

PRELIMINARY ITENERARY

PRE_TRIP to do list:

- Passport
- Physical conditioning
- Airfare

DAY 1: Fly Chicago to Quito, Ecuador. Pacific time zone. Pickup rental Van. Drive to hotel/Hostel 9,350'

DAY 2: Grocery Shop. An acclimatizing trip to the Quilotoa lake 12,860' (3920 m) 2-hour hike

DAY 3: Take cable car (\$10) to ACCLIMATIZE RUCA PICHINCHA (15,696' | 4,784M) • 9,350' | 2,800M

After breakfast we take a short drive from Quito to the Teleferiqo gondola to 12,943'. Acclimatize with a hike on Rucu Pichincha (15,696'). Views of most of the snow covered volcanoes in Ecuador, including Cotopaxi. Descend to Quito, grocery shop and organize our gear for our departure from Quito in the morning. Night out on the town.

<https://traveloutlandish.com/blog/trekking-in-ecuador-rucu-pichincha-hike/>

DAY 4: After Breakfast, drive to Cotopaxi National park. Leave vehicle and hike with gear to the JOSE RIBAS REFUGIO Hut 16,000' get to bed early. Food and bunks \$30 per person.

DAY 5: SUMMIT DAY COTOPAXI (19,348' | 5,897M) • 12,303' | 3,750M

For those acclimatized, a midnight start, CMC happy dance on summit, descend back to the hut, gather gear and return hike to the vehicle, drive 1 hour to Banos.

DAY 6: Rest & recovery day in Baños and hot springs.

DAY 7: Trip to Chimborazo area

After breakfast, a 3-hour drive and hike up to the E. Whymper hut at 5000 m. Once there, we'll spend the afternoon acclimatizing.

DAY 8: Chimborazo summit 20,702 We should be reaching the summit after 8 to 9 hours of climbing. From there 4 hours return, we should have one of the most extraordinary views in Ecuador: the Pacific Ocean, the

Amazon rain forest and the peaks of Altar, Illinizas, Anizana and Cotopaxi. After that we'll get back to Quito, have a night out on the town, Overnight stay at the hotel/hostel TBD

DAY 9: Flight back home OR continue on to the Galapagos! RT air is only about \$250. Just sayin.

The three **airlines flying** to the **Galápagos** Islands are Tame (www.tame.com.ec), Avianca (www.avianca.com) and LAN (www.latam.com). All operate two morning**flights** daily from **Quito** via Guayaquil to the Isla Baltra airport (two hours), which is just over an hour away from Puerto Ayora by public transportation.