of the lodge to watch the sunrise and hear the menagerie of birds that inhabit the ecosystem surrounding the lodge. After breakfast, you will go on a hike toward a waterfall, and then you will head to the Hummingbirds Garden or to the Life Centre's butterflies. After lunch, you can go on the aerial sky bike, and then you can climb up the Observation Tower to watch the entire reserve. In the evening you will assist to a lecture, the "Secret Wildlife of Mashpi: The Camera Trap Project," "The Choco: A Biological Hotspot" about the information and diversity, and research projects of the Chocó Region. Overnight in Mashpi Lodge

Day 05:

Mashpi Lodge activities – Sanctuary Lodge / (B, D)

On the last day at Mashpi Lodge, after breakfast, you will have more time to explore the forest trails. Then, you will check out at 11 a.m., and be transferred to your next destination, Cotopaxi Sanctuary Lodge, which is in front of Cotopaxi. Overnight in Sanctuary Lodge.

Day 06:

Cotopaxi / (B, D)

Breakfast at the lodge. Meet your guide and board a vehicle heading towards Cotopaxi National Park. On the way, you will enjoy the gorgeous natural scenery. Once you reach the National Park entrance, 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. Overnight in Sanctuary Lodge.

Day 07:

Quilotoa Lagoon or Activities in the lodge/ (B, D)

Option 1: Breakfast in the lodge. You will drive 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. Enter their home, made of straw, and enjoy time interacting with them. 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 muleback riding or kayaking in the lake. Enjoy lunch and stand in one of the most beautiful landscapes in the highlands and traditional indigenous villages. Note: on Thursdays, Saquisilí Indigenous Market is optional.

Option 2: Breakfast in the lodge. You will have the opportunity to do some activities at the lodge itself. The lodge offers you diverse activities such as:

- Horseback riding (1-2 hours): The horse trails are within the Cotopaxi Sanctuary Lodge property, and you are accompanied by both bilingual and a local guide. With favorable weather, you can view other nearby volcanoes such as Rumiñahui, Pasochoa, the Sincholagua in which we are located and others.
- Fishing: Excursion to fish the wild Pita River. Land the catch of a lifetime in one of the wildest locations in Ecuador or visit one of the stocked pools that belong to the local communities with stunning waterfalls nearby.
- Hiking for 1-2 hours: Accompanied by your bilingual guide you can reach a deeper connection to the pure and raw natural areas of the Cotopaxi moorlands. During your hike, you may encounter wild rabbits, Andean foxes, deer, owls, and a large diversity of birds.
- Biking for 1-2 hours: your bilingual guide will accompany you as you ride across the high plains. The entire loop provides you with a trail of about 10 km or 6 miles.
- Cooking Class: Get to know the culture by preparing a traditional Ecuadorian dish directly with Cotopaxi Sanctuary Lodge's chef, you can also choose to learn how to prepare homemade blueberry marmalade from the "mortiños", or blueberry variety that is grown on the property.

Day 08:

Transfer out / (B)

Breakfast in the lodge. Your guide will pick you up at the lodge and transfer you to the airport in Quito.

Services with an additional cost:

Andean Paramo Picnic

Surround yourself in the magic of the Andean Forest while enjoying a delicious and lavish picnic as only we know how to prepare.

Massages

Enjoy a relaxing massage amid a unique and wonderful nature leaving you feeling pampered and refreshed.

Helicopter Chárter services

Quito – Pacto

Quito – Cotopaxi - Quito

Pacto - Cotopaxi.

Include:

- Private service
- Private transport SUV or VAN
- 07 nights of lodging in Luxury Class Hotels.
- National Parks entrance fee
- Certified Spanish / English-speaking guide
- Meals mentioned in the itinerary (breakfast x7, lunch x2, dinner x5)
- Use of rain ponchos and rubber boots (in Mashpi Lodge & Cotopaxi Sanctuary Lodge)
- Personal assistance
- Guided activities

Not Include:

- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses
- Tips.
- Alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks
- Dragonfly cable car
- Not specified meals
- Laundry service
- Optional activities outside the reserve of Mashpi Lodge (kayak, bike, canopy, zip-lines, etc.)