

Week 1

Sunday

Arrive Quito. Airport pick up / meet host families

Monday

7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
 8:30 Host families bring the students to the school.
 Welcoming and placement test (OPI and grammar test)
 9:30 City tour of Quito and learn how to use bus public system (ecovia). Walking tour around the center of Quito. Independence square, with the Presidential Palace and the Cathedral. Visit the church and monastery of San Agustin (1580) and San Francisco (1535) with its breathtaking gilded altars, considered the finest example of baroque art n America.
 General orientation.
 13:15 Lunch at school
 15:00 General orientation about the school and Ecuador trip
 16:30 Return to host families for supper

Tuesday

7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
 10:30-11:00 Break
 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
 13:15 Lunch at school
 14:00 Visit to Vivarium (See toads, snakes, etc.)

Wednesday

7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
 10:30-11:00 Break
 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
 13:15 Lunch at school
 Free time (check email, do homework, play sports, walk around town, etc.)
 18:30 Meet at school to go for Jacchigua: Quichua term that means “the infinite joy of the harvest”. It gathers the richness of our popular culture, showing the world the ancestral traditions and customs of Ecuador. Ninety dancers, musicians to show the past and present splendor of the people of Ecuador. Families will bring the students to school and pick up them.

Thursday

7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
 10:30-11:00 Break
 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
 13:15 Lunch at school
 14:00 Visit a Volunteer Project for unprivileged children

Friday

7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
 10:30-11:00 Break
 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
 13:15 Lunch at school and briefing on weekend excursion to Octavio
 17:00 Make your favorite food and enjoy a wonderful afternoon

Saturday

- 8:00 Early wake up and after breakfast, departure to Otavalo Indian Market. All over the Andean highlands, scattered in the valleys and mountains, you will find numerous markets displaying everything from wool textiles, native fruits and fresh vegetables to jewelry, ceramics, baskets, wood carving, native paintings, embroidery, tools and even animals! The market in Otavalo is one of the most well known markets in the country. It is a rich cultural site where locals meet with their friends and relatives to catch up on news and practice the ancient art of bargaining. It will capture your senses making you feel as if you've stepped back in time.
- 14:00 Lunch at the indigenous home of Antonio Quinotoa and have the opportunity to try "cuy" (Guinea pig)
- 16:00 Small hike to visit the sacred waterfall of Peguche
- 16:30 Visit to San Antonio de Ibarra (woodcarving)
- 18:30 Enjoy the countryside of the Imbabura province. Dinner at a private Hacienda in Urcuqui. Overnight at a hotel in Imbabura province

Sunday

- 8:30 Breakfast at the hotel
- 9:00 Visit and hike around the lake & volcano of Cuicocha
- 11:30 Visit the town of Cotacachi, world renowned for the quality of leather goods.
- 13:30 Lunch in San Pablo lake (we will enjoy the best view of the lake and Imbabura volcano in Puerto Lago restaurant)
Return to Quito

Week 2

Monday

- 7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
- 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
- 10:30-11:00 Break
- 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
- 13:15 Lunch at school
- 14:00 Visit to the Government House

Tuesday

- 7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
- 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
- 10:30-11:00 Break
- 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
- 13:15 Lunch at school
- 14:00 Visit to the fruit market with a fruit tasting

Wednesday

- 7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
- 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
- 10:30-11:00 Break
- 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
- 13:15 Lunch at school
- 14:30 Wally ball game

Thursday

7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
 10:30-11:00 Break
 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
 13:15 Lunch at school
 17:00 Salsa & Merengue class

Friday

7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
 10:30-11:00 Break
 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
 13:15 Lunch at school and briefing on weekend excursion to Cotopaxi

Saturday

7:30 Meet at the school promptly for departure. From there you will head south to Cotopaxi National Park, home of the highest active volcano on earth! You can explore the Andean moorlands with highland birds, or hike up to the snow line and rest at the shelter. (4.800 meters above sea level)
 14:00 Lunch in a beautiful hacienda El Porvenir in the middle of the four volcanoes
 15:00 Horse back riding dressed like a "chagra or Andean cowboy" with poncho blankets, scarf, hat and leather zamarros (chaps)... great fun with easy adventure! Or you can hike around the waterfalls in the Pasochoa biological reserve.
 19:00 Dinner
 Over night at Hacienda El Porvenir

Sunday

8:00 Breakfast
 Once inside the National Park, we will go to the interpretation center to obtain information about its location, history of major eruptions from the world's highest volcano, and the local flora and fauna. We will continue our visit to Limpiopungo (or "open door") Lake. This is a perfect place to take breathtaking pictures of Cotopaxi, Sincholagua and Rumiñahui and to admire one of the most beautiful sights in Ecuador. The visit ends at the farmhouse.
 13:30 Lunch, Taste the wonders of the Andean cuisine.
 17:00 Estimated time for return to Quito

Week 3

Monday

7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
 10:30-11:00 Break
 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
 13:15 Lunch at school
 14:30 Visit to the handy craft market

Tuesday

7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
 10:30-11:00 Break
 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
 13:15 Lunch at school
 14:00 Learn how to make Bread Dolls at school

Wednesday

7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
 10:30-11:00 Break
 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
 13:15 Lunch at school
 14:20 Visit the monument at *Mitad del Mundo*. We will start at the northern part of the city heading up to the “Middle of the World,” where the monument that divides the Northern Hemisphere from the Southern Hemisphere will be visited. It was built during the 17th Century when a French expedition defined the precise location of the equatorial line. A fabulous museum there will help you understand the great diversity of cultures and indigenous groups in Ecuador. You will see how water spins, how you can stand an egg on a nail, how you can lose pounds in seconds - all at Latitude O. Just 30 minutes north of Quito is the monument that celebrates the measurement of the earth, just as important the Equator line determined the meaning of the country of Ecuador that could of also had the name of Reino de Quito (Kingdom of Quito).

Thursday

7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
 10:30-11:00 Break
 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
 13:15 Lunch at school
 14:30 Typical ice cream “Helado de paila” (unforgettable new flavors!)

Friday

7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
 10:30-11:00 Break
 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
 13:15 Lunch at school and briefing on weekend excursion to the Cloud Forest
 14:00 Cooking class: learn to make *empanadas*

Saturday

8:30 Departure to the Cloud Forest reserve, only two hours northwest of Quito. This region is ideal for bird watching (this place has 263 recorded species of birds and this list continues to grow!) Simply sit in the dome and admire the multitude of hummingbirds the feeders in a flurry of activity.
 13:00 Lunch in Tanadayapa
 14:30 Trek into the Bellavista trail, ideal for seeing incredible diversity of birds
 16:00 Dinner
 Overnight in the Could Forest

Sunday

8:30 Breakfast
 9:30 Trek into the cloud forest and discover the plants and flora of the region with your naturalist guide.
 13:00 Lunch
 17:00 Estimated time for return to Quito

Week 4

Monday

7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
 10:30-11:00 Break
 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
 13:15 Lunch at school
 14:20 Visit Pichincha Volcano. Quito, Ecuador's capital of 1.5 million people lies at the eastern foot of Mount Pichincha (15,360 feet). Take the cable car or *teleférico* on the Av. Western, to enjoy the beauty of the city, valleys, and snow-capped mountains (Cotopaxi, Cayambe, Antisana, Rumiñahui, Cotacachi and Pichincha), named by Alexander Von Humbolt in 1802 as the Avenue of the Volcanoes.

Tuesday

7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
 10:30-11:00 Break
 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
 13:15 Lunch at school
 14:00 Ice skating

Wednesday

7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
 10:30-11:00 Break
 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
 13:15 Lunch at school
 14:30 Visit a local orphanage

Thursday

7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
 10:30-11:00 Break
 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
 13:15 Lunch at school
 14:20 Graduation ceremony and awarding of certificates

Friday

7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast with host family
 8:30 – 10:30 Spanish classes
 10:30-11:00 Break
 11:00-13:00 Spanish classes
 13:15 Lunch at school
 14:30 Visit to Guayasamín Museum

Saturday

Transfer to the airport. Return to USA

Please Note: This is only a sample. All activities are subject to change.