



GROUND CONTROL
T O U R S

THE ANDES ECUADOR AUGUST 2026

DAY 1 - QUITO

AUGUST 19

Quito, Ecuador's high-altitude capital, combines colonial charm with Andean beauty. Its historic centre features well-preserved cobblestone streets, ornate churches, and vibrant plazas amid volcanic peaks. The city's culture flourishes in its markets, museums, and art spaces, while its cuisine blends traditional dishes like locro and empanadas with modern creativity. Rich in history and stunning scenery, Quito is both timeless and lively.



DAY 2 - QUITO

AUGUST 20

A full day in Quito combines culture, history, and adventure. Start by exploring the UNESCO-listed historic center, visiting Plaza Grande and the Iglesia de la Compañía de Jesús. Enjoy panoramic views from El Panecillo, then visit the Mitad del Mundo at the equator line. In the afternoon, take the TelefériQo cable car up Pichincha Volcano for stunning views and hiking opportunities. Conclude your day with Ecuadorian cuisine at a local restaurant, reflecting on a memorable experience.



DAY 3 - QUITO / COTOPAXI

AUGUST 21

As we leave the city behind, you'll soon find ourselves surrounded by stunning Andean landscapes.

The Avenue of the Volcanoes is dotted with majestic peaks. The views along the way are awe-inspiring, with snow-capped mountains and lush valleys.

Approximately a 1 hour drive from Quito, we'll reach the entrance of Cotopaxi National Park. As we enter the park, the impressive Cotopaxi Volcano, one of the highest active volcanoes in the world, will dominate the horizon. Take a moment to appreciate the stunning beauty of this natural wonder.



DAY 4 - COTOPAXI / QUILOTOA / BAÑOS

AUGUST 22

Discover the breathtaking beauty of Ecuador with a visit to Cotopaxi Volcano and Quilotoa Lagoon. Immerse yourself in the awe-inspiring landscapes, from the towering peaks of Cotopaxi to the mesmerizing turquoise waters of Quilotoa. Experience the thrill of adventure, cultural richness, and natural wonders on a journey that promises memories to last a lifetime. Join us for an unforgettable exploration of Ecuador's iconic wonders!



DAY 5 - BAÑOS

AUGUST 23

Embark on a journey to Baños de Agua Santa, Ecuador's adventure paradise. Immerse yourself in the enchanting blend of hot springs, cascading waterfalls, and lush landscapes. Experience the thrill of outdoor activities, from hiking to zip-lining, all against the backdrop of stunning natural beauty. Unwind in the rejuvenating hot springs, savor local cuisine, and let the charm of Baños captivate your senses. Your adventure awaits in Baños de Agua Santa.



DAY 6 - CHIMBORAZO

AUGUST 24

Visiting El Altar in the Ecuadorian Andes offers an unforgettable adventure filled with natural beauty and solitude. The collapsed crater forms a ring of peaks around the stunning emerald lagoon, "Laguna Amarilla." The trek involves crossing remote valleys and rivers, showcasing diverse landscapes from high-altitude páramo to lush forests. Hikers enjoy breathtaking views, unique wildlife, and tranquility, making the visit an immersive experience into one of Ecuador's mystical wonders.



DAY 7 - RIOBAMBA / INGAPIRCA / CUENCA

AUGUST 25

The Ingapirca Ruins in Ecuador are the most significant Inca archaeological site in the country. They were built in the 15th century by the Inca Empire, likely as a strategic outpost along their expansion into the region. The site features impressive stonework and ceremonial structures, blending Inca and Cañari architectural styles. After the Spanish conquest, the site was partially dismantled, but it still stands as a testament to the region's rich indigenous history and cultural heritage. Today, it's a popular tourist destination and a symbol of Ecuador's pre-Columbian past.



DAY 8 - CUENCA

AUGUST 26

Visiting Cuenca, Ecuador, is a captivating journey filled with rich cultural experiences and breathtaking scenery. From the moment you arrived in the city's historic center, you will get enchanted by its colonial charm, wandering through narrow cobblestone streets lined with colorful buildings and ornate churches. You can explore the local markets, sample exotic fruits and admired intricate handicrafts made by skilled artisans.

Each day in cuenca will bring new adventures, whether trying traditional Ecuadorian cuisine in cozy cafés or immersing myself in the vibrant arts scene at local galleries.



DAY 9 - CUENCA / PARQUE NACIONAL CAJAS

AUGUST 27

Visiting Cajas National Park near Cuenca, Ecuador, offers a stunning experience of high-altitude Andean landscapes, pristine lakes, and unique biodiversity. Hiking trails wind through páramo ecosystems, where you can spot endemic flora and fauna like the Andean condor and the iconic Polylepis trees. The park's more than 200 lakes provide picturesque settings for outdoor activities like trekking, birdwatching, and photography. The weather can be unpredictable due to the park's elevation, so it's essential to come prepared with appropriate clothing and gear. Overall, a visit to Cajas National Park promises an unforgettable adventure immersed in the natural beauty of the Andes.



DAY 10 - CUENCA

AUGUST 28

Cuenca's cuisine is a true reflection of the country's Andean and Amazonian diversity. Among the most emblematic dishes are hornado, slow-roasted pork served with toasted corn and potatoes, and cuy asado (roasted guinea pig), an ancestral tradition that remains important in local festivities. Soups, such as chicken soup or potato stew, combine native ingredients with culinary techniques inherited from the indigenous peoples. The city is also famous for its traditional sweets, especially ice cream made in a traditional clay pot (helados de paila) and guava braids, which can be enjoyed in markets and artisan fairs.



DAY 11 - CUENCA / QUITO

AUGUST 29

Return to Quito / Check in at the hotel



NOTES

The tour includes accommodation in 4* hotels with breakfast, private transportation and accompaniment in Spanish and English throughout the trip.

Deposit to reserve the tour USD 1000

Full payment must be received prior to the start of the tour.

*Visits to tourist attractions and activities are not included.

*Lunch and dinners are not included.

*Domestic flight from Cuenca to Quito is included.

*International air tickets to and from Quito are not included.

PRICE PER PERSON IN DOBLE ROOM USD 1837
PRICE PER PERSON IN SINGLE ROOM USD 2339