

11 Days | Kaleidoscope of Ecuador | With Flights

Guayaquil - Cuenca - Riobamba - The Amazon - Quito

From **\$5,899** Typically \$6,999 ✈ pp twin share



Enjoy a tour, demonstration and chocolate tasting at a cocoa plantation

Learn about the cultivation of orchids in the small town of Gualaceo

Discover the charm of Cuenca, a city located high in the Andean Mountains

Marvel at the impressive stone foundations of Ingapirca Ruins

Spend two nights at an Amazon Lodge discovering the area's flora and fauna

Visit Colonial Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and walk through its cobblestone streets

Description



Embark on an unforgettable journey to Ecuador, a land brimming with cultural treasures and natural wonders!

Your adventure begins with a flight to Guayaquil, the vibrant metropolis nestled along the Pacific coast. Immerse yourself in its historic districts, stroll through beautiful parks, and marvel at the sight of green iguanas gracefully perched in the trees. Indulge your senses with Ecuador's finest export as you delve into the world of chocolate, before ascending 8,400 feet to the captivating city of Cuenca, cradled amidst the majestic Andes.

Delve deeper into Ecuador's rich heritage as you venture to the quaint town of Ingapirca, where ancient Inca ruins whisper tales of a bygone era. Glide along tranquil waters on a serene canoe ride into the heart of the Amazon rainforest, where lush foliage and exotic wildlife await. Explore a private nature reserve on foot, immersing yourself in the pristine beauty of the jungle. Your journey continues with a scenic stopover in a hummingbird haven, a paradise for both bird enthusiasts and photographers alike.

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Conclude your odyssey in Quito, the country's historic capital, where two nights of exploration await. Lose yourself in the cobblestone streets of the World Heritage-listed colonial quarter, adorned with splendid architecture and rich cultural heritage. Stand astride the equatorial line at the iconic Middle of the World Monument, symbolically bridging two hemispheres in a singular moment of geographical marvel.

This meticulously curated escorted tour through Ecuador offers not only a profound immersion into the country's vibrant tapestry of culture and history but also ensures your utmost comfort and convenience. With return economy class flights from the East Coast of Australia, luxurious accommodations, and daily breakfast complemented by select lunches and dinners, every aspect of your journey is meticulously tailored to elevate your experience to unparalleled heights. Prepare to be captivated, enchanted, and forever changed by the boundless beauty and enchanting allure of Ecuador!

Itinerary

Day 1

East Coast Australia ✈ Guayaquil, Ecuador

Today you will check in for your flight bound for Ecuador. Enjoy the services of your flight as you travel East across the Pacific Ocean.

Meals: Inflight Menu

Day 2

Guayaquil

Welcome to Ecuador! On arrival in Guayaquil, complete your arrival requirements, collect your bag and catch a taxi to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure in this energetic city with its lovely parks, botanical gardens and historic districts.

Meals: None

Accommodation: To Be Advised on Booking Confirmation

Day 3

Guayaquil

This morning after an orientation meeting, begin your tour of Guayaquil at Seminario Park, famous for its many green iguanas living within the trees and ornate gardens. Then, view the contrasting architecture of the city's Neo-Gothic Cathedral, Moorish clock tower, La Rotonda Monument and climb up the 444 steps to Santa Ana hill in las Peñas neighborhood to admire panoramic views of the city. The afternoon is yours to explore Malecón 2000, the city's gleaming new riverside development, which incorporates shops, restaurants, a landmark museum, and several of the city's most famous monuments. Tonight, savour dinner of delicious Ecuadorian dishes.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Accommodation: To Be Advised on Booking Confirmation

Day 4

Guayaquil 🚗 Cuenca

Travel today from Guayaquil to Cuenca, one of the country's most beautiful cities. En route, stop at a Cocoa (Cacao) plantation for a tour and demonstration of the process that begins after the beans are picked from the cocoa trees. Ecuador is a major producer of cacao worldwide with chocolate as one of their thriving exports. Afterward, drive up to Tres Cruces in the Andean mountains and savour lunch at a lodge nestled between lakes and mountains. Continue with a drive along the country roads, passing indigenous people in their colourful clothes wearing the customary fedoras. Arrive in Cuenca, set 8,400 feet up in the majestic Andes. Spend the rest of the day in this enchanting city with its red tiled roofs, cobblestone streets and plazas adorned with flowers.

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Accommodation: To Be Advised on Booking Confirmation

Day 5

Cuenca

Today, in the small town of Gualaceo, attend a weaving and dying demonstration that will teach you about traditional textiles. Next, visit an orchid nursery and meet with one of the orchid growers that produces and exports thousands of orchids annually. Learn about the cultivation process and see the vibrant array of orchids that are grown here. Return to Colonial Cuenca, where your tour of the city begins at the Plaza and Church of San Sebastian, built in the 17th century, with its magnificent carved door. Arrive at the stark white Church of El Carmen de la Asunción, founded in 1682, an important historical building preserved in its original condition, with its beautiful Baroque facade. See the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on the Plaza Calderón, considered the most important religious monument in the city. Then, walk along the winding cobblestone lanes to the main square with its stunning architecture accented by wrought-iron balconies, tiny quaint parks, and romantic plazas. The center of Cuenca was declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site. Spend the rest of the day at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: To Be Advised on Booking Confirmation

Day 6

Cuenca Riobamba

An adventurous day! Drive from Cuenca to the small town of Ingapirca, or "Inca Wall" in Kichwa, where Ecuador's most important pre-Columbian ruins can be found. Marvel at the impressive stone foundations, believed to have been used for religious purposes. Stroll the grounds and visit the Temple of the Sun, the only elliptical temple in the Inca Empire. From here, admire breathtaking panoramic views over the surrounding countryside. Have lunch at a local restaurant. Afterward, travel to Riobamba for dinner and overnight.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodation: To Be Advised on Booking Confirmation

Day 7

Riobamba La Punta Ahuano The Amazon

This morning, visit the powerful Devil's Cauldron (El Pailon del Diablo - This is an active hike to and from El Pailon del Diablo waterfall) one of Ecuador's most striking waterfalls, hidden in the Ecuadorian rainforest. After a box lunch, travel to Ahuano. Along the way, stop for a fascinating visit at a local Quechua community interpretation centre to learn about life and survival in the Amazon. Enjoy the sounds, the serenity, and the magnificent foliage as you begin your exploration of the unique Amazon culture. After, you travel to La Punta Ahuano, a tiny port on the north bank of the Napo River, where you board a canoe that takes you to your lodge** situated on the Napo River. You'll be able to spot many species of birds along the way. Tonight, dinner is at the lodge.

***Upon arrival the lodge is approximately a 5-10 minute walk uphill from where passengers will exit the canoe. Passengers are required to transport their own carry on luggage.*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodation: To Be Advised on Booking Confirmation

Day 8

The Amazon

This morning, after a canoe ride you can hike in the Misicocha Private Nature Reserve for approximately two hours while viewing the beautiful flora and fauna up-close. The Amazon rainforest is the world's largest ecosystem, so be sure to keep an eye out for the innumerable species of tropical plants and insects. Enjoy the views as you cross suspended bridges and fly through the jungle on a short zip line basket ride. At the end of the hike, take a rafting trip on a traditional balsa log raft*. Balance of the day is at leisure or, choose to participate in one of the optional tours, including the Butterfly Farm & Balsa Wood Carving Demonstration, Cacao Farm & AmaZOOnico Rescue Center or Canopy Adventure Park *This is an active hike and sections of the path include steps. Also, those who participate in the rafting trip will need to step through the water to reach the raft and will get wet during the ride.

Optional: Butterfly Farm & Balsa Wood Demonstration

Optional: Cacao Farm & AmaZOOnico Rescue Center

Optional: Canopy Adventure Park

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodation: To Be Advised on Booking Confirmation

Day 9

The Amazon Quito

Depart the Amazon this morning by canoe. Then, continue by motor coach to the picturesque San Isidro Lodge, a paradise for hummingbird lovers and photographers. Walk along the scenic trails, stopping to see over 14 different species of hummingbirds. After lunch, head towards Quito, the historic masterpiece in the high Andes, at the base of the Pichincha Volcano. Arrive at the hotel in this city aptly called "an urban jewel", with its priceless treasures of art and architecture. Tonight, get acquainted with the city's wide choice of world-class restaurants, cafes and shops.

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Accommodation: To Be Advised on Booking Confirmation

Day 10

Quito

Discover Quito's colonial quarter, the largest and best preserved in Latin America, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Begin at Independence Plaza, flanked by the Metropolitan Cathedral, the Presidential Palace, the Municipal Building and the Archbishop's Palace. Continue to the Metropolitan Cultural Center with its exhibits highlighting Ecuadorian culture and rich history. Visit the La Compania Church with its beautiful gilded interior, or, the Monastery of San Francisco, one of the great religious buildings of the New World with its impressive facade and atrium. Continue to the Middle of the World Monument at the Equator, which marks latitude 0°. Here, you can stand with one foot in each hemisphere! After lunch at a local restaurant, return to Quito for leisure time. Bid farewell to your Tour Manager, on your last day in Ecuador during dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodation: To Be Advised on Booking Confirmation

Day 11

Quito ✈ East Coast Australia

Check out of the hotel this morning and make your own way to the airport for your departure flight. Some flights depart shortly after midnight in the very early morning of day 11 and will require a transfer on day 10. It's recommended that transfers depart the hotel approximately 4 hours prior to your flight time.

Meals: Breakfast and Inflight Menu

Inclusions & Exclusions

Inclusions

- Return Economy Class Airfares from Melbourne, Sydney & Brisbane to Ecuador with LATAM or QANTAS
- Airline taxes & fuel surcharges
- 9 nights accommodation in 4 and 5 star - deluxe hotels & lodges
- Hotel taxes, fees & service charges
- Hotel portorage
- 20 meals: 9 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 5 dinners
- Sightseeing per itinerary in a modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout
- Services of English-speaking local guides
- Entrance fees per itinerary

Is this trip right for you?

This relatively active trip covers a fair amount of ground each day. Expect from three to four hours of walking every touring day. The pace is moderate, however, you will encounter some uneven surfaces, stairs, steps and significant slopes. Due to the high elevation, travel in the Ecuadorian Andes may cause some passengers to experience the temporary effects of altitude sickness. If you have any concerns about traveling to higher than your accustomed elevation, please consult your healthcare provider.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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Exclusions

- Visa fees
- Airport Transfers
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Meals & drinks not mentioned
- Any additional requests
- Tipping
- Optional Tours and Activities

Group Size: The typical group size on this program is on average 40 guests.

Single Supplement: Solo supplement is \$1299 for this program.

Extending your stay: If you want to arrive earlier, stay later and/or add on other travel arrangements while you are in South America, please contact our friendly Customer Service team.

Travel Insurance: We recommend Covermore travel insurance. To quote and book, please click [HERE](#).