Mi Querido Ecuador + Servicio
12-Day Guided Language Immersion Program in Ecuador

Live, laugh and learn in Quito while attending morning Spanish classes at the Academia Guayasamín. In the afternoons, enjoy activities such as cooking, salsa dancing and trips to La Mitad del Mundo and Otavalo, South America’s largest handicraft market. Also spend two days doing service activities targeted at supporting at risk low income families and youth. Then spend evenings relaxing at home with a quiteña host family (2-3 students per family).

Features & Inclusions

- ROUND-TRIP AIRFARE
- OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS
- IN-COUNTRY TRANSPORTATION
- INSURANCE
- 24/7 EMERGENCY SUPPORT WHILE ABROAD

Trip Overview

12 DAYS
GUIDED
WITH FAMILY STAY
FROM $3569

Visit xperitas.org for more photos, stories and pricing information.
Trip Itinerary

DAY 1 | Departure
En route to Quito. Arrive in Quito, transfer to your hotel

DAY 2 | Quito
Explore Quito with a costumed character from the capital city’s colorful history. Visit sites such as Plaza de la Independencia, el Palacio Presidencial and la Basílica. After a day of exploring what UNESCO refers to as the most well preserved colonial city in Latin America, enjoy an Xperitas welcome dinner. B D

DAYS 3-6 | Quito
On day 3, you’ll begin classes at the esteemed Academia Guayasamín and begin an eight-night family stay with your Ecuadorian hosts. In addition to Spanish instruction, you’ll be treated to visits to a local fruit market, Museo Guayasamín and la Capilla del Hombre. Spend an afternoon practicing your language skills while participating in a volunteer activity, and try your hand at a new skill during salsa dancing and cooking classes. Enjoy the afternoons and evenings with your host family. B L D

DAY 7 | Quito
Take a ride up the Teleférico skylift for a panoramic view of Quito. Then, stop at the Mitad del Mundo, or the center of the world, whose monument was once thought to be the geographic location of the equator. Experience the oddities of standing on the actual equator line during your visit to the intriguing Intiñan Museum and top everything off with a chocolate tour. B L D

DAY 8 | Service Day
After eating breakfast with your host families, you are off for a day of service. Your service can range from helping building houses, assisting in an Ecuadorian classroom, painting classrooms, serving meals and so on for at-risk low-income families and youth. Enjoy the evening with your host family. B L D

DAY 9 | Quito
Board the bus for an exciting day outside of Quito. Your day begins in Otavalo, the site of the most famous handicraft market in South America. First, visit a local workshop to learn about this community’s traditional way of weaving. After browsing the stalls of the bustling market, head to Cotacachi, where you’ll listen to the rhythms of traditional Andean instruments played by a local family of musicians. On your way back to Quito, stop to take in the tranquil beauty of la Cascada de Peguche. B L D

DAY 10 | Service Day
After eating breakfast with your host families, you are off for a day of service. Your service can range from helping building houses, assisting in an Ecuadorian classroom, painting classrooms, serving meals and so on for at-risk low-income families and youth. Enjoy the evening with your host family. B L D

DAY 11 | Quito
Bid farewell to your familia quiteña. For a full day of adventure, head south to Mindo. There you will visit a tropical butterfly garden, tube down the lazy river, and experience the cloud forest firsthand as you zip line through the treetops. In the evening, listen to the sounds of Mindo’s nocturnal wildlife during a hike that is also known as the frog concert!

DAY 12 | Return
Enjoy a farewell lunch with your fellow travelers. Transfer to the airport for your evening flight home to the U.S.

The Family Stay Experience

We believe that spending time with a family, speaking their language and participating in their customs is the best and most authentic way to experience another culture. It’s also what makes our programs different from any other travel experience. After more than 40 years of arranging family stays, we’re no longer surprised when our participants say that spending time with a family was the best part of their experience!

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