

ECUADOR SIGNATURE JOURNEY

A Seamless Andean Experience of Culture, Landscapes & Living Traditions

(10D / 9N)

*Brought to you by Maquita Impact-Based DMC
Where Travel Creates Equity*

THE EXPERIENCE

This Signature Journey offers a carefully curated introduction to mainland Ecuador, connecting the country's most representative Andean landscapes, cultural references and living traditions through a comfortable and well-structured route.

Traveling across Quito, Otavalo, Cotopaxi, Riobamba, Ingapirca and Cuenca, the program brings together heritage cities, volcanic scenery, hacienda-style stays, local craftsmanship, cacao culture, archaeological history and relaxed countryside moments. Each experience is selected to provide travelers with a clear and balanced understanding of Ecuador's diversity without overloading the pace of the journey.

Designed for first-time visitors or travelers seeking a complete and seamless overview of mainland Ecuador, this program reflects Maquita DMC's approach to reliable local operation, meaningful territorial connections and travel experiences that create value beyond the route itself. The journey can be naturally extended through the Amazon Rainforest Experience and/or the Galápagos Islands Experience.

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1: Arrival in Quito – Private airport transfer – Boutique-style accommodation.

Day 2: Quito – Middle of the World – Chocolate experience – Introduction to Ecuador's geography, identity and cacao culture – Accommodation in Quito.

Day 3: Quito – Otavalo – Peguche embroidery project – Andean landscapes and hacienda-style stay – Accommodation in Otavalo.

Day 4: Otavalo – Hacienda surroundings – Cayambe lunch experience – Return to Quito – Accommodation in Quito.

Day 5: Quito – Cotopaxi region – Hacienda stay – Horseback riding or relaxed countryside exploration – Accommodation in the Cotopaxi area.

Day 6: Cotopaxi National Park – Volcanic landscapes – Transfer to Riobamba – Free afternoon at hacienda-style hotel – Accommodation near Riobamba.

Day 7: Riobamba – Colta – Alausí – Devil's Nose Train – Scenic railway experience – Transfer to Ingapirca – Accommodation in Ingapirca.

Day 8: Ingapirca Archaeological Site – Transfer to Cuenca – Walking city tour – Accommodation in Cuenca.

Day 9: Cuenca – Gualaceo Macana textile project – Domestic flight to Quito, not included – Transfer to Pifo – Accommodation in Pifo.

Day 10: Pifo – Private airport transfer – Departure or optional extension to the Amazon Rainforest and/or Galápagos Islands.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in Quito

Upon arrival in Quito, reception at the airport and private transfer to the hotel ensure a smooth start to the journey. The rest of the day is kept free, allowing time to rest and adjust to the altitude.

Quito provides a first impression of Ecuador, where the rhythm of the capital and its surrounding mountains begin to frame the experience ahead. Overnight in Quito.

Accommodation: Boutique-style hotel in Quito
Meals: None

Day 2: Quito – Middle of the World – Chocolate Experience

After breakfast, the day begins with a guided visit through selected areas of Quito, offering a clear overview of the city's structure, setting and cultural character.

The route continues to the Middle of the World, where the equatorial line marks one of Ecuador's defining geographic references. The visit provides an accessible introduction to the country's location, symbolism and identity.

Later, a chocolate tasting experience introduces one of Ecuador's most recognized products. Through flavor and origin, travelers gain a first understanding of Ecuadorian cacao and its cultural value. Return to Quito in the afternoon. Overnight in Quito.

Accommodation: Boutique-style hotel in Quito
Meals: Breakfast

Day 3: Quito – Otavalo – Hacienda Experience

After breakfast, the journey heads north toward Otavalo, where the landscape gradually opens into wide Andean valleys and rural scenery.

A stop in Peguche introduces a local embroidery project, where traditional techniques are presented in a clear and accessible way. The visit offers an introduction to local craftsmanship and the continuity of Andean textile knowledge.

Lunch is served in Otavalo before continuing to a hacienda-style lodge. The setting provides a calm and comfortable environment, marking the transition from the capital to the Andean countryside. Overnight in Otavalo.

Accommodation: Hacienda-style lodge in Otavalo
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 4: Otavalo – Hacienda Experience – Quito

After breakfast, the morning continues in the hacienda surroundings, allowing travelers to enjoy the setting at a relaxed pace before beginning the return to Quito.

On the way, a stop is made in Cayambe at a traditional hacienda-style restaurant. Here, travelers can relax, have lunch and take a comfortable break before completing the journey back to the capital.

Arrival in Quito is planned for the afternoon, maintaining a steady and comfortable pace throughout the day. Overnight in Quito.

Accommodation: Boutique-style hotel in Quito
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5: Quito – Cotopaxi – Hacienda Stay

After breakfast, the journey heads south toward the Cotopaxi region, where the scenery becomes more open and defined by highland plains, rural landscapes and volcanic views.

Instead of entering the national park on this day, the experience focuses on the hacienda environment. Upon arrival, travelers can enjoy the surroundings through activities such as horseback riding, gentle walks or time around the property.

The day is designed to keep a comfortable pace, allowing travelers to experience the Andean countryside before the following day's visit to the volcanic landscapes of Cotopaxi National Park. Overnight in the Cotopaxi area.

Accommodation: Hacienda-style lodge in the Cotopaxi area

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6: Cotopaxi – Riobamba

After breakfast, the day begins with a visit to Cotopaxi National Park. The route allows for a clear view of the volcanic landscape, with wide plains and high-altitude ecosystems shaping the environment.

After the visit, the journey continues south, with a stop for lunch along the way. The program then proceeds directly to a hacienda-style hotel near Riobamba.

The afternoon is left open, giving travelers the option to rest or use the lodge's facilities at their own pace. Overnight near Riobamba.

Accommodation: Hacienda-style hotel near Riobamba

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7: Riobamba – Colta – Alausí – Ingapirca

After breakfast, departure from the hacienda leads toward Colta, where a brief stop introduces the surrounding Andean landscape. The journey then continues to Alausí.

The Devil's Nose Train experience offers a scenic route through the mountains, combining natural views with one of Ecuador's most recognized railway routes.

Lunch is served at the Nariz del Diablo viewpoint before continuing toward Ingapirca. Arrival is planned for rest, without visiting the archaeological site on this day. Overnight in Ingapirca.

Accommodation: Lodge-style accommodation in Ingapirca

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 8: Ingapirca – Cuenca

After breakfast, the day begins with a guided visit to the Ingapirca archaeological complex. The site provides a clear introduction to the region's history, pre-Columbian culture and one of the most important heritage references in mainland Ecuador.

The journey then continues to Cuenca, where lunch is served upon arrival. In the afternoon, a walking city tour offers an overview of the city's architecture, historic layout and calm urban atmosphere.

The day unfolds at an easy pace, allowing time to enjoy one of Ecuador's most elegant Andean cities. Overnight in Cuenca.

Accommodation: Boutique hotel in Cuenca

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 9: Cuenca – Gualaceo – Pifo

After breakfast, the journey continues to Gualaceo, where a visit to a Macana textile project introduces traditional weaving techniques and the cultural value of handmade textile production.

After the visit, return to Cuenca for the transfer to the airport and flight to Quito, not included. Upon arrival, transfer to Pifo for the final overnight stay in a hacienda-style lodge.

This last stage maintains a calm transition before departure or extension. Overnight in Pifo.

Accommodation: Boutique-style lodge in Pifo

Meals: Breakfast

Day 10: Departure or Extension to the Amazon Rainforest / Galápagos Islands

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for departure, marking the end of the mainland Ecuador journey.

For travelers wishing to expand their experience, this program can be seamlessly extended through Maquita DMC's dedicated Amazon Rainforest Experience and/or Galápagos Islands Experience.

Accommodation: None

Meals: Breakfast

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

Amazon Rainforest Experience 4 Days / 3 Nights

This Amazon Rainforest Experience offers a refined and experience-driven way to enter the Ecuadorian Amazon through Napo, one of the country's most accessible rainforest gateways. Centered around Shandia Lodge, the journey integrates forest trails, river navigation, community life, locally rooted gastronomy, medicinal plants and Kichwa cultural practices into a comprehensive Amazonian experience. Travelers move through community-based tourism initiatives connected through Maquita DMC's long-standing community network in Napo, where the rainforest is experienced through meaningful local encounters, dialogue with Kichwa leaders, traditional food practices, river life and ancestral knowledge.

Galápagos Islands Experience Cruise-Based or Island Hopping Extensions

The Galápagos Islands Experience allows travelers to extend their mainland Ecuador journey through either cruise-based exploration or island hopping programs, depending on their profile, comfort expectations, timing and preferred travel style. Cruise-based journeys offer integrated expedition flow, onboard comfort and wider geographic reach, while island hopping experiences provide land-based flexibility, hotel comfort, local island atmosphere and modular daily exploration. Through selected local operators in the islands, Maquita DMC coordinates Galápagos extensions with clear logistics, responsible travel standards and a coherent service framework connecting mainland Ecuador with one of the world's most iconic natural destinations.

✓ PROGRAM INCLUDES

- National bilingual guide (English/Italiano/Deutsch/Français to Spanish)
- Private Transportation
- Private airport transfers
- Accommodation according to itinerary:
 - 3 nights in Quito
 - 1 night in Otavalo
 - 1 night in Cotopaxi
 - 1 night in Riobamba
 - 1 night in Ingapirca
 - 1 night in Cuenca
 - 1 night in Pifo
- Meals according to itinerary
 - (B = Breakfast / BL = Box Lunch / L = Lunch / D = Dinner)
- Entrance fees and activities included:
 - Quito city tour
 - Middle of the World or Intiñan Museum
 - Chocolate tasting experience
 - Peguche weaving project
 - Hacienda experience (Otavalo)
 - Horseback riding
 - Cotopaxi National Park access fee
 - Devil's Nose Train
 - Ingapirca archaeological site
 - Cuenca city tour
 - Gualaceo textile project

✗ PROGRAM DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International flights
- Domestic flights
 - Cuenca to Quito (CUE - UIO)
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Personal expenses
- Tips

💰 RATES PER PERSON (USD)

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Rates	2 - 3 pax	4 - 6 pax	7 - 9 pax	10 - 15 pax
NET	USD 2.880,00	USD 2.575,00	USD 2.020,00	USD 1.765,00
GROSS	USD 4.115,00	USD 3.680,00	USD 2.885,00	USD 2.520,00

Note: Rates for 2 to 3 passengers include a guide/driver, while rates for 4 passengers or more include a guide and a driver

 COMMERCIAL CONDITIONS SUMMARY

Currency

USD. All payments must be received net of bank fees.

Payment Terms

Booking type	Commercial rule
FIT standard	No payment required for blocking before 90 days. Confirmation requires 30% deposit 60 days before travel. Final balance is due 45 days before travel.
Groups / tailor-made	No payment required for blocking before 120 days. Confirmation requires 40% deposit 90 days before travel. Final balance is due 60 days before travel.
Last-minute bookings	45 days or less: 100% at confirmation.

Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be received in writing. Charges apply to the total confirmed booking value.

Time before departure	FIT standard	Groups / tailor-made
91+ days	0%	0%
90-61 days	0%	25%
60-45 days	30%	50%
44-31 days	70%	50%
30 days or less / no-show	100%	100%

Note: Non-refundable services may apply

Key Conditions

- Prices subject to availability at booking
- Non-refundable components override general policies
- Changes may generate additional costs
- Services confirmed upon payment

Force Majeure

- Recoverable funds will be refunded net of supplier costs.
- Alternative arrangements will be proposed whenever possible.

 **ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS**

- The itinerary may be adjusted due to operational, weather-related, or safety conditions to ensure a smooth and responsible travel experience.
- Wildlife observation depends on natural conditions and cannot be guaranteed.