



SCHOOLS PROGRAMME TO ECUADOR FOR 2011/2012

11 DAYS AWAY

Our tour takes you to the Highlands, Rainforest and Coastal regions of Ecuador and provides an excellent overview of the different climates and habitats than can be found in this small but diverse country. The group will have the opportunity to learn about culture, art, architecture and biodiversity. Depending of the time of year there will be an opportunity to visit local schools and maybe do some community work.

Day 1 (Thursday)

Depart Heathrow on scheduled flights, via Madrid, to Quito. You will be met and transferred on arrival to your hotel in Quito where you will stay for 3 nights.
Welcome dinner

Day 2 (Friday) (B, L, D)

Drive along the broad avenues of the modern city and see the Ecuadorian House of Culture, the Congress building and Alameda Park before entering Quito's colonial section. Walk along the narrow cobblestone streets and feel the charm of 16th century Quito. Stop in at the renowned La Compañía Church, whose ornate gold leaf interior and elaborately carved altars have been renovated to recapture their days of glory. Visit the wide open plaza and impressive church of San Francisco, built in the 16th century by the Indians of St. Andrews School. Continue to El Panecillo Hill for a beautiful and impressive view of the Andean landscape.



Just 22 km north of Quito stands the monument marking the Equatorial Line as established by the 18th century expedition of the French/Spanish Geodesic Mission. Stand on both hemispheres simultaneously or try to stand right on top of the Equator.

Day 3 (Saturday) (B, L, D)

Full day excursion to Otavalo to experience the bustle of the Otavalo Indian market (only open on Saturday), followed by a jaunt into San Antonio de Ibarra and its woodworking shops. After lunch visit the town of Calderon to see how bread dough figures are made.



Day 4 (Sunday) (B, L, D)

Early morning check out and transfer to Misahualli, via Baeza. Misahualli is located in the eastern part of Ecuador along the north bank of the Napo River. On arrival enjoy a 45 minute canoe trip which provides a first encounter with the jungle. Check in at your hotel in Casa del Suizo for 2 nights.

Day 5 (Monday) (B, L, D)

Prepare for a full day in the jungle walking along paths and looking for the animal life hidden among the lush vegetation.

Return to the hotel for dinner and later fall asleep to the serenade of exotic birds and insects.

Day 6 (Tuesday) (B, L, D)

Check out and transfer to Riobamba, the self proclaimed "Sultan of the Andes", located in the centre of the Ecuadorian sierra.

Check in and overnight at Hosteria Abraspungo

Day 7 (Wednesday) (B, L, D)

After an early breakfast, transfer to the train station where you will board the train and enjoy the picturesque journey passing small Indian villages and impressive landscapes as you descend from the High Andes to the lowlands of the "Devil's Nose". Continue your journey by coach following the famous Inca road above velvety green valleys to Ingapirca, Ecuador's major Inca monument.

This exciting full day tour includes a stop in Biblian for a panoramic view of one of the region's most famous churches. Before arriving in Ingapirca, enjoy the panoramic view of small villages

Continue to Cuenca and check in at Hotel Victoria.



Day 8 (Thursday) (B, L, D)

After breakfast, enjoy a tour of the colonial city of Cuenca. The Tomebamba River winds in and out of the city's centre as old houses jut out over its banks. Walk along the main plaza, Calderon Park, and enter the new Cathedral, whose pink marbled construction and colourful stained glass windows will take your breath away. Cross the same park to see the old Cathedral, which was renovated for the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1985.

After lunch drive to Guayaquil and check in at the Grand hotel Guayaquil



Day 9 (Friday) (B, L, D)

City tour of Guayaquil, Ecuador's natural port. This tropical city is the financial and commercial centre of the country, which lies on the banks of the Guayas River, thirty miles inland from the Gulf of Guayaquil.

After lunch visit the Historic Park, a new attraction available in Guayaquil, with its 3 "zones" :

Wildlife Zone: showing how man acts as an integral part in the ecosystems of the region taking advantage of the natural resources found in the coastal region of Ecuador.

Traditions zone: Go back to the 19th and 20th century where you will be able to see how farms and life was developed around banana, coffee and rice plantations.



Urban Architectonic Zone: With buildings and homes re-constructed and rebuilt exactly as those in the 19th and 20th Century. Julian Coronel Home, Territorial Bank, The Green House are just some examples available in this area.

Day 10 (Saturday) (B)

Free time until late check out and late afternoon transfer to Airport for flight to London, via Madrid.

Day 11 (Sunday) – Madrid – London Afternoon arrival at Heathrow.

OPTIONAL Extension to Galapagos Islands – information and details on request.

NB programme details may be subject to change according to local conditions.

Cost start at £2750 per person

Included:

- Return economy class flights on scheduled airlines, via Madrid
- UK airport taxes at current prices
- Accommodation in twin/ triple rooms
- Meals as stated – including one soft drink per meal (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner).
- Private transportation in connection with the programme
- English speaking guide
- Visits and excursion as described (including entrance fees)

NOT INCLUDED:

- Travel insurance
- Single room supplement
- Extra beverages
- Tips
- International departure tax USD 25 (subject to change)

Validity: All prices quoted are subject to re-confirmation and availability on receipt of a firm booking with specific dates, itinerary and numbers.

Please note all prices quoted are subject to surcharge if costs change significantly as a result of currency fluctuation/increased fuel prices.

Interchange: Interchange was established in 1973, organising professional interest group tours worldwide but with a particular focus on China, Cuba and Latin America. From the moment we start to co-operate you will receive personal attention. We aim to build on our excellent record of repeat business and develop an itinerary to suit the needs of your group.

Please note **Interchange** are fully bonded under the UK Government ATOL Licence (No. 2429) and provide full risk assessment support documentation and hold public liability insurance cover of £5,000,000.

The price of our air holiday packages includes the amount of £2.50 per person as part of the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices.

Interchange is proud to support **Just a Drop**, the water-aid charity that combats child mortality in developing countries caused by unsafe water. We will take £10 from the cost of each traveller, match it and then make a £20 donation for each traveller in the group. Please advise us if you do not wish to make this donation and we will deduct it from the cost. For charity details go to www.justadrop.org.

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