



ROUNDRIP IN ECUADOR

PACIFIC COAST, ANDEAN HIGHLAND, AMAZONAS

14 DAYS - plus optional activities...

Day 1: To Ecuador

With the airline of your choice you arrive at Guayaquil, the biggest city in Ecuador, where you will be picked up for a 15 minute transfer to the Hotel Ramada. Ramada is an Ecuadorean hotel, the one and only located at Malecón, the waterfront.

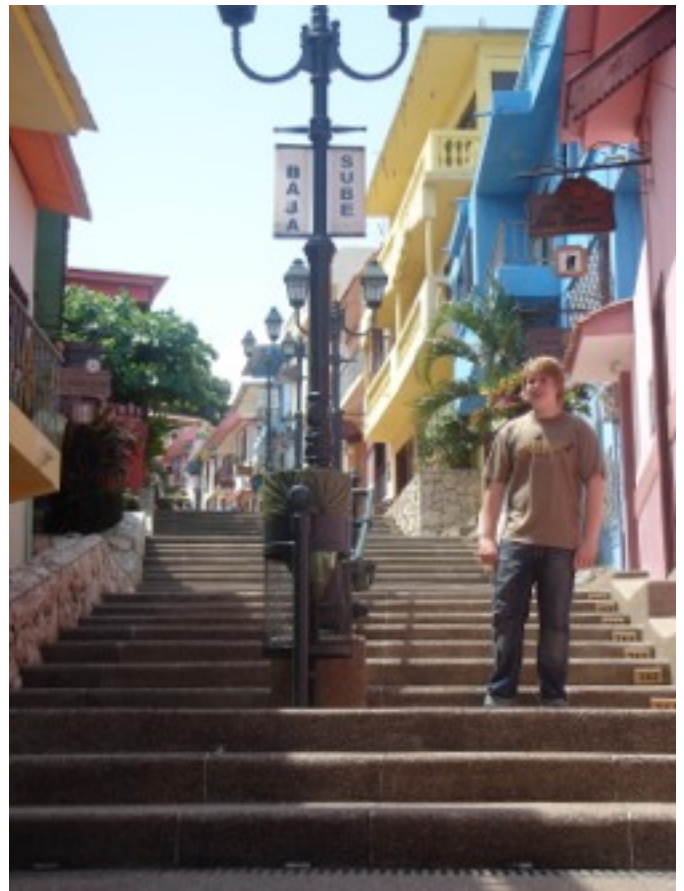
From experience we start our roundtrip on the lowland, for European travellers to adjust to the timezone.

Hotel Ramada, breakfast included

Day 2: Guayaquil - Pacific Coast

We take an early morning walk along the Malecón to the “Old Town”, Cerro Santa Ana or Las Peñas, the 444 step high hill that was the original Guayaquil settlement, renovated in a unique project between the city authorities and those living on the hill. We will also visit the Cathedral and the iguana park before proceeding to a humanitarian project to get an understanding of the social situation in the city.

After lunch we continue to the Valdivia area on the Pacific Coast, described as the cradle of the 5500 year old Valdivia culture, today an area of extreme poverty according to the WHO, but also an area for national and international tourism.





This is the area where Futuro Valdivia work for a better future for the people, providing health care and creating jobs through micro loans, tourism and export of handicraft.

We will have a welcome dinner in the evening - maybe tasting sea-food.

Hotel Baja Montañita or El Retiro / breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Day 3: In the reality of the local people

We start by visiting the Futuro Valdivia Health Clinic at San Pedro and get a first hand insight into health care at the basic level in Ecuador. A short walk to the Valdivia Museum will give a glimpse of the living conditions in the area.

We proceed to Barcelona and the center where paja toquilla, the raw material of the so called Panama hat is processed. The inhabitants of Barcelona are the owners of the largest plantation in Ecuador, and the world, and the leading processors of the raw material. The famous hats are hand made in the highland around Cuenca.

During the day we will also visit silver smiths and craftsmen working tagua, also called vegetable ivory. We will have lunch at a typical sea side restaurant.

During the afternoon there will be time for the beach or the pool or an optional visit in Montañita, surfer's paradise and the playground of international backpackers all around the year.

Hotel Baja Montañita eller El Retiro / frukost and lunch included



Day 4: Isla de la Plata / Little Galapagos

We travel north along the coast to Puerto Lopez, starting point for the guided tour to and on Isla de la Plata, The Silver Island,



also called Little Galapagos, where legend has it that Sir Francis Drake hid a silver treasure robbed from the Spaniards. The name reflects the fact that birds, sea lions and turtles have the same fearless relation to human beings as on Galapagos. Blue foot boobies nesting right on the path where you walk will not be disturbed, and should not be disturbed by visitors. For those who take the opportunity to snorkel after the visit on the island there is a colourful underwater world to discover. June through September thousands of humpback whales dwell in the warm waters around the equator, giving birth and mating. The jumps of the 20 + ton males is a spectacular sight.

Hotel Baja Montañita or El Retiro / breakfast and lunch included



Day 5: Baños San Vicente - Alausi

After breakfast we head for the spa at Baños San Vicente where we can enjoy the pools and treat ourselves to wonderful massage, be it with the volcanic mud or aloe vera. The hours will make you feel relaxed and has proven to be much appreciated by our travellers.,

After lunch at a local restaurant we are picked up for a ride across the coastal plain and up the slopes of the Andes to Alausi where we arrive in the early evening. The temperature gets some 6 degrees Centigrade lower per

thousand meters of altitude, and upon arrival you'll enjoy having brought a warm sweater.

La Quinta / breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Day 6: The Devil's Nose - Riobamba

We take a morning walk through the colourful market of Alausi on our way to the railway station where we board the train at 10.30 for a ride down and up the Devil's Nose. The building of this particular railway at the beginning of the 20th century is considered to have been one of the most difficult railway project ever in the world. After decades of neglected maintenance the railway has been restored and is operational again since 2011. The trip is an opportunity for the travellers to use their cameras.

Back in Alausi we have lunch before we continue to Riobamba in the Chimborazo Province.

Late afternoon there is an opportunity to visit a weaver producing wool carpets with as many as 60 000 knots per m2. His carpets can be seen in the UN Building in New York and the White House in Washington.

Mansión Santa Isabella / breakfast, lunch and dinner included



Day 7: Hidden Valley by bike - Baños

After breakfast we will try out mountain bikes before heading for Chimborazo, the highest mountain in Ecuador, 6310 m or some 19000 ft. There are great possibilities of seeing vicuñas, an Andean camelid, successfully reintroduced at some 4000 m / 12000 ft altitude. We drive up to 4800 m / 15000 ft and have the opportunity to climb to the Whymper base camp at 5000 m / 15000 + ft. before we have the box lunch of the day.

By now we get ready for an easy and spectacular 50 km afternoon ride from 4800 to 2600 m altitude. We will pass through green valleys, traditional indigenous villages, by impressive rock formations and little water falls. One of our clients took a snap shot of carrot washing people in the little river.

This bicycle tour is suitable for all ages, and anyone can get off the bike and enjoy the rest of the ride in the accompanying car that will pick us all up at Ambato for the the final leg to Baños. After check-in a visit at the hot pools may be a good idea.

Hotel La Floresta / breakfast, box lunch and dinner included



Day 8 : A day in the rainforest

The rainforest area of eastern Ecuador is called Oriente and that's where we will spend the day. We drive the Waterfall road downhill to arrive where the Amazon jungle starts. We get all necessary equipment for the day before we start walking in the jungle and we learn about the unparalleled biodiversity of the rainforest in Ecuador. We will visit an indigenous family, learn how to use a blow-gun and experience a trip along the river in a dug-out canoe. On our way back to Baños we will stop at the Balsa House in Puyo where we have an opportunity to see handmade balsa craft.

Hotel Floresta / breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Day 9: Baños – Vulcano Avenue - La Cienaga

At 1800 m above sea level we have a relaxed morning visiting the hot baths and strolling around this popular resort.

After lunch we will head back to the highland through the blue town of Pelileo, named after the habit of drying blue jeans on the roofs of the home industry. We will stop at the Salasaca market where the skilled weavers sell their products.

Back in the inter-Andean valley we pass by Ambato, the town of fruit and flowers, and go north along the Volcano Avenue to the hacienda La Cienaga where we will spend the night in the historic building where the German scientist Alexander von Humboldt stayed during his tour of Ecuador in 1802.

Hacienda La Cienaga / breakfast and dinner included



Day 10: Saquisilí - Quilotoa - Quito



We start by visiting the genuine Thursday market of Saquisilí an indigenous “shopping mall” spread over seven different marketplaces in town. Here you can buy anything from domestic animals and vegetables to site made clothes, pieces of art and accessories for electronic equipment. Visitors seem to find cameras useful.

Next on our trip is Quilotoa, a beautiful 240 meter deep crater lake of the dormant volcano at 3900 m. / 12000 ft altitude. By clear sky you’ll be able to see several snow capped peaks from the crater rim. On our way back to the



Volcano Avenue we stop at the Gallery of Tigua to see the primitivistic paintings on leather and hand made wooden masks.

We continue the Volcano Avenue to Quito where we finish the day having dinner in the Ichimbia with a magnificent view of the illuminated colonial Quito.

Hotel Sebastian / breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Day 11: Colonial Quito and the Equator Monument at Mitad del Mundo

Colonial Quito was the first city in the world named Heritage of Mankind by UNESCO and we will today learn about this beautiful historical place. The central square called *Plaza de Independencia* is surrounded by the four buildings that represented power during the colonial period: Carondelet housing the Government, the City Hall, the Archbishop’s Palace and the Cathedral. There are plenty of churches in Ecuador and we will visit La Compania, a Jesuit church whose interior is entirely covered with 7 tons of gold! La Compania is on the UNESCO list of the 100 most important buildings in the world. Leaving Colonial Quito we head north to the two equator monuments at La Mitad del Mundo, both the



big monument housing an interesting ethnographic exhibition, and the one correctly located on the equator line. Here we can see the water in a washbasin escape clockwise or counter-clockwise when moved from one side of the equator to the other, and we can try to make an egg stand still on the head of a nail right on the equator line.

Hotel Sebastian / breakfast, lunch and dinner included



Day 12: En dag i Quito



We know our travellers have different interests and Quito offers something for each and everyone.

By clear weather you may want to take the cable car, Teleférico, up to 4050 m. and have an fantastic panoramic view of the city and the mountains. Among options for the rest of the day you make your own choices. We will present several options for you to decide. La Capilla del Hombre commemorating the great Ecuadorean painter Oswaldo Guayasamin, the Archeological Museum, the handicraft

market, a fotball / soccer match or Colonial Quito on your own are some of the alternatives. You may want to discuss your personal interests with our guide.

We will have our farewell dinner at the Techo del Mundo / Roof of the World with a view of Quito.

Hotel Sebastian / breakfast and dinner included



Day 13: Departure to your home country – or to Galapagos, Amazonas or any other option to your own liking or from the many options on our website www.futurovaldivia.org

If going to Europe by KLM you'll have the morning free for activities to your liking, before it's time for transfer to the airport at 14.00. When flying out from the Quito airport you may enjoy the beautiful view of some of the snow-capped mountains.

We hope the roundtrip of Ecuador has met with your best expectations!



Day 14: Afternoon arrival in Europe after an overnight flight - or an extended stay in Ecuador!