

# ***KALEIDOSCOPE OF ECUADOR TOUR***



**MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE**

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1300 168 910



Ecuador with Andes Mountains, Amazon & Flights

Duration: 11 days

Stay: 9 nights hotels

Travel style: Escorted tour with flights from Australia

Booking code: ECKG11M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience

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# 11 Days Ecuador, Andes & Amazon with Flights

## About the holiday

There's so much to discover and experience in Ecuador!

Fly to Guayaquil, the country's largest city that's renowned for its historic districts, beautiful parks and green iguanas living in the trees. Try one of Ecuador's biggest exports, chocolate and travel 8,400 feet up to the enchanting city of Cuenca in the Andes.

Visit the small town of Ingapirca, or 'Inca Wall' in Kichwa, where pre-Columbian ruins are found. Take a canoe ride into the Amazon rainforest and hike in a private nature reserve. Enjoy a picturesque stop that's a paradise for hummingbird lovers and photographers. Then head to Quito for the final two nights, where you'll explore the World Heritage-listed colonial quarter and stand with one foot in each hemisphere at the Middle of the World Monument on the Equator!

This escorted tour through Ecuador will leave you with indelible memories of the country's rich culture and diverse landscapes!

## Why you'll love this tour...

- In Guayaquil's old centre, visit Seminario Park with its colonial atmosphere
- Enjoy a tour, demonstration and chocolate tasting at a cocoa plantation
- Learn about the cultivation of orchids in the small town of Gualaceo
- Discover the charm of Cuenca, a city located high in the Andean Mountains
- Marvel at the impressive stone foundations of Ingapirca Ruins, believed to have been used for religious purposes
- Spend two nights at an Amazon Lodge discovering the area's flora and fauna
- Visit a Quechua community interpretation centre in Ahuano
- Visit Colonial Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and walk through its cobblestone streets
- Excursion to the Middle of the World Monument

## Travel dates

**2024 & 2025** - Monthly departures, contact us for available dates

*Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking and price may vary depending on your travel date.*



### Escorted Tour Package Includes:

- Return economy airfares from Melbourne, Sydney & Brisbane to Ecuador
- Airline taxes & fuel surcharges
- 9 nights accommodation in tourist class-deluxe hotels & lodges
  - 2 nights Guayaquil
  - 2 nights Cuenca
  - 1 night Riobamba
  - 2 nights Punta Ahuano (Amazon)
  - 2 nights Quito
- Hotel taxes, fees & service charges
- Hotel portorage
- 20 meals: 9 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 5 dinners
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout
- Services of English-speaking local guides
- Entrance fees per itinerary

### Package excludes:

Airport transfers - let us know if you'd like to pre-book transfers

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary

Optional tours & activities

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry, WiFi etc.

Gratuities for guides, representatives & drivers

Travel insurance is essential - please request a quote

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

*Package is subject to confirmation by airlines, hotels, tour company & local operators.  
Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.*

Call 1300 168 910 or email [hello@mytravelxp.com](mailto:hello@mytravelxp.com) for current details

## Itinerary:

### **DAY 1, Sunday - Fly from Australia to Ecuador**

### **DAY 2, Monday - Arrive Ecuador**

Arrive in Guayaquil and catch a taxi to your hotel (contact your travel designer if you'd like to pre-book a transfer). The rest of the day is at leisure in this energetic city with its lovely parks, botanical gardens and historic districts

**Overnight:** Guayaquil

### **DAY 3, Tuesday - Guayaquil City Tour**

This morning after an orientation meeting, begin your tour of Guayaquil at Seminario Park, famous for its many green iguanas living within the trees and ornate gardens. Then, view the contrasting architecture of the city's Neo-Gothic Cathedral, Moorish clock tower, La Rotonda Monument and climb up the 444 steps to Santa Ana hill in las Peñas neighbourhood to admire panoramic views of the city. The afternoon is yours to explore Malecón 2000, the city's gleaming new riverside development, which incorporates shops, restaurants, a landmark museum, and several of the city's most famous monuments. Tonight, savour dinner of delicious Ecuadorian dishes

**Overnight:** Guayaquil

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 4, Wednesday - Chocolate Tasting & Cuenca**

Travel today from Guayaquil to Cuenca, one of the country's most beautiful cities. En route, stop at a Cocoa (Cacao) plantation for a tour and demonstration of the process that begins after the beans are picked from the cocoa trees. Ecuador is a major producer of cacao worldwide with chocolate as one of their thriving exports. Afterward, drive up to Tres Cruces in the Andean mountains and savour lunch at a lodge nestled between lakes and mountains. Continue with a drive along the country roads, passing indigenous people in their colourful clothes wearing the customary fedoras. Arrive in Cuenca, set 8,400 feet up in the majestic Andes. Spend the rest of the day in this enchanting city with its red tiled roofs, cobblestone streets and plazas adorned with flowers

**Overnight:** Cuenca

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

### **DAY 5, Thursday - Orchid Nursery and Colonial Cuenca**

Today, in the small town of Gualaceo, attend a weaving and dying demonstration that will teach you about traditional textiles. Next, visit an orchid nursery and meet with one of the orchid growers that produces and exports thousands of orchids annually. Learn about the cultivation process and see the vibrant array of orchids that are grown here. Return to Colonial Cuenca, where your tour of the city begins at the Plaza and Church of San Sebastian, built in the 17th century, with its magnificent carved door.

Arrive at the stark white Church of El Carmen de la Asunción, founded in 1682, an important historical building preserved in its original condition, with its beautiful Baroque façade. See the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on the Plaza Calderón, considered the most important religious monument in the city. Then, walk along the winding cobblestone lanes to the main square with its stunning architecture accented by wrought-iron balconies, tiny quaint parks, and romantic plazas. The center of Cuenca was declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site. Spend the rest of the day at leisure

**Overnight:** Cuenca

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 6, Friday - Ingapirca Ruins, Riobamba**

An adventurous day! Drive from Cuenca to the small town of Ingapirca, or "Inca Wall" in Kichwa, where Ecuador's most important pre-Columbian ruins can be found. Marvel at the impressive stone foundations, believed to have been used for religious purposes. Stroll the grounds and visit the Temple of the Sun, the only elliptical temple in the Inca Empire. From here, admire breathtaking panoramic views over the surrounding countryside. Have lunch at a local restaurant. Afterwards, travel to Riobamba for dinner and overnight

**Overnight:** Riobamba

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 7, Saturday - Devil's Cauldron Waterfall, Amazon Lodge**

This morning, visit the powerful Devil's Cauldron (El Pailon del Diablo)\* one of Ecuador's most striking waterfalls, hidden in the Ecuadorian rainforest. After a box lunch, travel to Ahuano. Along the way, stop for a fascinating visit at a local Quechua community interpretation centre to learn about life and survival in the Amazon. Enjoy the sounds, the serenity, and the magnificent foliage as you begin your exploration of the unique Amazon culture. After, you travel to La Punta Ahuano, a tiny port on the north bank of the Napo River, where you board a canoe that takes you to your lodge\*\* situated on the Napo River. You'll be able to spot many species of birds along the way. Tonight, dinner is at the lodge

*\*This is an active hike to and from El Pailon del Diablo waterfall*

*\*\*Upon arrival the lodge is approximately a 5-10 minute walk uphill from where passengers will exit the canoe. Passengers are required to transport their own carry-on luggage*

**Overnight:** Amazon

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 8, Sunday - Private Nature Reserve Hike**

This morning, after a canoe ride you can hike in the Misicocha Private Nature Reserve for approximately two hours while viewing the beautiful flora and fauna up-close. The Amazon rainforest is the world's largest ecosystem, so be sure to keep an eye out for the innumerable species of tropical plants and insects.

Enjoy the views as you cross suspended bridges and fly through the jungle on a short zip line basket ride. At the end of the hike, take a rafting trip on a traditional balsa log raft\*. Balance of the day is at leisure or, choose to participate in one of the *optional* tours, including the Butterfly Farm & Balsa Wood Carving Demonstration, Cacao Farm & AmaZOOnico Rescue Center or Canopy Adventure Park  
*\*This is an active hike and sections of the path include steps. Also, those who participate in the rafting trip will need to step through the water to reach the raft and will get wet during the ride*

**Optional:** Butterfly Farm & Balsa Wood Demonstration

**Optional:** Cacao Farm & AmaZOOnico Rescue Center

**Optional:** Canopy Adventure Park

**Overnight:** Amazon

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 9, Monday - San Isidro Lodge, Hummingbird Park, Quito**

Depart the Amazon this morning by canoe. Then, continue by motor coach to the picturesque San Isidro Lodge, a paradise for hummingbird lovers and photographers. Walk along the scenic trails, stopping to see over 14 different species of hummingbirds. After lunch, head towards Quito, the historic masterpiece in the high Andes, at the base of the Pichincha Volcano. Arrive at the hotel in this city aptly called "an urban jewel", with its priceless treasures of art and architecture. Tonight, get acquainted with the city's wide choice of world-class restaurants, cafes and shops

**Overnight:** Quito▲

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

### **DAY 10, Tuesday - Quito City Tour, Middle of the World Monument**

Discover Quito's colonial quarter, the largest and best preserved in Latin America, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Begin at Independence Plaza, flanked by the Metropolitan Cathedral, the Presidential Palace, the Municipal Building and the Archbishop's Palace. Continue to the Metropolitan Cultural Center with its exhibits highlighting Ecuadorian culture and rich history. Visit the La Compania Church with its beautiful gilded interior, or, the Monastery of San Francisco, one of the great religious buildings of the New World with its impressive façade and atrium. Continue to the Middle of the World Monument at the Equator, which marks latitude 0 °. Here, you can stand with one foot in each hemisphere! After lunch at a local restaurant, return to Quito for leisure time. Bid farewell to your Tour Manager, on your last day in Ecuador during dinner

**Overnight:** Quito

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 11, Wednesday - Depart Ecuador**

Check out of the hotel this morning and make your own way to the airport for your departure flight\*

*\*Some flights depart shortly after midnight in the very early morning of day 11 and will require a transfer on day 10. It's recommended that transfers depart the hotel approximately 4 hours prior to flight time*

**Meals:** Breakfast

▲ Due to the high elevation, travel in the Ecuadorian Andes may cause some passengers to experience the temporary effects of altitude sickness. If you have any concerns about traveling to higher than your accustomed elevation, please consult your healthcare provider.

**Please note: The day-by-day descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road accessibility, river levels, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.**

### **Is this trip right for you?**

This relatively active trip covers a fair amount of ground each day. Expect from three to four hours walking every touring day. The pace is moderate, however you will encounter some uneven surfaces, stairs, steps and significant slopes. Due to the high elevation, travel in the Ecuadorian Andes may cause some passengers to experience the temporary effects of altitude sickness. If you have any concerns about traveling to higher than your accustomed elevation, please consult your healthcare provider.

### **Optional tours**

This itinerary has optional tours and activities available to further enhance your journey. You can save by pre-booking before departure and also avoid disappointment because tours often sell out. Please contact us for the current prices and details of the listed optional tours. You'll need to book at least 7 days before departure, but our advice is get in earlier!

### **My Travel Experience is a full-service travel company**

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## **MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE BOOKING CONDITIONS**

**Please read the following information prior to making your reservation**

Our full set of terms and conditions can be [viewed and downloaded on our website](#), or supplied on request from our office. We highly recommend you read My Travel Experience booking conditions prior to making your holiday reservations. This is the contract under which both parties enter, therefore we request that you only make a booking if you agree with these conditions.

### **This is a summary in brief for our customers:**

1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit to hold your reservation.
3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
4. 90 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents electronically via email.

My Travel Experience manages a professional client operating account. All booking payments are held securely to pay for your travel services. We do not retain your money and funds are distributed promptly to travel service providers, including but not limited to, airlines, tour operators, cruise lines and hotels. We are required to pay the providers deposits and final payments and in some instances these items are non-refundable.

If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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