



Cloud Forest and Beyond from AUD 2015 for 21 days Visiting: Ecuador



Straddling the equator, Ecuador has a range of ecosystems from snowy Andean peaks to tropical jungles. The Alto Choco Reserve covers thousands of acres of cloud forest with wildlife that includes Andean spectacled bears and dwarf deer. Imaginative Volunteers will have the chance to work in this beautiful reserve which is located in one of the ten most biologically important zones in the world. After working at the reserve, you'll travel around Ecuador discovering a fascinating blend of colonial and indigenous cultures, charming towns and villages with impressive architecture, and colourful local markets.

Day 1 - QUITO

Arrive in Quito.

Day 2 - QUITO – AMAZON

Head through spectacular Andean scenery into the Amazon. We spend the 3 nights in a secluded jungle lodge on the world's greatest ecosystem. (BLD)

Day 3 to Day 4 - AMAZON

We have two full days in the Amazon to fully appreciate the diversity of this unique wilderness area. We explore on foot and by canoe, accompanied by a local guide. (BLD)

Day 5 - AMAZON – BANOS

We take a morning bus to Banos, a lovely town situated in an idyllic location on the slopes of Tungurahua volcano. (B)

Day 6 - BANOS

A full day to explore Banos and the surrounding area. There are a range of different options including hiking, riding horses into the mountains, exploring by mountain bike and relaxing in the hot pools for which the town is famous. (B)

Day 7 - BANOS – RIOBAMBA

Morning bus journey to Riobamba at the foot of the Chimborazo Alps. The afternoon is free to explore the surrounding mountain scenery. (B)

Day 8 - RIOBAMBA - CUENCA

Board the famous 'Devil's Nose' railway for the journey across steep-sided ravines and rocky gorges to Alausi. Continue by bus to the old colonial town of Cuenca, stopping in Ingapirca, Ecuador's finest Inca ruins. (Note: if the train is not running we will travel by bus instead). (B)

Day 9 - CUENCA

Morning walking tour of this beautiful city. Its cobblestone streets, flowering plazas and whitewashed buildings with old wooden doors and ironwork balconies make it a pleasure to explore. (B)

Day 10 - CUENCA - CAJAS NATIONAL PARK

Over 250 lakes separated by rocky ridges make Cajas NP one of the most beautiful natural spots in Ecuador, with abundant birdlife including the condor and many hummingbirds. We spend the day touring the park by bus and on foot. (B)

Day 11 - CUENCA – QUITO

Last chance to buy an authentic Panama hat, originally made in Cuenca, before we fly back to Quito. (B)

Day 12 - QUITO

Quito is one of Latin America's most historically important cities with a wealth of architectural gems and the dramatic backdrop of the Pichincha volcano. The day is free to explore. (B)

Day 13 - QUITO – OTAVALO

We set off by bus to Otavalo, a traditional Andean town with one of South America's best markets. The afternoon is free to explore the town. (B)

Day 14 - OTAVALO - ALTO CHOCO

Saturday is market day in Otavalo and the streets throng with stalls selling the brightly coloured textiles for which the region is famous. In the afternoon you will travel north by public bus to the Alto Choco Reserve. (BD)

Day 15 to Day 19 - ALTO CHOCO

You spend the week volunteering and relaxing in the lodge amidst the beautiful surroundings. (BLD)

Day 20 - ALTO CHOCO – QUITO

Say farewell to your hosts and return to Quito. (B)

Day 21 - QUITO

Key: (B) = Breakfast, (L) = Lunch, (D) = Dinner

Local Payment : There is a local payment of US\$200 on this tour. This must be paid to the tour leader in cash in US Dollars on Day 1 of the tour.

Volunteer Programme Donation: There is a minimum donation of US\$55 on this tour. This must be paid along with the tour payment. The donation is transferred to Fundacion Zoobreviven ahead of your arrival.



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