



VOLCANO GUAGUA PICHINCHA

ONE DAY TRIP

*Panoramic Volcano & Crater Views – Nature Hiking
Discover Highland Vegetation – Lava Landscapes*

Located about 30 km west of Quito, the VOLCAN PICHINCHA provides an enjoyable **acclimatization hike** with **great panoramic views** of the valley beneath and of Quito. At a height of 4781m, **GUAGUA PICHINCHA** is the tallest of the two peak volcanoes. GUAGUA PICHINCHA has been in a state of renewed volcanic activity since 1998, which means we might be able to **see smoke rising from the crater!**

Our tour departs Quito at 08h00, usually when the weather is at its best in order to avoid afternoon clouds. We drive southwest through the **countryside** passing farms (haciendas) towards the **small village of LLOA**, situated at the foot of the volcano. From LLOA, we begin our ascent to the volcano by four wheel drive car which lasts about 1 hour. At this point, we begin to notice a **change in climate and vegetation**. We will also be able to admire incredible **views overlooking the Andes Mountain Range**.

At about 4000m, we leave our car and begin our ascent on foot. **It's about a 1 ½ hour hike** to the refuge which is situated at 4500m. Here we will see a variety of **paramo plants**, such as the **Chuquirahua**, which provides medicinal benefits.

From the refuge it is a short hike to the crater's rim, where you can **look inside the smoking volcano** and appreciate the immense crater in all its beauty. The walk continues around the crater's edge and up to the peak of GUAGUA PICHINCHA, which provides you a stunning view of the Guagua crater and the volcano's second peak. From the top of the crater, it is often possible to **see up to 9 close volcanoes**, such as Cayambe, Antisana, Sincholagua, Cotopaxi etc.

To enjoy the volcano's **desert landscape (a mixture of lava and sand)**, we take a different route to walk back. This allows us to observe more of the highland's vegetation that is typical of this region.

After about **4 ½ hours of trekking** we will finish the day with a nice relaxing picnic lunch.

Price per person:

From 3 people US\$ 53.- from 4-5 people US\$ 49.- from 6 people US\$ 45.-

Includes:

Private transportation, bilingual guide, box lunch,

Does not include:



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Entrance fee to the refuge Guagua Pichincha

What to bring:

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

