



Ecuador

On the Avenue of Volcanoes

Mountains of fire and worlds of water, cities and wilderness, highlands and lowlands – Ecuador brings together contrasts, cultures and climate zones with its unmistakable South American spirit. We'll take in all the highlights: the Middle of the World monument in Quito, equator hopping, a journey along the Avenue of Volcanoes, a crater picnic, local markets and artisan workshops, flora and fauna, nature hikes and extraordinary natural landscapes. And to round it all off, we'll make some music together – and, if you'd like, add one last highlight to end the journey in style: The Galápagos Islands – take a speedboat and snorkel to see giant tortoises, penguins, sea lions and more. A true Andean adventure.

- Quito, the Metropolis
- Mountain ranges and volcanoes
- Inca temples and markets
- Upon request: extension on the Galápagos Islands

13 days

20.Oct – 01. Nov. 2026

Share a room

€2279,-

Have a room all to yourself

€2578-

Ecuador: On the Avenue of Volcanoes

Day 1, Tue, 20.10.2026: Arrival in Ecuador

Individual arrival in Quito (flights not included in this Marco Polo tour). After landing, transfer to the hotel. Still have energy to head out and explore? The trendy La Floresta district draws visitors with its stylish restaurants and galleries.

Day 2, Wed, 21.10.2026: Quito – The Middle of the World

Quito is breathtaking – and not just because it ranks among the highest capital cities in the world. During the tour of the colonial old town at 2,800 metres, our Scout is on hand as your personal sightseeing coach. In the afternoon, we take the gondola lift the last 1,200 metres up to Cruz Loma, the mountain overlooking the city. Below us, nearly 4,000 metres of altitude and a sea of rooftops. Around us: volcanoes. Ahead of us: ten days of adventure – and a hearty Andean dinner to welcome us. Bienvenidos! B/D

Day 3, Thu, 22.10.2026: Equator hopping

On the way to Mindo, we make a brief stop at the Middle of the World monument: The yellow line there marks the equator. Here, switching between the hemispheres is as easy as hopping from one side to the other. We then continue on towards the cloud forest. Our destination is the Mariposario, a butterfly garden where colourful butterflies and hummingbirds flutter close around us. After sunset, we head off for a natural sound-and-light show: With torches, we walk along secluded trails and experience the nocturnal symphony of frogs and insects. B/D

Day 4, Fri, 23.10.2026: The sound of the Andes

Ceramics, Panama hats, wool jumpers – time to go souvenir hunting at the Plaza de Ponchos, one of the most renowned markets for local craftsmanship. Full of folklore: women in layered skirts, flounced blouses, and glass-bead necklaces; men in ponchos, hats, and cropped trousers. Switch from fashion to music:



In the afternoon, Señor Pichabamba introduces us to the sounds of the Andes and shares how he works to preserve traditional music through his Nanda Manachi project. First theory, then practice: Before we start our own band, each of us crafts our own instrument – and then we try out a few Andean rhythms together! B

Day 5, Sat, 24.10.2026: From the cloud forest to the mountain forest

The road climbs high into the Andes, reaching around 4,000 metres, before descending again to Papallacta at about 3,300 metres in the Cayambe-Coca National Park. Now it's our turn: With our Scout, we hike through the mountain forest for about two and a half hours. As a reward, we can unwind in the hotel's thermal springs afterwards. B

Day 6, Sun, 25.10.2026: Avenue of Volcanoes

The Avenue of Volcanoes is home to 22 of Ecuador's 73 volcanoes. Seventeen of them are still active – unlike us, as we sit back and let the road-movie scenery roll past the coach window. Stretch your legs at the foot of the Cotopaxi volcano, where its peak is mirrored in the Limpiopungo Lagoon. Arrival in Baños in the evening, an adventure mecca on the edge of the jungle, watched over by the 5,016-metre-high active volcano Tungurahua. B

Day 7, Mon, 26.10.2026: Strolling or cycling?

Today, you can take it easy or dive right in. How about hot chocolate and café hopping in Baños, a walk by the river, or maybe something a bit more daring? Experienced cyclists can explore the Ruta de las Cascadas by bike (additional charge; bookable on site). The Waterfall Route is the destination – and so is the trapiche, a traditional sugar cane mill. B

Day 8, Tue, 27.10.2026: Mercado in motion

Have breakfast, hop on the coach, and on we go. Next stop: Riobamba – today is market day! Do the colourful mountains of food leave you wanting more? How about some llapingachos – Inca-style potato pancakes? Our Scout recommends trying fresh juice served on Chimborazo glacier ice – a local classic. The volcano itself is extinct but still regarded as sacred. Spend the afternoon in Alausí – everyone at their own pace. B

Day 9, Wed, 28.10.2026: Devil's Nose and Inca ruins

We travel by coach to Pitishi: From the viewpoint of the same name, we marvel at the Devil's Nose and the remaining tracks of the steam train – once perhaps the most exciting train journey in the world. The sight of it alone is thrilling. Then on to the next highlight: The ruins of Ingapirca at 3,100 metres are an absolute must-see for Inca enthusiasts! Evening arrival in Cuenca. B

Day 10, Thu, 29.10.2026: City tour and hat factory

Colonial façades, churches, and cobbled streets. On a stroll through the city, it quickly becomes clear why Cuenca is considered one of Ecuador's finest cities. Keyword – chic: We learn how the toquilla palm is made into Panama hats at a factory. In the mood for more? Let's use our free afternoon to do some shopping! B

Day 11, Fri, 30.10.2026: From the highlands to the coast

A day of "highs and lows": Start in the highlands of Cajas National Park, where spectacled bears, tapirs and mountain toucans settle in for the night. Here, we hike for about two and a half hours to the blue lagoon, La Toreadora. And then, a complete contrast in the lowlands: tropical air and the bustle of Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest metropolis. In the evening, a colourful mix of people awaits us on the waterfront promenade, and we then mingle with the bar and pub crowd as the mood takes us. B

Day 12, Sat, 31.10.2026: City or nature tour?

City life in Guayaquil or a wildlife tour in the Churute Nature Reserve (additional charge; bookable on site, including lunch)? It's quite the experience: by boat and on foot, through mangroves and rainforest – exotic birds, howler monkeys, cocoa tasting on a plantation, and more. Either way: In the evening, we all meet up for our last dinner together. Crab, the coastal town's speciality, should definitely be on your plate! B/D

Day 13, Sun, 01.11.2026: Return flight

A day at your leisure. Transfer to the airport for your return flight (not included in this Marco Polo tour). B

GALÁPAGOS EXTENSION

Day 13, Sun, 01.11.2026: A nature paradise – the Galápagos Islands

Off to the Galápagos! After a two-hour flight, we're in paradise – in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, on Baltra. We continue by ferry to the island of Santa Cruz. First impressions of the Galápagos: lush green landscapes set against volcanic backdrops. In a reserve, we see the famous Galápagos giant tortoises in their natural habitat. B/L

Day 14, Mon, 02.11.2026: Tortuga Bay

We take a short hike to Tortuga Bay, where sea lions frolic on the bright white sand. In the afternoon, we learn about the importance of tourism for nature conservation at the Charles Darwin Research Station. Significant efforts have recently been made to ensure that the valuable UNESCO World Heritage status is not lost. B

Day 15, Tue, 03.11.2026: Tortuga Bay (Part II)

We take the speedboat to Isabela, which takes about two hours. With a bit of luck, we'll see whitetip reef sharks in the lava bays near the Tintoreras archipelago. The shores are home to iguanas. In a sandy bay, we encounter sea lions and, while snorkelling, marvel at countless fish in the clear water. Afterwards, we return to Santa Cruz by boat. B/L

Day 16, Wed, 04.11.2026: North Seymour

Day trip to North Seymour (weather permitting). We explore the island on foot along marked walking trails. The island is home to large colonies of blue-footed boobies and frigatebirds, the males recognisable by their bright red inflatable throat pouches. Return to Santa Cruz in the afternoon. B/L

Day 17, Thu, 05.11.2026: Adíos Galápagos

Then time has come to say goodbye: Transfer to Baltra Airport and return flight to Guayaquil. From here, return flight home on your own (flights not included in this Marco Polo tour). B

B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner

Flights

The travel price does not include arrival and departure flights. We would be happy to provide you with a personalised flight quote.

Hotels

change		Subject to	
Place	Nights	Hotel	Local rating
Quito	2	San José de Puenbo	***
Mindo	1	Terrabambu	****
Otavalo	1	Palmeras Inn	***
Papallacta	1	Termas Papallacta	***
Baños	2	Samari	****
Riobamba	1	Hostería Abraspungo	****
Cuenca	2	Victoria	****
Guayaquil	2	Unipark	****
Santa Cruz	4	Ninfa	***

Travel documents and vaccinations

German nationals require a passport that is valid for at least six months past the end of their stay. The necessary transit card for the Galápagos Islands is issued upon arrival. It must be paid on site in US dollars along with the national park fee (currently a total of USD 120).

Climate-friendly travel with Marco Polo

This tour is carbon neutral thanks to CO₂e offsetting (www.agb-mp.com/co2).

Included in the tour price

- Transfers, excursions, and round trip in local, air-conditioned coaches
- 12 nights in a double room
- 3x dinner
- Gondola lift ride in Quito
- Visit to a hat factory in Cuenca
- Entrance fees as per the itinerary
- English-speaking Marco Polo tour guide in Ecuador

Included in the price/extension

- Domestic flight (economy) from Guayaquil to Baltra and back
- 4 nights in a single room
- Breakfast, 2x lunch
- Transfers, boat and ferry trips according to the itinerary

Price per person from €

13 days	Basic tour		Extension	
Date 2026	DBL	SGL	DBL	SGL
11.05. – 01.11.	2279	2578	2549	2888

Minimum number of participants: 4 people; maximum number of participants: 12 people. Minimum number of participants for extension: 4 people. If the minimum number of participants is not reached, the Tour Operator reserves the right to withdraw from the travel contract no later than 21 days before the start of the tour. **Tour Operator:** Marco Polo Reisen GmbH, Riesstrasse 25, D-80992 Munich. **General travel conditions and suitability of travel for persons with reduced mobility:** www.agb-mp.com. **Payment/secured payment certificate:** Payment is only due upon presentation of the secured payment certificate (sent with the travel confirmation) in accordance with Section 651 r (3) of the German Civil Code (BGB). A deposit of 20% of the tour price, up to a maximum of €1000 per person, is due upon conclusion of the contract. The remaining travel price is due on the 20th day before departure or at the latest upon receipt of the travel documents. **Travel insurances:** No travel insurances are included in the tour price. We recommend purchasing travel cancellation insurance from the following provider: www.agb-mp.com/versicherung. **Package travel rights:** The standard notification form on your rights in relation to a package holiday can be found at www.agb-mp.com/pauschalreiserechte. **Data protection:** Marco Polo Reisen processes customer data for the purpose of travel implementation and contract execution (Art. 6 (1) (b) of the European Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)) and for the purpose of advertising its own services (Art. 6 (1) (f) GDPR). Detailed information and the contact details of our Data Protection Officer: www.agb-mp.com/datenschutz. You may withdraw your consent to the use of your data for advertising purposes at any time: Marco Polo Reisen GmbH, Riesstrasse 25, D-80992 Munich, Tel.: +49 (0)89/50060-411, E-mail: guys.travel@marco-polo-reisen.com.

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