



CUICOCHA CRATER, MOJANDA LAKE & INDIAN MARKET OTAVALO

TWO DAY TRIP

*Panoramic Volcano Crater and Lake Views – Nature Hiking
Animal Market – Indian Crafts & Leather Work Shopping*

1st DAY:

We leave Quito at 06h00 to drive along the North-Panamericana highway towards Otavalo. On the way, we pass the towns of Calderon (where we can see **roasted pigs** for sale) and Guallabamba. After a quick stop on the **equator line** in Cayambe (at Latitude 0), we continue north to Otavalo, passing scenic views of **Imbabura Volcano** (4600 m) and the lovely **San Pablo Lake**.

We arrive at Otavalo at 08h00 to visit the **Animal Market**, where the indigenous are usually dressed in their **traditional costumes**.

Surrounded by beautiful mountain peaks and lakes, we drive to **Laguna Mojanda**, where we **hike around the lagoon** for about 3 hours, at an altitude of 3800m. After this walk, we take a well deserved break and enjoy a picnic close to the lake.

In the afternoon, we return to Otavalo to visit its market which is one of the largest Indian markets in Ecuador where you can find **textile, food, handicrafts** and a **great deal of souvenirs!** World-famous for their 4000 year of **traditional weaving** techniques, the Otavaleños Indians also sell other nice crafts, such as pottery, woodcarvings, and let's not forget to visit the popular **Plaza de Poncho**.

Afterwards we head to the small town of Peguche, where we visit a home of a Otavaleño family and enjoy **learning about their traditional process of textile weaving**.

In the evening, after dinner we stay at a hostel unless you wish to spend an evening at a **Peña** with live folkloric music.

2nd DAY:

After breakfast, we depart to the **Volcano Crater Lake Cuicocha**, which is one of the most beautiful craters in Ecuador. The volcano is located at the foot of Cotacachi. Its height is 4939m above sea level and the crater lies on an altitude of 3100m. You will be especially impressed by the lake's **lava dome islands**.

During a 4-hour hike along the crater's rim, there will be lots of opportunities for taking pictures of the **panoramic view** of this 200m deep lake and of the **flora and fauna**, which your guide will help you to identify.

Our last stop is at the village of Cotacachi which is **famous for its leather work**. We can have a look at the shops for a little while and then enjoy a typical lunch from this region.

Arrival at Quito at about 18h00.



Price per person:

From 3 people: US\$160.- from 4-5 people: US\$130.- from 6 people: US\$100.-

Includes:

Private transportation, bilingual guide, box lunch, breakfast, overnight stay

What to bring:

Trekking shoes, raincoat and warm jacket, sunglasses, sun cream, hat and camera

