



# CONDOR TREK PROGRAM 9 DAYS

Andes Hike with acclimatization and City Tour.

## Trip Highlights

- Great Ecosystem Variety
- Alternative Historic Centre Tour
- Hiking in two National Parks
- Volcanology
- Thermal Springs
- Good chances to see Condors and Andean Bears
- Astonishing Scenery



Camp in Volcano Lake



Santa Lucia Lake with Antisana in the Back

Topos Ecuador  
+593 98411 8063  
[toposecuador@gmail.com](mailto:toposecuador@gmail.com)  
toposecuador.com

## Introduction

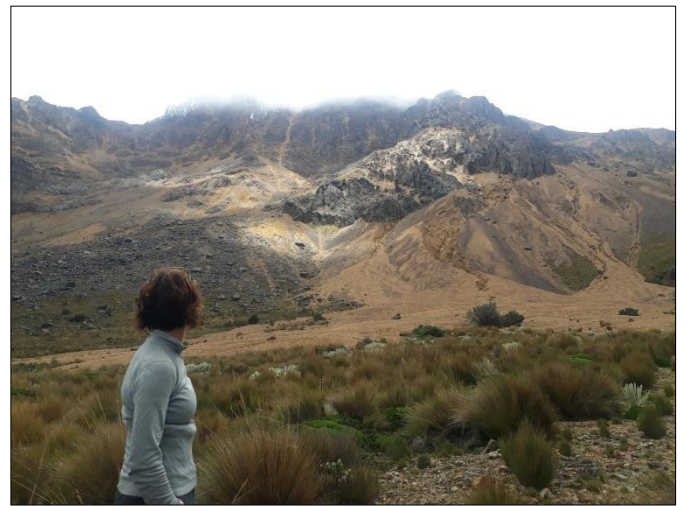
Ecuador is one of the most bio diverse countries in the world. The biological richness resides in the many different ecosystems that can be found in a relatively small area. In a couple of hours you can drive from a snow covered active volcano at 5000m (16,400ft) to a humid sub-tropical forest at 1500m (4,900ft). This amazing diversity can be perceived more clearly while waking. Before your eyes you see the landscape changing, and with it flora and fauna representative of each area.

Volcanoes also contribute to the richness of the land. Eruptions through ages have provided the essential mineral for life to grow and expand. Evidence of this activity can be seen in every aspect of the geography in the Ecuadorian Andes providing an astonishing proof of Earth`s doings. And if it was not enough, the cultural and historic abundance of Ecuador that you can see while hiking makes this country one of the best destinations to hike.

In Topos Ecuador we are aware of all this and we want you to experience the richness of our land!



Andean Condor



Hiker in Sincholagua volcano



Antisana Volcano

## Itinerary

### Day 1 Old Town – Historic Centre

We meet up at 8am in Plaza de la Independencia, Quito's main square. We start a walking City Tour to Old Town's main attractions, including colonial churches, trying tropical fruits and local chocolate and a visit to a local market. The goal for the day is just enjoy and get to know everyone in the group. At the end of the tour we will have a very interesting surprise that will boost your good energy and get you ready for the adventure in the mountains.

#### Tip

Ecuador's currency is US dollars.

### Day 2 Pululahua Geo botanical Reserve

#### Technical information

Max alt	2833m / 9,294ft
Min alt	2099m / 6886ft
Distance	16.46km / 10.23miles
Difficulty (1-5)	2 (easy – moderate)
Average time	5 – 7 hours

There are only three active volcanoes with people living inside their crater in the world. Pululahua is one of them! Abundant species of plants, including many orchids, makes this Reserve one of the main hiking attractions near Quito.

We start our acclimatization hike at the rim of the crater at an elevation of 2833m (9,294ft). We will descend to the bottom of the crater and encircle the main dome called Pondoña. During the hike we will visit mineral water springs, confirmation of the volcanic activity of the area. To reach the end of the hike we will have to hike back up what we descended.



Pululahua Crater

### Day 3 Pichincha Massif Trail

Technical information	
Max alt	4784m / 15,695ft
Min alt	3932m / 12,900ft
Distance	13.18km / 8.18miles
Difficulty (1-5)	4 (hard)
Average time	8 – 10 hours

Pichincha is a volcanic complex to the west of Quito. It has 4 major summits and all four have a volcanic origin. The highest one, Guagua, meaning “child” in Kichwa is active and its last eruption was in 2002. It is possible to see the fumaroles and smell the sulfur from the rim.

We start the hike early in the morning, at 7am in the Guagua Pichincha refuge. From there we hike to the summit and then start traversing with ascents and descents to the Padre Encantado summit. Next is Ladrillos summit and finally Rucu summit. After this last goal we head down to Teleferico and take a cable car back to the city.



Guagua Pichincha Crater

### Day 4 Rest and preparation

After two hikes we will definitely need a pause, and active rest is the way. The only thing you have to make this day is your bag. Take your time so you don't forget anything.

Eating properly and sleeping enough is crucial for a good body recovery, so make sure you enjoy some of Ecuador's cuisine and sleep early. Ask us for recommendations!



Rucu Pichincha in the morning



Trail to Teleferico

**Day 5 Condor Trek – Cotopaxi NP to Laguna Taracocha**

Technical information	
Max alt	4410m / 14,468.5ft
Min alt	3852m / 12,637ft
Distance	16.03km / 10miles
Difficulty (1-5)	4 – 5 (hard – very hard)
Average time	6 – 8 hours

The first day of the main adventure! Our transportation will pick us up at 6am from Quito and will drive us for about 2 hours to the north entrance of Cotopaxi National Park. After checking in with the Park Ranger we will start hiking towards east, facing imposing Sincholagua Volcano (4873m / 15,987ft). The hike this day is hard. We will climb most of the south west slope of Sincholagua, with an altitude gain of 800m / 2,624ft. The views and out-of-the-Earth landscape will absolutely worth the effort. We will reach camp around 4pm.



Sincholagua slopes with Cotopaxi in the clouds

**Day 6 Taracocha to Quebrada Camp**

Technical information	
Max alt	4400m / 14,435ft
Min alt	3600m / 11,811ft
Distance	16.38km / 10,18miles
Difficulty (1-5)	4 – 5 (hard – very hard)
Average time	6 – 8 hours

After a breakfast, we take down the camp and prepare the backpacks for the hike. We start descending to Hacienda Pullurima, a highland bullfighting cattle ranch in the middle of the Andes. There we will reach the lowest point for the day at 3600m / 11,811ft. From there we have to reach the high flatlands of Antisana Ecological Reserve. If the weather allows, the views of Antisana Volcano are astonishing. This day poses a long walk but with no major altitude gain. Also the terrain is mostly dry and easy to walk.

We will reach the camp around 4pm. Quebrada Camp is a perfect place for spending a night in a tent in the Ecuadorian Andes. Flat soft ground for the tent right next to a little creek of crystalline water and the views of Antisana Volcano at the back soothes the mind and body for a perfect rest sleep.

## Day 7 Quebrada Camp to Tumiguina Lake

Technical information	
Max alt	4372m / 14,343ft
Min alt	3622m / 11883ft
Distance	16.61km / 10,32miles
Difficulty (1-5)	4 (hard)
Average time	4 – 6 hours

The most scenic day of the hike! From Quebrada Camp we start the day with a mild ascent to reach the Santa Lucia Lake. We will definitively make a stop at this spot to see the wetland fauna and, if weather allows, seeing the majestic Antisana Volcano as close as we will be in the entire trip. The descent starts and the weather gets more humid, making clear that we are getting into the eastern slopes of the Andes, affected by the Amazon weather patterns. Flora and fauna bloom in this area.

We will reach Tumiguina Lake, also called Volcano Lake, around 4pm. The name is given due to the volcanic lava flow that repressed a river and formed the lake only 340 years ago. The volcanic flow is still easy to spot from the camp.

This is the most comfortable campsite in the hike. We will set our tents in soft mountain vegetation and we will be able to collect lumber to start a heartwarming fire. Lower altitude also helps for better rest and body recovery.



Tumiguina Lake. Camp in day 3 of the main trail



Enjoying the trail... even with mud

### Did you know...?

The entire Papallacta area is a massive mega volcano. It is also one of the places with most precipitation in the country. Both make hot springs common in the area.

### Day 8 Tumiguina Lake to Papallacta thermal springs

Technical information	
Max alt	3865m / 12,680ft
Min alt	3622m / 11883ft
Distance	6.46km / 4,01miles
Difficulty (1-5)	3 (medium)
Average time	3 – 5 hours

We start the day early in the morning to leave around 8am. From the lake we have to reach a ridge from where we will be able to see (if weather allows) Antisana for the last time on the hike, the lava flow and the lake where we spent our last night. It is an easy and short day but still will require some effort. At the end of the trail we will reach the Inter Oceanic Highway where our transportation will be waiting to take us for a well-deserved rest in the thermal springs of Papallacta. The ride takes around 40 minutes. We will have a nice warm lunch in one of the local

restaurants around the spring complex. After that we will just have to rest and enjoy the hot revitalizing water. We spend the night in Papallacta.

### Day 9 Thermal Springs to Quito – End of the Program

We will be heading out to Quito around 11am. So this will give you time to go for an early walk to discover the magic Andean forest or just to sleep in and enjoy the thermal water and have a nice breakfast.

The ride to Quito takes 1h45 minutes.

END OF SERVICES



Taracocha Lake Camp. First night in the main trail

+593 98411 8063

[toposecuador@gmail.com](mailto:toposecuador@gmail.com)

[toposecuador.com](http://toposecuador.com)

## Difficulty

This program is rated 4 to 5 in our difficulty scale. It is a hard to very hard trek. Two main reasons are taken in account for this: altitude and distance per day. We spent some nights in the paramo (Andes mountains ecosystem) and resting in altitude can be hard. In the main hike, we walk long distances per day in altitude and terrain can be hard.

### Training and previous experience

It is much recommended that you train before this program. A couple of weeks for preparation can make a difference. Having previous experience in multi day treks is also very valuable. Setting tents, cooking and all the activities involved in camping can be demanding after several days walking in the mountain. Making these things efficiently will give you more time to eat and rest (if you choose the self-supplied service).



Arriving at Tumiguina Lake Camp



Sicholagua volcano from the trail head

**Equipment needed**

**Clothing - Outerwear**

- Waterproof/breathable jacket
- Waterproof/breathable pants
- Down jacket/synthetic insulated jacket
- Fleece jacket or wool sweater
- Synthetic hiking pants (3)

**Clothing - Base Layer**

- Midweight long john top
- Midweight long john bottoms
- Synthetic T-shirt

**Accessories**

- Wool or fleece hat
- Synthetic liner gloves
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen

**Footwear**

- Running or sport shoes (optional)
- Waterproof hiking boots
- Wool or synthetic socks (3)
- Liner socks (2)
- Rubber boots

**Extras**

- Sun hat
- Personal locator beacon (optional)
- Bandanna
- Hiking poles
- Rain poncho
- Sunglasses

**Camping gear**

- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping mat
- Tent
- Cookware
- Stove
- Water filter (chemical, mechanic or UV)
- 1lt Reusable bottle

**Remember!**

**Any piece of gear can be rented and bought in Ecuador. Ask us!**

### Services

We offer two types of service for this program: Self-supplied and Assisted.

In **Self-supplied** you will carry your personal equipment: sleeping bag, sleeping mat, clothes, cookware, etc. The group equipment (tents, food, stoves, etc. will be split by every member, guide included. Expect to carry around 20kg / 44lb.

You will use public transportation with the assist of the guide. You will travel as the locals do! Only from Quito to Cotopaxi on day 5 you will have private transportation. To summarize, **self-supplied means adventure style trip.**

**Assisted** service will provide mules for the main Four day Condor Trek from day 5 through 8. Mules will carry all your equipment. Tents, hot tea and hot meals will be ready when you get to the camp. You will only carry a mid-sized bag (20 to 30 littler bag) with day hike items. In assisted service you will also have a private transportation from Quito to the trail head and from Papallacta to Quito. **Assisted service will provide everything to make your trip light and easy.**

### Prices

#### Self - Supplied

Number of hikers	Price per person
1	\$1.360
2	\$770
3	\$580
4	\$480
5	\$430
6	\$390
7	\$360
8	\$340
9	\$320
10	\$310

#### Assisted

Number of hikers	Price per person
1	\$1.860
2	\$1.230
3	\$1.030
4	\$940
5	\$930
6	\$870
7	\$820
8	\$790
9	\$770
10	\$750

### Remember!

If you are a single traveler, join a scheduled trip.

**The price includes:**

**Self-supplied**

- Certified Mountain Guide
- National Park Entrance Fee (National Parks in Ecuador are free to visit but to hike a fee is charged)
- Private transportation from Quito to the trail head in Cotopaxi (day 5)
- Box lunches in day hikes
- All meals in the main hike (days 5 through 8)

**Assisted**

- Certified Mountain Guide
- National Park Entrance Fee (National Parks in Ecuador are free to visit but to hike a fee is charged)
- All meals during the hikes
- Private transportation from Quito to the trail head in Cotopaxi (day 5)
- All logistics during the four days of Condor Trek from Cotopaxi to Papallacta (all meals, tents, cooks, mats, horses, horse drivers, emergency horse).
- Private transportation from the trail end to Papallacta and from Papallacta to Quito.

**Not includes**

**Self-supplied**

- Transportation not previously mentioned
- Telefrico (cable car) ticket
- Tips
- Life insurance
- Accommodation in Quito
- Accommodation in Papallacta
- Meals not previously mentioned
- Meals in Papallacta
- Camping gear

**Assisted**

- Meals not previously mentioned
- Transportation not mentioned above
- Telefrico (cable car) ticket
- Tips
- Life insurance
- Accommodation in Quito
- Accommodation in Papallacta

**Remember!**

**We are a highly flexible company. We can change any item of the program so it fits your needs the best way possible!**



Staring at Antisana from camp



**Your adventure starts now!**  
**Contact us for info and booking**

**Phone Number (WhatsApp message): +593 98411 8063**

**Visit us:**

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

**Email us to:**

[toposecuador@gmail.com](mailto:toposecuador@gmail.com)

**Follow us on:**

**Facebook**

Topos Ecuador

**Instagram**

ToposEcuador