



ECUADOR

Although famous for the Galapagos Islands, mainland Ecuador also has spectacular scenery, wildlife, history and Andean cultures. Straddling the equator, from which comes its name, this tiny country is easy to explore, from the Pacific Coast to the towering snowcapped volcanoes of the Andes and then down again to pristine Amazon Rainforest. The towns of Quito and Cuenca are treasure troves of architecture, with beautiful churches, convents, museums and wonderful crafts.

Highlights

The wildlife-rich Galapagos Islands; UNESCO World Heritage city of Quito; famous Indian markets of Otavalo; stunning rainforests, picturesque Andean scenery.

Climate

Ecuador is a year-round destination. Generally speaking, it has two seasons, wet and dry, but local weather patterns vary greatly depending on geography.

GLORIOUS GALAPAGOS





Quito's Old Town © Paul Margraff



Otavalo Market © Marina Albornoz

QUITO CITY STAY

3 days/2 nights
Departs daily ex Quito

Founded in the 16th century on the ruins of an Inca city, historic Quito, with its colonial churches, plazas and boulevards is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the Church of La Compania, the Monastery of San Francisco and the Old Town.

Tour cost per person to 31 Dec:	Twin	Single
Casona de San Miguel (Suite)	\$759	\$1493
Plaza Grande (Royal Suite)	\$727	\$1433
Cafe Cultura (Standard Room)	\$385	\$707
Le Parc (Suite)	\$353	\$681
El Relicario del Carmen (Standard Rm)	\$311	\$517
Patio Andaluz (Standard Room)	\$307	\$545
Nu House (Standard Room)	\$255	\$487

Price per person includes: Private airport/hotel arrival and departure transfers, 2 nights accommodation with private facilities, breakfast, private half day city tour.

ACCOMMODATION

Casona de San Miguel

This lovingly restored heritage mansion in the heart of Quito's old town is due to open in March 2011. It offers 31 luxurious guest suites, library, solarium, bar, restaurant and roof-top terrace with stunning views.

Hotel Plaza Grande

Located in the heart of the historic old city, the Hotel Plaza Grande faces Quito's central square. There are 15 elegantly appointed suites, 3 restaurants, a wine cellar, gym and sauna.

Cafe Cultura

This inner-city boutique hotel is in a beautifully restored historic house. It features 26 individually decorated guest rooms, a bistro and library.



Casona de San Miguel

Le Parc Hotel

Le Parc is a modern boutique hotel with 30 distinctive executive suites, a restaurant, bar, health club and complimentary internet access.

Hotel El Relicario del Carmen

This 18th century mansion in the heart of the old town has been converted into a charming hotel. The 18 air-conditioned guest rooms feature original details and handmade furniture.

Patio Andaluz

This charming 4 star boutique hotel is in the historic heart of Quito surrounded by churches and museums. The hotel has 32 rooms, a bar, patio restaurant and gift shop.

Nu House Boutique Hotel

Commanding a prime position in the popular La Mariscal area, this contemporary design hotel features 52 comfortable rooms with modern amenities, a restaurant, bar and bistro.

OPTIONAL DAY TOUR

Tour cost per person to 31 Dec:	Twin	Single
Otavalo Day Tour (with Lunch)	\$234	\$404

Price per person includes: Private transportation with services of English speaking guide, sightseeing and lunch at Pínsaqui.

Otavalo Day Tour

Drive through picturesque landscapes to Otavalo, home to the most famous Indigenous craft market in South America. Afterwards visit Peguche Village to observe traditional weaving. Includes lunch at a charming country inn or hacienda.



Monument of La Virgen De Panecillo, Quito

COLONIAL CUENCA

3 days/2 nights
Departs daily ex Cuenca

Cuenca is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located at the heart of the Indian communities of the High Andes. Its cobblestone streets have a rich colonial atmosphere of churches, convents and museums. Close to Cuenca are Ingapirca ruins and scenic Cajas National Park.

Tour cost per person to 31 Dec:	Twin	Single
Mansion Alcazar (Standard Room)	\$382	\$537
Santa Lucia (Suite)	\$290	\$553
Oro Verde (Standard Room)	\$262	\$477

Price per person includes: Private transfers, 2 nights accommodation on a B&B basis and sightseeing as per itinerary.

OPTIONAL DAY TOUR

Tour cost per person to 31 Dec:	Twin	Single
Full day Cajas National Park tour (includes lunch)	\$207	\$332
Full day Gualaceo & Chorodeleg tour (includes lunch)	\$172	\$295

Day 1 Cuenca

Arrive in Cuenca and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight Cuenca.



Cuenca Cathedral

Day 2 Cuenca

Explore the town's colourful parks and plazas, colonial architecture and handicraft stores. Highlights include a visit to the Plaza of San Sebastian, the Museum of Modern Art, and the ruins of Todos Santos. Overnight Cuenca. B

Day 3 Tour ends Cuenca

Morning at leisure before an afternoon transfer to Quito airport. Tour ends. B



© Shutterstock

Cotopaxi Volcano, the highest active volcano in the world

Mashpi Rainforest Biodiversity Reserve © Shutterstock

SPRIT OF THE ANDES

4 days/3 nights

Departs Monday to Friday ex Quito

Tour cost per person to 31 Dec:	Twin	Single
Private departures	\$1732	\$2894
Shared departures*	\$944	\$1069

*Departs Monday & Friday Only

Price per person includes: 3 nights accommodation, all meals, entrance to museums and Cotopaxi National Park, transfers and sightseeing as per the itinerary.

This wonderful tour highlights the best of Ecuador - amazing volcanic mountains, local cultures and handicrafts, archaeological sites and historical haciendas while travelling along Ecuador's famed "Avenue of Volcanoes".

Day 1 Patate

Depart Quito and drive towards Cotopaxi National Park, home to the world's highest active volcano. After lunch descend towards the town of Patate to spend the night at a 300 year old hacienda hidden among the mountains. LD



© Francisco Caizapana

Spectacular Andean Scenery



© Natural Focus Safaris

Day 2 Riobamba

Drive along the picturesque gorge of the Pastaza River to the town of Banos, the "Gateway to Amazonia". Explore the town and the nearby Devil's Cauldron waterfall before continuing to ascend to Riobamba for dinner and overnight. BLD

Day 3 Cuenca

Visit Riobamba's Religious Art Museum, the Museum of the Llama and the Inca Fortress of Ingapirca enroute to colonial Cuenca. BLD

Day 4 Tour ends Cuenca

Explore Cuenca's cobblestone streets past cathedrals and white-washed colonial mansions. Visit the Plaza of San Sebastian, the Museum of Modern Art, a small flower market and the Panama hat factory before a transfer to the airport where your tour ends. BL



© Shutterstock

Ingapirca ruins



© Christopher Hirz

Panama hat weaver

MASHPI LODGE

3 days/2 nights or 4 days/3 nights
Departs ex Quito

Tour cost 01 Oct-31 Dec:	Twin	Single
4 days/3 nights (Departs Mon)	\$2055	\$3083
3 days/2 nights (Departs Thu & Sat)	\$1425	\$2137

*Minimum two people.

Price per person includes: Full board accommodation (excluding alcoholic drinks) at the lodge, return road transfers from main Quito hotels and all activities.

Age limit: No children under 6.

Travel through the Andean rainforest to Mashpi Lodge Rainforest

Biodiversity Reserve. Due to open late in 2011 the lodge is situated 2.5 hours from Quito and has been built with the latest techniques in sustainability. Blending with the natural surroundings it has 18 generously sized suites, social lounges that include large viewing windows and a relaxing spa. Guests can enjoy fresh organic meals as well as a carefully selected wine list. While at Mashpi Lodge enjoy day and night activities including the Aerial tram; high in the tree canopy it affords a unique perspective of the rainforest.

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1 Mashpi Lodge

Depart Quito for the lodge travelling to the Tulipe Observatory enroute. After lunch within the reserve, visit the Butterfly Vivarium before partaking in some birdwatching. LD

Day 2 Mashpi Lodge

Take a trip on the aerial tram with the option to include a jungle walk or a swim in the river. For lunch visit a local family at Casa Campesina. BLD

Day 3 Mashpi Lodge

Enjoy morning nature walks before afternoon visits to the Snake and Frog Vivariums. Before dinner take a nocturnal rainforest safari. BLD

Day 4 Tour ends Quito

Depart the lodge for Quito stopping at a community-run Tree Nursery, the Pululahua Crater and the Centre of the World before arriving in Quito where the tour ends. BL

ECUADOR ECO-LODGES

4, 5 or 8 days
Lodges

Discover the amazing natural wonders of pristine Amazon jungle whilst staying in comfortable eco-lodges that ensure minimum impact on their fragile environment. These lodges offer a broad range of activities, including guided walks through the forest where you will be amazed by the rich and diverse display of flora and fauna including tropical birds, many species of monkey, a variety of reptiles, frogs and sloths to name but a few. Float by canoe across quiet lakes, home to giant otters or caiman (alligators) and climb observation towers into the forest canopy for a breathtaking view of the jungle as birds fly by at eye level.

The climate in the Amazon is always hot and humid with the chance of rain so it is best to be prepared for all conditions. The average temperatures are from about 20°C to 28°C. As a general rule, Ecuador's rainforest is drier from November to February and wettest from June to September.

Price per person for all lodges on pages 24 & 25 include: Return airfare to/from Quito to airport near lodge and canoe transfers to lodge, accommodation, all meals, English speaking naturalist guide, activities and excursions at lodges, park fees (Napó and Kapawí only).

Price excludes: Drinks and gratuities, park fees (La Selva and Sacha).



LA SELVA LODGE



On the shores of Garzacocha Lake, La Selva ("the jungle") offers comfortable guest accommodation in 17 thatched cabanas made from materials designed to blend with their surroundings. Each cabana has a private bathroom with hot water, a hammock and mosquito netting over the beds. The lodge has a spacious dining room and an open-air bar/lounge with lake views. Activities include an observation tower, walks, fishing, boat trips to a butterfly farm and night excursions.



Price per person from:	Departs	Twin	Single
La Selva Lodge			
5 days/4 nights	Daily	\$1137	\$1439
4 days/3 nights	Daily	\$989	\$1246

SACHA LODGE

Situated in a 5000 acre private reserve, Sacha Lodge is constructed from local materials and offers 26 comfortable cabins with high thatched roofs, each with private terrace and ensuite facilities. The main lodge has a dining room and bar/lounge while the surrounding reserve boasts a 43m high observation tower and a unique raised walkway through the forest canopy. Daily activities include walks on forest trails, the butterfly house, canoe trips, kayaking and night walks, led by an experienced local and a naturalist guide.

Price per person from:	Departs	Twin	Single
Sacha Lodge			
5 days/4 nights	Mon	\$1177	\$1683
4 days/3 nights	Fri	\$968	\$1368



NAPO WILDLIFE CENTRE



Community-based Napo Wildlife Centre is surrounded by 132 square kilometres of pristine Amazon rainforest on the northern edge of the Yasuni NP. The complex features 12 traditionally designed, luxurious private cabanas with lake views, a dining room, bar and lounge and an adjacent observation tower. The park is home to Ecuador's two most accessible parrot clay licks and an incredible variety of wildlife. Activities include wildlife blinds, forest trails, hikes, boat trips and visits to the Anangu community.

Price per person from:	Departs	Twin	Single
Napo Wildlife Centre			
5 days/4 nights	Mon-Sat	\$1216	\$1738
4 days/3 nights	Mon-Sat	\$1008	\$1425



KAPAWI ECO-LODGE & RESERVE

Set amongst pristine Amazon rainforest, this renowned Eco-lodge was created in collaboration with the local Achuar Indians and built without using a single metal nail. Guests are accommodated in 19 comfortable rooms built on stilts overlooking the river with balcony and ensuite facilities. Guided activities include day hikes, canoe trips, bird watching and visits to Achuar communities.

Price per person from:	Departs	Twin	Single
Kapawi Lodge*			
8 days/7 nights	Mon & Fri	\$2409	\$3156
5 days/4 nights	Mon	\$1630	\$2069
4 days/3 nights	Fri	\$1407	\$1758

*We can try to arrange shared accommodation on request.
Age limit: No children under 7.

