



ADVENTURE ASSOCIATES

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OTAVALO HIGHLANDS, AVENUE OF THE VOLCANOES, BAÑOS HOT SPRINGS & CHIVA EXPRESS

Trip Dates: Aug 15 – 23, 2008

Land Costs: Tier-priced \$1699 - \$1969 (see below)

Day 1: Aug 15th (FRI)

Arrive in Quito from Amazon extension or flight from USA and transfer to Otavalo. Lunch en route. Situated among picturesque lakes, magnificent sierras and terraced, patchwork farmlands, this town is renowned for its ponchos, embroidered blouses, ceramics, wall hangings, leather crafts and handmade jewelry. Overnight in a beautiful hacienda situated among farmland. (L,D)

Day 2: Aug 16th (SAT) Quito-Otavalo - San Pablo Lake

An early morning departure (5:30am) from your hotel for a visit to the world famous Otavalo market. After engaging with the locals as they barter, we will explore the region surrounding the market and a few small towns. Lunch at a local hacienda and continue on to Cotacachi, home to numerous fine leather craft shops and boutiques. Overnight hacienda. (BLD)

Day 3: Aug 17th (SUN) Otavalo – Bellavista

This morning, enjoy some free time at Hacienda Cusin: activities on location include horseback riding, mountain biking, a relaxing massage or a simple stroll through the extensive gardens to view birdlife and flora. After leaving Otavalo, travel south to Bellavista, a paradise of hummingbirds. Large numbers constantly hover around the feeders and five or six species can be easily identified at close range. Lunch en route. Overnight in treetop bungalows in the Bellavista Cloud Forest. (BLD)

Day 4: Aug 18th (MON) Bellavista – Quito – Cotopaxi

After breakfast, enjoy a guided hike into the cloud forest. Your guide will show you the secrets of life in the rainforest, its bird life and the fascinating ways that life has adapted to this special environment. Lunch is served with hummingbirds and

other colorful species close by. After lunch, you will have a short hike into the forest before transferring onto the valley of Cotopaxi. A 2½ hour drive south along the Pan American Highway brings us to Lasso town, where you will spend the night in a local hacienda. (BLD)

Day 5: Aug 19th (TUE) Cotopaxi- Baños

Morning departure to Cotopaxi National Park. Cotopaxi (19,700ft / 5,897m) is the world's highest active volcano! The park is home to deer, wild horses, rabbits, wild flowers and exotic birds. Today there is the option of a gentle hike to the pre-Incan archaeological site, Pucara and an easy trek around el Manantial. This desolate and rugged scenery will captivate both nature enthusiasts and casual visitors alike. Lunch at Tambopaxi. In the afternoon a scenic drive through the picturesque "Avenue of the Volcanoes" takes us to Baños, a small town nestling in the shadows of the Tungurahua volcano high above the Amazon Basin and surrounded by waterfalls and orchids. This area is rich in vegetation, especially orchids, and is famous for its nearby hot springs that provide hot running water to the local baths. Overnight spa hotel. (BLD)

Day 6: Aug 20th (WED) Baños

Full day in the spa, enjoying hot springs and optional treatments. Overnight spa lodge. (BLD)

Day 7: Aug 21st (THU) Baños – Riobamba – Guamote Market.

Today you will have the opportunity to do some activities in Baños, where you will admire the nearby waterfalls and impressive vegetation. A short hike away from the road you will see an overwhelming waterfall called Pailon del Diablo. After lunch at a charming restaurant close to the waterfall, enjoy a short drive to Riobamba (9,000 feet) on the Avenue of the Volcanoes. This city is surrounded by mountains and volcanoes, and sitting at the foot of the Chimborazo volcano, you get the world's highest view from the center of the Earth! If you wish, visit the Guamote Market, famous for its colorful wool handcrafts and local bartering. Overnight: hotel. (BLD)

Day 8: Aug 22nd (FRI) Riobamba -Train Alausi - Ingapirca - Cuenca

Today is a very special day, traveling by *ferrocarril* (an old train). The geographical obstacles faced during this railway's construction make it "the world's most difficult railroad." The train will take you to the famous "Devil's nose" and Alausí, descending 800 meters as you zigzag through these rocky formations. The option exists onboard to sit atop your car in seats fastened to the roof! The steep slopes take you through each climate zone, from the highlands to the coast. Stop to eat a box lunch in Alausí and continue your trip to Ingapirca, Ecuador's major Inca site. Originally built by the Cañaris, the site was then conquered and rebuilt by the Incas several hundred years before the Spanish arrived. Continuing on, a 2-hour drive takes us to the city of Cuenca late in the afternoon, where you will spend the night in a comfortable hotel. (B,L)

Day 9: Aug 23rd (SAT) Cuenca / Quito

In the morning you have the possibility to discover Cuenca, Ecuador's third largest city, locally known as "The Athens of Ecuador" in honor of its numerous poets. The city's cobblestone streets, colonial plazas and religious art treasures recall its distant past, while the flower market on the little Plaza del Carmen and the new and old Cathedrals on the main Plaza Calderón provide spectacular color and

impressive architecture. A trip along the Tomebamba River takes you to the Inter-American Center of Popular Art, home to many regional handicrafts. A walk through the city center will give you a chance to visit the stores stocked with gold and silver filigree jewelry, ceramics and textiles. On the city outskirts lie the remains of human settlements in the Todos Los Santos, evidence to pre-Inca civilizations. Enjoy a traditional Ecuadorian lunch in a local restaurant, and in the afternoon transfer to the airport for your flight back to Quito. Upon arrival, transfer to your central hotel for overnight. (B)
 (Day 10 of this itinerary = Day 2 of the Galapagos Cruise)

| Land Costs | Deposit | Single Supplement | In-country Flight: Cuenca to Quito | Trip Dates | Group Size | Difficulty | Activities |
|-----------------------|---------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------|--|
| Tier priced See Below | \$500 | \$325 | Included | Aug 15-23, 2008 | 4-9 | No Experience Needed | Railway, Volcanoes, Lodges, Sightseeing, Cultural Exchange |

Tier-priced Land Costs (per person rates):

4-6 guests US\$ 1,969
 7-9 guests US\$ 1,699
 Single Supplement US\$ 325



Policies Continued next page...

A FEW IMPORTANT DETAILS ABOUT YOUR TRIP...Read carefully

Included in your Trip Fee: Accommodations with private bath; meals as indicated on itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner); bilingual guide; private transportation; in-country flight, Train ticket; Entrance fees to churches, museums, ruins and National Park.

Not Included in your Trip Fee: International airfare; international departure tax (\$40) if not included in purchased ticket; gratuities, soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, souvenirs; optional single supplement (\$325); any meals not indicated on itinerary; personal clothing; flying doctors and travel/evacuation/medical insurance; money for incidental personal expenses.

How is the food: Healthy and fresh! The cuisine is a blend of the finest ingredients Ecuador has to offer with French, North American and Ecuadorian flavors. Sample local tropical fruit juices you never knew they existed. If you have special dietary needs please inform us on your application.

Travel & Trip Insurance: We strongly recommend that travel insurance be purchased immediately following your registration. The insurance protects you and your money from late cancellations, accidents or illness in remote areas, emergency evacuation, loss of baggage, airline flight changes and other unexpected delays. The particular program we recommend (Access America) will cover "preexisting" conditions if you purchase full coverage within fourteen (14) days following your registration or flight purchase. Information available upon request.

How to Register: If you have not downloaded an application from our website, please contact our office for a complete registration packet. Complete the application form and return it to us along with the appropriate payment. Upon receipt of your application, we will send you a confirmation and final details about your pre-trip preparation.

Payment Outline & Schedule: We accept checks, Visa, MasterCard, AmEx.

4-6 guests US\$ 1,969

7-9 guests US\$ 1,699

Single Supplement US\$ 325

\$500 Deposit Due at time of registration (\$200 non-refundable)

Full payment due 2 months prior to departure.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

If you must cancel prior to departure, the following fee will be assessed based upon our receipt of your written cancellation request:

Days Prior to Departure (trip destination)

60 to 90.....\$200

30 to 59 50% fee

1 to 29 100% fee

No partial refunds are possible for any unused portion of your trip.

Penalties on airline tickets are subject to the individual air carrier's rules and regulations. Departure is defined as the date of the first flight, or the trip departure date as indicated on our Trip Schedule, whichever comes first.

Once a trip has been confirmed medical circumstances will not be considered as exceptions to our cancellation policy. However, if you have purchased a comprehensive Travel Insurance plan that covers cancellation, you may be able to retrieve some of the funds.

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