

# Quito to Coast 17 Days



From the capital of Peru, through the searing northern Peruvian desert, into the dense Amazon rainforest. Into the lush green valleys of the Ecuadorian Andes mountains, this great trip has it all for those interested in natural beauty and the history before the Incas and Spaniards!

## TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Quito / Ends in: Lima
- Departs: All Year
- No local payment required
- Breakfast: 3, Lunch: 2, Dinner: 3
- Hotel Rating: Simple hotels, hostels and guest houses
- Tour Guide: Yes

## 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: Quito

Welcome to Ecuador! Upon arrival you will be met and transferred to our joining hotel. The first day of your tour is simply an arrival day with no pre-organised activities. In order to allow time to relax and see some of the sights you may wish to add pre tour accommodation. On arrival please ask at the reception for information on when the pre departure meeting will be held.

At 2,850 metres above sea level, Quito is the second highest capital city in the world after La Paz. It was founded in 1534 by the Spanish and was originally an Inca stronghold. As the headquarters of the recently formed Union of South American Nations (which was modelled on the European Union) Quito is also considered the capital of South American integration. It is situated in a hollow at the base of the live Volcano Pichincha and the whole length of the city can be seen from atop Panecillo Hill where the enormous Statue of the Virgin of Quito stands. The city has two main sections – the old and the new. The new is the main commercial area with lots of good restaurants and bars, whereas the old city is the colonial area in the centre, with steep calles (cobblestone streets), busy plazas and indigenous markets. The Equatorial Monument is just 23 kilometres north of the city, and also houses an excellent museum that displays clothing, other wares and photos of the varied and colourful Ecuadorian people. Overnight - [Quito](#)

## Days 2 - 3: Otavalo

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](#)

## Days 4 - 6: Amazon Jungle - Ecuador

Descending into the steaming Amazon Jungle, the next three nights will be in thatch-roofed bungalows on the shoreline of the Arajuno River. The grounds surrounding the cabins have lots of native trees and flowers attracting hummingbirds and toucans. Your local guide will take you trekking in the jungle, explaining the different birds and the incredible variety of plants and trees and

their medicinal value. The terrain is dense jungle and marsh with giant ferns and flowers – a true wilderness. You'll also have a chance to meet and learn about the communities that live in the jungle which may include a visit to a local shaman, learning about the local crafts such as pottery and weaving, shooting arrows from a blow pipe and learning how they catch animals and fish. For a spot of relaxation enjoy the sounds of the jungle from a hammock back at lodge, or float down the river in an inflatable tube and take a swim to cool off. Overnight - [Amazon Jungle - Ecuador](#)



## Days 7 - 9: Baños

We continue by bus through spectacular scenery to Baños, a spa town famous for its hot thermal springs. Besides soaking in the pools, there are pathways to walk into the surrounding mountains and the chance to go horseback riding in the hills (optional). The less energetic can spend their time relaxing in cafés and shopping for souvenirs. Baños is the best place to buy beautifully painted balsa wood animals and try taffy, a local sweet. Overnight - [Baños](#)

## Days 10 - 11: Cuenca

We travel onto the old colonial market town of Cuenca (kwen -ca) - Ecuador's third largest city. Cuenca is the home of the Panama hat and you will have the chance to visit a factory. Cuenca's beautiful colonial air of cobblestone streets, open plazas and whitewashed buildings with ironwork balconies has earned it the UNESCO World Heritage Site status. You have the option to visit the celebrated Inca ruins of Ingapirca, the country's most important archaeological site. The fortress complex has a central platform where the Incas worshipped the Sun. The Cañari people built the original structures and you can still see the place where these pre-Inca folk worshipped the moon Overnight - [Cuenca](#)

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## Days 12 - 13: Mancora

Departing Cuenca we head south, crossing into Peru at Tumbes where the Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro first landed in 1532. You will have plenty of time to relax and enjoy the attractive coastal town of Mancora. This resort town has the unique characteristic to seem private and empty when relaxing on the beach, while brimming with people late into the night at the many nightclubs in town. Overnight - [Mancora](#)

## Days 14 - 15:

Our next destination is Huanchaco where fishermen still ride the surf in reed boats. You have the opportunity to rent one of these boats for a paddle or race through the waves. From here you have the option to visit the largest mud city in the world at Chan Chan, which was built by Chimú Kings. Other nearby sites which you can visit include the Moche-built pyramids known as Huaca del Sol and Huaca de la Luna (temples of the sun and moon). Don't miss the excellent Cassinelli Museum in Trujillo which houses one of the best private collections of pottery (including some interesting erotic pottery) as well as a mummified baby in a bell jar. Overnight - Huanchaco

## Day 16: Lima

Lima was founded by the Spanish Conquistador Francisco Pizarro in 1535 after he eradicated the Incas and made the city his capital. Lima has many fine colonial buildings and some of the best museums in South America including the Gold Museum, Museum of the Inquisition and the Catacombs below the San Francisco Church. Peru's capital has much to offer and many of the sights, including the city's two main squares the Plaza de Armas and Plaza San Martin, are within easy walking distance. The Plaza de Armas houses the Cathedral, Municipal Palace and Presidential Palace where the changing of the guard can be seen every day at 12 noon. There are also many markets in Lima, possibly the best being in the central district. Overnight - [Lima](#)



## Day 17: Lima

Your adventure of a lifetime comes to an end today. If you have a late flight or have lengthened your stay by adding post tour accommodation you will have more time to explore the sights

### 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

- Quito - the UNESCO listed capital of Ecuador
- Otavalo Market town - handicrafts, souvenirs and villagers in local dress
- Amazon Jungle - guided tour of the rainforest and trekking
- Banos - a spa town with hot thermal springs
- Cuenca - a UNESCO listed city and home of the Panama hat
- Mancora - a quaint Peruvian coastal town
- Huanchaco - a beachside town where fisherman ride the waves on reed boats
- Lima - free time to explore the capital's vibrant markets and colonial museums

### What's Included

- 16 nights in simple hotels, hostels and guesthouses.
- 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 3 dinners
- Excursions to Otavalo Market.
- A three night excursion to the Amazon Jungle with guided sightseeing
- Entrance fees for included excursions
- Transportation by local bus.
- Experienced English-speaking guide.
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1.

### What's Not Included



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

## BOLT-ONS:

Make the most of your time away! Listed below are the optional activities that are available on this trip. Please note that you will need to book these prior to travel as we cannot always guarantee availability of these activities once you are on holiday.

### Nazca, Oases & Ballestas - 3 days - USD \$589

Etched into the desert landscape on the coast of Peru, the strange and mysterious Nazca Lines are one of Peru's star attractions. The Nazca lines and shapes include a monkey, hummingbird, condor, spider and even a spaceman. You'll also visit some of the world's highest sand dunes at Huacachina Oasis, the ancient mummies of Chauchilla Cemetery and experience the celebrated wildlife-rich Ballestas Islands. The Ballestas Islands are teeming with over 150 species of bird life (including penguins, cormorants, boobies and pelicans), thousands of sea lions and boast some amazing rock formations. Although it is not possible to set foot on the islands, you'll experience the magnificent sight and sounds of the thousands of sea lions and birds and maybe even spot seals and dolphins playing around the boat.

## PRICES AND DATES: from USD \$2,149

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 - 16 MAR	USD \$2,149	USD \$269
04 APR - 20 APR	USD \$2,149	USD \$269
09 MAY - 25 MAY	USD \$2,149	USD \$269
11 JUL - 27 JUL	USD \$2,149	USD \$269
15 AUG - 31 AUG	USD \$2,149	USD \$269
26 SEP - 12 OCT	USD \$2,149	USD \$269

07 NOV - 23 NOV	USD \$2,149	USD \$269
03 DEC - 19 DEC	USD \$2,149	USD \$269

### 2016

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
09 JAN - 25 JAN	USD \$2,149	USD \$269
13 FEB - 29 FEB	USD \$2,149	USD \$269
09 APR - 25 APR	USD \$2,149	USD \$269
01 JUN - 17 JUN	USD \$2,149	USD \$269
16 JUL - 01 AUG	USD \$2,149	USD \$269
27 AUG - 12 SEP	USD \$2,149	USD \$269
08 OCT - 24 OCT	USD \$2,149	USD \$269
22 DEC - 07 JAN	USD \$2,149	USD \$269