



## New View Tours

September 17 – 27, 2013

The High Sierra, the Intag Cloud Forest & Quito,

### Ecuador

#### **Gardens & Trails:**

*a tour for travelers who prefer days full of activity,  
nights in front of warm fires and  
experienced English speaking guides, beautiful scenery  
excellent accommodations, most meals included....  
with Ramelle Pulitzer, tour director.*

*Add on tours to the Galapagos Islands, the Amazon Jungle, or Cuenca  
can be arranged.*

## Itinerary - as of May 3, 2013

### Tuesday, Sept 17 - a travel day

Arrival in new Quito airport outside the city. After going through routine customs, be sure to keep your white visa paper with your passport. Go through baggage claim and customs where you will meet your transfer. Look for driver with sign NEW VIEW TOURS.

Transfer to El Monestario in San Pablo de Lago, Province of Otavalo, Ecuador

### Wednesday, Sept 18

Breakfast is included while we are at El Monestario.

This morning, while adapting to the altitude, we will explore the gardens and beautiful grounds recently replanted with Sr. Nik Millhouse, owner, teacher, designer. Weather permitting, we will see views of Cayumbe, Mojanda and Imbaburra volcanoes.

10:30 AM Bus to Espejo's Condor and raptor Reserve, 11:30 flight demonstration; from here we see spectacular views across the valley, learn about the enormous condor and diverse bird population in Ecuador, see a flight demonstration and explanation of the raptor population.

Lunch in Otavalo at Posada de Quinde, transfer to small town of Agato to watch a weaving demonstration at the Tihuantinsuyu workshop with master weaver, Miguel Anrango. If time, we visit Peguche waterfalls. Dinner, included, accompanied by balladeer Ramiro. Night at Hacienda Cusin. Return to El Monestario.

### Thursday, Sept 19

9 AM depart for Cuicocha (guinea pig) Lake with naturalist guide to hike a section of the rim of the volcano, and enjoy the small museum. Our guide will explain the unique vegetation, the topography and all aspects of this unique volcano. We return through the town of Cotacachi, known for fine leather products - many shops here. Lunch is on your own at one of the local restaurants. (If we have strong hikers who want to hike the rigorous 5 mile circumference, we will order picnics) All meet up in Cotacachi, a clean, well-run town featuring original colonial architecture and a classic plaza with large church. The town is known for leather shops handcrafted by families still passing down the techniques from generation to generation. Small, interesting city museum might open after 2 pm. Return to El Monestario. Dinner included

### Friday, Sept 20

9:30 AM departure to Mojanda Lakes - hiking as group desires through the high paramo to the base of Fuja Fuja that ascends to ragged peaks of 14,000 ft. We return from the majesty of the lake down the mountain to Casa Mojanda, a farm working to be self sustaining with vegetable gardens. We will bring a picnic and be ready for any type of weather! As we return thru Otavalo, visit the historic Hacienda Pinsaqui; a traditional hacienda that is adapting to new ways of the country. San Bolivar stayed here! There will be time to stop in the markets before it gets really busy on Saturday. Dinner at El Monestario is included.

### Saturday Sept 21

Saturday is always Market Day in Otavalo: Early morning departure 8:00 AM for those who wish to see the animal market that wraps up by 9:00. The groups departs at 9:30 to visit food, textiles and craft markets. The city is a bustle of trade and commotion on market day! Reservations for lunch at Las Palmeras Inn (on your own) near market (12:30). Property tour with owner, Nicholas Millhouse. Return to El Monestario by 3:30 for an afternoon on your own at El Monestario: ride horseback, rent bicycles, play squash, shoot basketballs, wander the gardens, finish your novel! Dinner and night at El Monestario.

### Sunday, Sept 22

Bags out 8:30 AM ready for transfer to El Refugio at Intag - the Cloud Forest.

We depart for the Cloud Forest this morning. Meals are prepaid at El Refugio for two lunches and two dinners. Our host, Peter will provide information on the birds, the flora and fauna of this exceptional part of the world. Guided treks to "cock of the rock" at sunset and newly discovered pyramid installation. There is an extra fee of \$12 for a meal at the refuge. Pay independently.

### Monday, Sept 23

Breakfast is included at Intag Cloud Forest

9:30 AM Trek through this remarkable vegetation finding views, discovering orchids, tracing armadillo tracks, meeting local people who sustain themselves selling hand made sisal weavings. Guides are extra (approx \$10 per trek). Dinner is independent.

### Tues, Sept 24

Transfer from Intag to the City of Quito, capital of the country. The topography changes every few miles as we leave the high sierra on the newly widened Pan American Highway stopping at El Mitro del Mundo - the equator. We will be visiting within one day of the vernal equinox. Our plan is to arrive on the line at noon.....then it is off to Casa Alliso, a restored home of a prominent Quito family in the contemporary section of this dramatic city.

Dinner is on our own in Quito tonight...many excellent restaurants to try out!

Zazu or Noe Sushi Bar; Night at Hotel Quito

### Wed Sept 25

Breakfast on the top floor of hotel with spectacular views of the city: included.

9:30 AM Meet our guide for half day city tour. We begin with a visit to the Chapel by Guayasamin, the late abstract artist; from here we enjoy excellent views of the city; then we drop to the enormous Parque Carolina to tour the Botanical Gardens (weather permitting) which offers an overview of the diversity of plant life here in the middle of the world. Lunch (on your own) will be in the La Mariscal district of Quito where we experience the walking community of shops and cafes including Galleria Latina We end our tour this afternoon at the Casa de Cultura a large museum (free) that provides exhibitions from pre Columbian artifacts to galleries of religious art and always a changing exhibition in the contemporary art galleries.

Hotel Quito - Dinner is on your own.

### Thurs Sept 26

Breakfast is included

We begin our day at the shop that still displays the collection of fine crafts collected by Olga Fisch, then it is a half day with our experienced guide who will lead us on an excursion through the historic city to the Iglesia La Compania, Cathedral de San Francisco, Plaza de Independencia, Museo Pre Columbian (new); We enjoy a light lunch (on your own) under the church of San Francisco, at small restaurant with excellent fine crafts from the country.

Afternoon transfer to a small hosteria - 15 minutes from Quito Airport.

Hotel: Rincon Puemblo Hosteria or other hotel near airport - Dinner not included (\$20 pp), but must be reserved ahead of time.

### Friday, Sept 27

Early morning transfer to international flights to the US  
(arrive 3 hours before departure).

**Price based on a group of 10 travelers, plus 1 tour director (Ramelle)**

**\$1350 per person - includes all accommodations, all transfers, guides, most meals.**

**Deposit of \$250 will reserve your place.**

**New View Tours accepts personal checks; Visa or Mastercard.**

**Not included:**

**a) airfare - NYC - Quito approximately \$800 per person round trip NY/Quito - many options**

**b) personal expenses such as laundry, tips, bar, telephone**

**c) travel insurance (strongly recommended) see [www.travelguard.com](http://www.travelguard.com)**

## **Travel Notes & Suggestions!**

**Passports:** Expiration date must be at least 6 months AFTER departure date....Make copies of your travel documents. Leave one set with a friend at home, bring a couple with you in the case you lose the original.

**Time zone:** Ecuador is in the same time zone as New York City and Miami, but they do not change their clocks for daylight savings.

**Money:** Ecuador uses the US \$ dollar. Payment for extra expenses at Las Palmas and El Refugio Intag may be made by personal US bank check at the end of your stay at each hotel. Be extremely careful writing checks as even the smallest rewrite will be reason for the check to be declined by the bank. Sign your check exactly as you did on your passport. Credit cards and debit cards can be used at ATM machines. We suggest you inform your bank where you are traveling so they will not think the card is stolen. Check the fees your bank charges on international transactions before leaving.

Many shops will take credit cards; there is often a discount for cash.

Bring several \$1 and \$5 bills. Bargaining in the markets is expected and can be quite a fun way to get to know the shop owners and practice your Spanish.

**Wifi:** There will be free wifi at our hotels Email is the most economical way to stay in touch.

**Telephone:** Check with your cell phone carrier about international plans & usage fees.

If you bring a smart phone, be sure to turn off the data roaming feature so you will not be charged for accepting large data information at international rates. Recommend getting an international data plan.

**Health:** All travelers agree that they are in good health as they undertake the tour!

Bring along your own favorite remedies for head ache, stomach upset, etc. If you should need medical care for any reason, it can be quickly arranged.

### **TIPS** posted by Travel Guard Travel Insurance

- Carry Hand Sanitizer☑Always carry small packets or bottles of hand sanitizer,so when you are out and about, you can sanitize when necessary.
- Check Baggage Policy☑Check ahead of time with your airline or travel agent to determine the airline's baggage policy, including baggage fees, number of pieces you can check and size and weight limitations.
- DO NOT Pack the Following Items in Your Checked Baggage☑Cash, jewelry, laptop computers, electronic or fragile items (no matter how they are protected).
- Don't Over Pack☑Only pack necessary items and clothes you can mix and match and easily hand wash. You can always purchase items along your trip.
- Make Copies of Travel Documents☑Carry copies of important travel documents including passport, credit cards, driver's license and your Travel Guard insurance policy, and pack the copies in your luggage. Also, leave a set of your copied travel documents with your travel agent or a relative. You can also scan your travel documents and store them in your web-based e-mail account along with emergency "lost card" telephone numbers. If your credit cards are lost or stolen, you will have to call the carrier collect if you are outside of the U.S. since toll-free telephone numbers are only useful inside the U.S. By scanning or making copies of your travel documents, you will have immediate access to all important information if it is lost or stolen. You can even e-mail the details page of your passport to an embassy or consulate when applying for a new one.
- Resist Packing Full-Size Products☑Resist packing items such as full-size personal hygiene products or a flashlight. These items are usually available in travel-size and you will save space. You may also want to check the amenities provided by your hotel, many provide in-

room personal hygiene products. An inexpensive LED penlight can light up a room or a hiking trail and easily slip into a carry-on bag.

- **Separate Bags**—When packing for the Galapagos, or Cloud Forest, consider pre-packing whatever you might need in a separate bag. When you arrive at your destination, you can grab and go; especially if you are traveling with a large group of people or with kids. This will prove to be a great timesaver! The hotel will store your luggage. You should bring a lock for this one!
- **TSA Screens All Passenger Baggage**—TSA screens every passenger's baggage before it is placed on an airplane and sometimes security will review the contents of a bag. To avoid the possibility of your luggage lock being cut, purchase a universal lock that can be opened by security officers using a universal "master" key. These locks are available at airports and travel stores nationwide.