



LAT-155 – A TRULY ANDEAN MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE

Horseback Riding, Mountain Trekking, Cotopaxi National Park

Four Days / Three Nights

Daily Departures from Quito

Physical Effort: Low - Moderate

ITINERARY

DAY 01: QUITO / HACIENDA PORVENIR

ROSE PLANTATIONS & COOKING IN THE CLOUDS

We leave Quito in the morning and head South to Machachi, a highland town located at the Heart of the Avenue of Volcanoes. This is a 1-hour drive from Quito. On the way to Hacienda Porvenir, we will visit NatuFlor, a farm that has over 25 hectares of cultivated greenhouses and 81 rose varieties. Due to their privileged location, their roses receive twelve hours of sun guaranteeing a unique quality, longer and thicker stems, vibrant foliage, intense colors, and higher durability. At the farm, you will witness the process of rose cultivation from the start until they are ready to be shipped. Lunch at the Hacienda.

Time to immerse yourself in history and culture through flavors! In the afternoon we'll have our Cooking in the Clouds lesson. The class starts by preparing our famous cheese empanadas, followed by the elaboration of aji. Aji or chili sauce is a very important part of Ecuadorian cuisine. The recipe varies from home to home. Here, at Hacienda El Porvenir we will learn how to make it the traditional way, on a stone mortar and seasoned with various herbs and spices. At last, we will learn how to prepare the delicious canelazo, a traditional hot drink that is served on celebrations in the Highlands of Ecuador. After the class we will enjoy the food we prepared next to a crackling fireplace.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight accommodation Hacienda Porvenir

DAY 02: HORSEBACK RIDE TO EL MIRADOR AND HIGH ROPES COURSE

Rise and shine! In the morning we will have a delicious, nutritious farm breakfast, followed by a brief riding lesson from our guides before we set out on our horses. Wearing the typical dress of the "Chagra" (Ecuadorian cowboy), we start a 2-hour ride through exclusive trails at the hacienda. The first portion of the ride we will get acquainted with our horses and ride on dirt roads. Then we will ride through an open paramo where we can learn about the native flora and fauna of the area. We will reach 3,800 mts. (12,500 ft) at "El Mirador de los Guardianes del Volcán" where, on a clear day, we will enjoy a magnificent view of the Cotopaxi Volcano,

then we will start our descent towards the hacienda. The pace of the horses is mainly walking, but we can trot and canter on portions of the ride. Good possibilities of spotting Andean birds on this ride. Return to the hacienda. Back in the farmhouse, a tasty local lunch will be ready on our arrival. In the afternoon we will have the chance to walk in the clouds on the High Ropes course! This is a high adventure activity with low environmental impact, letting people with little or no knowledge of climbing techniques have a unique experience in a safe environment. We will traverse ladders, nets, tightropes, swinging logs, wobbly bridges, and more fun surprises at 20 ft from the ground (6m).

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight accommodation Hacienda Porvenir

DAY 03: RUMIÑAHUI VOLCANO TREK

Get your trekking shoes on, after a wholesome country breakfast, we begin our trek to Rumiñahui Volcano inside the exclusive trails of the hacienda, crossing vast highlands swept by the cold breath of the Andes. In one single frame one can take pictures of valleys, mountains, and neighboring volcanoes. On a cloudless day, we will even admire the Illinizas peaks and Chimborazo, the highest snow-capped mountain of Ecuador. Hiking takes about 5 hours total round trip. The technical level is for beginners and the physical level is medium. We will trek along with a local guide that will share with us his knowledge about the mountains, the páramo, and the local culture. . We will have a lunch-date with the Apus (Mountain Spirit) taking a packed lunch for this hike. Then we will return to Hacienda El Porvenir, a warm fireplace will be waiting for you.

Meals: Breakfast, Packed Lunch

Overnight accommodation Hacienda Porvenir



DAY 04: COTOPAXI NATIONAL PARK VISIT

Have you ever thought about how glaciers are possible on the Equatorial line? Have you ever wondered how it is to climb an active volcano? Would you like to discover why ancient explorers pointed out Cotopaxi as one of the most beautiful mountains in the World? This is a great opportunity to immerse yourself in a fantastic day trip of exploration to the Iconic Cotopaxi National Park. Home of herds of wild- truly wild- horses, Andean foxes, and deer. Where migratory birds stop by to get some rest on their way South.

The location is the perfect place to learn about Andean geology, with Pasochoa, Rumiñahui, Sincholagua, and Cotopaxi Volcano being the hosts. On the visit, you will reach the car park below the Cotopaxi Refuge, where you begin a short hike up to the climbing hut (Refugio José Ribas) at 4,800m (15,744 ft). It is hard not to be overwhelmed by the sheer immensity of the Volcano on this short hike (about 1.5 miles round). Once back in the vehicle, you will continue the way, driving down to Limpiopungo Lake, where a wholesome box lunch will

be served. After fueling, the exploration will continue a vast territory with ancient Inca military fortresses and plains full of volcanic rocks from past eruptions. Don't forget to hydrate and bring your camera for this spectacle! (Breakfast/Packed lunch). Return to Quito. (Breakfast/Packed Lunch).

Meals: Breakfast, Packed Lunch

Overnight accommodation Hacienda Porvenir.

TOUR RATES INCLUDE:

Three-night accommodation at Hacienda Porvenir based on double occupancy.

Land service and daily tours as indicated in itinerary fully escorted by Licensed English speaking guides.

Round trip transfers between a hotel in Quito and Hacienda Porvenir.

Gears required for the activities.

Entrance fees to National Parks and Rose Plantation

Entrance to APU Mountain SPA wet area

Meals as indicated in itinerary plus one soft drink per meal.

NOT INCLUDED:

International air between points in USA and Quito.

Travel and Health Insurance (Highly Recommended)

Land service, tours, accommodations not indicated in itinerary.

Expenses of personal nature. Alcoholic drinks

Gratuities/Tips to guides.

NOTE: Horse Riders can't exceed 220 pounds of weight.

NOTE: Itinerary subject to change due to weather conditions or rose plantation visit days.

NOTE: To participate in this tour you must sign a waiver of liability.

NOTE: We recommend you buy a travel health insurance plan.

