



PUMAMAKI EXPEDITIONS, INC.

ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME

ECUADOR CULTURE TRIP

"Journey to the Center of the World"

An incredible journey of discovery through the breathtaking Avenue of the Volcanoes, exquisite Colonial Cities, vibrant Indian markets, raging Waterfalls and mysterious Rain Forests.

Welcome to South America's best kept secret: ECUADOR!

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 Quito

Upon arrival in Quito, we will be met by our local representative and transferred to our hotel.
OVERNIGHT

Day 2 Quito

After breakfast at the hotel, we will explore Quito, the Capital of Ecuador, located at 9,200 feet above sea level at the base of Pichincha Volcano. A stroll through this UNESCO's World Heritage Cultural Site showcases some of the Historic Center's many architectural and artistic gems. Independence Square, La Compañía de Jesús Church - with its awe-inspiring golden alters - and the monumental monastery of San Francisco are but a few of the highlights that have made Quito one of the most impressive Spanish colonial cities in Latin America. After lunch, we will ride through the clouds on Quito's *TelefériQo* cable cars that climb to nearly 14,000 feet above sea level for a bird's eye view of the city and mounts. Welcome Dinner.
OVERNIGHT

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 Quito-Baños

From Quito, we will drive through the Avenue of the Volcanoes to our next destination, Baños. En route, lunch will be served in one of the beautiful colonial Haciendas. Located beneath the erupting Tungurahua Volcano, Baños has a setting unlike any other; mountains, rivers and waterfalls.

OVERNIGHT

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 Baños

This morning, we will drive through the dramatic Pastaza River Canyon and its affluents, ending at the impressive Devil's Cauldron waterfall. The remainder of the afternoon can be spent at the beautiful grounds of Luna Runtún, request a spa treatment or hike through the paths that surround our hotel.

OVERNIGHT

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

6311 Lincoln Avenue, Morton Grove, IL 60053

Phone: (847) 583-1074 Fax: (847) 583-1864

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DAILY ITINERARY (continued)

Day 5 **Baños-Arashá**

Today we venture North on our way to the lowlands rainforest. Lunch en route. Arrive in the late afternoon to Arashá, a beautiful tropical resort set in one of the World's biodiversity hotspots. Tonight, we will learn the mysteries of the rainforest on a night walk.

OVERNIGHT

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 **Arashá**

Today we will have a chance to choose from many activities such as bird watching early in the morning, making chocolate the traditional way, fish your dinner, play miniature golf, or simply chill by the pool. New Year's dinner and entertainment.

OVERNIGHT

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 **Arashá-Quito**

In the morning, we can enjoy the resort and its activities. In the afternoon, we will stop by the Equator Line Monument where you can place one foot on each Hemisphere! Return to Quito.

OVERNIGHT

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 **Quito**

After breakfast, the road takes us to Otavalo market, piled high with some of the best handicrafts in the Andes; tapestries, "Panama" hats, jewelry, paintings and so much more. Lunch at a local Hacienda. Return to Quito.

OVERNIGHT

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9 **Quito**

Today we are invited to service at the Sinagogue of Quito. Great opportunities to meet with Ecuadorian Jews and learn about their experiences as the only Jewish Community in Ecuador. Farewell Dinner.

OVERNIGHT

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10 **Quito**

Transfer to the airport for your flight back to the U.S.

Breakfast



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CULTURE TRIP DETAILS

Included:

- International flight from U.S. to Quito, Ecuador
- \$100 donation to an organization or your choice
- Services of English-speaking, licensed guide/coordinator throughout the trip
- All transportation in comfortable Tourism coaches
- All meals, as indicated in itinerary, **excluding** drinks at meals
- Accommodations in double-occupancy facilities in Quito, Baños and Arashá; single accommodations upon request
- All tours and activities, as described in itinerary
- Local service and value added taxes (VAT or IVA in Spanish)

NOT Included:

- MANDATORY Travel Insurance
- Items of a personal nature (i.e., phone calls, souvenirs, laundry, etc.)
- Beverages at meals in restaurants
- Ecuador departure tax of U.S. \$40.80 per person (subject to change without previous notice)
- Gratuities for Guide, Driver and Waiters, Activity Guides

Climate

The Andean area of Ecuador has a very pleasant temperature all year. December-January often sees rain in the afternoons. Highs will typically be in the low 70's and in a cool evening the temperature can drop to the low 50's. One has to be prepared for rapid changes of temperature throughout the day.

In the lowlands tropical rainforest temperatures are considerably higher, high 80's in the daytime and 60's in the evenings. Humidity is close to 100%. Expect rain in the afternoons or evenings.

Clothing

Mountain weather calls for layers of clothes for outdoor activities. Fleece tops or sweatshirts are very handy. A lined outdoor jacket, gloves and knit hats are useful. Hiking boots/shoes are appropriate for some of our hikes. For the Lowlands, light clothes are a must, but also long trousers and long-sleeved shirts for our jungle walks. Don't forget plenty of mosquito repellent and rain ponchos or windbreakers.

Altitude

All travelers to Ecuador must take into consideration that Quito and the rest of the areas visited are all above 8,000 feet above sea level. It is normal to feel short of breath and/or a headache the first day; drink plenty of liquids and do not overexert yourself. Remember, all activities are optional. The sun is also stronger, since in the Andes it is "closer" to us. Protect yourself with lots of sun block!

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CULTURE TRIP DETAILS (continued)

Currency

Since September 2000, Ecuador has adopted the U.S. dollar as its only currency. It is not necessary to exchange money at all! Bills and coins come from the U.S.; but Ecuador also has its own coins (same sizes and denominations) which are used indistinctively.

Terms and Conditions

Pumamaki Expeditions, Inc., and its cooperating agents make every effort to select reliable suppliers and contractors to provide transportation, hotels, guides and other travel-related services; but we do not assume responsibility directly, or indirectly, for any loss, damages or injury to property or person in connection with such services. Each traveler agrees not to hold Pumamaki Expeditions, Inc., its owners, employees, agents or representatives liable, in the absence of their own gross negligence, for any loss or injury, expense or damage which results directly or indirectly from any act or omission of any person or firm which is to or does provide goods or services in connection with the trip or with any available option.

Pumamaki Expeditions, Inc., and its cooperating agents shall not be liable for circumstances arising as a result of Acts of God; weather; detention; annoyance; delays and expenses arising from quarantine; strikes; theft; pilferage; force majeure; military, political or terrorist action; civil disturbances; government restrictions; failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled; discrepancies or changes in transit over which they have no control. Pumamaki Expeditions, Inc., reserves the right to change the program fee, dates or itinerary with little or no notice. If such changes do occur, no refunds will be made beyond those described in our cancellation policy and Pumamaki Expeditions, Inc. will not be liable for expenses incurred as a result of the change (such as air tickets change fees, etc.).

Safety and Trip Enjoyment

Your "Journey to the Center of the World" is planned in areas where the environment can sometimes lead to unpredictable conditions. Your safety is our first concern. It is important to remember that this trip will take place in wilderness environments, often far from hospital services. To avoid possibly dangerous situations, it is extremely important that all travelers obey the rules and regulations set forth by the organizers and/or local guides. We reserve the right to prohibit any traveler from continuing on a planned activity if, in our opinion, that traveler's actions pose a threat to the safety of himself/herself, others or to the wildlife; or if that traveler's actions or behaviors are seriously jeopardizing the enjoyment of the trip for others.

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CULTURE TRIP DETAILS (continued)

Cancellation and Refund Policy

We understand how disappointing it can be for participants in the event they are forced to cancel their adventure. But we too plan for these adventures for quite a long period prior to your departure and must continuously send non-refundable payment to hotels and suppliers of transportation. Therefore, we must adhere to our cancellation policies.

- All cancellations processed before 90 days prior to trip departure will require a \$100 cancellation fee
- Cancellations made 90-45 days prior to trip departure require a loss of 50% of the entire program fee
- Cancellations made within 44 days of trip departure require a loss of the entire program fee

PLEASE NOTE: The information here noted is prepared well in advance of the trip departure date. Due to the nature of your Journey to the Center of the World Trip, hotels, modes of transportation and in some cases, itineraries may change. If this does occur, we will attempt to provide similar facilities, but are not always able to do so. We hope you understand.

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS (Hotels and Spas subject to change)

Luna Runtún, The Adventure Spa

www.lunaruntun.com

Caserio Runtún Km. 6

P.O. Box 18-02-1944

Banos, Ecuador

Phones (+593-3) 274-0882 / 274-0883

Fax (593-3) 274-0376

Swissotel Quito

Avenue 12 de Octubre y Luis Cordero

Quito, Ecuador

Phone (+593-9) 127-1565

Arashá Tropical Rainforest Resort & Spa

Via Middle of the World

Calacali, Lo Independencia KM 121

Shyris 3941 8avo Piso

Quito, Ecuador 17-11-6300

Provincia de Pichincha

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