


ECUADOR - OTAVALO HACIENDA STAY



TRIP CODE
ECTSOHS
DURATION
5 Days
LOCATIONS
Ecuador


INTRODUCTION

This exciting five day trip offers you an fascinating cultural immersion. You start the adventure in vibrant Quito, before taking in the colourful markets of Otavalo where you can shop for handicrafts made by local artisans, chat to friendly locals and try some delicious food. You will drive on the famous Pan-American Highway, visit local communities, and pass by snow-capped mountains, waterfalls and beautiful lakes. You can practice your bartering skills at the many markets, learn of local cultures, witness stunning architecture and immerse yourself in a beautiful and deep history in one of the most fascinating places in Latin America.

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. 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. Please note this service is with a driver only.



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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 to Otavalo Hacienda

Depart Quito with your tour guide, heading to Otavalo, the town famous for its weekly artesan market. En route on the Panamerican Highway stop at Calderon, a town where the famous masapan dolls are made, continuing on through Guayllabamba town where you can sample its typical fruit, the cherimoyer. Stop on the highway to admire the beautiful landscape and snow-capped mountains in the area. Continue on, making a short stop at San Pablo Lake before arriving at the hacienda.



DAY 3: Otavalo Indian Village Tour & Cuicocha Lake

On this excursion visit three indigenous communities with the opportunity to observe handicrafts being made, such as mats of the 'totora plant', musical Andean instruments, and the process of making shawls in a traditional way. The tour also includes a visit to the waterfall at Peguche which is a sacred site and a visit to the town of Cotacachi, known for its leather shops. End the tour at the beautiful volcanic Cuicocha Lake and take a short boat trip before lunch at a local restaurant in Otavalo. The rest of the afternoon will be at leisure.



NO IMAGE
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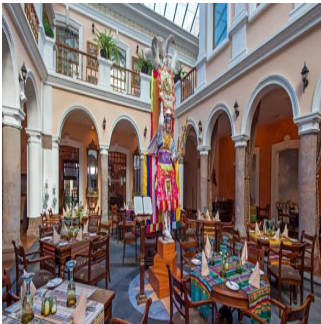
DAY 4: Otavalo Indigenous Market & Return to Quito


In the morning visit the textile market located at the Plaza de Ponchos; this is one of the most famous markets in South America. You will find all kinds of handicrafts including tapestries made on the Spanish weaving loom as well as on the indigenous backstrap loom. Then enjoy some free time for bargaining and buying from the friendly Otavaleños. After a full day spent in Otavalo, return to Quito and you will be taken to your hotel.



DAY 5: 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	Standard
Inclusions	Accommodation with breakfast Tours as stated on the itinerary Airport transfers as stated on the itinerary Meals as stated on the itinerary
Difficulty Rating	1 (easy)
Single Surcharge	FROM US\$160 - Subject to season and availability, contact us for more details.
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

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Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu's "Pass it on" programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.
- 4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.
- 5) Chimu Adventures' offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure's internal processes are also structured to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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