

ECUADOR - QUITO IMMERSIVE STAY



INTRODUCTION

Discover the best of Ecuador's capital with this immersive six-day stay in Quito, combining rich cultural experiences, fascinating history, and spectacular natural landscapes. Explore the heart of one of South America's best-preserved colonial cities on a unique sensory journey through its charming streets, local markets, historic landmarks, and artisan workshops. With plenty of time based in one location, you'll gain a deeper appreciation for Quito's vibrant character while enjoying a relaxed pace of travel.

Beyond the city, venture into two of Ecuador's most remarkable natural destinations. Experience the dramatic scenery of Cotopaxi National Park, home to one of the world's highest active volcanoes, and wander through the misty cloud forests of Mindo Valley, renowned for their incredible biodiversity and colourful birdlife. With a free day to explore independently, this itinerary offers the perfect blend of authentic local encounters, guided sightseeing, and personal discovery.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE
ECLTQIE
DEPARTURE
Daily
DURATION
6 Days
LOCATIONS
Ecuador


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DAY 1: Arrival transfer in Quito

Welcome to Quito, the capital of Ecuador. The city is situated 2,850 metres above sea level within the Andean foothills and is known for its snow-capped mountain backdrop, colonial architecture and artwork. Once part of the Incan Empire, Quito has been declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site thanks to its well-preserved historic centre. Once you land, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer to your hotel, located in the old town and you're free to explore on your arrival. This service includes a driver and local English speaking guide, who will provide you with any useful information needed for your stay. They 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 2: Quito Six Senses Tour

Today, you will embark on an immersive tour meticulously crafted to engage all of your senses. This experience promises to awaken your touch, tantalize your taste buds with culinary delights, fill your nostrils with the rich aroma of coffee beans, treat your eyes to the sight of beautiful cobblestone-lined streets and historical edifices, and serenade your ears with the melodic tolling of church bells. Moreover, we've included the sixth sense of love; you'll feel the passion that local artisans pour into their crafts and even have the chance to participate in a demonstration. Embark on your journey with an immersive exploration of Quito's vibrant streets and squares, steeped in colonial charm. Wander through the renowned Street of the Seven Crosses, admire the grandeur of Independence Square and Government Palace, and marvel at the ornate domes adorning historic churches. A leisurely stroll along bustling La Ronda street, alive with character and bustling activity, awaits. Depending on availability, your day may include visits to artisans, indulging in traditional sweets with a delightful taste test, or joining a painting session with the esteemed Escuela Quiteña, known for their restoration work on colonial art in the city's historic chapels. You may also try your hand at making traditional ice cream or quesadillas, or even weaving the iconic toquilla straw hat. Additionally, we can arrange visits to local markets where you can savor authentic cuisine, ensuring a tailored experience that reflects your preferences. As the day comes to an end, retreat to the enchanting neighborhood of San Marcos. This area is filled with galleries, cozy coffee shops, and delightful family-owned stores, all set against the backdrop of elegant Neo-Classical architecture adorned in soft pastels. Wrap up your tour with a relaxing drink at a rooftop bar, boasting stunning views of Panecillo hill, surrounded by the historic cityscape. Note: This is a private tour lasting approximately 5-6 hours, covering transfers, an English-speaking guide, entrance fees, and snacks. Activities may vary based on the day of the week and the season of your travel, but the tour is thoughtfully curated to encompass key attractions and provide unique local experiences.



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DAY 3: Full Day Private Mindo Valley Excursion

Journey northwest from Quito to the enthralling valley of Mindo, cradled within the lush cloud forest, known for its rich biodiversity of plant species, diverse birdlife, butterflies, reptiles, mammals, and stunning waterfalls. Engage in an immersive experience with the area's unique flora and fauna, taking in the breathtaking sights from the town's cable car and discovering the vibrant birdlife. Keep an eye out for some of Mindo's renowned bird species such as the Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, the Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, and the vibrant Tanager species. Delve deeper into this natural paradise by visiting Mindo's captivating butterfly sanctuary or vibrant orchid garden. As the day winds down, we'll return to Quito in the late afternoon, having marveled at Mindo's natural wonders.



DAY 4: Cotopaxi National Park Excursion

After breakfast, we'll embark on an excursion to Cotopaxi National Park, home to the iconic Cotopaxi Volcano, one of Ecuador's most renowned landmarks and the highest active volcano in the world. Within the park, you'll explore the region's unique flora and fauna, encountering species such as the Chuquiragua, known as the mountaineer's flower, along with wild horses, deer, llamas, and more. A highlight of the visit includes marveling at Limpiopungo Lake, situated near the towering Rumiñahui Volcano, which stands at an impressive altitude of 4,757 meters. Following this exploration, we'll head to the famous Pujili Market. No visit to Ecuador is complete without experiencing the vibrant energy of a traditional market, where locals from nearby villages gather to trade handcrafted goods and essential items. The Pujili Market offers an authentic, less touristy atmosphere and a diverse selection of high-quality crafts distinct from those found in more commercialized areas. At the end of the tour, you'll be transferred to your hotel in Quito. Note: This is a full day private tour including transfers, English-speaking guide, lunch and entrance fees.



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DAY 5: Free Day in Quito

Free time in Quito to explore this wonderful city on your own.



DAY 6: Depart Quito

At the appropriate time, you will be transferred from your hotel to the airport for your onward flight.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotel
Inclusions	Inclusions Private airport transfers Accommodation with breakfast daily Other meals where stated Sightseeing with local English-speaking guide as detailed in the itinerary
	Exclusions International and internal flights not indicated 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 adventure)
Single Surcharge	A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.

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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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