



NATIONAL PARK COTOPAXI & QUILOTOA CRATER LAKE

TWO DAY TRIP

*Panoramic Views of Quito, Cotopaxi and Quilotoa Crater Lake, Hiking - Paramo
Highland Vegetation – Indian Market – Lava Fields*

1st DAY:

We leave Quito at 08:00 and then take the Pan American highway south along the famous **AVENIDA DE LOS VOLCANES (Avenue of the Volcanoes)**.

Then we continue along a countryside road and begin our ascent by car (4x4) into the **Cotopaxi National Park (3800m)**.

Our journey continues to reach an altitude of 4500 m, where we will leave the vehicle and proceed to **climb the awe-inspiring snow-capped Cotopaxi (5897 m)**, one of the world's highest volcanoes. It is a 45 minute walk to the Refuge (4800 m) and an additional 25 minutes to reach the **glacier**, from where we have a stunning view of the National Park.

After our descent from the refuge and the glacier, our hike continues through the **paramo highland vegetation** towards **LAGUNA LIMPIOPUNGO**, a small picturesque lake, where we will stop for a picnic lunch.

There is an optional 30 minute walk around the lake, which is a great place to spot some of the Park's **abundant birdlife**.

After passing Pujili which is another traditional Indian village, we continue to the highlands up to 3800 m through an amazing and multicoloured landscape, where you will see the **“chozas” mud huts** typical of the indigenous villages and farms of the region.

In the evening, we have a typical dinner at the lovely and small village called **CHUGCHILAN**, where we also spend the night.

2nd DAY:

On Sunday, we set off after breakfast to visit the impressive **QUILOTOA CRATER**, an **extinct volcano of which crater holds a beautiful lake**.

From here there are the following activities available:



- 1) A **30 minute walk down to the lake**; with a steep 1 ½ hour return climb (The “ecological taxi” option (**ascent by mule**) is also available).
- 2) A **5 hour walk around the edge of the crater and a small boat trip on the crater lake of about 30 to 45 minutes.**

After the walk, we will have lunch in Quilotoa or on our way back to Quito.
Then we drive to the small village **PUJILI to visit its Sunday market.**

Later in the afternoon we will return to Quito and will arrive at about 19h00.



Price per person:

From 3 people: US\$175.- from 4-5 people: US\$130.- from 6 people: US\$110.-

Includes:

Private transportation, bilingual guide, all meals, overnight stay,

Does not include:

Entrance fee to the National Park Cotopaxi and to the Crater Quilotoa, horse riding

What to bring:

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