



**Private and Family Journeys**

# COST AND DETAILS

## What are the Private and Family Journeys?

There is no better way to create strong bonds amongst friends and family than traveling to a new destination and experiencing a unique culture. Our customized group journeys will bring you to a country with breathtaking landscapes, majestic volcanoes, and pristine waterfalls. Whether you are interested in hiking in the rain forest, discovering local flavors and cuisine, buying handcraft souvenirs at the local market, walking and meeting the people of Ecuador, or immersing in a new culture, you can always count on the expertise and service of our staff. Our private and family journeys offer knowledgeable guide tours, great accommodations, tasteful meals, and the opportunity to enjoy our itinerary or design your own to truly discover this colorful country. We are ready to design a journey that fits you, your peers, and family. Group journeys need a minimum of 2 participants.

## What type of tours can you organize?

Our private and family journeys are an ideal option for unforgettable family reunions, honeymoons, relaxing getaway with your lifelong friends, and many more. We are ready to craft a personalized journey to make this a memorable experience in the middle of the world. Below, we include potential ideas for your next vacation in Ecuador:

- ☀️ Couples retreat
- ☀️ Graduate Students and Alumni Tours
- ☀️ Family reunion
- ☀️ A Custom Trip for Women
- ☀️ A Multi-Generational trip
- ☀️ Business Retreat
- ☀️ Culinary Adventure

## What is the estimated total budget for this tour?

We can arrange Private and/or Family Journeys for groups of all sizes (minimum 2 participants). We will work with each group to offer a tour package that compares very favorably with our published rates. Of course, the final price depends upon how custom your itinerary is and the number of participants. You can also select any of the tours that we offer and select a departure date that works for you and your group.

## What is included in the tour fee?

- ☀️ Fully Furnished Apartments
- ☀️ Meals (As indicated in the itinerary)
- ☀️ Private Guided Daily Tours (English)
- ☀️ Transfer from and to airport in Quito
- ☀️ Private Van and Vehicles
- ☀️ Entrance Fee for Local Attractions Included in Itinerary
- ☀️ Pre-departure information and Staff Assistance
- ☀️ Bottled Water
- ☀️ Free Internet
- ☀️ Farewell Reception
- ☀️ Unique/Authentic Tours



### What is not included in this tour fee?

- ✗ International Airfare
- ✗ Additional Snacks and Meals not Included in Itinerary
- ✗ Additional Transportation Services not Included in Itinerary
- ✗ Souvenirs and Miscellaneous
- ✗ Tipping and Gratuities
- ✗ Beverages and Alcoholic Drinks
- ✗ Travel and Medical Emergency Insurance (Price Range: \$30-70)



### How and when should I contact My Ecuador Trip to design a tour?

We have a great network of collaborators in Ecuador and our team is ready to plan and support every aspect of your journey. That is why we can design an itinerary and tour proposal for you in a quick turn around. If you have an idea for a trip, please contact us to brainstorm potential alternatives. Or let's work through one of our set itineraries customizing it to fit your needs.

### How and When Should I book my airfare?

Airfare is not included on the price of this tour. Because our participants come from many different places, you will book your ticket on your own from the location is most convenient to you! Most participants will flight directly to Quito from MIAMI after their first connection (Quito is only a 3.5 hour flight from Miami). Participants will receive detailed flight information and arrival/departure time for guidance when booking this ticket. All participants must arrive and depart at indicated times.

### What can we expect from our accommodations?

Fully furnished apartment style accommodations are provided for all participants. These modern apartments have been carefully decorated and offer amenities such as a living room, dining room, and kitchen space to help you relax and enjoy your visit. We believe it is essential to provide not only comfort and safety, but also a special insight to the local culture. That is why we keep our tour size to a maximum of 10 participants and offer a smaller intimate property for our guests to truly make this visit a unique experience for each visitor. We can also customize your stay to different properties (guesthouse, hotel, luxury hotel, haciendas, lodges) if requested.



### How about our transportation?

Safety and reliability are our priority when traveling across Ecuador. Each trip enjoys a professional driver and a vehicle (e.g., van or small motor coach) that will only serve the group for the duration of their stay. This vehicle stays with us at all times, which provides maximum flexibility in our schedule, and allows us to make changes and adapt to local conditions if necessary. This is the kind of support and service we are committed to. In some occasions, the tour incorporates the use of public transportation or other methods of transportation. In this case, participants will receive this information during orientation and it will be described in the itinerary.

### How about our meals?

Coming to Ecuador is the perfect opportunity to experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available in this country. All meals included are clearly labeled in the trip description. With our expertise, we have selected a number of places that will offer you an authentic food experience, sampling local flavors, enjoying places where you will come face to face with locals, sharing traditions, and above all, eating like a local. To build rapport amongst participants, groups eat together.

### What is the degree of physical demand for the activities organized?

Our Private and Family tours can be crafted with your input on a day by day basis. Because we have fewer participants, that give us more flexibility. We can incorporate alternate walks, time off for relaxing, and other options at no extra cost. Below, we have included a brief description of what you could expect from a typical tour.

**Excursions and Tours.** Our tours can involve moderate hikes in the city, rainforests, plains, and national parks. Our tour involves getting out of vehicles, walking on uneven terrain, and in some cases hiking in places with high elevation and some humidity. Our tours are suited for anyone who can walk up to 2-5 km (1.5 - 3 miles) per day. Some days there will be no walking and other days walking time may exceed 1-2 hours (broken up into shorter blocks). In the past, we have welcomed participants with different medical conditions. Please send us an email if you would like to find out more information about the level of activity and accommodation for each tour.





# GENERAL DESCRIPTION

## Who can take part in this tour? Group Size?

Our tours Private & Family Tours are handcrafted and personalized to meet the needs of your group. Our tours offer knowledgeable tour leaders and on-site staff support 24/7. When you select My Ecuador Trip for your journey, you can expect a carefully planned itinerary with a full assortment of activities to immerse into the local culture. Our host city, Quito, was recently named one of the most beautiful cities in South America. Are you ready to discover Ecuador with us?

## Where is the tour taking place?

On the imaginary line that divides the globe into North and South, Ecuador stands as one of only 17 countries on earth considered as mega-diverse. Ecuador is “home to about 3,300 species of orchids, more than 1,500 species of birds, 350 species of reptiles, 450 species of amphibians, and more than 20,000 vascular plants” This diversity is also reflected on its people, with an ethnically mixed population representing Spanish and indigenous roots. Ecuador is one of the smallest countries in South America and lies 9,000 feet above sea level. Quito, our host city, is the capital of Ecuador. Quito was the first city named by UNESCO a “world heritage” city in 1978, and received the honor of "cultural capital" of Latin American in 2011.



With a population of 2.4 million, Quito offers one of the best preserved colonial centers in the world, combining a rich history with a contemporary metropolitan image. **National Geographic named Quito one of the top 10 places to visit in 2013.**

## What to expect from Ecuador as our destination?

Our tours are carefully designed to offer participants the opportunity to explore Ecuador and familiarize with the local culture. The tour has many aspects that are educational, recreational, cultural, and also offer activities to simply relax and have fun. All daily excursions are carefully designed and make up an itinerary that is fun, enriching, and safe. A staff member from My Ecuador Trip will serve as a group leader and will guide the group through their journey. Transportation is provided for every tour. Some of the unique destinations for our tours can include:

- |                          |                         |                            |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| ♣ Hike Rain Forest       | ♣ Sacred Lakes          | ♣ Waterfalls               |
| ♣ Volcano Observation    | ♣ Visit the Jungle      | ♣ Hot Springs              |
| ♣ Watch Exotic Animals   | ♣ Pululahua Crater      | ♣ Soccer Games             |
| ♣ Colonial Cathedrals    | ♣ Night Life            | ♣ Local Museums            |
| ♣ Artisanal Craft Market | ♣ Sky-Lift at 13,000 ft | ♣ Ethnic Food              |
| ♣ Shopping in Quito      | ♣ Middle of the World   | ♣ Humming Bird Observation |

## Do you have additional questions?

Please contact us if you have any additional questions or would like to discuss tour details.

# TRIP PREPARATION DETAILS

## Do you need medical / travel insurance to participate in this tour?

All participants must secure medical travel insurance coverage PRIOR the trip. This insurance should cover you for the entire duration of the trip. While many participants may already be covered by a medical insurance policy, your policy for this tour must include travel, medical, emergency repatriation, overseas coverage, and travel/trip cancellation (For additional details and a description of risks, please refer to our liability contract).

All participants must present **proof of insurance** in writing to My Ecuador Trip prior departure (i.e., copy of online receipt/policy with your name). My Ecuador Trip does not endorse the following travel insurance providers but includes their contact information for your reference

iNext card: <http://www.inext.com/plans/supplemental/basic.aspx>

CMI Insurance Worldwide: <https://www.cmi-insurance.com/default.aspx>

STA Travel Insurance: <http://www.statravel.com/international-travel-insurance.htm>

Insurance Purchased Through Orbitz when you book your ticket

## Health Considerations

Each participant should consult a doctor for up-to-date medical travel information before departure. We highly recommend that you carry with you all personal medications needed (e.g., headache tablets, antibiotics, etc). When booking this tour, please carefully read about the physical demands of the itinerary. Please note that Quito is a city in the Andes mountains with high altitude (medically defined as anything over 8,000 feet). We have not have any issues in the past, but because everyone reacts to altitude differently, and only you know your health and fitness level, please consult with your physician prior the trip.



## Do you need vaccinations prior traveling to Ecuador?

All our programs take place in locations where no vaccinations are needed. These areas have no risk of malaria or yellow fever.

## Do you need a visa to visit Ecuador?

At the present time, U.S. citizens do not need a visa to travel to Ecuador for a period shorter than 90 days. If you are **not a U.S. citizen**, you must check with your own government agency and/or the consulates of all countries visited for entry and visa requirements for your nationality.

## Should you bring cash to Ecuador?

Yes. Each trip details an estimated amount of cash participants will need to bring to cover additional expenses (i.e., souvenirs, alcoholic drinks, tips, miscellaneous). However, because every participant is different spending money requirements will vary. Please consider your own spending habits. In addition, it is always a good idea

to have **extra cash/emergency fund** in case you find the souvenir of your dreams or need to make an unexpected purchase.

Ecuador's official currency since 2001 is the U.S. dollar. If you bring cash, please bring smaller bills (locals do not accept \$50 or \$100 dollar bills). We highly discourage bringing traveler checks.

Credit Cards: ATMs are available. However, you need to check with your bank before leaving to ensure that your card works internationally. Also, we recommend that withdrawing cash from an ATM will be for emergency purposes only, considering that our itinerary might take us to places where ATMs are not available.

### What should I pack?

Every participant will receive detailed packing information prior departure. We will be happy to answer any additional question.

### What is your cancellation policy?

#### Participant Cancellation:

Cancellation Policy: Refunds will be given for cancellations received in writing 60 days before the trip date less a \$300 processing fee. If you decide to cancel your participation in the tour 60 to 30 days before for any reason, we will refund 50% of your total payments (not including \$300 processing fee). Cancellations under 30 days before the trip dates will not be entitled to any refunds. No partial refunds are given for unused meals, hotel rooms, airport transfers, or other program activities, for any reason whatsoever. All requests for cancellation and refunds must be in writing to [myecuadortrip2010@gmail.com](mailto:myecuadortrip2010@gmail.com).

Only cancellations under 30 days are eligible for credit for a future tour (travel, study, or volunteer tour) minus the \$300 application fee and any other expenses incurred by My Ecuador Trip. If credit is used, this tour must be booked within one year after the original tour date. No refunds will be given if the tour is not booked within that time frame. My Ecuador Trip will have no further liability with the participant.

#### Tour Cancellation:

The tour may be cancelled or postponed due to unforeseen circumstances by My Ecuador Trip. In this case My Ecuador Trip will refund all tour fees and has no further liability to the participant. My Ecuador Trip will not be responsible for additional costs, charges, or expenses, including cancellation/change charges assessed by airlines, travel insurance, and/or travel agencies. Please note that under no circumstances My Ecuador Trip is responsible for any flight cancellation or flight change charges incurred. My Ecuador Trip is not responsible for weather or travel-related problems and will not reimburse registration fees for these issues. We would like to mention that we have never cancelled a trip.

#### Travel Warning Cancellation

In case of an act of war, terrorism, or the threat of an act of terrorism. Participants will receive a full refund (less the \$300 processing fee that will be applied for a future trip) should all of the following conditions be met: (a) a terrorist act, or threats of terrorist acts occur(s), which is directed against U.S. interests on U.S. soil or in U.S. airspace or directed against U.S. interests in any other country or in international airspace; and (b) as a result of these events, a formal Travel Warning is issued by the U.S. Department of State, stating that Americans should not travel to Ecuador and any other country or countries that are included in the participant's tour itinerary; and (c) the formal Travel Warning by the U.S. Department of State is issued within 30 days of the participant's departure.



## Itinerary Disclaimer

Each participant will receive a detailed itinerary closer to the trip's dates. Each participant will also receive a detailed list of how to prepare, packing, and other pertaining information. While it is our intention to adhere to itinerary described for each tour, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into each itinerary and My Ecuador Trip deserves the right to make alterations when necessary and at the discretion of My Ecuador Trip staff. Travel can be unpredictable, and the itinerary is a general guide to the tour and region. In addition any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered and travel times will be changed according to local circumstances.



### MY ECUADOR TRIP

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103 - Registered LLC.

Website: [www.myequadortrip.com](http://www.myequadortrip.com)

Phone: 320.493.6581

Email: [info@myequadortrip.com](mailto:info@myequadortrip.com)