



## Beginner's Guide to Ecuador

If your priority is a Galapagos Cruise but you'd really like to spend a little time in Ecuador on either side of your trip, then this is the perfect Ecuador holiday for you.

This five-day mini-break is a great introduction to everything Ecuador has to offer from the colonial splendour of Quito, to the dramatic natural scenery of the Cotopaxi National Park, complete with a trip to the local market of Otavalo - this trip is a great way to make sure you get to see a slice of the Real Ecuador!



### 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 - Otavalo market

An early start today, as we head out of Quito into the mountains to the north for a slice of the Real Ecuador! We'll be heading to the bustling local market at Otavalo - a typical mountain town that just happens to be home to the largest market in Ecuador! You can check out the beautiful local textiles, haggle over some excellent leather goods, or just sit back with an Ecuadorean coffee and take it all in! After a full day here, we will return to Quito in the evening.



### Day Four - 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 Five - 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!



### **Cuenca: the prettiest city in Ecuador - from £250pp**

Why not take a couple of days and head to Cuenca to see the traditional 'panama' hat makers at work and soak up the colonial charm in one of Ecuador's most pleasant cities.



### **Relaxing on the Pacific Coast - from £400pp**

If you want a bit more relaxation time then why not head to the warm Pacific Coast and soak up some sun? We have a range of excellent beach hotels so you can enjoy some comfort and relaxation after all that culture and wildlife...

## 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!