

OTAVALO & BEYOND: THE BEST OF THE NORTHERN ANDES

2-day Tour in the Andes



Explore the finest of Otavalo and its surrounding regions with these exceptional getaways, revealing the treasures of the northern Andes: impressive peaks, stunning lagoons, spring-like weather and a vibrant cultural heritage preserved in its cuisine, traditions, art and the warm hospitality of its people.



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Day 1 (-/L/D)

The journey begins with a hotel pick-up, leading north from Quito. Weather permitting, the northern Andes will welcome you to embark on this exciting two-day adventure.

The initial stretch of the trip showcases a captivating view of diverse ecosystems, transitioning from the dry Guayllabamba region to the paramo scenery of the Cayambe volcano.



The first stop of the day offers a fascinating glimpse into the cultural and scientific connections since pre-colonial times. Noteworthy sites include Quitsato, featuring a remarkable solar clock spanning 170ft in diameter, illuminating solar culture, solstices and equinoxes worldwide. Nearby lies *Las Ruinas de Cochasqui*, a pre-Inca complex displaying pyramids built before the 1500's using volcanic stones, alongside burial mounds, locally known as *Tolas*.

Whether visiting Quitsato or Cochasqui, breathtaking views of the Andes await, accompanied by insights into the history and background of the millenary indigenous groups of the area.



Continuing the journey and passing by the village of Cayambe, a second stop treats you to sample the traditional *Bizcochos*, a delightful buttery pastry often enjoyed with a special leaf-wrapped cheese. Following this savory break, the trip continues to a stunning rose plantation of the area, where you can admire countless colorful blooms and gain insight into Ecuador's flower industry and its role in the country's economy.



Arriving at San Pablo Lake, with the majestic Imbabura volcano as a backdrop, be ready to capture the stunning Andean scenery at a carefully chosen viewpoint. Following a delightful lunch, visit the renowned Otavalo market, where you can explore this colorful place full of vivid art, lively music and an abundance of cultural charm.

As the day concludes, a flavorsome dinner and a restful night await at your Otavalo hotel/inn.

Day 2 (B/L/-)

Following breakfast, your journey continues to Peguche, a town near Otavalo renowned for its skilled weavers and the preservation of ancient traditions deeply rooted in harmony with nature. Explore this wonderful place with a visit to vibrant artisan workshops and witness the experts' work firsthand.





Next, venture to Cotacachi, nestled between the Imbabura and Cotacachi volcanoes. This valley town features a warm climate and a charming town full of quaint plazas and cobbled streets. Celebrated for its thriving leather industry, here you will have the chance to admire and visit many family-owned boutiques with some of the region's finest leatherwork.

Continue the journey to Cuicocha crater lake, revealing an impressive depth and two prominent lava islands at its center. Alongside its cultural richness, Cuicocha offers another splendid photo opportunity, surrounded by breathtaking Andean landscapes and the serene natural settings of the region.

Following a brief scenic drive, enjoy a delightful lunch at an ancient hacienda, steeped in rich regional history and adorned with local art and flowers, creating a unique welcoming ambiance.

After this wonderful meal, you will be transported back to your hotel in Quito. End of services.

INCLUDED

- Private Transportation
- Bilingual Guide
- Meals as described in itinerary (B=Breakfast, L= Lunch, BL= Box Lunch, BB= Box Breakfast)
- One Soft drink included with lunch & dinner
- One night of accommodation
- Entrance Fees
- Snack in Cayambe

NOT INCLUDED

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

Notes:

The itinerary and order of visits is subject to change due to weather, municipal regulations, safety and/or unforeseen circumstances.