

# ECUADOR - QUITO



## INTRODUCTION

Begin your journey in Quito aboard the historic Tren Crucero, and travel through the 'Avenue of the Volcanoes' that exists as 20 volcanoes and mountains imposed in a valley of astonishing beauty. Visit the indigenous local market place of Guamote and learn about Andean culture. After experiencing the ranges up high, prepare to descend through the steep zig zag of the mountains to the valley of Sibambe.

A magnificently unique way to see the amazing and captivating landscapes of Ecuador whilst staying in beautiful haciendas each night.

## ITINERARY

### TRIP CODE

ECTSQGL

### DEPARTURE

Enquire for exact departure dates

### DURATION

4 Days

### LOCATIONS

Ecuador



## ECUADOR - QUITO

### DAY 1: Quito -Cotopaxi - Lasso - Latacunga

This morning meet at the historic Chimbacalle station, where you will board the Tren Crucero and begin the journey through the 'Avenue of Volcanoes', some of which are still active. Arriving at the second highest railway station of Ecuador, you will disembark and take in the beautiful sights of a rose farm and learn about why Ecuador is home to some of the best rose farms in the world. Enjoy lunch before heading to Cotopaxi National Park and take a moderate altitude walk, of which you will find different varieties of flora and fauna that have adapted to the high altitude. Continue onto Latacunga where you will overnight at a historical hacienda.



### DAY 2: Latacunga - Urbina - Riobamba

Departing from Latacunga station, you will enter the Yambo lagoon as you cross the inter-Andean Valley. Experience 'Diablada Pillarena', an Andean tradition where you will see colourful devils and folklore celebrations from the comfort of your train. Moving on, reach Urbina station, the highest point of the journey, and meet Baltazar Uschca, the last ice merchant of the Chimborazo. He will share his almost extinct culture and traditions. Continue onto Jatari where you will take in the ancestral knowledge of the community of La Moya and the cultural traditions of the Quichua-Puruha. Participate in activities led by the locals based on ancestral work systems. The train will be waiting to take you to a unique historical town, Riobamba where you will overnight. Here you can take a stroll through the city before sunset and explore the handcraft plaza.



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### DAY 3: Riobamba – Devil´s Nose – Alausi


From Riobamba station, ‘The Black Monster’, a huge steam locomotive will take you through colourful quinoa fields, stunning villages and unique landscapes. At Colta, switch from the steam to diesel-electric machine. During this manoeuvre you will have plenty of time to take pictures of the steam locomotive and surroundings. Continue the journey and visit the authentic Andean Market in Guamote. After the market visit, travel by bus to Alausi where you will board a train that takes you to the famous Nariz del Diablo (the Devil’s Nose), as you descend into the Sibambe Valley. Alausi is where you will rest for the night, a small city nestled between sharp mountains and diverse plantations.



### DAY 4: Alausi – Naranjito – Yaguachi – Duran

This morning, embark on a scenic trip from the magnificent Andes to the quiet esplanades of the Pacific Coast. Arrive at a very traditional hacienda located on the coast of Ecuador, where you will experience a tour of the plantations and learn about the trade of Cacao in the area, of which is considered some of the best cocoa beans in the world. Lunch will be served at the hacienda. Naranjito is the next destination, where you will board the train to Yaguachi. There, a Baldwin steam locomotive will be waiting to take you to the final destination of the trip. Arriving in Duran before the sun sets. Transfer to your hotel in Guayaquil where you will overnight.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS	
Accommodation	Hotels & Haciendas

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<b>Inclusions</b>	Transportation board the Tren Crucero Accommodation All meals during the itinerary Bilingual guides Excursions as mentioned in itinerary Luggage portorage at hotels Transportation to specific hotels in Quito and Guayaquil - contact us for list of hotels <b>NOT INCLUDED:</b> Alcoholic beverages Meals not mentioned Personal expenses Gratuities
<b>Difficulty Rating</b>	1 (easy)
<b>Single Surcharge</b>	Contact us for more details.
<b>Notes</b>	Contact us for more details
<b>Price Dependent upon</b>	Season and Availability.

## SUSTAINABILITY

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 structures 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

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bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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