

Ecuador Explorer 13 days



Discover the highlights of Ecuador with this tour that takes you from the dizzy heights of Quito, through colourful Indian market towns and gorgeous countryside, to the Amazon rainforest and back again.

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Quito / Ends in: Quito
- Departs: Year round
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:3, Lunch: 2, Dinner: 3
- Hotel Rating: Simple hotels, hostels & guesthouses
- Tour Guide: Yes - tour leader escorted

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - [click here](#)
- To book this trip - [click here](#)
- To enquire about this trip - [click here](#)

TOUR MAP:



QUICK WEB LINKS

[Trip Prices](#) ::: [Why Us](#) ::: [Best Places to Visit](#) ::: [Best Time to Visit](#) ::: [Hotels & More](#) ::: [Inca Trail Permits](#) ::: [Useful Info](#) ::: [FAQs](#) ::: [Visas](#) ::: [Photo Gallery](#)

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Day 1:

Welcome to Ecuador! Upon arrival at Quito airport you will be met and transferred to our joining hotel. After arriving at our hotel consider heading out to explore the city on foot before our group welcome meeting later this evening. On arrival please ask at the reception for information on when the pre departure meeting will be held. Overnight - Quito

Days 2 - 3:

Quito - Otavalo. We begin our journey by heading north to visit the famous market town of Otavalo and its surrounding area. From here you can visit Laguna Cuicocha, an extinct volcano famous for the deep lake in its crater. At certain times of the year you may be able to go for a short boat ride on the lake. There are also nice walking trails around the lake. On the return from Cuicocha you could visit Cotacachi, where you can buy inexpensive leather goods.

The market in Otavalo is a great place to stock up on souvenirs and gifts for friends back home. The local people of Otavalo, who come from their villages to sell livestock, produce and textiles are distinct in appearance. The men wear calf length white trousers and sandals and have their long hair braided, while the women wear white frilly blouses, black skirts and have gold coloured jewellery twirled around their necks. It's a wonderful place to shop for all kinds of handicrafts and great for photographs. Overnight - Otavalo (2)



Days 4 - 6:

Quito – Amazon Jungle. On day 4 we descend into the humid Amazon Basin for three nights. To reach our remote Amazon accommodation, we hike through the rainforest climbing and canyoning through the dense undergrowth. After getting muddy and wet, we are transported to the hotel, home for the next few nights.

The next few days are packed with adventure and discovery and your local guide will help you make the most of your time spent in the jungle. You will have a chance to journey down the river by

motorised canoe, visit museums, an animal rescue centre and meet local communities to live in the Amazon Jungle. You will be taught about the different plants that grow in the rainforest and their importance for jungle survival. You will also have the chance to float down the River Napo on tubes or swim in its waters.

Overnight - [Amazon Jungle \(3\)](#)



Days 7 - 9:

Amazon - Banos. Leaving the Amazon behind, we head by bus to the spa town of Banos, known for its hot springs. On the way we pass spectacular scenery. In Banos you are free to relax in the thermal pools or take leisurely walks amongst the surrounding mountains. You'll also have the chance to enjoy horseback riding in the hills. Banos is a great place to buy beautifully painted balsa wood animals and try the local sweet, taffy. Overnight - Banos (3)



Days 10 - 12:

Banos – Cuenca - Quito. Continuing on we reach the old colonial market town of Cuenca, Ecuador's third largest city. Despite its size, the centre of Cuenca retains much of its colonial charm with cobblestone streets, open plazas and whitewashed buildings with ironwork balconies, and is even an UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The city is also the home of the Panama hat and you'll have the chance to visit a factory where the hats are made. Whilst in Cuenca you have the option to visit the celebrated Inca ruins of Ingapirca,

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Ecuador's most important archaeological site. The original structures were made by the Canari people and you can still see the place where these pre-Inca people worshipped the moon.

A short flight takes us back to Quito where you will have more free time to discover the city. Wander around the UNESCO listed old town, a maze of colonial splendour where the vibrant indigenous character is still retained or head to the colourful Mariscal Sucre, the heart of the 'new town'. Here you will find trendy cafes, international restaurants and lively bars. Overnight - Cuenca (2), Quito (1)



Day 13:

Our tour concludes today. Spend the day further exploring before making your way to the airport for your flight back home.

WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

- The UNESCO listed colonial city of Quito
- Otavalo Market town - handicrafts, souvenirs and villagers in local dress
- Amazon Jungle - guided tour of the rainforest and trekking
- Cuenca - home of the Panama hat, UNESCO listed city with cobblestone streets, open plazas and whitewashed buildings
- Banos - a spa town famous for its hot thermal springs

What's Included

- Airport arrival transfer on day 1.
- 5 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
- 12 nights in hotels, hostels and guesthouses

- Excursions to Quito, Otavalo, the Amazon, Banos and Cuenca
- Visits to Otavalo Market and Amazon Jungle
- Escorted by a tour leader and specialist guides at some local sites
- Relevant transport by public bus, boat and taxi
- Economy class flight from Cuenca to Quito
- Entrance fees to included excursions

What's Not Included

- International flights to/from our tour start/end points and visas
- Items of a personal nature and additional meals

PRICES AND DATES: from USD \$1,899

Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies to travellers who would like the comfort of their own room (on all or many of the tour nights) and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement. All our scheduled tour departures are guaranteed subject to a minimum of 4 travellers. To celebrate the New Year we are offering 10% off all of our South America group tours if you book before 4th February 2015. Discount applies to new bookings only and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer (does not apply to Galapagos Cruises). Terms and conditions apply.

2015

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
28 FEB - 12 MAR	USD \$1,899	USD \$279
04 APR - 16 APR	USD \$1,899	USD \$279
09 MAY - 21 MAY	USD \$1,899	USD \$279
11 JUL - 23 JUL	USD \$1,899	USD \$279
15 AUG - 27 AUG	USD \$1,899	USD \$279
26 SEP - 08 OCT	USD \$1,899	USD \$279
07 NOV - 19 NOV	USD \$1,899	USD \$279
03 DEC - 15 DEC	USD \$1,899	USD \$279

2016

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
09 JAN - 21 JAN	USD \$1,899	USD \$279
13 FEB - 25 FEB	USD \$1,899	USD \$279
09 APR - 21 APR	USD \$1,899	USD \$279
01 JUN - 13 JUN	USD \$1,899	USD \$279
16 JUL - 28 JUL	USD \$1,899	USD \$279



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27 AUG - 08 SEP	USD \$1,899	USD \$279
08 OCT - 20 OCT	USD \$1,899	USD \$279
22 DEC - 03 JAN	USD \$1,899	USD \$279

