

**8 days / 7 nights**

**From the snowcapped volcanoes to the evergreen rainforest  
DISCOVER THE DIVERSITY ECUADOR'S**

This holiday leads you through Ecuador's most diverse regions. Visit a snow capped volcano, walk along a turquoise blue crater lake and immerse yourself into the rainforest. This is an ideal itinerary for those who like to experience different ecosystems in an active and exciting way.

**Highlights**

- Visit Quito's historic center – a UNESCO heritage site
- Hike at the foothills of a snow capped volcano
- Visit a unique crater lake in the Cotopaxi province
- Travel along the avenue of the waterfalls
- Experience the rainforest
- Stay in a comfortable jungle lodge
- Enjoy the beautiful thermal baths in Papallacta

**Overview**

**Day 1) Experience Quito like a local and transfer to the Cotopaxi National Park, overnight in Hacienda Los Mortiños**

**Day 2) Hike at the foothills of a snow capped volcano, overnight in Hacienda Los Mortiños**

**Day 3) Visit the magical Quilotoa crater lake with its green water, overnight in Baños (Hotel Sangay or Luna Runtun)**

**Day 4) Enjoy activities in Ecuador's outdoor capital, overnight in Baños (Hotel Sangay or Luna Runtun)**

**Day 5) Travel along the avenue of the waterfalls to the rainforest, overnight in Kuyana Lodge**

**Day 6) Excursion into the jungle, overnight in Kuyana Lodge**

**Day 7) Travel to the hot springs of Papallacta, overnight in Termas de Papallacta**

## **Day 8) Transfer to the airport or Quito**

### **Itinerary**

#### **Day 1) Experience Quito like a local and transfer to the Cotopaxi National Park, overnight in the Hacienda Los Mortiños**

Experience the sights, colors and flavors of this diverse capital as the day comes to life like a local “Quiteño” on this guided full-day tour from Quito’s Old Town to the Equator line. Discover the rich and extensive history and culture of this charming city and walk through the traditional neighborhood of la Ronda-street. Visit iconic places such as: The Independence Square, the Archbishop’s palace, the church of La Compañía de Jesús and the Square of San Francisco. After lunch in a typical restaurant your transport brings you to the Cotopaxi National Park. From the Hacienda Los Mortiños you will enjoy an excellent view to the classic cone of the nearby volcano.

Travel time: 2 hours

Walking time: 3 hours

Meals: L-D

#### **Day 2) Hike at the foothills of a snow capped volcano, overnight in the Hacienda Los Mortiños**

After a good breakfast you head into the National Park. Your driver brings you to the parking lot from where you can hike in 1 hour to the refuge. You will certainly feel the high altitude and you walk slowly. Enjoy a warm tea or chocolate at the hut! The glaciers are within reach! After this exciting visit you observe waterbirds on your walk around

the Limpiopungo Lagoon, some 1000 meters lower. After lunch you have the possibility for another hike/visit of the surprising springs and archeological site in the National Park. A fulfilling and active day comes to an end. Overnight at the Hacienda Los Mortiños

Travel time: 2 hours

Walking time: 3 hours

Meals: B-L-D

#### **Day 3) Visit the magical Quilotoa crater lake with its green water, overnight in Baños**

Cross the Andes on an exciting ride to the Quilotoa area. You will see a lot of agriculture and have a good insight into the life of the rural people. Now the perfect crater lake Quilotoa surprises with its green water. A short hike along the rim of the crater gives you the best views of this unique landscape. In the afternoon your driver will take you to the small town of Baños - the gateway to the Amazon. The climate is warmer and the ambience greener - influenced by the nearby rainforest. Overnight in the town of Baños.

Travel time: 5 to 6 hours

Walking time: 1 hour

Meals: B-L

#### **Day 4) Enjoy activities in Ecuador’s outdoor capital, overnight in Baños**

The green and steep valley and the nearby Tungurahua have created a special geography. Baños and the surrounding offer a variety of outdoor activities such as:

- Walking and hiking
- Mountain Biking
- Horseback riding

Whatever you do, your guide will support you with his knowledge and find the right adventure for you. In any case, you will visit the impressive waterfalls down the valley with your guide and stroll through Baños with its numerous cafeterias and souvenir shops. Overnight in Baños

Meals: B

**Day 5) Travel along the avenue of the waterfalls to the rainforest, overnight in Kuyana Lodge**

On your journey to the Amazon it gets warmer, greener and flatter. The rainforest welcomes you and you will observe a completely different Ecuador. In the afternoon you arrive at the Kuyana Jungle Lodge, which is located on the Hollin River. This lodge offers nice cabins, a swimming pool and a comfortable restaurant surrounded by rainforest. After an introductory hike after dinner, you will fall asleep listening to the sounds of the jungle.

Travel time: 4 to 5 hours

Walking time: 1 hour

Meals: B-L-D

**Day 6) Excursion into the jungle, overnight in Kuyana Lodge**

Change your sandals for rubber boots and experience the jungle with your local guide. He grew up in the Amazon and has a good knowledge of flora and fauna. The Amazon is

characterized by its biodiversity. After this educational excursion you have time for a refreshing dip in the nearby river or pool, a refreshing drink at the bar or a siesta in the hammock.

Walking time: 3 hours

Meals: B-L-D

**Day 7) Travel to the hot springs of Papallacta, overnight in Termas de Papallacta**

After a good breakfast you go for a last hike into the forest before you leave the lodge around noon. Your driver takes you to Papallacta. Here are the most beautiful thermal springs in Ecuador where you will spend a last night.

Travel time: 3 hours

Meals: B-L

**Day 8) Transfer to the airport or hotel in Quito**

Enjoy an easy walk along the Papallacta river you can relax in the hot springs or enjoy an Andean massage. Around noon the driver will transport you to the airport or Quito.

Travel time: 2 hours

Meals: B

**This itinerary can be extended by**

- Galapagos Islands – cruise or Island hopping

- **Ecuador's unknown Northern highland**
- **Explore the Pacific coast along the "Ruta del Spondylus"**
- **Extension of your choice**