



# PUMAMAKI EXPEDITIONS, INC.

ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME

## TRAVEL ECUADOR



View of Imbabura Volcano

### **Biography**

Abby Sloan, a teacher at Emerson Middle School in School District 64, Park Ridge/Niles, founded this company based on curricular integration of Spanish, the study of South America, biomes and real life experience. She has traveled worldwide for years and has found the best place where learning and adventure combined will result in a trip of a lifetime.

Global fundraising is mandatory for our trips to Ecuador. This means that all participants are required to take goods or money and deliver them to those who are less fortunate than us. In this case, it is ALDEC - The Street Children of Ecuador-Quito. On our first day in Quito, arrangements will be made to have lunch with these children and deliver our goods.

### **10-Day Trip Particulars**

Here's what is included:

- \$100 donation to an organization of your choice
- Roundtrip airfare (U.S. - Quito)
- All accommodations at top notch hotels: the Swiss hotel in Quito, Luna Runtun in Banos and Arasha Resport and Spa
- All meals (excluding beverages)
- Land transportation on Tourism buses
- Expert English-speaking guide
- Tour of Quito including the Historic Center
- Cable car ride 14,000 feet above seal level for an aerial view of the city
- Walk down prominent waterfall, Devil's Caldron
- Partake in one of the many spa treatments at Luna Runtun, a resort set into the mountains outside of Banos
- Night walk through the rain forest
- Early morning bird watching
- Tour a chocolate factory
- Shop at Otavalo, one of South America's richest market of handcrafts
- Experience Friday night services at the new synagogue in Quito that overlooks a valley
- Attend Saturday morning services when the ark is open

6311 Lincoln Avenue, Morton Grove, IL 60053  
Phone: (847) 583-1074 Fax: (847) 583-1864

[www.pumamakiexpeditions.com](http://www.pumamakiexpeditions.com)

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Here's what is NOT included:

- Items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, souvenirs, etc.)
- Beverages at meals in restaurants
- Gratuities for guide, driver and waiters
- Ecuador departure tax of U.S. \$40.80 per person (subject to change without previous notice)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What's the weather like?

Since we'll be near the Equator and at an altitude of 9,200 feet, the weather is temperate; roughly upper 60's, lower 70's year-round. The Amazon Basin will be hot 80's to 90's. As we travel higher in altitude, the weather will get cooler, and is typically in the 50's.

### Do I need shots?

No, you do not need any shots.

### How do I pack?

Try to keep to a 35 lb maximum weight of luggage. Bring layers of clothing for the various types of weather. One suitcase or duffle bag should be sufficient. Bring a bathing suit and towel, hiking boots and water shoes. A waterproof camera is also suggested. In addition, a packing list will be provided at a future meeting.

### How much money should I bring?

Your expenses will be for beverages, tips, shopping and a trip to the spa. Beverages and tips would be approximately \$300-\$400. Ecuador is a poor country and therefore, souvenirs are inexpensive. Small denominations of bills (\$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20) strongly recommended for bargaining at markets.

### What's the currency?

The currency is the American dollar, so there is no need to change money. ATM machines are available at various points during the trip. Visa and MasterCard are accepted at most establishments.

### What's the electricity?

Electricity is 100 volt, like the U.S. and therefore, adaptors not needed for charging camera batteries, cell phones, hair dryers, etc.

### Can I call home and how much will it cost?

Phone stores are available throughout the trip. The cost is roughly 10-20¢ per minute.

### What is the time zone of Ecuador?

Ecuador is on central standard time, the same as in Chicago



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## Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

### **Is it safe there?**

Yes, but like anywhere in the world, you should take precautions and be aware of your surroundings. Generally, the only time we will be in a major city is the first and last day. For the bulk of the trip, we will be away from crowds and function as a group.

### **How long is the flight?**

The flight is roughly 7 hours long, with a 3-hour flight to Miami and a 4-hour flight to Quito, Ecuador.

### **Do we have to go through customs?**

Yes. Upon our arrival in Ecuador, we go through customs which takes approximately 1 hour. On our return, we go through customs in Miami, which also takes about 1 hour.

### **Do I need a passport?**

Yes. Make sure that on your application your name is spelled exactly as it is on your passport. Also, make sure that your passport is good for 6 months beyond your trip date.

### **Once our application, deposit and copy of the passport have been submitted, will we have any additional meetings?**

Yes. In fact, we have one meeting about three months prior to trip departure to discuss our global giving. At that time I will collect the balance of the trip cost, give out a suggested packing list and answer any further questions you may have.

### **What airline do we fly?**

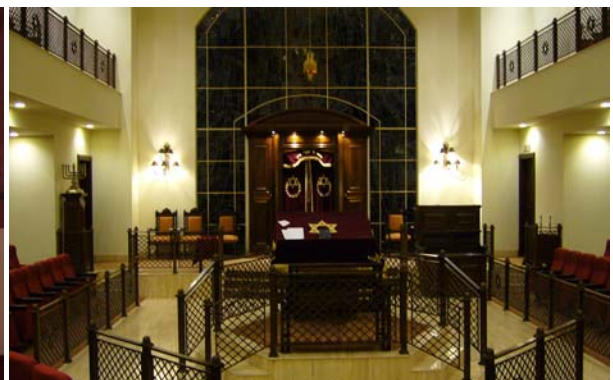
American airlines

For further information, contact Abby Sloan

[Abbysloan@pumamakiexpeditions.com](mailto:Abbysloan@pumamakiexpeditions.com)



Abby Sloan and local Tour Guide



Inside the Comunidad Judia Del Ecuador Synagogue  
Quito, Ecuador

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