ECUADOR - HIGHLAND MARKETS & CLOUD FOREST EXTENSION



TRIP CODE
ECLTOMCF
DEPARTURE
Daily
DURATION
5 Days
LOCATIONS
Ecuador

INTRODUCTION

Embark on an unforgettable journey to explore the enchanting wonders of Ecuador's countryside. Travel through the Ecuadorian Highlands to the small town of Otavalo, home to one of South America's most renowned markets, where indigenous artisans display their vibrant crafts. Witness the allure of Ecuador's iconic roses as we explore a local rose farm, learning about their cultivation and significance. Spend the night at a charming highland hacienda. Continuing our adventure, you will travel via the Quitsato sun dial, located in the middle of the world. Then delve into the mystical depths of the Mindo Cloud Forest, where lush foliage and diverse wildlife await. Immerse yourself in nature's embrace as we encounter exotic birds, vibrant butterflies, and fascinating flora. Join us on this captivating journey as we explore the soul-stirring beauty of Ecuador's landscapes and communities.

This extension is designed to combine with our Signature Galapagos Package or Signature Galapagos Express Package - both of our Signature Packages include 3 nights in Quito and a visit to Cotopaxi National Park.

ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Quito to Otavalo

This morning, embark from Quito with your tour guide toward Otavalo, famed for its vibrant artisan market. En route along the Pan-American Highway stop in Guayllabamba to indulge in some locally renowned cherimoya fruit. Your journey continues to Tabacundo, home to a Rose Plantation renowned for its exquisite roses. Pause to admire the stunning landscape and snow-capped mountains before a brief stop at San Pablo Lake. Upon reaching Otavalo, explore the Plaza of Ponchos, one of South America's most renowned markets, offering an array of textiles and handicrafts. Enjoy some leisure time for bargaining before visiting a colonial hacienda for an optional lunch. Finally, venture to the artisan village of Cotacachi where you will overnight.



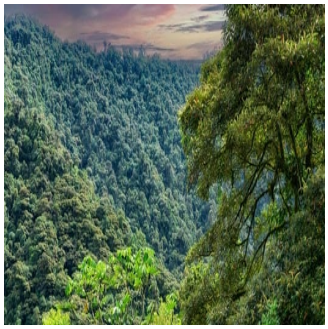
DAY 2: Otavalo to Mindo Cloud Forest

After breakfast, before your journey to Mindo, you'll visit 'Quitsato,' an intriguing site boasting a large Sun clock spanning 52 meters in diameter, crafted from a mosaic of stones. This unique clock marks solstices, equinoxes, and hours, illuminated by a towering 10-meter pole at its centre. Then you'll be transferred to your Mindo lodge. You can opt for some evening wildlife spotting or relax and enjoy the tranquillity of the cloud forest.



DAY 3: Mindo Cloud Forest

Immerse yourself in the breathtaking cloud forest surroundings with activities such as an early morning bird hike led by an expert guide. Afterward, enjoy a hearty breakfast before embarking on a day filled with adventures, including exploring lush trails and discovering mesmerizing waterfalls. Whether joining guided hikes or opting for self-guided exploration, the lodge offers ample opportunities for relaxation and connection with nature, such as observing the diverse hummingbird species. Your experience in the Mindo Cloud Forest is designed to create unforgettable memories in the heart of nature.



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DAY 4: Mindo to Quito

This morning enjoy a morning activity at your lodge or simply enjoying the sounds and sights of the awakening cloud forest. You will be transferred back to Quito and overnight at a hotel by the airport.



DAY 5: Depart Quito

This morning make your way to the airport by included hotel shuttle in time for your onward departure flight.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotel & Jungle Lodge
Inclusions	**Inclusions** Private transfers throughout with a local driver and/or guide Shared transfer from Mindo to Quito Accommodation with breakfast daily Other meals where stated Sightseeing with local English-speaking guide as detailed in the itinerary Small group sightseeing while in Mindo at Jungle Lodge **Exclusions** International and internal flights not indicated Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Travel Insurance Beverages unless otherwise specified Personal expenses Gratuities for tour guides/drivers Any items not mentioned as included
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)

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Single Surcharge	A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	Prices are based on per person, twin share. Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.
Price Dependent upon	Seasonality and availability at time of booking.

SUSTAINABILITY

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