

ANDES ADVENTURES AT THE COTOPAXI

Full Day Tour in the Andes



Embark on an exciting day tour to the iconic Cotopaxi Volcano and its stunning surroundings. Rejoice in the wonders of the breathtaking Andean landscapes, unique highland wildlife, and a captivating glimpse into the daily life of the local community, as you explore this remarkable volcanic wonder in all its glory.

ANDES ADVENTURES AT THE COTOPAXI

South of Quito, the majestic Cotopaxi volcano beckons, offering a captivating introduction to the avenue of the volcanoes. Its name originates from a combination of Quechua words that can be translated to “Neck of the Moon”.

The journey towards the colossal mountain begins with a hotel pick-up, followed by a scenic drive through the Andes highlands.



The first stop of the day is a visit to a bustling traditional market in the heart of an Andean town. This magnetic hub is full of stalls and walking vendors selling everything from fresh produce to handmade crafts and tasty meals, offering a first-hand insight into the region’s rich cuisine and cultural heritage.

After a spectacular ride with the breathtaking views of the highlands, you will arrive at the Cotopaxi National Park, where you’ll be enchanted by Limpiopungo lake’s picturesque charm. At a distance you may be graced by the sights of wild horses, ducks, llamas and other local animal and plant species. Capture unforgettable moments of the park’s other towering peaks like Rumiñahui, Sincholagua and Morurco. Then you will continue by car to the Interpretation Center of the park, where you will be able to gain important knowledge about the region, the park and ongoing conservation efforts.



Next, prepare for an invigorating hike to the **volcano's first basecamp** at 16,400 feet, guided by our expert. From this vantage point, you will be inspired by the breathtaking panoramic Andean landscapes.

The basecamp features a small store where hot beverages, water and snacks can be purchased. After a well-deserved break, you will begin your descent back to the car. **



Another interesting site to explore inside the Cotopaxi National Park is the Inca ruins of **Pucará Del Salitre**. Discover this 15th century strategically built military fortress' remains that offer all visitors a wonderful glimpse into the region's pre-colonial history with the added value of the stunning view of the highlands plateau and the glorious Andes that surround them. **



A relatively recent discovery within the park is **Cueva de los Buhos** (Owls Cave), which is home to two owl species, with other birds like eagles also known to visit the area. The "cave" is a geological fault believed to have formed as a result of an eruption of the Cotopaxi volcano and a subsequent earthquake. The area surrounding the cave is a true testament to the Andes ecosystem, featuring shrubs and trees distinctive to the area.**





After a full day of exciting adventures, a delicious lunch awaits you at a local venue. Indulge in a delightful meal while basking in the awe-inspiring Andean landscape, providing the perfect farewell to the Cotopaxi area.

You'll then be transported back to your hotel in Quito. End of services.

INCLUDED

- Private Transportation
- Bilingual Guide
- Entrance Fees
- Snack/Treat
- Lunch including one soft drink

NOT INCLUDED

- Additional / Extra Meals
- Personal Expenses
- Extra soft beverages
- Alcoholic beverages
- Extra and/or non-scheduled visit/activity
- Tips

Notes:

- ****Our expert guide will be able to adjust some parts of the itinerary to your preferences. Nevertheless, due to time constraints, it is not possible to include all these activities in the same tour.**
- The itinerary and order of visits is subject to change due to weather, municipal regulations, safety and/or unforeseen circumstances.