



# The Road Less Travelled

## Itinerary 2017-2018



### 8 Nights

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

**Day 2:** Departure from **Banos** in the morning, transfer to **Chugchilán**, a remote village nestled in a beautiful Andean landscape. We settle in our rooms at **Hostal Cloudforest**, a simple but cozy family-run accommodation, before we go on a short hike to enjoy the stunning views and to acclimatize to the altitude. Dinner and overnight at the hostel.

**Day 3:** 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. We kayak in the lake. For those who don't feel like hiking the steep path up again there is the possibility to do it on horse back. After having lunch in the village we go on a scenic hike that leads us through the canyon of the **Toachi river** and back to **Chugchilán** where we have dinner at our accommodation.

**Day 4:** 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 of this area with amazing views of the Cotopaxi and other extinct volcanoes. Hike up to a waterfall in the mountains where the bravest 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 5:** 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 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 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 **Otavallo markets**.

**Day 6:** 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 7:** 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 8:** 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. At the **Hostaria Itapoa**, we get immersed in the easy-going lifestyle of the beach.

**Day 9:** Take a boat trip to discover the **Machalilla Marine Park**. And **Isla de la Plata**, the "Silver Island", see some of the typical species of the Galapagos Islands like the blue-footed booby. During the northern summer months, you could spot huge



#### Accommodation

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

#### All meals

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

humpback whales from the boat. After a visit to the museum, hike through forest that leads to a **natural sulphur lake** where we take a relaxing bath. Depart for Quito.

**Day 10:** Flight home.

#### Inclusions

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