



The Road Less Travelled

Itinerary 2017 - 2018



8 Nights 9 Days

Day 1: Overnight in Baños in the Hostel **Backpackers Inn**.

Day 2: Departure from **Banos**, drive to **Quilotoa** where we first enjoy the impressive view from the edge of the crater and then hike down to the lake that fills the crater of the extinct volcano and kayak in the lake. For those who don't feel like hiking the steep path up again there is the option to do it on horse back. After lunch, we go on a scenic hike that leads us through the canyon of the **Toachi River**. Transfer to **Chugchilán**, a remote village nestled in the beautiful Andean landscape. We settle in our rooms at **Hostal Cloudforest**, a simple but cosy family-run accommodation. Dinner and overnight at the hostel.

Day 3: Follow the **Panamerican Highway** further north to the **Cotopaxi** area. At lunch time we arrive at our beautiful accommodation, the **Secret Garden Cotopaxi**, a comfortable lodge located at one of the best spots in the area with amazing views of the Cotopaxi and other extinct volcanoes. Hike up to a waterfall in the mountains where the brave ones can go for a swim in the cold but crystal clear water. Back at the lodge a warm and cozy fireplace and a delicious dinner await us

Day 4: An early morning to get the best views of the **Cotopaxi** at sunrise and then for the drive all the way to the volcano to hike up to the refuge at 4800m altitude (volcanic activity permitting). If the conditions are good enough we'll get the chance to hike further up to the glacier that covers the peak of the **Cotopaxi**. After this adventure in the high mountains we drive back to the **Panamericana** and on to the northern part of the Andes. At the famous town of **Otavallo** we stay at the charming **Hostel Valle del Amanecer** right in

the centre of town and explore the indigenous markets, one of South America's most impressive and famous markets.

Day 5: After breakfast, we visit the fascinating Parque Condor, a rehabilitation centre for South America's vast variety of birdlife. See the amazing Condor, one of the largest birds in the world. After lunch back at the hostel, explore more of the northern highlands. From the scenic **Mojanda lakes**, hike up to the **Fuya Fuya**, an extinct volcano of 4275m altitude. After dinner in **Otavallo** a drive to **Quito**, Ecuador's capital, and check in at the **Secret Garden hostel**.

Day 6: North of the city, at **Mitad Del Mundo**, we hit the equator line and at the **Inti Ñan** museum you will experience standing in two different hemispheres. In the afternoon, walk through the old colonial town of **Quito**. We visit the **cathedral** and climb the tower, from where you get a breath-taking view over the huge city stretched out in the Andean valley. After a delicious dinner enjoying the view from the roof top terrace at the **Secret Garden** we begin the coastal part of the tour with an overnight bus ride to the town of **Puerto Lopez**.

Day 7: After a relaxed morning at the beach, explore the **Machalilla National Park** and visit the indigenous community of **Agua Blanca**, an archaeological site that once was the "capital" of the manta culture. After a visit to the museum, hike through forest that leads to a natural sulphur lake where we take a relaxing bath. At the **Hostaria Itapoa**, we get immersed in the easy-going lifestyle of the beach.

Day 8: Take a boat trip to discover the **Machalilla Marine Park** and **Isla de la Plata**, the "Silver Island", and see some of the iconic species of the Galapagos Islands like the blue-footed booby.

Accommodation

- 1 Night Hostel Backpackers Inn
- 1 Night Cloudforest Hostel
- 1 Night Secret Garden Cotopaxi
- 1 Night Hostel Valle de Amanecer
- 1 Night Secret Garden Quito
- 1 Night overnight bus
- 2 Nights Hostaria Itapoa,

Dorm accommodation separated into male/female. Some doubles available. Electricity, full bathrooms.

During the northern summer months, you could spot huge humpback whales from the boat.

Day 9: After a relaxed day at the beach, we leave for Quito in the afternoon. On this last day, lunch and dinner are not included. Flight Home from Quito Airport next morning.

Inclusions

- All Accommodation
- Activities and tours (except for last day)
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner (except dinner Banos day 1 and lunch and dinner day 9)
- All transport