



College Study
Tours

9 days

ECUADOR: IMMERSION



FACULTY-LED INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

ABOUT THIS TOUR

Cascading waterfalls and misty cliffs define the beauty of Ecuador. Enjoy stunning views as you hop aboard a cable car over Pastaza River Canyon, and encounter the pre-Incan pyramids of Cochasqui. Then, acquire a greater understanding of local communities as you delve deeper during your service projects.

Through it all, you'll return home prepared for whatever path lies ahead of you. Beyond photos and stories, new perspectives and glowing confidence, you'll have something to carry with you for the rest of your life. It could be an inscription you read on the walls of a famous monument, or perhaps a joke you shared with another student from around the world. The fact is, there's just something transformative about an EF College Study Tour, and it's different for every traveler. Once you've traveled with us, you'll know exactly what it is for you.



DAY 2: *Canopy tour*



DAY 2: *Equatorial Line*



DAY 3: *Cochasqui*



DAY 4: *Handicraft markets*



DAY 3: *Ecuadorian folk dancing*



INCLUDED ON TOUR:

- Round-trip airfare
- Land transportation
- Hotel accommodations
- Three meals daily
- Full-time Tour Director
- Sightseeing tours and visits to special attractions
- 2 service projects*
- Free time to study and explore

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

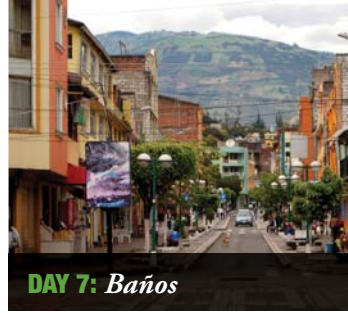
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DAY 5: Papallacta Hot Springs



DAY 7: Rescue resort



DAY 7: Baños



DAY 8: Manto de la Novia

DAY 1 FLY TO ECUADOR

Arrive in Quito • Welcome to Quito, the Ecuadorian capital. Depending on your arrival time, you may have **free time** to settle in and get to know your group.

DAY 2 QUITO

Mindo Cloud Forest • Take an excursion to one of the most unique places on the planet: the Mindo Cloud Forest. Nestled on the slopes of the **Pichincha Volcano** near the southern edge of the Choco-Andean Corridor, Mindo is home to more than 300 different species of tropical birds and nearly 400 types of orchids. Keep an eye out for Chestnut-Mandibled Toucans or Club-Winged Manakins, which flourish in the lush forest's moist, cool conditions.

Canopy tour • What better way to see the cloud forest than from above? Don a harness and clip in for an exhilarating canopy tour. Begin on tree platforms and feel the rush of the cool mountain air as you **zipline above the treetops**. Keep an eye out for toucans and hummingbirds on your way.

Equatorial Line • If you've ever wanted to stand in both hemispheres at the same time, this is your chance! Pose for a photo on the equator, the namesake of Ecuador.

Intinan Museum • Explore how the Incas determined the middle of the Earth on your museum visit.

DAY 3 QUITO • OTAVALO

Travel to Imbabura • Make your way to this northern province of Ecuador, which is also known as "Province of the Lakes."

Cochasqui Pyramids • Step back in time at the pre-Incan pyramids of Cochasqui. Situated at the foot of the Mojanda Mountains, Cochasqui's 15 pyramid-shaped earth mounds were built by the Cara Indians more than a millennium ago out of a volcanic material called cangahua. At the site, you can visit an outdoor ethnographic museum, a botanical garden and an archaeological museum, as well as enjoy splendid views of the surrounding regions.

Travel to Otavalo • Make your way to the small farming town of Otavalo. Surrounded by the Imbabura, Cotacachi and Mojanda volcanoes, Otavalo is known for its textiles.

Explore handicraft markets • You'll have the opportunity to shop for handmade goods and other souvenirs crafted by local residents at one of the largest craft markets in the country. Here you can purchase anything from musical instruments to a regional dish. In addition, the market offers a unique glimpse into traditional Andean culture, as locals have frequented the markets for hundreds of years.

DAY 4 MALCHINGUI • OTAVALO

Malchingui • This morning, travel to Malchingui. Here you will participate in a **service project*** that will give you a chance to give back to the environment and learn about reforestation efforts that affect the community. Then return to Otavalo for the night.

DAY 5 MISAHUALLI

Papallacta Hot Springs and Tena • Get an early start for your morning journey across the Eastern Andes mountain range. Reach elevations of 9,000 feet as you enter the páramo, a fragile, neo-tropical ecosystem that is home to more than 5,000 plant species. Then, take a break and **soak in the thermal baths of Papallacta Hot Springs**. These soothing waters are heated naturally by surrounding volcanoes. From there, descend to the tropical lowlands of Tena, one of the top industrialized centers of Ecuador. See where the **Tena River**, a popular rafting and kayaking destination, converges with the equally pristine Pano River.

Travel to Misahualli • Continue to Misahualli, a small jungle town.

DAY 6 MISAHUALLI

Quechua community visit* • On your visit to the indigenous Quechua community you'll participate in a **service project**, a great opportunity to give back and learn about the culture. Then, meet local children for a friendly soccer match.

Free time in Misahualli • Spend some free time enjoying Misahualli. Keep a lookout for monkeys hanging from the trees in the town square.

DAY 7 MISAHUALLI • BAÑOS

Amazonian rescue resort • Spend the morning at a non-profit animal rescue station, learning about the latest efforts to support Amazonian wildlife.

Travel to Baños • Travel to Baños (Spanish for "baths"), named after its famous mineral hot springs.

Free afternoon in Baños • The afternoon is free to enjoy at your leisure. Consider snapping pictures of the Tungurahua volcano or renting a mountain bike and exploring the neighboring green hills. Be sure to sample some tasty *milcocha*, or taffy.

DAY 8 BAÑOS • QUITO

Pastaza River Canyon • Just below Baños is the lush Pastaza River Canyon, where you'll see the beautiful cascading waters of the **Manto de la Novia waterfall**. Take in spectacular views of the canyon and its falls on your **cable car ride**.

Return to Quito • Make your way back to Quito for the night.

DAY 9 DEPART FOR HOME

Transfer to the airport and check in for your return flight home.

*Subject to availability



WHAT OUR TRAVELERS SAY

BARBARA L.

*Concordia University
Portland, OR*

"The overall experience of the trip was amazing, unforgettable. I went on the tour not knowing many of the students in my group, and came back with really good friends and amazing memories. With the guidance of the Tour Director, I got to experience new culture without feeling completely lost. I now know that I can succeed and survive in a foreign country."

ERIN H.

*Itasca Community College
Grand Rapids, MN*

"I had such an amazing time, and I learned so much. We saw so many different sights. My experiences enriched my understanding of another culture, and created a realistic concept of an entirely foreign culture I would never have been exposed to otherwise."

CHELSEA S.

*Northern Oklahoma College
Stillwater, OK*

"I can't believe we had the opportunity to see and do so many things for what we paid. I traveled on my own soon after my trip, and the flight alone cost more than the entire tour—which included meals, shows, tourist sites. I will never ever forget this experience. You'd be crazy not to take a tour with EF—they take great care of you."

VIRGINA M.

*Palo Alto College
San Antonio, TX*

"Every student should go. I enjoyed flying to a foreign country, getting completely out of my comfort zone and truly seeing what this world has to offer. We tried new food, spoke different languages, and saw so many of the best sights on our walking tours. I love history, and being able to experience what I've studied for years was so moving it left me speechless. If there is ever an opportunity to go, take it!"



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- See other students who have traveled on your tour and ask questions

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