

ECUADOR - CLASSIC ECUADOR



TRIP CODE

CLA-ECU

DURATION

10 Days

LOCATIONS

Ecuador



INTRODUCTION

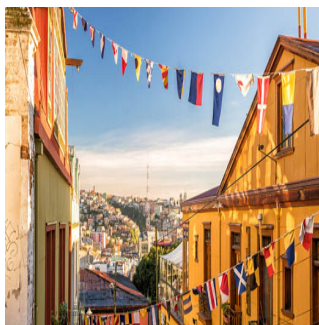
Choose this Tailor-Made itinerary or customise to create your own unique journey.
Departs daily to suit your travel plans. Price based on Standard accommodation.
Superior or Deluxe also available.

Take a 10 day snapshot tour of the wonderful country of Ecuador. Starting in the lively city of Quito, we explore the colonial centre, the Equatorial Monument and take a tour to the colourful market town of Otavalo. Then it's on to Mindo cloud forest and Cotopaxi National Park. Take a ride on the famous âDevil's Noseâ train from Alausi before heading to Cuenca and Cajas National Park.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival transfer in Quito

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. This service includes a driver and local English speaking guide, who will provide you with any useful information needed for your stay. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Should you not be able to locate them, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details of our representative office.



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DAY 1: Quito

Sitting at 2,850 metres above sea level high in the Andean foothills lies Quito, the capital of Ecuador. The city, a short distance from the Equator and with an amazing backdrop of snow-capped mountains, is known for its stunning colonial architecture and art-work. Founded in the 16th century on the ruins of an Inca city, Quito has one of the largest, least-altered and best-preserved historic centres in the Americas. It was declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 1978.



DAY 2: Quito - City Tour and the Equator

This morning you will be collected from your hotel to commence a colonial city tour of Quito exploring the bustling streets and squares of the largest historical old town in the Americas. Visit some of its most important churches such as the majestic La Compañía and iconic San Francisco which have stunning multi-ethnic designs and cultural heritage. We then travel by road to the Equatorial Monument, 25km (16 miles) north of Quito, which marks the exact middle of the World, Latitude 0°, where you can stand with a foot on each hemisphere. A certificate for having crossed the Equator is issued to each guest. The surrounding, volcanic scenery is stunning and you can choose to either visit the Ethnographic Museum or the Inti Ñan Museum, both located near the site of the monument. On completion of the tour, you will be returned to your hotel. Please note this is a private tour that includes a local English speaking guide.



DAY 3: Quito Otavalo Market Excursion

We head 1.5hrs north of Quito to visit the Otavalo indigenous market; the most important indigenous market in South America. On the way, we pass by small villages, the snow capped volcano Cayambe, the San Pablo Lake, and the Imbabura Volcano. In the city of Cayambe, we make a quick stop to try the traditional biscuits before continuing to Otavalo. The market is the largest of its kind in South America, offering many different kinds of arts and crafts from local communities.



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DAY 4: Quito Private Mindo Excursion

Northwest from Quito is the valley of Mindo, nestled in the cloud forest and abundant in species of plants, birds, butterflies, reptiles, mammals, and waterfalls. We will see some of this unique flora and fauna using the town’s cable car and visit Mindo’s butterfly sanctuary or orchid garden. We will return to Quito in the late afternoon.



DAY 5: Quito to Cotopaxi with Lunch


We will depart from Quito early after breakfast, heading south through the famous “Avenue of the Volcanoes.” We will arrive at the National Park, which is located 60km away from the city of Quito. The Cotopaxi Volcano is one of the most important landmarks in Ecuador because it is the highest active volcano in the world. Lush endemic flora and fauna of the area can be observed, including one of the most representative species - the Chuquiragua (also known as the mountaineer’s flower), wild horses, deer, llamas, and more.



DAY 6: Cotopaxi - Quilotoa - Riobamba

In the morning, we will take a route called Pujilí’s Way, passing through Quilotoa, stopping at Pujilí’s Market (only Wednesdays and Sundays), the little village of Tigua with its artesian paintings. This route has some of the most spectacular landscapes of Ecuador. Arriving at Quilotoa’s crater we will get a chance to visit the green-blue colored lake inside. Attendees will be allowed to walk down to the lake border and return up again by mule. Later we will continue until Riobamba.




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DAY 7: Riobamba - Devil's Nose - Ingapirca - Cuenca

After an early breakfast we depart Riobamba to the south, as we head for Alausi where we will board the train to “The Devil’s Nose.” En-route we will make several stops, visiting the Balbanera Church, Colta Lake, and the indigenous town of Guamote. Mid-morning we will arrival at the town of Alausi where we will begin our adventure on Ecuador’s famous “Devil’s Nose” train. After about a four hour ride, we will return to Alausi in the early afternoon where our bus will be waiting to take us to Ingapirca. Continuing on, we will pay a visit the Ingapirca fortress, located at 3,100m above sea level. These ancient ruins are the most important in the country. Their true history is still a mystery, as studies differ as to whether they were a fortress, an observatory or a temple. After visiting the ruins we will finish our trip on the road to Cuenca, arriving in the early evening.



TRIP CODE
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DAY 8: Cuenca: Cajas National Park

Just after breakfast, the tour will depart, heading northwest towards Cajas National Park. After a short drive, arrival in Cajas National Park will allow us to take part in different activities such as hiking, fishing, bird-watching, viewing flora and fauna, and more. We can visit the Interpretation Centre placed in La Toreadora Lake (the biggest and the most important in the whole complex). Here we will see pictures and interpretations of the park.



DAY 9: Cuenca - Guayaquil

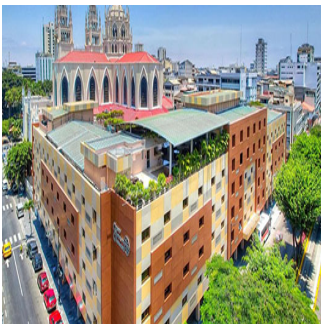
In early afternoon, we will departure heading towards the city of Guayaquil. On the road we will find mountain scenery and a delightful change of vegetation as we encounter the glorious Ecuadorian coastline. If so desired, we can make a short stop to visit a banana plantation in Puerto Inca (Hacienda Jambeli). The tour will arrive in the city of Guayaquil in the early evening and you will check in at your hotel.



ECUADOR - CLASSIC ECUADOR

DAY 10: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotels
Inclusions	Private airport transfers Internal flights as mentioned in itinerary Accommodation with breakfast daily Sightseeing with local English-speaking guide Other meals where stated Exclusions International flights Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Travel insurance Beverages Personal expenses Gratuities for tour guides/drivers Any items not mentioned as included
Difficulty Rating	1 (easy)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, contact us for more details.
Notes	All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. This is a Tailor-Made itinerary which can be customised to create your own unique journey. Contact us to discuss your travel plans.
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason,

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all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore remain culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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