

VOLCANIC AVENUE EXPEDITION: COTOPAXI & QUILOTOA

2-Day Tour in the Andes



Stunning peaks and turquoise waters are just the beginning! This overnight expedition offers an introductory exploration of the Avenue of the Volcanoes, revealing awe-inspiring paramo landscapes, highland fauna, secluded quaint towns and the warm hospitality of its people.

THE PERFECT ANDES GETAWAY: COTOPAXI



Day 1 (-/L/D)

Embark on a volcanic journey starting with a hotel pick-up, heading south from Quito toward the iconic Cotopaxi volcano. This mountain name originates from a combination of Quechua words that can be translated to “Neck of the Moon”.

Your senses will delight with the backdrop of the Andean highlands in contrast with the colors of fresh produce and the vibrant sight of blooms and their soft aromas, while the refreshing mountain wind graces through your skin, as you will visit a bustling traditional open market that offers great insights into Andean cuisine and cultural heritage with a delightful snack. Then discover the significance of the rose industry in Ecuador’s at a local plantation.

Upon arrival at the Cotopaxi National Park, diverse experiences await:

The picturesque charm of Limpiopungo lake offers a magnificent Andean experience. As you walk around the lake and grounds, you may be graced by the sights of wild horses, ducks, llamas and other local species. **

Surrounded by the park’s towering peaks like Rumiñahui, Sincholagua and Morurco, the Interpretation Center features a complete guide to the park’s ecosystem, conservation efforts and regional insights. **



The volcano's first basecamp (located at 16,400 feet) offers an invigorating hike of about 1,500 feet, where a much rewarding breathtaking panoramic view awaits along with a well-deserved break before your descent back to the car. **



The Inca ruins of Pucará Del Salitre are a 15th century strategically built military fortress that offers a wonderful glimpse into the region's pre-colonial history and a stunning view of the highlands plateau and the Andes that surround them. **



Cueva de los Buhos (Owls Cave), is a geological fault believed to have formed because of an eruption of the Cotopaxi volcano. It's home to two owl species, eagles and other wildlife. The area also features shrubs and trees distinctive to this ecosystem. **



After a day filled with exciting adventures, you'll be greeted with a delicious lunch at a traditional local venue or inn, followed by checking into your hotel for the night.

You will have some time to enjoy the awe-inspiring Andean landscape of the inn, its gardens and amenities. A delightful dinner will be followed by a restful night.



Day 2 (B/L/)

Enjoy breakfast before a drive through the central Andes of Ecuador. On the way to Quilotoa crater lake, the westernmost volcano within the Ecuadorian Andes, you will pass by quaint indigenous villages, offering a chance to view the Andes and its people from up-close.

Upon arrival at Quilotoa's crater border, you will be able to admire the incredible, turquoise-colored lake located inside the volcano's two-mile wide caldera and admire the ever-changing lake's color due contrasting perfectly with the breathtaking Andes views and peaks.

Quilotoa offers various hiking options to explore its breathtaking scenery:

- Traditional Viewpoint: An easy 20-minute hike.
- Shalala Viewpoint: An active hike of approximately one hour.
- Lake-Shore Hike: A strenuous 2-hour trek.



After the hike, a tasty lunch is served at a local venue where another chance of admiring the surrounding mountains is provided.

Before returning to your hotel in Quito, take the chance to visit the Tigua art gallery and workshop. Originating from this region, Tigua art is renowned for its vibrant wood masks and intricate paintings on sheepskin, depicting everyday life scenes. Spend some time admiring and shopping for these unique artworks before concluding this enriching Andean adventure. 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 mid-range class accommodation
- Entrance Fees
- Snack on Day 1

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.

** Due to time constraints, not all these activities will be included in one day; your guide will tailor the experience to suit you and your party. change due to weather, municipal regulations, safety and/or unforeseen circumstances.