



COTOPAXI VOLCANO AND LIMPIOPUNGO LAGOON

ECUADOR

Mainland Post-trip Extension

with Cindy Miller Hopkins

May 2 – 8, 2022

On this 7-day post-trip extension, take a journey that spans through time, ecosystems, climate-zones, and geography as you explore the Andes Mountain. Discover unique flora and fauna, hike through biodiverse landscapes, interact with Andean communities, visit Ecuador's highest summit, and end your journey experiencing the thermal pools of Papallacta, a small village in the Eastern Andes.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the mangrove habitats of Manglares Churute Ecological Reserve near Guayaquil, home to more than 300 bird species plus wildlife like ocelots and bottlenose dolphins.
- Experience Andean culture with a visit to an indigenous community to learn about their nature-based beliefs and enjoy a traditional meal.
- Visit Cotopaxi National Park, home to the famous volcano, glassy lagoons, sweeping plains, and fascinating wildlife.
- Seek out interesting bird species in the unique high-elevation páramo habitat of Antisana Ecological Reserve.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Expert naturalist guides
- Accommodations
- Activities & entrance fees
- In-country transportation
- Meals & beverages
- Travel insurance
- All tips/gratuities



ALPACA IN COTOPAXI NATIONAL PARK

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

MAY 2 - RIOBAMBA

Early this morning, transfer to Manglares Churute, about 30 miles from Guayaquil. Home to one of the best-preserved mangrove forests in the world, Manglares Churute encompasses more than 120,000 acres of varied ecosystems, including coastal tropical dry rainforest, mangrove forest, and subtropical dry rainforest. Wildlife sightings include armadillos, white-fronted capuchins, mantled howler monkeys, tigrillos, ocelots, and bottlenose dolphins. More than 300 species of birds have been recorded on site, including woodpeckers, herons, and ducks. Continue your journey along a road that climbs to the Andes, via a scenic bus trip ascending more than 6,562 feet in just four hours. During this trip, witness the abrupt changes of climate, vegetation, and geography characteristic of the Andes Mountain Range. *Overnight at Hotel Abraspungo. (BLD)*

MAY 3 - COTOPAXI

Today, visit the majestic Chimborazo Volcano, the highest summit in Ecuador at 20,703 feet above sea level. The protected reserve surrounding the volcano is an important area for the preservation and reproduction of different species of the Andean ecosystem, such as llamas, vicuñas, and alpacas. Admire the beautiful Andean landscape along the route, considered one of the most picturesque routes in Ecuador. Continue to a local Indigenous community where you will learn about the close relationship between nature and Indigenous beliefs. Enjoy a healthy meal centered on typical Andean ingredients. In the afternoon, continue your journey to Cotopaxi Province. *Overnight at Hacienda La Cienega. (BLD)*

MAY 4 - PUEMBO

Cotopaxi National Park is located approximately 37 miles south of Quito. It is considered one of the most important natural reserves in the country. The park is home to a variety of different animal species such as the Andean wolf, deer, rabbits, and llamas. The imposing Cotopaxi Volcano has a perfect snow-covered cone; it is considered the second-highest peak and the highest active volcano in Ecuador (19,347 feet above sea level). Enjoy a moderate walk around the Limpiopungo Lagoon (12,700 feet) where it's possible to find abundant flora and fauna adapted to the altitude. Combine the natural adventure at the national park with a visit to one of the picturesque Indigenous markets in the region. The markets are a mix of colors, sounds and smells, where local people buy and sell typical Andean products, animals and handicrafts. Later travel to Puembo for dinner and overnight. *Overnight at Rincon de Puembo. (BLD)*

MAY 5 - PAPALLACTA

After breakfast depart for Antisana Ecological Reserve for bird watching. The reserve's 30,000 acres are a birdwatcher's paradise, with ecological zones ranging from lowland rainforest to páramo (18,886 feet). Birds found at this site include the Andean Condor, Giant Hummingbird, Carunculated Caracara, Black-faced Ibis, Speckled Teal, Andean Duck, Silvery Grebe, Slate-colored Coot, Andean Gull, Andean Lapwing, and Aplomado Falcon. Enjoy a delicious meal with a view of the volcano. Continue to Papallacta, a small village famous for its thermal hot springs of volcanic origin. The rest of the afternoon and evening will be spent at the Papallacta Thermal Springs Hotel. Enjoy time at leisure in the thermal pools. *Overnight at Termas Papallacta Hotel. (BLD)*

MAY 6 - PUEMBO

The morning is at leisure to relax in the pools and enjoy the restorative effects of the hot springs, whose mineral richness comes from the Cayambe and Antisana volcanoes. Spa treatments are available at the hotel (at additional cost). After lunch, travel back to Puembo. *Overnight at Rincon de Puembo. (BLD)*

MAY 7 - PUEMBO

Depart early this morning to explore the Quinde Eco-route, one of the most important natural routes in the area and a great opportunity for bird watching. Visit a private 1,600-acre preserve, home to a multitude of epiphytes, including bromeliads, orchids, mosses, and ferns. There will be a stop at hummingbird feeders near the lodge where you will have lunch. Following your time in the forest reserves, return to Puembo in time for an early farewell dinner, as some flights depart this evening. For those with a departure this evening, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight(s) home. *Overnight at Rincón de Puembo. (BLD)*

MAY 8 - QUITO/DEPART

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight(s) home. *(B)*

PROGRAM PRICING

\$2,695 (based on minimum of 8 participants)

Price includes accommodations, meals, activities and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, full-time guide, all tips/gratuities, and departure tax.

Does not include international airfare or items of a personal nature.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/ Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

THE FINE PRINT

Price is based on double occupancy. For a single room throughout the trip, add \$340 per person. A \$675 per person non-refundable deposit and enrollment form are required to hold your space on the trip. Final non-refundable payment is due January 27, 2022.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Visit holbrook.travel/hopkins-ext22 or contact Sandy Schmidt at schmidt@holbrooktravel.com or 877-907-5360.