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## Wildranger Adventure Ecuador

Quito, Ecuador

# Ecuador Andes

## 1-Week Adventure Tour

### Quito



- **Saturday: Arrival in Quito**
  - Transfer from the airport to the hotel, followed by a welcome cocktail and briefing.
- **Sunday: Quito City Tour**
  - Explore the historical center of colonial Quito, including Independence Square, the Cathedral, and the Church of the Company.
  - Visit the Pululahua volcano crater, the only inhabited one in the world.
  - Explore the Middle of the World monument (0 degrees latitude) and the Ethnographic Museum.

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## Andes: Cotopaxi National Park



- **Monday: Cotopaxi National Park**

- Travel by private car with a bilingual guide to Cotopaxi National Park, where the second highest volcano in Ecuador is located.
- Go on a hike in the parámos, the desert-like tundra landscape, led by your local guide, with the option of hiking to the Cotopaxi Volcano refuge.
- Lunch at a local typical Andean restaurant.
- Travel further south by private car with your guide to Baños de Agua Santa, the "Adventure Capital of Ecuador," where the Andes meet the Amazon. Stay at a hotel in the Banos city centre.



- **Tuesday: Baños de Agua Santa to Cuenca**

- Travel by private car through the 18km Ruta de las Cascadas toward the Amazonian town of Puyo
- Stop at Pailón del Diablo (Devil's Cauldron), a massive, thundering waterfall, where you can crawl behind the waterfall if you are prepared to get soaked.
- Travel towards Cuenca in a private van and stop at a traditional market for lunch in Riobamba.
- Before reaching Cuenca, take a small detour in the afternoon to visit the Ingapirca Ruins, the most significant Inca ruins in Ecuador.
- Arrive in Cuenca for dinner and stay at your hotel in El Centro Cuenca.



- **Wednesday: Colonial Cuenca**

- The town of Cuenca is known as the "Athens of Ecuador" for its preserved Spanish colonial architecture and relaxed pace. It is a UNESCO world heritage site.
- After breakfast, walk through the historic heart of Cuenca, visiting the cathedrals in the Parque Calderón. Climb up the Catedral de la Inmaculada Concepción for a panoramic view of the city and close-up of its iconic blue domes.
- Stroll through Plaza de las Flores, located right next to the New Cathedral, one of the most beautiful outdoor flower markets in the world
- For lunch, go to Mercado 10 de Agosto for Hornado (slow-roasted pig), a typical traditional meal in Cuenca and continue to walk through the historic centre after lunch.
- In the evening, travel to Turi, a viewpoint 10-min south of the city. Arrive just before sunset to watch the city lights flicker across the valley.
- Enjoy dinner on Calle Larga or in El Centro Cuenca before returning to your hotel.



- **Thursday: Ruta de los volcanes to Quilotoa Crater**

- Have an early breakfast and begin the journey back through Avenida de los Volcanes to Quito, one of the most scenic road trips in Ecuador.
- Stop for pictures in front of Chimbarazo, the tallest volcano in Ecuador and the closest point on earth to the sun.
- Stop for a snack in Salcedo, a town that is famous for its Helados de Salcedo—multi-layered fruit ice cream bars that are sold at nearly every street corner.
- You will arrive for lunch in Latacunga and visit the Quilotoa Crater Lake. Take a short hike around this breathtaking turquoise lake inside a collapsed volcanic caldera.
- Arrive at your hotel in Quilatoa and have a traditional Andean dinner by the crater.



- **Friday: Laguna Quilotoa to Quito**
  - After breakfast, take a short hike to Laguna Quilotoa, with the option for a chilly swim in the volcanic crater lake.
  - Stroll through the traditional markets in Quilotoa, shopping for souvenirs and handicrafts.
  - Have a traditional lunch in Quilotoa before returning to Quito.
  - Walk through the historic centre of Quito for dinner and return to your hotel in Quito.



- **Saturday: Otavalo & Cotacachi**

- Stop in Cayambe for a traditional Andean breakfast: *Bizcochos* (buttery, salty biscuits) dipped in *dulce de leche* or served with *queso de hoja* (leaf-wrapped cheese)
- Visit Plaza de Ponchos, the largest indigenous market in South America to browse handicrafts and souvenirs like alpaca wool blankets, silver jewelry and Andean ponchos.
- Go on a short guided hike around the stunning crater lake at the foot of Cotacachi Volcano
- Stop in the nearby village of Cotacachi to shop for authentic local leather goods like jackets, boots, bags and belts.
- Return to your hotel in Quito's Old Town.
- Transfer to the Quito Airport Saturday night or Sunday morning for your flight.