



NEW VIEW TOURS

High Sierra Tour - Ecuador
September 8 - 19, 2014
11 nights - \$2200

(Revised June 20, 2014)

Monday Sept 8 – Travel Day

Desitnation: Las Palmeras Inn, Quichinche, Ecuador!

Arrival at new Quito airport 1 hr north of the city. You are met for a private transfer to spend the first two days in the community of Otavalo. It is an 80 minute drive to the Ibarra province and beautiful San Pablo de Lago (8,600 ft) where we will be for two nights: Hotel: **Las Palmeras Inn** in Quichinche near Otavalo in the Ibarra province north of Quito. <http://www.laspalmerasinn.com> (Palmeras night 1/3)

Tuesday Sept 9 - Day 1 – Orient to the High Sierra - Visit Condor park

11:30 am flying demonstrations are a daily event at the Condor Preserve, see: <http://www.parquecondor.org> where we observe beautiful raptors, owls, and a variety of species rescued by owner, Jup who has built this outdoor zoo on a spectacular promontory with views of the valley and volcanoes. The magnificent condor in captivity will make the trip worth our while!

Breakfast is included at Las Palmeras. We acclimate to the altitude today; walk the grounds, orient to the property, eat light lunch, drink plenty of water. Dinner at Las Palmeras. Night 2 of 3 (breakfast picnic dinner)

Wednesday Sept 10 - Day 2 — Cuicocha Lake and Cotacachi village

While we are at **Las Palmeras Inn**, we leave time to explore the gardens, abundant flowers & vegetables on the beautiful grounds recently redesigned by our host & owner, Sr. Nik Millhouse . Snowcapped Cayambe mountain, the imposing Imbabura volcano and the Mojanda mountain range are all within view. We remember they were also witnessed by Frederic Church in 1853 when he traveled through this valley on horseback, a sketchbook over his saddle.

Morning: depart for Cuicocha (guineapig lake see: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuicocha>) to hike a section of the rim of the volcano (as much or as little as you like), and enjoy the small museum. There is a boat to take us on a tour around the remote desolate "guinea pig" islands in the middle of the deep lake (To hike the full circumference of the volcano is a 5 - 6 hour hike, we request a hiking guide if this is your preference). Return through the town of Cotacachi, known for fine leather products - many shops here. see: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cotacachi_\(city\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cotacachi_(city)) Lunch is on your own at one of

the local restaurants. This clean, well-run town features original colonial architecture along the classic plaza with a large church and city museum. Leather shops line the main street, each filled with goods hand crafted by families who continue their businesses.

If time allows, we visit the wood carver village of San Antonio de Ibarra, where the shops are all workshops and galleries of hand crafted cedar sculptures, furniture, and wooden crafts. **(breakfast/dinner) night 3/3**

Thursday September 11 - Day 3 – Transfer to El Refugio Intag

8:30 a.m. departure for El Refugio (www.elrefugiocloudforest.com). Spectacular scenic drive over the Andes, descending to the lodge. Options include guided walks on the property with the owner, Peter Joost, to see cloud forest birds and flowers, a look at the coffee and other tropical plants grown on the farm, an afternoon visit to an Andean Cock-of-the-Rock viewing, see a display of the sisal weavings by local artisans, and a night walk. See: <http://www.elrefugiocloudforest.com>

All meals included at El Refugio. Night 1 of 2

Friday September 12 -Day 4 Intag activities:

We will enjoy bird watching, hiking, reading, visiting village

Option: 9:00 a.m. departure for Wariman, a pre-Inca archeological site. Another scenic drive, descending west, then climbing to the reserve. We will tour the Quito-Cara pyramids and visit the museum. Lunch will be at the Nangulvi hot springs, with a chance for a dip. Optional activities include a visit to a coffee cooperative in the town of Apuela, more walks at El Refugio, and (if the moon is right) a night-light watch for interesting creatures. (breakfast lunch dinner – El Refugio – 2/2)

Saturday September 13 - Day 5 – Intag to Quito & Otavalo Market

Early morning Transfer to Quito

Market Day in Otavalo: On Saturday, it is bustling in Otavalo; vendors booths extend past the Plaza del Ponchos along the side streets, attracting people from all over the province, including from the city of Quito. We will visit to food market, as well as the world famous textiles and crafts. Lunch in Otavalo restaurant (independent).

Quito: This afternoon, we transfer to Quito, the capital and World Heritage Site. En route, if time and weather permit, we will stop at the 7th Century covered pyramids where llama herds share the spectacular views of this high plain once occupied by the Carra indians.

Afternoon we travel to the pyramids

We arrive at Hotel Quito in the contemporary section of the city with views of Pichincha volcano, heated swimming pool, restaurant on the top floor with views of the city and Pichincha volcano.

Dinner at recommended restaurant (taxi - \$5; meal about \$15 - \$20) (breakfast)
(Hotel Quito 1/2 nights - breakfast).

Sunday September 14 - Day 6 - Quito City Tour

We meet our English Speaking guide and driver: Colonial City, Pre Colonial Museum, Plaza de Independencia (lunch about \$7), San Francisco cathedral, La Compania church, then out to the contemporary - then on to the impressive Casa de Cultura, a

large museum with exhibits providing an overview of the country from pre-Columbian artifacts to galleries of religious art and always a changing exhibition in the contemporary galleries - all in one museum. We shop at Galleria Latina and La Bodega and on our way back to Hotel Quito. We stop to see the pre-colombian and fine crafts collection of Olga Fisch. See the <http://www.olgafisch.com/about/quito-museum-quito-shopping/> for video tour. Dinner tonight is also on your own; we'll have many choices nearby or we can suggest Zazu or Noe Sushi Bar - fine choices.
(Hotel Quito - 2/2 breakfast)

Monday September 15 - Day 7 – Guayasamin Museum & Transfer to Hacienda Zuleta

9:00 check out of hotel for tour to visit Guayasamin Museum – This home of a world renowned artist of the “modern era”. is now open for the public to learn about his extraordinary life and contribution to understanding of Latin American indigenous cultures. Beautiful views of the city. We visit his “Chapel” , Then we head out of the city, traveling along the Pan American highway across the **equator** today to the five star Hacienda Zuleta. See: <http://www.zuleta.com>
Enjoy the comforts of a fine hacienda amidst beautiful grounds – our new view!
(Breakfast - Zuleta (1/1))

Tuesday Sept16 - Day 8 – Zuleta to Hacienda Cusin

Time for morning activities at Zuleta – horseback riding, hiking the grounds. After lunch we take an independent transfer to Hacienda Cusin a restored 1602 compound of 30 acres, recently redesigned gardens, See: <http://www.haciendacusin.com>. We enjoy three nights!
(Cusin 1/3nights - breakfast/Dinner)

Wednesday Sept 17 - Day 9 – Cusin Day

Cusin Day - (no bus) hike, ride horseback, bicycle, walk, enjoy a massage, read, study Spanish, tour the gardens, photograph, walk to San Pablo de Lago. Be sure to book in advance your reservations for any extra activities. Options to be arranged: morning flower arranging demonstration with Hector. rose plantation tour, cooking demonstration, yoga! (leave your flight information at Reception to have your flights confirmed) (breakfast, dinner Cusin2/3 nights)

Thursday September 18 - Day 10 – Mojanda Lakes and/or Hacienda Pinsaqui

9:30 AM Our guide and driver will meet us in a van to take us into the mountains today. We choose the spectacular Mojanda Lake where there is magnificent scenery and as much hiking as group desires, then we travel back down the mountain. We may choose to stop at Hacienda Pinsaque at the base of the mountain for tea, a late lunch or to enjoy learning about another place where Simon Bolivar stopped on his many journeys through the Grand Columbia.
Dinner at Hacienda Cusin. (Cusin 3/3 nights – breakfast/dinner)

Friday – September 19 - Day 11

A private transfer will be arranged for you to reach Quito airport in time for your international flight to US (Arrive 3 hrs before international flight)

Pulitzer - Flight LAN 1507 Quito/Guayaquil/JFK departs 8:45 AM

Included: Hotels, transfers, breakfasts at all hotels, guided tours, meals as indicated ().
Not Included: airfare, most lunches and some dinners, entrance fees to churches and museums, personal expenses, tips

Travel Insurance is not included, but strongly recommended.

OPTION:

ADD ON DAYS At Hacienda Cusin (STAY WHERE YOU ARE!) OR Visit Cuenca (1 hr flight)

ADD ON DAYS for a **Galapagos Cruise**; or **Amazon Jungle retreat**

ADD ON TOUR to PERU, **Machu Picchu** or option of your choice.

Contact: Ramelle Pulitzer Cell 336 416 2390 or ramelle@newviewtours.com