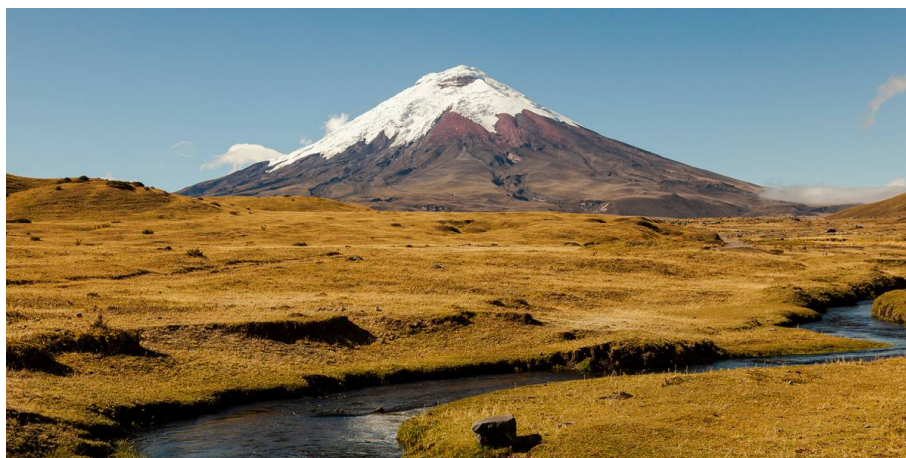


Ecuador Explorer

7 Days | Starts/Ends: Quito



Explore volcanoes, a cloud forest and beautiful colonial towns as you wind your way through northern Ecuador. Starting in the quaint city of Quito, you'll discover the bird watchers paradise of Mindo cloud forest, go shopping at one of the world's most colourful markets in Otavalo and hike the edge of the Cuicocha Crater Lake. You'll also visit the incredible Cotopaxi Volcano, one of the most picturesque parts of the country.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Inti Nan Equator Museum - Explore the area that is often referred to as the 'middle of the world' as you cross from the Northern to Southern hemisphere stepping across the equator line
- Mindo Cloud Forest Reserve - Discover the incredible flora and fauna of this beautiful natural paradise
- Cuicocha Crater Lake - Take in the breathtaking scenery of this crystal clear lake perched on an active volcano
- Otavalo Indigenous Market - Experience a burst of colour as you dive into this

vibrant local market looking for exciting souvenirs

- Papallacta Hot Springs - Relax in the warm waters as you gaze out upon stunning Andean mountain scenery
- Cotopaxi Volcano - We'll explore the area around the world's tallest active volcano, with stunning views of the snow-capped peak

What's Included

- 6 breakfasts & 1 lunch
- 6 nights 3-5 star accommodation
- Arrival transfer on day 1. One arrival transfer included per booking.
- Visit to the Equator at the Intinan Solar Museum
- Hike to the waterfalls in Mindo Cloud forest
- Escorted by an English-speaking local tour leader
- Transfers & transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles
- Cooking class with local indigenous Ecuadorians

What's Not Included

- International & Domestic flights and visas
- Laundry, drinks and items of a personal nature
- Tipping – an entirely personal gesture

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Welcome to Ecuador!



Welcome to Ecuador and to the capital Quito, one of the most beautifully preserved colonial cities in South America. Quito was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1978 and is located close to the equator. A transfer will be waiting to collect you from the airport and escort you to your hotel.

This evening, around 6pm your trip leader hosts a welcome meeting in the lobby of your hotel. They will discuss the details of your trip and answer any questions you may have about your exciting trip to come. **Overnight - Quito**

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Day 2 : Cross the Equator



This morning we'll head north out of Quito to stand at the centre of the earth. We'll visit the equator monument complex, where you'll have the opportunity to put one foot on either hemisphere.

We'll continue to Pululahua crater, the third largest inhabited volcano crater with a population of more than 400 people, before we reach the quaint town of Mindo this afternoon. Nestled into the cloud forest, the area around Mindo is teeming with wildlife, flora and fauna. Home to numerous species, Mindo is a birdwatcher's paradise, especially for those interested in the majestic hummingbird.

Later we'll visit a chocolate distributor to learn about the process, from cocoa bean to harvest through to the final delicious products that are created. **Overnight - Mindo (B)**

Day 3 : Cloud Forest



Today we'll head into the lush, green cloud rain forest of Mindo where we'll hopefully see Toucans, Hummingbirds and other incredible bird species in their natural habitat. Our journey will see us cross the rain forest on cable cars, traverse bridges and hike along waterfalls.

This afternoon you'll have free time to explore further, or you may wish to join one of the optional activities on offer. You can opt to go whitewater rafting through thrilling rapids or try your hand at zip-lining, with beautiful views over the forest canopy.

We continue to the butterfly nursery later this afternoon, a real highlight that will allow you to come close to gargantuan butterflies. You can also dip your fingers into a special paste that attracts the beautiful colourful butterflies to land on your hand. **Overnight - Mindo (B)**

Day 4 : Otavalo Market



We head into the highlands this morning as we take the Pan-American highway north to the indigenous town of Otavalo. This colourful town is famous for its bustling market with an endless number of handicraft shops and stalls run by the local people. Make sure you stroll through the narrow cobblestone street, filled with indigenous people draped in the traditional colourful clothes of the area.

This after we continue to Cotacachi, where we'll explore this small village and get an insight into the impressive leather goods that are made here. Take your time to wander the shops or simply relax with a delicious Ecuadorian coffee in the main plaza.

We'll arrive at our overnight spot later today, the historical hacienda of Pinsaqui. Discover the history of this beautiful building as you sip on a typical Andean cocktail. **Overnight - Otavalo (B)**

Day 5 : Cuicocha Crater Lake



This morning we make our way to the Cotacachi Cayapas ecological reserve, taking in the breathtaking scenery of this active volcano. We'll hike around the rim of the Cuicocha Crater Lake before taking a boat ride to the centre of the crater to see the activity of the volcano as bubbles rise to the surface.

Later we'll arrive at Peguche, located in the heart of the Andes, this small village will immerse you in the spirit and culture of Ecuadorian highlands. Helping the local people prepare a delicious lunch using fresh products harvested from the surrounding area, we'll come together to enjoy this sumptuous meal.

Later this afternoon we'll arrive at the luxury volcanic hot-springs resort of Papallacta. Relax in one of the hot springs at the resort with views across the majestic Andean mountains. **Overnight - Papallacta (B, L)**

Day 6 : Cotopaxi Volcano



After breakfast this morning, take a last dip in the open-air hot springs before we rejoin the Pan-American Highway to reach Cotopaxi, the highest active volcano in the world. Home to abundant plant life, a rich flora & fauna and Inca ruins, the snow capped volcano is surrounded by a stunning national park. Beginning at

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the entrance of the park we will drive across the paramo to the Limpiopungo Lake. We'll observe numerous bird species on a walk around the lake and take in the breathtaking views of the nearly symmetrical cone of the Cotopaxi Volcano.

This evening we arrive back into Quito for our final night as a group. **Overnight - Quito (B)**

Day 7 : Quito

Today our tour comes to an end after breakfast. (B)

PRICES / DATES INFO

Prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the per person price.

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
29 Mar	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
05 Apr	CAD 2,195	CAD 3,195
12 Apr	CAD 2,195	CAD 3,195
19 Apr	CAD 2,195	CAD 3,195
26 Apr	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
03 May	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
10 May	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
17 May	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
24 May	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
31 May	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
07 Jun	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
14 Jun	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
21 Jun	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
28 Jun	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
05 Jul	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
12 Jul	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
19 Jul	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
26 Jul	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
02 Aug	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
09 Aug	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
16 Aug	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
23 Aug	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
30 Aug	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
06 Sep	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
13 Sep	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
20 Sep	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
27 Sep	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
04 Oct	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
11 Oct	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
18 Oct	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
25 Oct	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
01 Nov	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
08 Nov	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
15 Nov	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
22 Nov	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
29 Nov	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
06 Dec	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
13 Dec	CAD 2,095	CAD 3,095
20 Dec	CAD 2,195	CAD 3,195
27 Dec	CAD 2,195	CAD 3,195

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