



Antisana Trek & Climb

An exceptional adventure off the beaten path

DURATION

7 days

DIFFICULTY

Moderate
to Advanced

ITINERARY

DAY

01

Drive to Papallacta Hot Springs [3.280 m / 10,758 ft]

We leave Quito driving east, following the main road that goes into the jungle. While crossing the Andes from the west to the east, at its highest point of 4.000 m, we will stop to enjoy the wonderful view of the forest of Antisana. We will descend to Papallacta Lagoon and will arrive to the hot springs where we visit the interpretation centre, have lunch and do a short walk in the afternoon. During the rest of the day we enjoy & relax in the hot springs of Papallacta.



Activity: Driving / Hiking / Hot springs



Accommodation: Termas de Papallacta or similar



Transportation: Private van or jeep transfer



Meals: Lunch, Dinner

DAY

02

Hike to Laguna Tumiguina known as Laguna Volcan [3.400 m / 11,152 ft]

Today we leave in the morning around 9 AM. After a short drive on the main road we arrive at a location called el Tambo, where we meet the rest of our team and our horses. It is here, where our trek starts. Along the trail we need to cross a couple of small rivers and pass a small water fall. The hike to Laguna Volcan takes 4 to 5 hours. Laguna Volcan is located at the beginning of a massive lava flow that descended from Cachaco Volcano a long time ago. Once we get to the camp, the tents will already be there and during the rest of the afternoon we explore the lake and it's north side, where the ancient lava flow starts.



Activity: 4-5 hours trekking



Transportation: Short drive in private van or jeep



Accommodation: Camping



Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY

03

Hike to Santa Lucia [4.300 m / 14,432 ft]

We start the hike at 9 AM. Today's hike is steep, especially during the first two hours. We walk through an amazing polilepis forest and some of the vegetation we will see are Chuquiraguas, Pumamaquis and Achupallas. There is a chance you will meet spectacle bears as they are fond of Achupallas. The last part of the trek is easier as we get into the plateau, where we can appreciate the majestic Antisana. Today's hike would take 6 hours. Once we get to the camp the tents will already be there and you will enjoy your well deserved rest.

-  **Activity:** 6-7 hours trekking
-  **Accommodation:** Camping
-  **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY

04

Hike to Chusolongo Grande [4.600 m / 15,092 ft]

From Santa Lucia camp we start hiking towards Chusolongo Grande, also known as "Antisanilla", a hill that stands out on the plateau in front of Antisana. We will hike as high as 4.650 m / 15,256 ft and descent via a lake to our next camp on La Mina 4.075 m / 13,369 ft. This hike takes normally 5 hours.

-  **Activity:** 5-6 hours trekking
-  **Accommodation:** Camping
-  **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY

05

Hike to the Glacier of Antisana [5.000 m / 16,400 ft]

We meet our driver and our 4x4 transport in the morning. After a short drive today we do a gentle 2-hour hike to 5.000 m on Antisana to increase our acclimatisation and enjoy good views of the surrounding peaks such as Sichelohua, Cotopaxi, Pasochoa and the Ilinizas. Afterwards we drive down to Hacienda La Jimenita for the night. It is a comfortable centennial spanish hacienda converted into a hotel, located close to the town of Pifo. It is an excellent location to rest at a lower elevation before our summit push.

-  **Activity:** 4 hours trekking and driving
-  **Accommodation:** Hacienda La Jimenita or similar
-  **Transportation:** Private van or jeep transfer
-  **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY

06

Antisana Drive and Hike to Camp [4.600 m / 15,088 ft]

From Guaytara we drive one hour to the base camp on Antisana. After we set up our camp and have lunch we walk to the glacier where we will do some glacier skills review prior to the ascent. Also you will be briefed about the technical aspects of the ascent. Night camping.

 **Activity:** Driving / Hiking / Glacier practice

 **Accommodation:** Camping

 **Transportation:** 1 hour drive in jeep or van

 **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY

07

Antisana Summit [5.740 m / 18,827 ft] / Return to Quito

The long awaited day is there... we will be climbing Antisana. We leave the camp around 1 AM for a 6-hour climb. Along the way we will walk over complex crevasse patterns and snow bridges. Route finding makes the climb very interesting. After passing through a crevassed area, we reach the final summit slope. Here a challenging section of 38-45 degrees snow leads to the abrupt finish of the climb on the main summit of this beautiful mountain.

From the top of Antisana we hope to see most of the peaks of Ecuador and towards the east a sea of clouds over the amazon jungle. The view from the summit is one of the most spectacular one's in Ecuador. Technically the normal route is not difficult, but special care has to be given to potential hidden crevasses. The descent usually takes around two hours. After resting and packing we drive back to Quito.

 **Activity:** 8 hours climbing up and down / Drive back to Quito

 **Accommodation:** In Quito

 **Transportation:** Private van or jeep transfer

 **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

Important: Please note that this itinerary is a guideline only. We will do every effort to follow it, but in case of unforeseen circumstances we may have to make changes.

Got Questions?

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