



## Volcanoes Expedition

A journey to 5 mountains that will provide a complete experience of the Ecuadorian Andes

DURATION

14 days

DIFFICULTY

Easy to  
Advanced

### ITINERARY

DAY

**01**

#### Arrival / Night in Quito [2.800 m / 9,184 ft]

Once you arrive at the airport you should take a transfer to the hotel in Quito we have arranged for you. Our staff will meet you the following morning.

 **Activity:** Arrival in Quito

 **Accommodation:** In Quito - Vieja Cuba or similar

DAY

**02**

#### City Tour [2.800 m / 9,184 ft]

Andeanface staff will meet you at 09:00 in the morning for an introductory briefing about the program. As this is your first day at altitude 2,800 m / 9,184 ft, we will take you to do some easy walking and to see some of the main colonial churches in the old part of Quito such as Santo Domingo, the Basílica and the famous San Francisco, which was the first religious building constructed in South America by the Spanish, in 1538. Then we drive up to the hill of El Panecillo where an impressive statue of the Virgin looks after the city, and offers one of the greatest views of Quito. Exploring the city is a good way to begin your acclimatisation process! For the night we stay at Casa Hebling or a similar hotel.

 **Activity:** City sightseeing

 **Accommodation:** In Quito - Vieja Cuba or similar

 **Transportation:** Private van transfer

 **Meals:** Breakfast

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DAY

**03**

### Pasochoa Hike [4.200 m / 13,776 ft]

Having had a day to begin the acclimatization process in Ecuador, we now go for the first summit of a volcano. After a short drive we hike out into the countryside towards Pasochoa. This mountain is an ancient and heavily eroded volcano that has been inactive since the last Ice Age. Perhaps one of the main reasons for this excursion is that Pasochoa is one of the few volcanoes where we may see condors flying - the largest flying birds in South America. We return for the night in Quito.

 **Activity:** 4-5 hours hiking up and down Pasochoa

 **Accommodation:** In Quito - Vieja Cuba or similar

 **Transportation:** Private van transfer

 **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

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DAY

**04**

### Rucu Pichincha Hike [4.690 m / 15,400 ft]

Using the cable car we go as high as 4.000 m / 13,200 ft in a few minutes from where we start today's hike. Pichincha is an excellent second acclimatization hike. Rucu (Quichua for "Old") is one of the three major peaks that make up the Pichincha massive. Quito is actually built on a shelf on the eastern side of this massif. The hike is again straightforward and will take 4 to 5 hours (round trip). After this hike we return to Quito for the night.

 **Activity:** 5-6 hours hiking up and down Pichincha

 **Accommodation:** In Quito - Vieja Cuba or similar

 **Transportation:** Short transfer on private van or jeep + cable car ride

 **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

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DAY

**05**

### Cayambe Drive and Hike to the Hut [4.600 m / 15,092 ft]

We leave Quito at 08:30 AM and drive towards the mountain. Cayambe is a massive glaciated extinct volcano. It is located about 68 km North East of Quito and is the highest point on the surface of the earth through which the Equator directly passes. Cayambe is the third highest mountain in Ecuador. It is characterized by good climbing opportunities and interesting glaciers. With easy access from a...

comfortable hut, the glaciers of Cayambe offer an outstanding venue for our glacier school review. Huge crevasses, complex icefalls and seracs provide the ideal setting for learning ice climbing, crevasse rescue, and a variety of other basic skills.



**Activity:** 3 hours drive / short walk to hut / skills practice



**Accommodation:** Ruales, Berge, Orleas Mountain Refuge



**Transportation:** Private jeep or van



**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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DAYS

**06**  
**07**

## Cayambe Glacier - Skills Review & Summit Attempt [5.780 m / 18,950 ft]

During the glacier training on Cayambe on day 5 we cover the following subjects:

- Snow climbing, ice axe positioning, and moving in balance
- Self arrest techniques
- Ice climbing (with top rope) and crampon techniques
- Prussiking
- Roped glacier travel
- Discussions on high altitude physiology and other related expeditionary topics

After the session we return to the refuge for a hearty meal.

On day 6 there will be a chance to attempt the summit of Cayambe. The route to the summit follows diverse glacier terrain to near the summit crater. A gaping bergschrund presents a challenge in route finding and an exciting extra obstacle. The ascent normally takes seven hours and the descent three hours. After our summit day on Cayambe we descent to Hacienda Guachala for the night.



**Activity:** Glacier practice



**Accommodation:** Ruales, Oleas, Bergé Refuge / Hacienda Guachalá



**Transportation:** Private jeep or van



**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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DAY

**08**

## Drive to Cotopaxi Region

This is a rest day from mountain climbing used as a driving day to get to Cotopaxi National Park, we will stop for lunch in a restaurant along the way, for the night we will spend at Tambopaxi lodge, it is a great place with nice views of Cotopaxi.

-  **Activity:** Drive to Cotopaxi National Park / Sightseeing
  -  **Accommodation:** Tambopaxi Lodge or similar
  -  **Transportation:** Private van or jeep transfer
  -  **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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DAY

**09**

## Cotopaxi Hut [4.800 m / 15,700 ft]

We drive to 4.600 m / 15,095 ft and then walk to the hut at 4.800 m / 15,700 ft. Having arrived at the hut at lunchtime, we rest in the afternoon and evening, preparing for a night time climb. Cotopaxi is one of the most beautiful mountains of the Andes of Ecuador. The whole national park is known for its rich wildlife and remoteness. Without a doubt Cotopaxi has the largest number of clear days amongst the high peaks of Ecuador.

-  **Activity:** 1 hour walk to the refuge
  -  **Accommodation:** Jose Rivas Refuge
  -  **Transportation:** Private van or jeep transfer
  -  **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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DAY

**10**

## Cotopaxi Summit Day [5.897 m / 19.300 ft]

We leave the hut at around 1 AM in the morning. First we walk for 1 hour to the start of the glacier where we put our crampons on and use the rope. A large featureless glacier is then followed, weaving between large, obvious crevasses. The final section is a bit steeper. The summit gets us above the crater. During the climb ropes will be used to protect the team from crevasses and also to provide protection on the steeper sections. The ascent normally takes between six to seven hours up and two hours for the descent.

-  **Activity:** 8 hours climbing up and down Cotopaxi
  -  **Accommodation:** Tambopaxi Lodge or similar
  -  **Transportation:** Private van or jeep transfer
  -  **Meals:** Breakfast, Box Lunch, Dinner
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DAY

**11**

## Drive to Chimborazo region [3.500 m / 11,480 ft]

We travel further down the “Valley of Volcanoes” and then move up onto the western flanks of Chimborazo where we spend an evening in a lodge. This lodge sits in grassy plains below Chimborazo and allows us to rest and enjoy views of from the altiplano of Chimborazo and Carihuarirazo (also known as “Chimborazo’s Wife”). Night at Lodge.

 **Activity:** Drive / Sightseeing / Rest

 **Accommodation:** Posada La Estación Lodge

 **Transportation:** Private van or jeep transfer

 **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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DAY

**12**

## Chimborazo hike to camp [5.050m / 16,564 ft]

Today we travel by jeep or van to the Plaza Roja (4,852m / 15,914 ft) located very close to the Carrel hut. From there, it takes us about two hours to walk to the Stübel Camp (5,050m/16,564ft) where we spend the afternoon preparing for the climb the next day. You will be involved carrying equipment to the camp. Porters will help carrying the tents and water.

 **Activity:** Drive / 2 hour trek / Camp

 **Accommodation:** Camping

 **Transportation:** 2 hour drive in jeep or van

 **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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DAY

**13**

## Chimborazo summit day [6.310 m / 20,696 ft]

We start the climb at about midnight following the western ridge until it joins the Castle Saddle (5.500 m / 18,044 ft). This new variant to the normal Castle Ridge route, free from rock fall, makes it a much safer line to the top. From the high camp it normally takes six hours to get to the Whymper summit, from where you will enjoy one of the most impressive views in Ecuador. The descent back to camp takes two hours. After returning to the camp we’ll have some drinks and rest, then pack and descend to Plaza Roja, and drive to the valley.

-  **Activity:** 8 hours climbing up and down Chimborazo
-  **Accommodation:** Camping or drive to hotel
-  **Transportation:** Private van or jeep transfer
-  **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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DAY

## 14 Spare summit day / Return to Quito [6.310 m / 20,696 ft]

In case of bad weather, the climb can be delayed one more day.

-  **Activity:** Trekking down / Drive to Quito
-  **Accommodation:** In Quito - Vieja Cuba or similar
-  **Transportation:** Private van or jeep transfer
-  **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

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**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?

Please feel free to contact us at:

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