

Responsible Travel 

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Rental Car Vacation Package



Self-Drive Tour in Ecuador

For independent-minded travelers who like to make up their own minds as to the itinerary, drive past stunning landscapes, and stop for photo breaks whenever a self-drive holiday is the ultimate road trip.

Our self-drive trip itineraries have been carefully picked to show you the very best of Ecuador's amazing sights and experiences exploring off the beaten track in an SUV vehicle. You will have the opportunity to take your time at each place, choosing when to arrive and when to leave, as there are no tour guides, departure times, or other groups to worry about on this vacation.

Everything is tweakable, giving you the freedom to build a unique and personal trip for your chosen date. Upgrade your accommodation for all - or just part - of your trip, slow down the pace with a few extra nights here and there or add a few more active adventures on an exciting rental car vacation package.

Benefits

- *Freedom*
- *Local Knowledge*
- *Save Money*
- *Local Support*

Self-Drive Tour in Ecuador: 7 Days

| Activity | Accommodation | Meals |
|---|----------------------|-------|
| Arrival at Quito Airport and Transfer to your hotel | Ikala Quito | -/-/- |
| Hotsprings in Termas de Papallacta | Termas de Papallacta | B/-/- |
| Papallacta – Tena | Hakuna Matata | B/-/- |
| Tena - Baños | Sangay Spa & Hotel | B/-/- |
| Baños – Cotopaxi Hacienda | Hacienda El Porvenir | B/-/- |
| Cotopaxi – Quilotoa - Quito | Ikala Quito | B/-/- |
| Sightseeing & Departure from Quito, Departure | - | B/-/- |


B = Breakfast, BL = Box Lunch, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1 - Arrival in Quito

You will arrive at Quito International Airport; rental car reservations will be properly made and the counter agent will have your information prior to your arrival at the rental car counter located a few steps next to Local Arrivals.


The car rental agent will ask for your passport, driver's license, and credit card for a deposit in case there are any traffic speed tickets or damages to the vehicle that will not be covered by the insurance.

The entire city of Quito is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, standing at an altitude of 9,350 feet (2,850 m) and welcoming visitors with its picturesque plazas situated between mountain peaks. The city has an abundance of market stands, shamanistic healers, and fourth-generation hat makers, as well as a vibrant and sophisticated culinary and nightlife scene.

 **Meals:** -
Overnight: Quito

DAY 2 - Hotsprings in Termas de Papallacta


After a delicious breakfast, your GPS will be set to take you to Papallacta, situated at 3,700 meters in the midst of an evergreen paramo landscape (Andean high grasslands), which is renowned for its hot springs. At the Termas de Papallacta resort and spa, you can relax and enjoy its pools, naturally heated by the volcanic hot springs. Also, if the weather is clear, you will be able to see the giant Antisana Volcano (reaching a height of 5,758 meters) looming above.

 **Meals:** Breakfast
Overnight: Papallacta

DAY 3 – Papallacta – Tena


Today, you will be driving just a few hours east of Papallacta, Tena Ecuador is one of Ecuador's major gateways to the Amazon Rainforest. The elevation of Tena is 1,962 feet (598 meters). Since most visitors arrive in Tena from Quito, high up in the Andes at 9,350 feet (2,850 meters), you'll absolutely feel the change in elevation when you arrive! The drive is along a twisty road down from the mountains into the rainforest.

It feels a bit precarious but is quite safe. Given its rainforest location, it sprinkles or drizzles for at least a short time almost every day in Tena. Expect an afternoon shower and overcast skies, but don't expect torrential rain all day every day.

 **Meals:** Breakfast
Overnight: Tena


DAY 4 – Tena – Baños

After spending the day in Tena, enjoy one last time what you have pending in this adventurous city before parting to the Amazon city of Baños. Drive along the avenue of the waterfalls and notice how the vegetation shifters. Once you arrive at your hotel in Baños, spend the rest of the day at leisure.

 **Meals:** Breakfast
Overnight: Baños


DAY 5 – Baños – Cotopaxi Hacienda

In the morning, you will continue your journey to Pailon del Diablo Waterfall, the same day you will arrive at the Hacienda after 3 hours on the road. National Parks usually close at 17h00 so you will have enough time to rest and you could do horseback riding (Optional). Enjoy the history behind the corridors and walls of one of the oldest haciendas of the Cotopaxi region where you will spend the night.

 **Meals:** Breakfast
Overnight: Cotopaxi Hacienda


DAY 6 – Cotopaxi Hacienda – Quilotoa Lagoon - Quito

Today you will visit the picturesque volcano lagoon Quilotoa. You have the option to walk along the crater's rim to enjoy the splendid view or hike down a path to the crater lake. The return can become a bit longer, so you have the option to rent a mule for the uphill hike. In the afternoon, you return to Quito.

 **Meals:** Breakfast
Overnight: Quito

DAY 7 – Sightseeing & Departure from Quito, Departure

Make your way towards Quito's Airport, and drop off your car rental to return back home. Make sure to return the vehicle in the same conditions, if you had any mishappen with the rental car make sure to let us know in advance.

 **Meals:** Breakfast
Overnight: -

Self-Drive Tour in Ecuador: 10 Days

| Activity | Accommodation | Meals |
|---|----------------------|-------|
| Arrival at Quito Airport and Transfer to your hotel | Ikala Quito | -/-/- |
| Free Day in Quito | Ikala Quito | B/-/- |
| Quito – Mindo | Sisakuna | B/-/- |
| Mindo – Cotopaxi Hacienda | Hacienda El Porvenir | B/-/- |
| Cotopaxi Hacienda – Pailon del Diablo - Baños | Sangay Spa & Hotel | B/-/- |
| Baños - Tena | Hakuna Matata | B/-/- |
| Tena – Hotsprings in Termas de Papallacta | Termas de Papallacta | B/-/- |
| Papallacta – Otavalo Market & Cuicocha Lagoon | Hacienda Pinsaqui | B/-/- |
| Otavalo - Quito | Ikala Quito | B/-/- |
| Sightseeing & Departure from Quito, Departure | - | B/-/- |

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 **Meals:** -
Overnight: Quito

DAY 2 – Free Day in Quito


Spend today exploring Quito at your own pace. Visit the historic Old Town to discover the colonial churches of San Francisco, La Compañía, and other historical landmarks, or head to the fascinating Equator Monument, which also houses the Ethnographical Museum. If you're feeling adventurous, ride a cable car up the slopes of nearby Volcán Pichincha for dizzying views over the city from 12,942 feet (3,944 m).

 **Meals:** Breakfast
Overnight: Quito

DAY 3 – Quito – Mindo


Today you'll explore the lush green cloud forest of Mindo. Its location at the western slopes of the Andean highlands gives this region mild temperatures and lots of rainfall. Thanks to the favorable conditions, the Mindo forest has incredibly high

biodiversity. You'll get the chance to see some of the countless birds, butterflies, and insect species that call the region home. Visit the butterfly garden, hike to beautiful waterfalls, or fly between the treetops on a zipline. Afterwards, take a chance and learn to make chocolate and taste your creations.

 **Meals:** Breakfast
Overnight: Mindo


DAY 4 – Mindo – Cotopaxi Hacienda

Spend your last few moments strolling through Mindo, before making you towards Cotopaxi National Park. National Parks usually close at 17h00 so you will have enough time to rest and you could do horseback riding (Optional). Enjoy the history behind the corridors and walls of one of the oldest haciendas of the Cotopaxi region where you will spend the night.

 **Meals:** Breakfast
Overnight: Cotopaxi Hacienda


DAY 5 – Cotopaxi Hacienda – Pailon del Diablo – Baños

In the morning, you will leave your hacienda in Cotopaxi National Park and head to the town of Baños (approx. 3 hours), famous as one of Ecuador's outdoor capitals. Upon arrival, check in to your hotel and rest a little bit. Driving south from Baños in the afternoon, following the "Avenue of waterfalls", you will follow the Pastaza River on its way through the valley of the same name. Passing a number of waterfalls, you will reach the village of Rio Verde, where you will stop to visit the well-known El Pailon del Diablo (The Devil's Cauldron) waterfall. You may also rent a bike and ride to the waterfall.

 **Meals:** Breakfast
Overnight: Baños


DAY 6 – Baños – Tena

After spending the day in Baños, enjoy one last time what you have pending in this adventurous city before parting to the Amazon city of Tena. Drive along the avenue of the waterfalls and notice how the vegetation shifters. Once you arrive at your hotel in Tena, spend the rest of the day at leisure.

 **Meals:** Breakfast
Overnight: Tena

DAY 7 – Tena – Hotsprings in Termas de Papallacta

Today, you will be driving just a few hours west towards Papallacta, and you'll absolutely feel the change in elevation when you arrive! The drive is along a twisty road up from the rainforest into the mountains.

 **Meals:** Breakfast
Overnight: Papallacta

DAY 8 – Papallacta – Otavalo Market & Cuicocha Lagoon

In the morning, head to Otavalo. The city is the home of the well-known indigenous market where artisans come to sell colorful textiles and other traditional goods. Snack

on fruits and other snacks while you browse the stalls for paintings, carvings, hand-painted bowls, and much more. Enjoy some street food (try the salted mango or fritada con mote—fried pork with cooked corn, then continue to the nearby town of Cotacachi for some free time and more shopping (the town is famous for its leather products). In the afternoon, stroll along the shores of the volcanic crater lake of Cuicocha. You can even take a boat ride around the two islands.



Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Otavalo

DAY 9 – Otavalo & Peguche Waterfall – Quito

You will head to the small waterfall Peguche, formed by the river of the same name. This waterfall is considered an indigenous ceremonial site. After visiting the waterfall, you could also stop by the local artisans who live and work in this area.

For your overnight stay, you return to Quito.



Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: -

DAY 10 – Sightseeing & Departure from Quito, Departure

Make your way towards Quito's Airport, and drop off your car rental to return back home. Make sure to return the vehicle in the same conditions, if you had any mishappen with the rental car make sure to let us know in advance.



Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: -

Classic Self-Drive Tour in Ecuador: 12 Days

| Activity | Accommodation | Meals |
|---|----------------------|-------|
| Arrival at Quito Airport and Transfer to your hotel | Ikala Quito | -/-/- |
| Free Day in Quito | Ikala Quito | B/-/- |
| Quito – Otavalo Market & Cuicocha Lagoon | Hacienda Pinsaqui | B/-/- |
| Otavalo – Cotopaxi Hacienda | Hacienda el Porvenir | B/-/- |
| Cotopaxi Hacienda – Pailon del Diablo – Baños | Sangay Spa & Hotel | B/-/- |
| Free Day Baños | Sangay Spa & Hotel | B/-/- |
| Baños – Chimborazo - Riobamba | Casa Real Hotel | B/-/- |
| Riobamba - Cuenca | Carvallo Hotel | B/-/- |
| Exploring Cuenca | Carvallo Hotel | B/-/- |
| Cuenca – Cajas National Park - Guayaquil | Wyndham Guayaquil | B/-/- |
| Free Day in Guayaquil | Wyndham Guayaquil | B/-/- |
| Sightseeing & Departure from Guayaquil, Departure | - | B/-/- |

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DAY 1 - Arrival in Quito

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★ **Meals:** -
Overnight: Quito

DAY 2 – Free Day in Quito

Spend today exploring Quito at your own pace. Visit the historic Old Town to discover the colonial churches of San Francisco, La Compañía, and other historical landmarks, or head to the fascinating Equator Monument, which also houses the Ethnographical Museum. If you're feeling adventurous, ride a cable car up the slopes of nearby Volcán Pichincha for dizzying views over the city from 12,942 feet (3,944 m).

★ **Meals:** Breakfast
Overnight: Quito

DAY 3 – Quito – Otavalo Market & Cuicocha Lagoon

In the morning, head to Otavalo. The city is the home of the well-known indigenous market where artisans come to sell colorful textiles and other traditional goods. Snack on fruits and other snacks while you browse the stalls for paintings, carvings, hand-painted bowls, and much more. Enjoy some street food (try the salted mango or fritada con mote—fried pork with cooked corn, then continue to the nearby town of Cotacachi for some free time and more shopping (the town is famous for its leather products). In the afternoon, stroll along the shores of the volcanic crater lake of Cuicocha. You can even take a boat ride around the two islands.



Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Mindo

DAY 4 – Otavalo – Cotopaxi Hacienda

After a delicious breakfast, you will head south to Cotopaxi National Park. You can visit Lake Limpiopungo as well as the El Salitre Inca ruins, located in the highlands of the park. Here, you will have a spectacular view of Cotopaxi Volcano's gigantic cone. Lake Limpiopungo offers a variety of birds, and occasionally even wild horses. A short walk around the lake will allow you to admire the Andean plant and animal life along the way. You will reach your traditional Hacienda just in time for lunch (not included). The afternoon is at leisure. You may choose to go for a scenic horseback excursion at the foothills of the Rumiñahui volcano, explore the surroundings of the Hacienda on a mountain bike or just relax in your cozy room.



Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Cotopaxi Hacienda

DAY 5 – Cotopaxi Hacienda – Pailon del Diablo – Baños

In the morning, you will leave your hacienda in Cotopaxi National Park and head to the town of Baños (approx. 3 hours), famous as one of Ecuador's outdoor capitals. Upon arrival, check in to your hotel and rest a little bit. Driving south from Baños in the afternoon, following the "Avenue of waterfalls", you will follow the Pastaza River on its way through the valley of the same name. Passing a number of waterfalls, you will reach the village of Rio Verde, where you will stop to visit the well-known El Pailon del Diablo (The Devil's Cauldron) waterfall. You may also rent a bike and ride to the waterfall.



Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Baños

DAY 6 – Free Day Baños

This small town is known for two things: naturally heated thermal baths – the namesake of Baños, Ecuador – and adventure sports! Nearby Baños, you'll find mountains, rivers, waterfalls, and hot springs to explore on your own in a day full of adventure.




Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Baños


DAY 7 – Baños – Chimborazo - Riobamba

Today you will leave Baños after breakfast and make your way to the impressive volcano Chimborazo. You should already be able to spot it several times along the way. If the altitude does not affect you, take a walk to the refuge Carrell at 4.800 m and enjoy the splendid view of surrounding valleys and mountains. Afterward, continue your journey towards Riobamba, where you will spend the night.

 **Meals:** Breakfast
Overnight: Riobamba


DAY 8 – Riobamba - Cuenca

This morning you will continue your journey south to Cuenca, passing through the dunes of Palmira. If time and weather conditions allow, you can pass through Baños del Inca, which contains some special ruins and a fantastic hot spring. From here you will continue to Cuenca where you will be able to spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure.

 **Meals:** Breakfast
Overnight: Cuenca


DAY 9 – Exploring Cuenca

Stroll through the cobblestone streets of Cuenca's old town and see the various plazas and churches. Explore the beautiful scenery of the Azuay province and the picturesque small villages, such as Chordeleg, known for silver and gold handicrafts, Gualaceo with its orchid farm or Zigzig with its market. Return to Cuenca in the afternoon for another night at your hotel in the colonial part of town.

 **Meals:** Breakfast
Overnight: -

DAY 10 – Cuenca – Cajas National Park – Guayaquil

Your first stop today is the beautiful Cajas National Park. This National Park comprises more than 200 interconnected high-altitude lagoons. The Cajas is not only a source of many rivers but even connects to the Pacific and the Atlantic Ocean. You have some time to enjoy the view from the lookout or to take a short walk to one of the many lagoons. Afterward, you continue your journey westwards and you can stop at a Hacienda where you will get to know the process of chocolate making and where you may have a delicious, local lunch. In the afternoon, you will drive through lush vegetation until reaching Ecuador's biggest city, Guayaquil.

 **Meals:** Breakfast
Overnight: Guayaquil

DAY 11 – Free Day in Guayaquil

Today you will explore Guayaquil with your car rental, we suggest starting with a visit to the Seminario Park, a very popular meeting point for young Ecuadorian lovers. Furthermore, this little park is well-known for its land iguanas which laze about in the trees while they catch the sun. You can visit the Cathedral, built in classical gothic style and then we move on to Guayaquil's famous wide, tree-lined waterfront, "El Malecon", that runs alongside the river Guayas. The next stop will be the historic local government buildings, the "Palacio Municipal" and then the "Palacio de Gobernacion"

(the Government Palace). Right in front of this palace is the Moorish clock tower “La Torre Morisca”, which was built in 1843, and with a little effort climbing its steep stairs, we can enjoy the views across the city. La Rotonda, another historic monument, is a statue that marks the meeting between Simon Bolivar and Jose San Martin in 1822. The old district of Las Peñas, a vestige of old Guayaquil to the north end of the Malecon, is a picturesque neighborhood built on the Cerro Santa Ana hill on the edge of the river. Climbing the stairway amid the brightly painted wooden houses, you will gain a different perspective of Ecuador’s largest city.



Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Guayaquil

DAY 12 – Sightseeing & Departure from Guayaquil, Departure

Make your way towards Quito's Airport, and drop off your car rental to return back home. Make sure to return de vehicle in the same conditions, if you had any mishappen with the rental car make sure to let us know in advance.



Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: -

7- Day Program

Price Per Person:

Starting from \$1,217 per person (minimum 2 travelers)

10- Day Program

Price Per Person:

Starting from \$1,611 per person (minimum 2 travelers)

12- Day Program

Price Per Person:

Starting from \$2,015 per person (minimum 2 travelers)

Included:

- Crossover SUV or similar (upgrades available)
- Unlimited Kilometers
- Additional Driver
- LDW Insurance
- Liability Insurance
- Gas prepayment upon car drop off
- GPS Equipment
- Parking Fees on Cuenca
- Accommodations on 3.5-star hotel based on double room
- Breakfast for every traveler
- Assistance at Airport upon car rental pick up and drop off
- Digital Booklet with Day to Day Activities and Recommendations

Not Included:

- International Flights
- Fuel
- Personal travel insurance
- Entrance fees
- Meals not stated on the itinerary
- Beverages
- Parking fees other than Cuenca