



NACAA Agriculture & Amazon Tour of Ecuador Hosted by Robin Young & Mark Nelson January 10-19, 2024

Day 1 (January 10, Wednesday) - Arrive in Quito late evening and transfer down in elevation to San Clemente indigenous village to begin getting acclimated to the elevation change. Otavalo is situated in the Andean highlands with a strong indigenous heritage and is known for its traditional agriculture morning market that has been taking place for hundreds of years.

(Overnight San Clemente)

(D=boxed dinner on bus transfer)

https://www.airbnb.es/rooms/11134379?source_impression_id=p3_1668020512_qL%2BheZ9ldEJ24Pzf

http://www.sanclementetours.com/ing_index.php



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Day 2 (January 11, Thursday) - In the morning, engage in a discussion regarding the indigenous agriculture calendar, Inca native plants and uses. Next, travel to an avocado oil farm for a tour and tasting. This company makes a variety of products and exports some of its goods. Have a chance to buy local products such as essential oils, jams, and other unique items. Enjoy lunch at a location high in the mountains at the farm as well. Travel back to San Clemente that afternoon for dinner with your host family.

(Overnight San Clemente)

(B,L,D)

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Day 3 (January 12, Friday) - Depart San Clemente to visit the Cayambe valley to learn about the world's largest procedure of roses. This farm is located in a picturesque region 8,500 ft. in elevation and is well known for its incredible daily production and exports via jet aircraft direct to the U.S. Lunch and a visit to a sundial equator monument to understand the importance of the elevation vs the amount of sunlight annually. This gives the country of Ecuador a competitive advantage to grow year round. Afterwards, visit a commercial vegetable greenhouse operation. Dinner is located within walking distance from the hotel tonight.

(Overnight Otavalo)

(B,L,D)

<https://www.hotelelindioinn.com/en/>



Day 4 (January 13, Saturday) - This morning, experience the food and handicrafts market. Once in the market, you will see a variety of agriculture products both endemic and imported. Next, visit a commercial *Cuye* farm (Guinea pig) which is a traditional dish of the Inca people and the wealthy in Ecuador. This farm is the biggest in Ecuador with over 10,000+ Guinea pigs. Lunch will be served afterwards and then travel back to Otavalo for some free time in the market. Tonight, travel to a local craft brewery for a tour and dinner. Craft brewing is new in Ecuador but is becoming more popular for US exports.

(Overnight Otavalo)

(B,L,D)

<https://www.hotelelindioinn.com/en/>



Day 5 (January 14, Sunday) - Check out and depart for Mindo, Ecuador, home of some of the world's best birdwatching and gardens. Enroute visit the equator monument/museum. Enjoy a late lunch and coffee farm visit that shows you the process from seed to harvest. Enjoy a tasting and roasting experience as well. Coffee is a major contributor to the Ecuador economy and competes with its neighbor, Colombia.

(Overnight Mindo)

(B,L,D)

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<https://sisakunalodge.com/>



Day 6 (January 15, Monday) - Enjoy a free morning to explore on your own. Optional tours can be booked on site such as birdwatching, zipline, hiking, orchid garden, etc. OR take a guided day tour on the west side of the Andes to a large scale pineapple and plantain farm exporting to the US and Europe. In the early evening, meet back with the group and enjoy a chocolate tour.

(Overnight Mindo)

(B,D)

<https://sisakunalodge.com/>



Day 7 (January 16, Tuesday) - Depart Mindo for the historic center of Quito (10,000ft.) which was established as an UNESCO heritage site in 1978. Quito is the closest capital city to the equator and the second highest capital in the world. Take part in a guided walking tour of the colonial city center. This center is one of the largest and best preserved historical areas in all of the Americas with its 16th and 17th century churches and surrounding structures. You will also visit the Quito Botanical Garden Later in the afternoon, transfer to the Virgin Mary statue for incredible panoramic views of the city. Delight in an evening dinner overlooking Quito and later return to your hotel. Tonight

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enjoy dinner and a briefing by USDA FAS staff (TBD).

(Overnight Quito)

(B,L,D)

<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/quito/qitex/hoteldetail>



Day 8 (January 17, Wednesday) - After breakfast, check out of your hotel and travel to the Amazon. Nine different countries share the amazing biodiversity of the Amazon rainforest. Stops will be made at some nearby thermal baths along with lunch at a local restaurant. Once arriving at your ecolodge, enjoy a night safari.

(Overnight Amazon)

(B,L,D)

<https://itamandi.com/the-lodge/> or similar



Day 9 (January 18, Thursday) - Full day of wildlife tours and viewing! Discussion on agriculture in the region

(Overnight Amazon)

(B,L,D)

<https://itamandi.com/the-lodge/> or similar

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Day 10 (January 19, Friday) - Morning short wildlife walking tour before traveling back to Quito. Upon arrival, have dinner and an opportunity to shower at a hotel near the airport. Later in the evening, travel to the airport for your return overnight flight home.



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Price per person based on 20 travelers two people per room- \$2,650
Single supplement - \$550

Payment Schedule:

August 15, 2023 - Registration deadline
September 1, 2023 - \$500 non refundable deposit
December 1, 2023 - Final payment due
**3% transaction fee for all credit cards*

Included:

Accommodations
Bus Transportation
Full time bilingual guide
Tours/Technical Visits
Gratuities for guide/driver
Entrance fees that are included are noted in the above itinerary
Meals as indicated on the itinerary (includes one soft drink)
B= Breakfast
L= Lunch
D= Dinner

Not Included:

International Airfare
Cost of valid U.S. passport
Alcoholic beverages
Travel insurance coverage (highly recommended)
Airline seat upgrades
Excess baggage fees
Souvenirs
Leisure activities on free days
Hotel charges for incidentals, including telephone calls, pay per view movies, mini bars, and snack trays, personal laundry, room service, and hotel penalties for smoking in hotel rooms

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