



Ecuador

Ecuador is a small country with enormous appeal. It squeezes in a little bit of everything; swathes of virgin jungle heaving with wildlife, snow-sprinkled Andean summits, active volcanoes, traditional villages, colourful Indian markets, World Heritage sites and offshore the fascinating Galápagos islands. Nowhere in the world will you discover such diversity so close to hand.

At a glance

- Sitting on the Equator - it is a year-round destination
- Rich diversity in geography, wildlife and culture
- Amazonian jungle, Andes mountains, cloud forest and tropical forests
- Over 1,600 species of birds
- Breathtaking train rides through the heart of the Andes
- Museums, markets, and colonial elegance
- Gateway to the Galápagos Islands (see separate section)
- Self-drive itineraries available

Getting there

There is a good choice of flights from the UK to Ecuador. Flights to Quito and Guayaquil from London Heathrow via Europe with KLM (via Amsterdam), Iberia Airlines (via Madrid) and via Bogota with Avianca Airlines. Regional departures include Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff, Bristol, Humberstone, Newcastle and Edinburgh.

Prices from **£2,915 per person** for a 12 night trip

Combinations

Ecuador combines well with the Galápagos Islands, Peru and Colombia.





Quito

In the lush green Guapulo Valley and surrounded by towering volcanoes, at an altitude of 2850 metres, Quito is a city that takes your breath away. The mountain setting means it enjoys a pleasant, spring-like climate all year round. Designated by UNESCO in 1978 as the first city worthy to be a World Heritage site, Quito combines the Spanish colonial charm of the Old City with its wrought-iron balconies, pastel coloured buildings and narrow rambling streets with the bustling broad avenues and commercial activity of the “new city” to the north.



Casa Aliso

Quito **BB**

Located in the fashionable residential neighbourhood of La Floresta within walking distance of restaurants and parks. Casa Aliso is a lovely boutique hotel resembling a stylish private residence. There are 10 rooms individually designed and include private facilities with bath and shower, cable TV, telephone and safe deposit box. The hotel does not serve lunch or dinner. A charming boutique property, a warm welcome and great hospitality make this hotel one of our favourites.



Casa Gangotena

Quito **BB**

Casa Gangotena is a historic former mansion in a prime location overlooking the cobbled Plaza San Francisco - the capital's most iconic square. It now operates as a luxury boutique hotel combining historic ambience with modern comforts. There are 31 richly decorated rooms and suites featuring art deco style furniture and private bathrooms (most with bathtub and shower). The hotel's restaurant serves Ecuadorian and international cuisine and you can enjoy pre-dinner drinks on the hotel's roof terrace affording some of the best views in the city.

Otavalo & Imbabura

Famous for its local crafts and artisan markets, in this region there are many towns that specialise in their own particular trade, be it textiles, hats, woodcarving or leather goods. The largest and most colourful market is held at Otavalo, where indigenous people from dozens of local villages meet in the Plaza de los Ponchos to display their handcrafted textiles. The province also features some of the most striking landscapes in the country, with many picturesque lakes surrounded by imposing mountains. As a result, the region is locally known as the province of lakes.



Hacienda Piman

Ibarra **HB**

Dating back to the 17th century, Hacienda Piman is a charming property tucked away in the countryside near to the town of Ibarra. The reception is set in a 19th century chapel located next to the old hacienda that has been sympathetically converted into comfortable accommodation with 7 rooms. In the grounds there are 5 additional cottages each with 2 bedrooms. These rooms have a more contemporary design and decoration and are surrounded by forest. Meals are taken in the restaurant that offers delicious home-cooked food and there is also a small swimming pool with sun loungers.



Hacienda Zuleta

Angochagua **FB**

Set in a 2000 hectare working farm, Hacienda Zuleta is a 16th century colonial manor house that once belonged to the family of a former President of Ecuador. The accommodation consists of 14 beautifully decorated guest rooms with open fireplaces. Meals are taken in the restaurant offering a variety of regional dishes made from fresh organic produce grown on the farm. Activities include walking trails, horse riding, mountain biking and the opportunity to see the daily operation of the farm. Guests can also visit the Condor Huasi Project which rehabilitates Andean Condors.

OUR TOP TIPS

Visit a confectioner in Quito's artisan district
• Head to the scenic hill of El Panecillo to see the Virgin of Quito statue who spreads her silver wings and watches over Quito. Take the cable car ride to appreciate the city's remarkable geography



For additional lodges, boats, itineraries and general information on Ecuador please visit www.sunvil.co.uk



Cloud Forest Region

Approximately 2 hours north-west of Quito lies the cloud forest region, including the reserves around the main town of Mindo. It holds one of the greatest concentrations of bird species anywhere in the world, many of them unique to the Choco bioregion, including the rare toucan-barbet, the cock of the rock and the golden-headed quetzal. No wonder it figures so prominently in any birdwatcher's dream itinerary! Here you can also admire up to 375 different types of orchids as well as varieties of bromeliads, alongside a spectacular array of butterflies. The nature trails, waterfalls and freshwater rivers offer further ways to explore the mysterious glories of this region.



Bellavista Lodge

Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve **FB**

This rustic property is located in the Bellavista Reserve which covers 700 hectares of primary and secondary forest. The reserve is home to a recorded 330 species of birds including 15 species of hummingbird. There are 10 km trails to explore plus horse riding or mountain biking available locally. We feature the Trailhead accommodation, which is one of five lodges within a short walk of the main building where guests take their meals. The simply furnished rooms offer private facilities and spacious balconies with hammocks where guests can watch the hummingbirds dart around.



Mashpi Lodge

Tumbes-Choco-Darien **FB**
(includes guided excursions)

Mashpi Lodge is located 3 hours North West of Quito in a protected reserve. Here emphasis is placed on protecting the environment whilst providing a very comfortable lodge for guests. Electric buggies are a mode of transport as well as an environmentally-friendly aerial tram for guests to view the rainforest from the upper canopy. There are 19 large guest rooms, tastefully furnished with private facilities and picture windows. Meals are served in a glass-fronted panoramic dining room and there are a number of terraces and lounges offering prime views over the forest.

Ecuadorian Amazon Basin

The Ecuadorian Amazon is easily accessible, and is protected by an increasing environmental and cultural awareness. It is home to over 600 species of birds and a huge variety of wildlife including caiman, bats, monkeys and sloths. This beautiful wilderness remains relatively unspoilt and is populated by indigenous settlements along the tributaries of the great Napo River. Regular heavy rainfall comes from the east, sustaining a densely covered tropical rainforest. As a result, the climate is hot and humid all year round. Many of the lodges are joint ventures with local communities.



Sacha Lodge

Napo River **FB**
(includes guided excursions)

Sacha Lodge is situated beside the tranquil oxbow Lake Pilchicocha and the thatched wooden buildings that form the lodge seamlessly blend into the surrounding primary rainforest. There are 26 simply furnished cabins with private bathrooms (shower) and porches with hammocks. All stays include daily group guided wildlife excursions including a canopy tower tour and a 300 metre walkway.



Napo Wildlife Centre

Napo river **FB**
(includes guided excursions)

Napo Wildlife Centre is located within the Yasuni National Park in a reserve covering 82 square miles. The main lodge houses dining hall, bar and a 15m viewing tower. The accommodation consists of 16 spacious cabins, all with a king size and single bed, private bathroom (shower) and a private porch with hammocks and lake views. All stays include daily excursions led by native guides.



MV Anakonda

Napo river **FB**
(includes guided excursions) 3, 4 and 7 night itineraries.

The Anakonda river cruise will take you to remote ecosystems that few have had the opportunity to experience. On board you will find everything you could possibly need including an al fresco lounge, outdoor Jacuzzi and observation deck. The 18 spacious cabins come with large comfortable beds, panoramic windows and the suites have private balconies.



The Avenue of Volcanoes

Few routes in the world could rival the spectacular drama of the road from Quito to Cuenca, weaving its way through lush, fertile valleys against a skyline that is dominated by a series of 14 majestic volcanoes, all over 4,500 metres high. The road passes close to the Cotopaxi National Park, a vast ecological reserve, home to Andean spectacled bear, Andean fox and llamas, along with Condors and hummingbirds. Further south, you come to the spa-town of Banos, nestling at the foot of the Tungurahua Volcano, whose thermal baths provide a restorative welcome and the charming city of Cuenca with cobbled streets lined with elegant buildings.



Hosteria La Cienega

Lasso (Cotopaxi) **BB**

Built in 1695 by the Marquis of Maenza, the Hosteria La Cienega still belongs to his descendants today. Originally built in the form of a square, the hosteria has a formal colourful garden in the centre, and there is also an ornate chapel and many cosy sitting areas. Guests can enjoy meals in the informal restaurant that serves a variety of local dishes. There are 32 large, comfortable en-suite rooms (some in a more modern extension) and two large suites, most furnished with original period furniture.



Luna Runtun

Banos **HB**

Luna Runtun is set in a unique location situated high above the town of Banos and on the opposite side of the valley to Tungurahua Volcano. It offers treatments utilising natural medicinal plants grown in the hotel gardens and volcanic stones. There are 29 individually decorated rooms and suites all with private facilities and a terrace with table and chairs. Some suites have a private garden and panoramic views.



Hotel Santa Lucia

Cuenca **BB**

Situated in the heart of Cuenca, just a short walk from the main square. The 20 individually decorated en suite rooms, including two suites, are decorated with rich fabrics and period furniture. The rooms come with cable TV, mini-bar, hairdryer and safe deposit box. Guests can enjoy Italian cuisine in the Trattoria Novocento Restaurant, traditional Ecuadorian cuisine in the INTI Restaurant and snacks in the oriental inspired Moshi Moshi bar. In addition, there is an attractive plant filled courtyard that provides an area for relaxation.

Guayaquil

Sited on the left bank of the Rio Guayas, Guayaquil is Ecuador's largest city and main sea port. One of the main attractions is the Malécon 2000 promenade with shops, restaurants and the giant La Perla ferris wheel. Other places of interest include the gothic style Metropolitan Cathedral of Guayaquil and Seminario Park (locally known as 'Iguana Park') located in front of the cathedral and full of Iguanas. Further afield is the tropical Parque Historico which exhibits the history and culture of the old province of Guayaquil that emerged at the end of the colonial times. There is also a wildlife zone which promotes the region's natural biodiversity.



Hotel del Parque

Guayaquil **BB**

This historic building was re-erected in Guayaquil's cultural Parque Historico in the 1980s. Today it has been lovingly restored and converted into a luxury boutique hotel. The hotel facilities include the Casa Julián Restaurant offering gourmet cuisine and two inner courtyards with fountains, lush tropical plants and comfortable rattan chairs. In addition, there is a reading room offering complimentary coffee and fresh pastries. There are 44 elegant guest rooms, featuring plush bedding, luxury Ecuadorian furnishings and marble bathrooms. Charming property and highly recommended.



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Tren Crucero

Enjoy the wonders of the Ecuadorian Andes on board this award winning luxury train service. Passengers travel in two elegant Colonial and Republican style cars pulled by modern, electric-diesel and lovingly restored antique steam locomotives. The journey offers diverse panoramas ranging from snow-capped volcanoes to ambient cloudforest. A bar car with two observation lounges and an open air terrace complete the setup. Some meals are served on board, while others are taken during the tours. In addition, snacks, fresh-made juices, coffee, tea, soft and alcoholic drinks are available all day. Your journey includes a carefully chosen selection of tours and nights are spent in characterful countryside hotels and haciendas along the way.

Suggested itineraries

Please find some suggested itineraries which can be tailored to suit individual requirements. They are simply examples of what is feasible within different timeframes. There are additional itineraries on our website or please speak to us for further guidance. They are aimed at individual travellers (NOT group escorted tours). Tours include an English speaking guide. Prices are a guideline only please contact us for an exact quote. Please note that we are able to quote for land only arrangements (no flights) but we require a minimum of 7 nights.

Guide prices include

- International economy return flights from the UK (see the itinerary for specific airline details)
- Accommodation - standard room unless stated otherwise
- Private transfers and tours (unless indicated otherwise)
- Internal flights (as featured in the itinerary)
- Meals (as outlined in the itinerary)

Board basis key

- BB** Bed and Breakfast
- HB** Half-Board
- FB** Full Board
- AI** All inclusive

Highlights of Ecuador - 14 nights

Based on KLM (via Amsterdam)
Guide price per person (2 sharing) £4,998

- Quito 2 nights **BB**
- Amazon basin 3 nights **FB**
- Imbabura 2 nights **HB**
- Mindo 2 nights **FB**
- Cotopaxi 2 nights **BB**
- Riobamba 1 night **BB**
- Cuenca 2 nights **BB**

Day 1 On arrival transfer to hotel in Quito. Casa Aliso 2 nights. **BB**

Day 2 Guided half day city tour of Quito including a visit to the Equatorial Line including lunch.

Day 3 Transfer to Quito airport and fly to Coca. Group transfer to jungle lodge by motorised and dugout canoe. Sacha Lodge 3 nights. **FB**

Days 4-5 Daily group guided tours and activities included.

Day 6 Return group transfer to Coca airport. Fly to Quito and transfer to hacienda in the Imbabura region. Hacienda Piman (new room type) 2 nights. **HB**

Day 7 Guided full day tour of the area including Otavalo market, Cuicocha Lake (in a volcano crater) and Cotacachi village.

Day 8 Transfer to the Cloud Forest region. Sachatamia Lodge 2 nights. **FB**

Day 9 Guided full day tour of the Cloud Forest region searching for the 'cock of the rock' bird, visiting a chocolate factory and local butterfly farm.

Day 10 Transfer to Cotopaxi region (either via Antisana National Reserve or Papallacta Hot Springs). CotopaxiPungo hotel 2 nights. **BB**

Day 11 Guided full day tour of the Cotopaxi National Park.

Day 12 Transfer to Riobamba, visiting the spa town Banos and nearby waterfalls en route. Hacienda Abraspungo 1 night. **BB**

Day 13 Transfer to Cuenca, stopping en route at Alausi to experience the dramatic Devil's Nose train ride. Santa Lucia Hotel 2 nights. **BB**

Day 14 Guided half day walking tour of Cuenca and visit to Homero Ortega Panama Hat factory.

Day 15 Transfer to Cuenca airport. Fly to Quito and connect with return flight to the UK.

Avenue of Volcanoes (self drive) - 12 nights

Based on KLM (via Amsterdam)
Guide price per person (2 sharing) £2,915

- Quito 2 nights **BB**
- Mindo 2 nights **FB**
- Imbabura 2 nights **HB**
- Cotopaxi 2 nights **BB**
- Riobamba 1 night **BB**
- Cuenca 2 nights **BB**
- Guayaquil 1 night **BB**

Day 1 On arrival transfer to hotel in Quito. Casa Aliso 2 nights. **BB**

Day 2 Guided full day city tour of Quito including the Equatorial Line and lunch.

Day 3 Vehicle delivered to hotel and drive to Cloud Forest region. Bellavista Lodge 2 nights. **FB**

Day 4 Day at leisure.

Day 5 Drive to Imbabura region. Hacienda Piman (new room type) 2 nights. **HB**

Day 6 Day at leisure.

Day 7 Drive to Cotopaxi region either via Antisana National Reserve or Papallacta Hot Springs (entrance fee not included). CotopaxiPungo Hotel 2 nights. **BB**

Day 8 Day at leisure.

Day 9 Drive to Riobamba, visit the spa town of Banos and nearby waterfalls en route. Hosteria La Andaluz 1 night. **BB**

Day 10 Drive to Cuenca, stopping en route at Alausi to experience the dramatic Devil's Nose train ride (not included in price). Santa Lucia Hotel 2 nights. **BB**

Day 11 Day at leisure.

Day 12 Drive to Guayaquil airport to drop off vehicle, stopping en route to visit El Cajas National Park. Take group shuttle bus to hotel. Wyndham Guayaquil 1 night. **BB**

Day 13 Transfer to Guayaquil airport for return flight to the UK.

Ecuador by Train - 6 nights

Based on KLM (via Amsterdam)
Guide price per person (2 sharing) £2,850

- Quito 2 nights **BB**
- Tren Crucero 4 nights **FB**

Day 1 On arrival, transfer to hotel in Quito. Swissotel 2 nights. **BB**

Day 2 Guided half day city tour of Quito including the Equatorial Line and lunch.

Day 3 Travel north to explore Otavalo and the Imbabura Region with its traditional cultures, skilled craftspeople and the world renowned market. The day includes a scenic train journey exploring the northern route of the Ecuadorian railway and a stop at Hacienda la Compania to enjoy a traditional Andean meal and a visit to the rose farm. Quito hotel for 1 night.

Day 4 Board the Tren Crucero at Quito's Chimbacalle station and journey south through the Avenue of Volcanoes en route to Riobamba. During the day you will enjoy a rodeo demonstration performed by skilled local horseman and meet the last ice merchant of Chimborazo. In the afternoon you will be transferred to a typical hacienda set in the heart of the Andes. Overnight in hacienda near Riobamba for 1 night.

Day 5 Setting off early, you will continue your journey south to Colta (the first Spanish settlement in Ecuador) where you will change locomotives and carry on to Guamote market, one of the last truly indigenous markets in the Andes. At Alausi station you will board the dramatic Devil's Nose train ride and descend into the Sibambe valley, a unique and wonderful experience. Overnight in hotel near Bucay for 1 night.

Day 6 In the morning a short bus journey will take you from the Andean slopes down into fertile tropical planes and a traditional hacienda. Here you will learn about the production of the Ecuadorian cocoa bean, considered by many to be the best in the world. After lunch you will transfer to Naranjito to catch the train to Yaguachi, where a restored steam engine awaits to carry you across the fields towards the Pacific Ocean and Guayaquil's Duran train station. Transfer to hotel. Oro Verde hotel in Guayaquil for 1 night (dinner not included).

Day 7 Transfer to Guayaquil airport for return flight to the UK (or add extension to Amazon or Galapagos Islands).

