

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

A Human-Centered Experience Through Women-Led Communities in the Andes and Amazon

(7D / 6N)

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

THE EXPERIENCE

This Women's Leadership Journey unfolds through encounters with women whose work, knowledge and decisions shape the territories they inhabit. Rather than presenting leadership as a formal concept, the program reveals it through daily practices, community organization, local production, cultural continuity and the way women sustain life, economy and identity across different regions of Ecuador.

Across Quito, the northern Andes and the Amazon, the experience moves through spaces of dialogue, craftsmanship, collective work, ancestral knowledge and women-led community initiatives. Each day creates a different kind of connection: institutional context, cultural interpretation, textile knowledge, productive organization, Amazonian territorial practices and community-based tourism led or sustained by women.

Designed for travelers seeking a deeper human connection with Ecuador, this journey offers a calm, respectful and meaningful way to understand how women's leadership is expressed in living territories. The experience is not built around observation from a distance, but around presence, listening, dialogue and the recognition of the people behind each community process.

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

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

Day 2: Quito – Fundación Maquita visit – Mindalae Museum – Women-led weaving workshop – Accommodation in Quito.

Day 3: Quito – Peguche textile project – Cayambe women-led infusion project – Transfer to Pifo – Accommodation in Pifo.

Day 4: Pifo – Amupakin ancestral knowledge center – Transfer to the Amazon – Arrival at Sinchi Warimi Lodge – Accommodation in Misahuallí.

Day 5: Amazon immersion – Women-led community network experience through Redturcon – Community encounters and territorial dialogue – Accommodation in Misahuallí.

Day 6: Amazon – Return to the Andes – Papallacta hot springs – Transfer to Pifo – Accommodation in Pifo.

Day 7: Pifo – Private airport transfer – Departure or optional Galápagos Islands Experience.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in Quito

Upon arrival in Quito, reception at the airport and private transfer to the hotel provide a calm beginning to the journey. The rest of the day remains open, allowing time to rest and slowly adjust to the altitude.

This first moment is intentionally simple. It offers space to arrive, observe and begin sensing the rhythm of a place that will gradually unfold over the coming days. Overnight in Quito.

Accommodation: Boutique-style hotel in Quito

Meals: None

Day 2: Quito – Fundación Maquita – Mindalae – Women-Led Weaving Workshop

After breakfast, the day begins at Fundación Maquita Cushunchic. This visit introduces the institutional context behind many of the women-led initiatives and community processes that will be encountered throughout the journey.

Rather than functioning as a formal presentation, this moment offers an entry point into how organization, collaboration and shared work take shape across different territories. It helps travelers understand Maquita's long-standing relationship with communities and the role of women within processes linked to social economy, fair trade, culture and local development.

The visit to Mindalae Museum continues this introduction through cultural interpretation. The museum brings together objects, trades and stories that help frame Ecuador's diversity and the relationship between identity, territory and knowledge.

Later, the weaving workshop shifts the experience into something more personal. Sitting alongside women artisans, the process of weaving becomes a space for conversation, presence and shared time. The focus is not only on the technique, but on the people behind it and the continuity of knowledge carried through their hands. Overnight in Quito.

Accommodation: Boutique-style hotel in Quito

Meals: B, L

Day 3: Quito – Peguche – Cayambe – Pifo

After breakfast, the journey heads north toward the province of Imbabura. The first stop is Peguche, where textile work is approached not

as a simple demonstration, but as a living practice connected to memory, identity and local livelihoods.

Here, the experience unfolds through presence: observing, asking and sharing space. The loom becomes a point of connection, while the deeper value remains in the people behind the work and in the meaning of what they create.

The journey continues to Cayambe, where a women-led infusion project introduces another dimension of daily work and collective organization. This experience is not only about production; it also reveals how women organize their time, resources, responsibilities and local economic participation.

Lunch takes place within this same context, naturally extending the experience into everyday life. By the time the journey reaches Pifo, the day has been shaped less by distance and more by the accumulation of meaningful encounters. Overnight in Pifo.

Accommodation: Hacienda-style lodge in Pifo

Meals: B, L

Day 4: Pifo – Amupakin – Amazon

After breakfast, the journey leaves the highlands behind. The road gradually descends toward the Amazon region, and with it, the landscape begins to change. The air becomes warmer and more humid, while vegetation grows thicker and the rhythm of the territory shifts.

At Amupakin, the visit offers a meaningful introduction to how Kichwa women preserve and transmit ancestral knowledge connected to medicinal plants, care practices, spirituality and territory. The experience opens a different layer of women's leadership: one rooted in memory, healing, cultural continuity and the responsibility of keeping knowledge alive across generations.

Arrival at Sinchi Warmi Lodge marks a turning point in the journey. Here, the experience is no longer about moving through places, but about staying, observing and sharing. The lodge reflects a collective effort led by women, where tourism is part of a broader way of organizing life, generating income and strengthening local identity.

Activities unfold naturally, as opportunities to participate, learn and be present within the rhythm of the Amazon. Overnight in Misahuallí.

Accommodation: Jungle lodge in Misahuallí

Meals: B, L, D

Day 5: Amazon Immersion – Women-Led Community Network

After breakfast, the day begins without urgency. The Amazon sets its own rhythm, and the experience opens into a series of encounters shaped by the women and communities connected through Redturcon.

Through this network, travelers meet different women, each with her own story, role and way of understanding the territory. The day may include conversations, shared tasks, food practices, community spaces or moments of exchange, depending on local planning and availability.

There is no single central activity. Instead, the day is built through moments: listening, observing, asking with respect, sharing time and understanding how leadership is expressed through daily responsibility.

This is where the journey deepens. What was previously introduced through context is now felt more closely through people, place and presence. Overnight in Misahuallí.

Accommodation: Jungle lodge in Misahuallí

Meals: B, L, D

Day 6: Amazon – Papallacta – Pifo

After breakfast, the journey begins to move back toward the Andes. The transition is gradual but noticeable, as the rainforest slowly gives way to open mountain landscapes once again.

At Papallacta, the stop offers a quiet moment of rest and reflection. The thermal waters create space to process what has been experienced over the previous days, not through explanation, but through pause.

The journey begins to close with calm rather than intensity. Arrival in the Quito area marks a return, but not to the same starting point: travelers have moved through stories, territories and ways of understanding leadership that remain present beyond the route itself. Overnight in Pifo.

Accommodation: Hacienda-style lodge in Pifo

Meals: B

Day 7: Departure or Extension to Galápagos Islands

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

For travelers wishing to extend their experience, this program can be seamlessly connected to Maquita DMC's dedicated Galápagos Islands Experience.

Accommodation: None

Meals: B

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

[Galápagos Islands Experience](#)
[Cruise-Based or Island Hopping Extensions](#)

The Galápagos Islands Experience allows travelers to extend their Women's Leadership 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:
 - 2 nights in Quito
 - 2 nights in Pifo
 - 2 nights in the Amazon
- Meals according to itinerary
 - (B = Breakfast / BL = Box Lunch / L = Lunch / D = Dinner)
- Entrance fees and activities included:
 - Fundación Maquita visit
 - Mindalae Museum
 - Women-led weaving workshop in Quito
 - Peguche textile project
 - Cayambe women-led infusion project
 - Amupakin visit
 - Sinchi Warmi activities
 - Redturcon network experience
 - Papallacta hot springs access fee

✗ PROGRAM DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International flights
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Personal expenses
- Tips

💰 RATES PER PERSON (USD)

MTWM26 – WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

Rates	2 - 3 pax	4 - 6 pax	7 - 9 pax	10 - 15 pax
NET	USD 1.980,00	USD 1.830,00	USD 1.485,00	USD 1.320,00
GROSS	USD 2.830,00	USD 2.615,00	USD 2.115,00	USD 1.885,00

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.