



## Beauty and the Beach

OK, so you'd like to see some of the top sights that Ecuador has to offer, but you'd also really like some relaxation time, right? Perhaps in a top hotel at one of Ecuador's top resorts? Maybe you'd like a gym, a sauna, a massage service and all the other little extras to make sure you're well and truly pampered?

If this sounds like the sort of Ecuador holiday you're interested in, then look no further. Our "Beauty and the Beach" holiday will show some of the most beautiful sights in Ecuador, including Cuenca, Quito and the stunning Cotopaxi National Park, before we head for the beach for that quality relaxation time.



### Day One - Arrival in Quito

As your holiday in Ecuador begins, we'll be there to pick you up and take you to your hotel, which is in the heart of Quito. You will probably be wanting some time to rest and get used to the altitude so we have left the rest of today free for you to relax. Your hotel is close to dozens of restaurants and cafes, as well as all the other facilities you'd expect from a capital city, so if you're feeling up to it then why not head on out and explore?



### Day Two - City tour of Quito

After a free morning to relax and settle into things, we will pick you up after lunch and take you for a tour of Quito's Old Town, including the plazas, Cathedral and other sites of interest before heading out of town to the "Mitad del Mundo" (Middle of the World) centre, located right on the Equator, so you can stand astride the world!



### Day Three - Into the cloud forest

We will be seeing a different aspect of the Andes today, as we pick you up after breakfast this morning for the drive down the western slopes of the Andes, towards the town of Mindo. This area is known throughout Ecuador as "Mindo Lindo" (Beautiful Mindo) for the stunning scenery you will see along the way. We will arrive at the El Monte cloud forest lodge in the later afternoon and we will take you to your cabin and show you around the lodge and the beautiful private gardens before one of El Monte's superb lunches! In the afternoon, we will walk out into the forest along the banks of the Rio Mindo to appreciate the huge variety of bird and plant-life we can find here. We will then return to the lodge to relax before dinner and a short briefing on tomorrow's activities.



### Day Four - Amazing wildlife in the cloud forest

This morning we will rise early to head out and see some more of Mindo's amazing wildlife – toucans, parrots, quetzals, flying squirrels and agoutis can all be seen in the area and we'll hope to see as many as possible. We will then head back to the lodge for breakfast, before going for a longer walk up into the Nambilillo valley in the hills behind the lodge. As well as the chance to see more fantastic wildlife, we will end our trail at a beautiful waterfall with a crystal-clear pool underneath, where we can cool down and swim. We will then head back to the lodge for lunch before driving back to Quito.



#### **Day Five - Cotopaxi National park**

The snow-capped mountain of Cotopaxi is one of the enduring symbols of Ecuador, and no holiday in Ecuador is complete without a trip to see it. Today we will take you on a full-day tour through the Cotopaxi National Park, giving you the chance for some breathtaking photos along the way.



#### **Day Six - On to the beach!**

This morning we'll take you to the airport to catch a flight to the coastal city of Guayaquil. Here we'll pick you up and drive you further along the coast to the resort town of Salinas, where it's time to hit your 5-star hotel and then hit the beach!



#### **Days Seven and Eight - Relaxation time**

These two days are all about you kicking back on the beach and enjoy all the facilities and amenities your luxury hotel has to offer. All together now: deep breath... and relax...



#### **Day Nine - Back to Quito**

After breakfast this morning, we will pick you up and take you back to Guayaquil for the short flight to Quito, where you can get ready to head out for a final full day here in Ecuador. Postcards sent? Souvenirs bought? Then you're all set to enjoy a traditional meal before it's salsa time...



#### **Day Ten- Onward bound!**

Most flights back to the UK and to the Galapagos leave in the morning, so you'll just have time for breakfast today before it's time to say goodbye to Ecuador as we pick you up and take you to catch your flight either home, or on to your Galapagos cruise...

## Easy upgrades

As we've said, we can tailormake your itinerary to your exact specifications, and you can have a look at our Ecuador Guide or some of our other Ecuador Holidays for ideas about how to add to this holiday, but we can also offer you some easy optional extras which fit into this exact itinerary:



### Upgrade accommodation - from £50pp

This price is based on our standard 3-star hotels, which all have ensuite bathrooms, cable television, full buffet breakfasts, etc. However, if you'd like to upgrade your hotels to something with a little more luxury then please just ask and we'll make some recommendations!



### Machalilla National Park - from £200pp

Why not take a couple of days and head a little further up the Pacific coast to the Machalilla National Park. As well as stunning beaches, off the beaten track so you can have them all to yourself, you also go whale-watching in the seas off Puerto Lopez and you can even stay in a top-of-the-range fabulous beachside treehouse!

## Tailormade for you

Of course, what we want you to remember is that we're here to offer you any guidance and advice you need. We're not about trying to sell you more than you want - we want you to have the holiday that's right for you, so give us a call or send us an email and we can start to find out what sort of Ecuador holiday is right for you!