



# ADVENTURE WEEK 8D | 7N

## HIGHLIGHTED INFORMATION

- Discover the Historic Center, one of the best-preserved in Latin America, which has been declared a World Heritage Site, and the "Middle of the World," where you can stand with one foot in the northern hemisphere and the other in the southern hemisphere.
- Delight yourself with a visit to Otavalo, in the central Plaza de Ponchos, where locals dressed in traditional indigenous clothing sell colorful textiles and crafts.
- Visit Cotopaxi National Park, home to the iconic volcano, which is one of the highest active volcanoes in the world, with an altitude of 5,897 meters above sea level.
- Baños de Agua Santa is a picturesque town known for being a popular tourist destination due to its stunning natural surroundings, hot springs, waterfalls, outdoor activities, and vibrant local culture.
- Cuenca is a city with a rich history, beautiful architecture, and a vibrant cultural life. It is a popular destination for both national and international tourists who wish to explore the beauty and culture of this Ecuadorian city.

# Summary

**Day 1:**

Airport transfer to hotel.

**Day 2:**

City Tour + Afternoon at leisure.

**Day 3:**

Full-day visit to Otavalo.

**Day 4:**

Visit to the Middle of the World + Afternoon at leisure.

**Day 5:**

Visit to Cotopaxi National Park + Transfer to Baños.

**Day 6:**

Route of the waterfalls + Transfer from Baños to Cuenca.

**Day 7:**

Visit to Cajas National Park.

**Day 8:**

City Tour in Cuenca + Transfer to Guayaquil airport.







# Description

## DAY 1 - (-/-/D)

### **Airport Transfer - Hotel Welcome to Quito!**

A representative from Ocean Pacific Travel will greet you and transfer you to your hotel.

## DAY 2 - (B/-/D)

### **AM - City Tour Tour the colonial Quito.**

The places you will visit will confirm why UNESCO named Quito the first World Heritage Site. Start with a visit to El Panecillo, the historic hill on the south side of the historic center, where the winged Virgin of Quito statue stands, visible from almost any point in the city. Next, head to the Plaza and Church of San Francisco, the Church of the Society of Jesus with its seven tons of gold that make its walls glow, and the bustling Independence Square, flanked by the Presidential Palace and the Quito Cathedral.

### **PM - Afternoon at leisure**

## DAY 3 - (B/-/D)

### **AM - Otavalo**

Transfer to the north of Quito through beautiful mountain landscapes dotted with small villages, white churches, and blue lagoons. Our first stop will be Guachalá and the Quitsato sundial, located about 70 kilometers from Quito. Here is a monument to the Middle of the World: a large sundial.



From Quitsato, we will continue north to Otavalo. This small city, with about 50,000 inhabitants, is known for its friendly people and its world-famous market, an event that has been held here since pre-Inca times. The Otavaleños are the most prosperous indigenous group in the country, likely because their textiles, rugs, colorful ponchos, indigenous jewelry, and beautiful fabrics are so exquisite.

Next, you will visit the town of Peguche to meet a local artisan who makes musical instruments. Later, we will enjoy an easy walk to the beautiful Peguche waterfall.

Finally, we will return to Quito in the afternoon. The return trip takes approximately two hours.

#### **DAY 4 - (B/-/D)**

##### **AM - Intiñan (Middle of the World)**

We will head north of Quito to the "Middle of the World," where we can stand with one foot in each hemisphere and appreciate the many teachings of the Intiñan Site Museum. This museum is situated right on the equator line and features exhibits on pre-Columbian life in Ecuador, as well as demonstrations on astronomy, geography, physics, and phenomena related to the equatorial line.

##### **PM - Afternoon at leisure**

#### **DAY 5 - (B/-/D)**

##### **AM - Cotopaxi National Park**

This morning, we will head to Cotopaxi National Park, traveling through what Alexander von Humboldt called the "Avenue of the Volcanoes."







This scientist visited Ecuador in the 18th century, collecting important data on the country's biology and geography. The Cotopaxi volcano, one of the highest active volcanoes, gives the park its name. The beauty of its perfect cone dominating the landscape never ceases to amaze us. Within the park, you can walk around the Limpiopungo lagoon or visit the pre-Inca ruins of El Salitre. If you pay close attention, you might spot wild horses or a condor, an endangered species.

### **PM - Baños de Agua Santa**

In our visit to Baños, we will see the Gothic-style cathedral, built with black volcanic stone, and the Virgen de Agua Santa museum, which displays various curious objects as well as the Virgin's dresses and jewelry donated by devotees in gratitude for blessings received. Here, we will discover paintings depicting the miracles of the Virgin and her influence on Catholics over the last centuries.

The streets of the town provide an excellent opportunity to see melcocheros, artisans who work with cane sugar molasses and transform it into a typical Baños sweet. We can also visit the balsa and tagua wood carvers, art galleries, and craft shops. Don't forget to look up from time to time to see the imposing and roaring Tungurahua Volcano!

## **DAY 6 - (B/-/D)**

### **AM - Route of the Waterfalls**

After breakfast, you will begin your visit along the Pastaza River Ecological Corridor, an emblematic refuge of flora and fauna due to its strategic geographical location. This area is home to a variety of micro-watersheds, habitats, and landscapes, surrounded by two National Parks. You will observe several waterfalls until you reach the most impressive one known as the Pailón del Diablo. This is one of the most spectacular and visited waterfalls in Ecuador. This stunning waterfall is a must-see for tourists exploring the region, and its name, which means "Devil's Cauldron," reflects its power and beauty.

### **PM - Transfer to Cuenca**

Relax and enjoy this journey filled with beautiful landscapes and stories within the Andes mountain range.

## **DAY 7 - (B/-/D)**

### **AM - Cajas National Park**

We will depart from Cuenca and head to El Cajas National Park, one of Ecuador's natural wonders. Its 235 glacial lakes shine amidst a stunning environment of páramo grasslands, beautiful waterfalls, and spectacular rock formations. Enjoy hikes along the trails while listening to the wild birds. There are approximately 125 bird species, including the endangered Andean condor, trogons, sword-billed hummingbirds, glittering hummingbirds, and many more.







El Cajas is covered with páramos (high-altitude grasslands) full of impressive microflora, including beautiful flowers, mosses, lichens, fungi, and more. El Cajas is listed among the world's RAMSAR reserves (wetlands of international importance) and AICAS (important bird conservation areas of international importance). For these reasons and more, El Cajas is a paradise for hikers, bird watchers, and any nature lover.

### **PM - Afternoon at leisure**

### **DAY 8 - (B/L/-)**

#### **AM - City Tour and Transfer to Guayaquil**

Today, we will enjoy strolling through the cobblestone streets of Cuenca, visiting flowery plazas and picturesque sites. We will start at San Sebastian Plaza, on the western side of the colonial quarter, and walk through narrow streets to the Museum of Modern Art, where various contemporary Ecuadorian artists exhibit their work. Heading towards the city center, we will visit Cuenca's famous flower market with its colorful stalls of calla lilies, orchids, and roses. Soon, we will see the Neo-Gothic New Cathedral with its characteristic blue domes. Construction began in 1880 to replace the Old Cathedral (still standing across from the new one), built by the Spanish in 1557, the year the city was founded.

PM - Transfer to Guayaquil Airport

Note: An extension to the Galápagos or the rainforest of Ecuador is available.

# INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

## INCLUSIONS

- Meals:
- 7 breakfasts + 7 dinners + 1 lunch on Day 8
- Dinner menu includes: Appetizer or dessert + Main course + Soft drink
- Accommodation: Standard double room (Quito, Baños, and Cuenca)
- Entrance Fees: El Panecillo, La Compañía, Quitsato, Middle of the World, Cotopaxi National Park, Pailón del Diablo Waterfall, Cajas National Park, Old Cathedral of Cuenca
- Daily assistance and support
- Private land transportation by MINIBUS
- Certified bilingual national tour guide

## EXCLUSIONS

- International and domestic flights
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses
- Optional tours and activities not mentioned in the itinerary

## RATE IN USD PER PERSON IN STANDARD DOUBLE ACCOMMODATION

PAX	4 - 5 PAX	6 - 9 PAX	10 - 14 PAX	15 - 19 PAX	20 PAX
<b>STANDARD HOTEL RATE PER PERSON IN STANDARD DOUBLE ACCOMMODATION</b>	\$1652.00	\$1367.00	\$1113.00	\$1036.00	\$944.00
<b>**SUPPL. SGL ROOM</b>	\$247.00				
<b>SUPERIOR HOTEL RATE PER PERSON IN STANDARD DOUBLE ACCOMMODATION</b>	\$2335.00	\$2061.00	\$1817.00	\$1806.00	\$1703.00
<b>**SUPPL. SGL ROOM</b>	\$412.00				
<b>LUXURY HOTEL RATE PER PERSON IN STANDARD DOUBLE ACCOMMODATION</b>	\$2654.00	\$2380.00	\$2136.00	\$2178.00	\$2061.00
<b>**SUPPL. SGL ROOM</b>	\$815.00				



### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

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- This excursion includes hikes at altitudes above 2800 meters and climbing stairs.
- Tourist visits to churches are not allowed on Sundays.
- Altitude: between 2800 and 4000 meters
- Average daytime temperature: 8° to 20° C (46° to 68° F)

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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- Dress in layers (t-shirt, blouse, sweater, coat).
- Warm clothing for high-altitude areas, such as jackets and sweaters.
- Comfortable and sturdy footwear, especially if you plan to hike or do outdoor activities.
- Rain protection is suggested for the afternoon.
- Sun protection.
- Good walking shoes.
- Opportunities to shop for souvenirs and local crafts.
- Camera.
- Sunglasses.
- Ecuador uses type A and B plugs, so a universal adapter is useful if you plan to charge electronic devices.