

## ECUADOR VOLCANOES

### 16-Day Trip Itinerary

*The below itinerary is flexible and structured to give climbers a solid acclimatization schedule. There are a variety of different climbing objectives in Ecuador that can be restructured into the itinerary to allow for variable weather and snow conditions on the different peaks. These include but are not limited to Rumiñahui (15,489 ft.), Cayambe (18,997 ft.), Antisana (18,874 ft.), and Illiniza Sur (17,218 ft.).*



**Day 0 Arrival:** We will start and finish our trip in Quito, the capital city of Ecuador. It is a beautiful city nestled into the foothills of the Andes at an elevation of just over 9,000 ft. Quito is an interesting city with lots of fascinating markets and history to explore. On the day that you arrive we will move to the hotel and check personal equipment. There will also be an overview of the trip itinerary.

**Day 1 Quito:** We will spend this day as an acclimatization day in Old Town, the historic district of Quito, exploring the sights, and arranging for any last details. We'll spend our nights at a hotel in Quito.

**Day 3-4 Guagua Pichincha:** Located above Quito at an elevation of 15,000 ft., Guagua Pichincha offers spectacular views of Quito and surrounding peaks, and provides for a great acclimatization opportunity. We'll stage for our ascent in the town of Lloa, at a quaint mountain hostel. We may also choose to climb Rucu Pichincha (a nearby peak of similar elevation) for our acclimatization peak outside of Quito.

**Day 4 Illiniza Norte:** Travel south to the Illinizas. We'll camp at about 12,500 ft. in a beautiful alpine meadow. This is a great spot for an acclimatization hike.

**Day 5 Ascend to the Illiniza hut:** At about 14,000 ft., we are in position to climb Illiniza Norte. We may choose to spend the night in a tent, as it supports a better night's sleep.

**Day 6 Climb Illiniza Norte (16,818 ft.) and descend:** This mountain has some exciting rock scrambling and is good practice for our climbing team as we prepare for higher peaks. Generally we leave for the summit early in the morning. After the climb, we'll pack up our bags at the hut, and return to the valley for a night's stay in a hostel in the quaint town of El Chaupi.

**Day 7 Rest Day**

**Day 8 Travel to Cotopaxi and skills training:** After driving to the end of the road, we'll hike up about 1.5 hours to the hut.

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**Days 9-10 Skills & Technique Training at Cotopaxi:** Skills and techniques review and instruction will include ice axe and crampon use, anchors, and belaying. We will stay in tents close to the refugio at the base of Cotopaxi.

**Days 10-11 Cotopaxi Summit Climb (19,348 ft.):** We will continue with technical skills training as we prepare for our summit climb. We will begin the climb at approx 1:00 AM. Summit day on Cotopaxi is generally eight to ten hours. There is fantastic climbing and great views. We will use the skills that we have practiced during the previous days. The climbing is interesting and involves route finding through crevasses and ice falls. Our pre-dawn start puts us high on the mountain as the sun comes up. Don't forget your cameras!

**Day 12 Town of Baños:** A well deserved day of rest and relaxation in Baños' renowned hot springs! And if time allows, experience the wildlife and flowers of the cloud forest.

**Day 13 Move to Chimborazo Base Camp (15,500 ft.):** We will spend the day driving to the Chimborazo base camp. It is a beautiful drive with lots wild Vicunas, a relative of the llama. We will stay in the hut at the base of Chimborazo.

**Day 14-15 Chimborazo Climb (20,703 ft.):** This is a more challenging climb than Cotopaxi. From the hut we will spend one or two days climbing the route depending on the current conditions. We have scheduled an extra day in to allow for weather, or the ability to move to a high camp for summit day. The climbing on Chimborazo can be steep and demanding, although not generally technical. We will approach the climb as a team with your group assuming as much responsibility for decision-making as possible. There are more incredible views from the summit. We return to Quito after descending from the summit.



**Day 16 Departure:** Flights home in the late evening or early the next morning. Or spend an extra day exploring Quito and fly out the following day.

*This itinerary is designed to provide individuals with a positive high altitude experience. It allows time for weather and acclimatization days. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to give us a call at 1.800.766.3396.*

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