



Cotopaxi Trek

Day One

Today you will fly to Quito, and be transferred to a central hotel.

Day Two

After breakfast this morning you will be collected and transferred to the Santa Rita Ecological Reserve. You will have an acclimatization day hiking through trails of high mountain forest, and make a visit to Condor Machai Waterfall. You will have the afternoon to relax and adjust to the altitude. Camp overnight.

Aprox. distance trekked: around 5 km.

Altitude: from 3,300 to 3,500 meters

Full Board



Day Three

Today you will trek from Santa Rita Reserve towards Hacienda El Porvenir through trails of high mountain forest until you reach the Loreto Community. In the last kilometres you will hike through agricultural fields and cobalt stone roads until you reach Hacienda El Porvenir where we spend the night. The hike will take about 4hrs going from 3200m to 3600m, again helping with the adjustment to altitude. Overnight at Hacienda El Porvenir.

Total distance trekked: Around 13 km.

Altitude: from 3,300 to 3,600 meters

Full board

Day Four

Today you will enter the Cotopaxi National Park and trek towards the base of the Volcano. The trek will take you to the ruins of "Pucara del Salitre", a strategic military fortress that dates back to the Inca Empire. It was used to monitor the roads that led to the Amazon Rainforest and the Central Valley. This old road or "incanan" will lead you to our campsite at Mudaderos (3900 m). Along the way you will have the chance to see herds of Alpacas, wild horses and Andean birds. Today's trek is relatively flat and will take 6-7 hours. Camp overnight.

Total distance trekked: Around 17 km

Altitude: from 3,500 to 3,900 meters

Full board

Day Five

Today you will trek towards Hacienda El Tambo. This pristine and unique place was an Inca refuge and stockyard on the road to the jungle. During the Colony, the Jesuit missions destroyed the Tambo and build sheep and cattle corrals with the stone. Hundreds of years later, the owners of the house re built it, using the same stone that the Inca hands carved.

Continued...

This magical place is surrounded by scenic views of the surrounding volcanoes Quilindaña, Antisana and Cotopaxi.. Hacienda El Tambo is at 3700m, with welcoming warm bed and hot showers available!. Dinner and overnight at the hacienda.

Total distance trekked: around 17 km

Altitude: from 3,900 to 3,700 meters (highest point 4,200 meters)

Full Board



Day Six

Today you will trek from Hacienda El Tambo to Chirimachay Base Camp. The scenery is unique and you can see how the lava rivers flooded the area during the last Cotopaxi eruption. Today's trek will be exciting as this area has fighting bulls. A "Chagra", a local cowboy will chaperone you, just don't wear red! Chirimachay is at 4000m.

Total distance trekked: around 12 km

Altitude: from 4,000 to 3,600 meters

Full board

Day Seven

Today you will hike from Chirimachay to Chuquirahua base camp. The hike is flat and takes about 8hrs. The route will follow a water canal with spectacular views of the valley. The base camp has an awesome setting with beautiful views of Cotopaxi.

Total distance trekked: around 19 km

Altitude: from 4,000 to 3,600 meters

Full board

Day Eight

An early start this morning as you begin your climb Rumiñahui Volcano, crossing vast highlands swept by the cold breath of the Andes. In one single picture one can take in valleys, mountains and neighbouring volcanoes. On a cloudless day, you will even have the opportunity to admire in the distance Ilinizas peaks and Chimborazo, the highest snow-capped mountain of Ecuador. After reaching the Central Summit of the Volcano, you will head down to Hacienda El Porvenir where warm beds, electricity, a delicious dinner and cosy fireplaces will be waiting for you. 7-8 hours trekking time.

Total distance trekked: around 12 km

Altitude: from 3,600 to 4,615 meters

Full Board

Day Nine

After a leisurely breakfast, you will head down to Quito. You will have the afternoon to explore this unique city, before a celebratory dinner in the evening, a chance to reminisce over what will have been an amazing trip. Overnight at a central hotel in Quito.

Day Ten

Today we will head to the airport for our flight back to London.

Continued...

Includes:	Accommodation, meals and activities as detailed in the itinerary, English speaking guide, 4x4 support vehicle, park fees, International flights
Excludes:	Tips and gratuities in county, travel insurance
Price per person:	Price on application
Best time to travel:	All year round
Is it for you?	This trip allows you to experience the beauty of the Cotopaxi National Park. It is an active trip so the fitter you are the more you will enjoy it. Accommodation is in traditional hacienda's or camping.