



EXPERIENCE INTERNATIONAL Agricultural Study Tours



Ecuador

Sample Itinerary

This 11-day study tour explores the agriculture, rich cultural heritage, biodiversity, and fine food of Ecuador, including visits to both the Amazon jungle and Andean highlands. Despite being a small country in South America, Ecuador is one of the top 10 most biodiverse places in the world. With over 20,000 species of plants and 1,500 species of birds, Ecuador is bursting with a rich diversity of lifeforms. This biological abundance as well as the dramatic patchwork of landscapes allows for diversity in agricultural production. Ecuador is a major exporter of bananas, flowers, and is the eighth largest producer of cocoa. It is also a significant producer in shrimp, sugar cane, rice, cotton, corn, palm, coffee, dairy, beef cattle, potatoes, tropical fruits, and much more. The trip visits large commercial farms and ranches as well as small subsistence operations, markets and value added operations. The trip combines these visits with cultural exchange, recreation, music, straddling the equator, culinary delights, and many more adventures.

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| Day 1 | Arrive in Quito the world's second highest capitol & UNESCO World Heritage Site. |
| Day 2 | Tumbaco farmer's market: overview of Ecuadoran ag products
Quito Botanical Garden: overview of Ecuadorian Flora
Presentation; agricultural sector status and challenges |
| Day 3 | Depart to the Highlands and Northern Ecuador
Flor-Cal; cut flower/rose production and fair trade
Otovalo Market: largest Indigenous Artisan market in Latin America
Mascarilla: AfroEcuador community; subsistence farming
Evening of cultural exchange and Bomba music |
| Day 4 | Binational Agroecological School; farm and community visits
Field Day in El Carmelo; vegetables and dairy production
Exchange with farmers and demonstrations
Service project: reforestation
Cultural presentation: Juyungo Youth Dancers
Homestay with Juyungo families |

- Day 5 Instituto Angel Herrera: Agricultural Secondary School/College
Exchange with students/teachers; school farm & plowing demonstration
Ayuda en Accion; agro and ecotourism project
Paja de Paramo; local basket weaving
- Day 6 Potato production and marketing
Dairy processor (cheese and yoghurt)
Sugar Cane; harvest and processing
Cotocachi Nature Reserve: first and largest nature reserve in Ecuador
- Day 7 Depart to the Amazon
Livestock Market – Open air farmer’s market with large and small animals
Cross the Andes into the Upper Amazon Basin
Butterfly farm and Indigenous Artisans
- Day 8 AmaZOOnico; Wildlife Rescue Center
Anaconda Island, tubing or kayaking
Primary forest hike with naturalist
- Day 9 Depart to Quito
Cacao Farm; cacao production and chocolate processing
Kallari Chocolate; Quichua Chocolate Cooperative
Evening in Quito
- Day 10 Museo Intinan; Middle of the World – Straddle the Equator
Free afternoon
Group reflection
Farewell dinner