

Ecuador, Volcano Trek

Trek the spectacular surrounding area of Cototpaxi



Ultimate Challenges

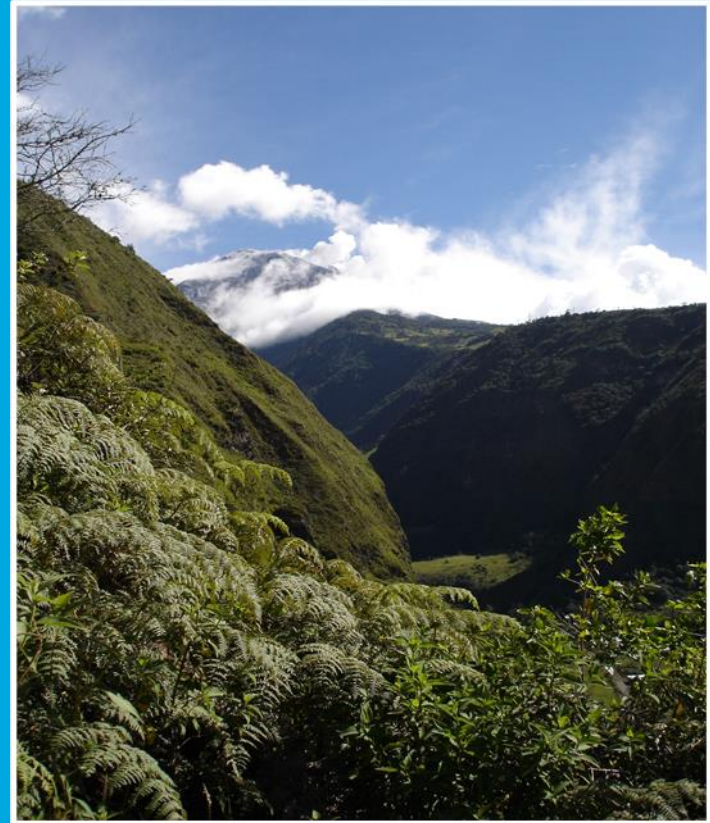
T: 020 7386 4680
events@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk
www.ultimatechallenges.co.uk

Ecuador, South America

Avenue of the Volcanoes Trek

Lying along the equator with Peru to the south and Colombia to the North, Ecuador is the smallest country in the rugged Andean highlands. Ecuador is small by South American standards, but peaceful and astonishingly beautiful. The majestic peaks of the Andean Cordillera run through the middle of the country, and divide the tropical jungles of the Amazon Basin from the rich farmlands of the coastal plain.

This trek has been named one of the '12 of South America's Most Epic Hikes You've Never Heard of' and is a super combination of trekking and comfort in the Cotopaxi Volcano area staying in comfortable Haciendas around the region. This stunning trek will take us through valleys and Andean communities, private conservation areas, Cotopaxi National Park, and archaeological sites through exclusive trails and properties. Our trek culminates with the tough summit of Rumiñahui volcano at 4700m.



Detailed itinerary

Thurs 11 Jan: Depart London to Quito (2,800m)

Met on arrival and transferred to our hotel in Quito, 2,850m for 3 nights. Ecuador's capital city is dramatically situated and squeezed between mountain peaks of the Andes. With its warm and relaxed, traditional Ecuadorian Sierra culture, we will find overflowing market stands, shamanistic healers, fourth-generation hatmakers – mixed with a vibrant and sophisticated night life. Overnight Casa Gardenia.

Fri 12 Jan: Mitad del Mundo city tour

After a delicious breakfast, our guide and driver will take us to Mitad del Mundo (1-hour drive). As the name indicates, the Middle of the World is where the Equatorial Line divides the northern and southern hemispheres and where the Geodesic Mission measured the Earth. We will find the iconic monument marking the equator, allowing you to straddle both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres simultaneously. We will discover the various aspects of life along the equator with fascinating insights into the indigenous cultures of Ecuador and the significance of the equator. Overnight Casa Gardenia.

Sat 13 Jan: Quito walking tour

Buenos días from Quito! The Ecuadorean capital is located on the slopes of Pichincha volcano, and blends into the Andean landscape, at an altitude of 2,800m (9,186ft). Until the Spanish conquest (1532), the territory of Quito was part of the Great Inca Empire, the Tahuantinsuyu. The city of San Francisco de Quito is founded on the ruins of the northern capital of this empire. We will do a walk at Quito's historic downtown, declared World Heritage by the UNESCO. It is the best-preserved, least-altered historic centre in Latin America. Overnight Casa Gardenia.

Sun 14 Jan: Routes of the Waterfalls 5-6hrs trekking

Max altitude 3,289m

Today begins this five-day trekking adventure through the Avenue of the Volcanoes. Although one of the most beautiful areas of the Andes, this part of the Mountain Range is surprisingly off-the-beaten path. We will leave Quito early in the morning and drive for about 1.5 hours to our starting point on the slopes of Pasochoa Volcano at an altitude of 3,200m(10,499ft).

Sun 14 Jan cont.

Today's hike will be guided by the Pita River. A river that is born from the Cotopaxi, forming waterfalls and unique landscapes. We will trek on an out-and-back trail with lush vegetation and waterfalls where you can also have a refreshing splash (bring water shoes). After a recharging box lunch, we will start the second part of this acclimatisation day. We will trek for about 30-minutes through fields covered with high straw and, on a clear day, enjoy the magnificent view of the neighboring mountains covered with snow such as Antisana, and Cayambe. Overnight stay at Hacienda El Porvenir.



Detailed itinerary

Mon 15 Jan: Santo Domingo Lagoon

Upper trail

6-7hrs trekking

Max altitude 4,200m

Today's walk takes us to Hacienda El Tambo, on the eastern flanks of the Andes. We cross hills and valleys, guarded over by Quilindaña, a peak hard to see from the Central Andean Valley and which looks very much like the Matterhorn seen from the Italian side.

The average altitude that we walk at today is 3,800m. Although we get as high as 4,200m. on one mountain pass. We reach the farmhouse, an old mountain refuge, built on Inca stones. The terrain is mainly flat but there are a few steep hills. By the end of this day, we will have covered 32km. Overnight Hacienda El Tambo.

Tues 16 Jan: Quilindaña Volcano Trek

6-7hrs trekking

Max altitude 4,300m

After breakfast, we trek a beautiful circuit in a private conservation area, part of a major conservation project Condor Bioreserve, that connects several National Parks and that serves as a conservation corridor.

Tues 16 Jan cont.

We reach 4300m of altitude and reach Verde Cocha and Yuvraj Cocha two beautiful lagoons on the slopes of this remote volcano. Good possibilities for watching native fauna such as whitetail deer, Andean teals, and Andean foxes, and endangered species such as the black-faced Ibys, condors, pudus, and silvery greebs. Return to Hacienda El Tambo to enjoy dinner and overnight.

Wed 17 Jan: Santo Domingo Lagoon

Lower trail

6-7hrs trekking

Max altitude 3,850m

Today will take us on a circuit around Hacienda El Tambo, crossing the Chirimachai Canyon to reach Santo Domingo Lagoon. At Chirimachai the climate from the eastern jungle rises to meet that of the Central Andean Valley. There is a great supply of natural water, straight from the glaciers of Cotopaxi. The scenery is truly unbeatable. On the walk, we will be accompanied by local chagras on their horses since we pass land where there are fighting bulls. In the day, we walk a total of 22.4km. Transfer and overnight at Hacienda El Porvenir.

Thurs 18 Jan: Summit Rumiñahui

Altitude from 3,600m to 4,720m

7-9 hours trekking

Today we begin our tough climb of Rumiñahui Volcano very early in the morning. We cross vast highlands swept by the cold breath of the Andes. In one single picture one can take in valleys, mountains and neighbouring volcanoes. On a cloudless day, we will even can admire in the distance Ilinizas peaks and Chimborazo, the highest snow capped mountain of Ecuador. Tonight, we head back to the hacienda for our celebration dinner.



Detailed itinerary

Fri 19 Jan: Horse Trekking Rumiñahui Volcano (Papallacta Hot Springs) Approx. 3-4hrs riding

After breakfast, we will receive a brief riding lesson from our guides before we set out on our horses. Wearing the typical dress of the chagra, we ride out across the slopes of the dormant volcano, Rumiñahui. A legendary chagra from the area will come with us and share some of his deep knowledge of the country life. Back to the farmhouse for tasty local lunch.

After lunch we will drive to Papallacta Hot Springs (2.5 hours) with a quick stop by Quito Airport to drop those off who are leaving today. We will enjoy a relaxing afternoon/evening soaking at the natural hot springs surrounded by mountains to then return to Quito for a great night's sleep. Overnight Marriot hotel or similar – please note this is a separate cost to the trek.

Challenge grade

Tough to challenging

Best time of year

June, September or November to January

© Ultimate Challenges

This itinerary is complex and subject to change



Breakdown of Costs – Ecuador

Trek costs only

10-15 x participants - £3,265 per person

Price includes:

- Twin-hotel accommodation at the beginning trek
- Haciendas whilst on trek
- Full board except lunches in Quito
- English speaking trekking guide
- Any relevant park fees on trek
- Airport transfers upon arrivals and local transfers
- UK UTC Expedition Doctor

Not included:

- Return flights to Quito (can be booked as per individual requirements)
- Personal expenses
- Lunches in Quito
- Gratuities
- Single supplement
- Personal travel insurance
- Any COVID-19 related issues

Papallacta Hot Springs additional costs (Fri 19 Jan)

£375 per person

Above price includes:

- Transfer from El Porvenir to Papallacta Hot Springs
- Entrance to Papallacta Hot Springs
- Bilingual guide
- Transfer from Papallacta to Quito
- Twin-share hotel on 19 Jan at Marriott Quito or similar (with dinner)

Our pricing policy

We believe that we are very competitive and offer excellent value for money. However, it can be confusing when comparing prices, a small alteration in an itinerary, can make a substantial difference. We would be happy to review proposals you may have received from other tour operators, as we are confident that we can beat any genuine quote.