

## South America - Cotopaxi Volcano Extension

Trip Code  
ECLTSCE  
Departure



### Introduction

Enjoy this 3 day extension package to explore the wonders of Cotopaxi.

Hacienda El Porvenir, located on the slopes of Rumiñahui Volcano, offers an ideal base to explore Cotopaxi Volcano and its surrounding area. Situated just 1.5 hours from Quito, Hacienda El Porvenir is positioned 4 km from the northern entrance of Cotopaxi National Park. At an altitude of 3,600 meters (11,811 feet), it is surrounded by four volcanoes, including the iconic Cotopaxi. Hacienda El Porvenir is a working ranch focused on sustainable agriculture, livestock farming, conservation, and ecotourism, producing milk, cheese, and vegetables for its restaurant, with a herb garden that enhances its cuisine.

The farmhouse blends traditional Andean construction with local materials, centred around a large courtyard. The history of El Porvenir dates back to colonial times when it was managed by the Jesuits, who raised sheep and wild cattle. The current owners, the Párez Gangotena family, opened Hacienda El Porvenir to visitors in 1999, sharing its beauty and adventure opportunities with travellers.

Hacienda El Porvenir provides a diverse range of adventures for guests to enjoy during their stay including (but not limited to) Horseback Riding and Cooking in the Clouds.

**We suggest combining this extension with our [Signature Galapagos](#) or [Signature Galapagos Express](#) packages. On Day 3 instead of enjoying a day tour of Cotopaxi from Quito, you will transfer to Hacienda El Porvenir for 2 nights and on Day 5 you will return to Quito for an additional night before flying to the Galapagos Islands for your cruise.**

**Combine your stay at Hacienda El Porvenir with a trip to the Galapagos Islands on vessels like the [Elite](#), [Endemic](#) or [Ocean Spray](#)! [Contact us](#) for more information and pricing.**

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Trip Code

ECLTSCE

Departure

Daily

Duration

3 Days

Cotopaxi

Locations

Ecuador

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This morning your driver and tour guide will pick you up in Quito to head to Hacienda Santa Rita, a private ecological reserve located on the slopes of Pasochoa Volcano at an altitude of 3,200 meters (10,500 ft). Here, we will hike the Condor Machay Waterfall Trail (a 45-minute to 1-hour hike). The trail features wooden stairs and railings where needed for safety. You'll descend a path with views of the Pita River flowing over petrified lahars, leading to a stunning and unique perspective of the Condor Machay Waterfall. After the hike, we will return to our vehicle and drive to Hacienda El Porvenir to enjoy a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, you will have the opportunity to participate in a gratitude ceremony for Pachamama (Mother Earth). In this folkloric ritual, Hacienda El Porvenir, a pioneer in nature conservation since 1992, invites you to connect with nature by planting a native tree, contributing to the preservation of this extraordinary ecosystem. \*Your stay at Hacienda el Porvenir includes most activities but may have a limited number of "extra cost" activities, which will be at your own cost and paid locally. Note that the sequence of the excursion as well as the logistics and/or duration might change depending on weather conditions.



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Day 2: Horseback Riding & Cooking Classes

Duration

3 Days

Locations

Ecuador

Before setting out on horseback. Wearing

the typical dress of the chagra (Ecuadorian

cowboys), this ride across the slopes of the

dormant volcano, Rumiñahui will be an

unforgettable experience. A legendary

chagra from the region will accompany you

and share his knowledge and culture along

the way. After a ride of approximately three

hours, you will return to the farmhouse

where a tasty local lunch will be waiting for

you. In the afternoon, immerse yourself in

Andean traditions during our Cooking in the

Clouds lessons. The class begins with a

hands-on cooking session where you will

prepare our famous cheese empanadas,

followed by the crafting of ají, a

quintessential Ecuadorian chili sauce.

Recipes for ají vary from home to home, but

at Hacienda El Porvenir, you will learn to

make it the traditional way using a stone

mortar and a blend of fresh herbs and

spices. Finally, you'll learn how to prepare

canelazo, a warm, spiced drink traditionally

served during celebrations in the

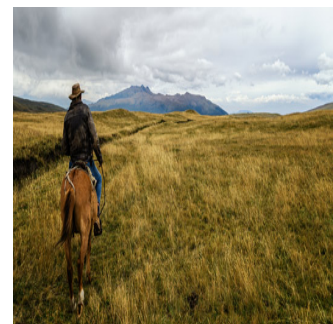
Ecuadorian highlands. After the class, you

can enjoy your creations by a crackling

fireplace. The day concludes with dinner

and an overnight stay at Hacienda El

Porvenir.



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Day 3: Cotopaxi National Park Visit &

Return to Quito

3 Days

Locations: Quito, Cotopaxi, Cotacachi, Cotacachi

Country: Ecuador

City: Cotopaxi National Park (CNP), located just 4

km from the Hacienda. This fascinating

drive passes through ancient lava flows

from Cotopaxi's past eruptions, making it an

ideal place to learn about Andean geology.

During your visit, you will reach the car

park below Cotopaxi's Refuge, where a

short but rewarding hike begins. The trail

leads to the José Ribas Refuge, situated at

an elevation of 4,800 meters (15,744 ft). The

immensity of the volcano is awe-inspiring,

leaving a lasting impression as you ascend.

After the hike, you will return to the vehicle

and continue to Limpiopungo Lake, where a

box lunch will be served amidst the

stunning scenery. From there, the journey

continues through rocky valleys until you

arrive at Pucará del Salitre, an ancient Inca

fortress once part of the route to the

Amazon basin. Nearby, natural springs

emerge, carrying icy water from the

underground rivers fed by Cotopaxi's

glaciers. Following this immersive

experience, you will be transferred to Quito

for your onward travels.



### Inclusions & Details

Accommodation      Lodge

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Daily  
Duration  
3 Days  
Locations  
Ecuador

### Inclusions

Accommodation in chosen room for 2 nights  
Meals throughout while at the lodge (starting with dinner on day 1 and ending with lunch on day 3).  
One soft drink per meal  
Most activities while at the lodge. Some activities may be excluded and incur an additional cost  
Licensed English-speaking guide  
Group Transfers to/from Quito on a scheduled basis  
Entrance fee to Santa Rita Ecological Reserve  
Entrance to APU Mountain SPA wet area

Inclusions

### Exclusions

Travel insurance  
Tips  
Alcoholic drinks  
International flights  
Any items not mentioned as included  
Personal expenses  
Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable)  
3 Active Adventure (High Altitude In Some Areas)  
A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please [contact us](#) for more information.  
Prices are based on per person, twin share.  
Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.  
All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.  
Please note on day 1 you will depart Quito early in the morning and on day 3 you will return to Quito late in the evening, so at least 1 night pre and post accommodation is required in the city to accommodate your stay here.  
If you wish to spend more time at the lodge please let your booking agent know and we can add additional nights. If you would like to explore more of mainland Ecuador this is also possible instead of returning to Quito.  
Itinerary is subject to change to due weather conditions.  
Horse Riders can't exceed 220 pounds of weight (99kg).

Difficulty Rating

Single Surcharge

Notes

Price Dependent upon Seasonality, availability and currency fluctuation.

Sustainability