

# ECUADOR AGRICULTURAL TOUR (EAT)

**December 15-23**

9 days & 9 Nights

**Dec. 15:** Arrival and Quick transfer to Hotel overnight in the Eastern agricultural valley just outside of Quito. We'll stay at **Elena's B&B**.

**Dec. 16:** Today we'll head east through the Inter-Andean valley, over the continental divide and drop more than 10,000ft down into the lush Amazon basin. You'll notice how the indigenous communities and AG environment change drastically. We come across the Andes into the jungle of Ecuador on the eastern side of Los Andes into the Napo province. In this region, Kichwa indigenous people grow immense varieties of exotic fruits and of course, award-winning cacao in this warm environment. Free time in Misahualli for lunch (Not included). After lunch we'll head down the *Rio Napo (the largest river in Ecuador and main tributary to the Amazon River)* in a motor canoe and spend 2 days with local families. **Dinner included. Overnight in a comfortable Jungle lodge.**

**Dec. 17:** We'll spend a full day in the jungle with our indigenous hosts learning about ancestral fruits and tubular plants that they grow and have depended on for centuries. We will get to see the cacao growing/roasting process, the local fishing customs and also have a chance to talk and visit with a local *shaman* with extensive knowledge of medicinal plants. Lunch will be an open fire grilling of local fruits, vegetables and other surprises. **Lunch and dinner included. Overnight in a comfortable Jungle lodge.**



**Dec. 18:** We'll navigate back up river and we'll head south and west to the lovely town of Baños. This spectacular drive will take us through large plantations of sugarcane, balsa trees and papa china (taro). We will wind up a steep and narrow gorge full of stunning waterfalls and along the way we will fish for trout for our lunch. We'll have some free time in Baños to soak in their famous thermal hot springs. **Lunch included. Overnight in Baños. Hotel Napolitano**

**Dec. 19:** Today is another spectacular day leaving Baños and traveling through the ag center of Patate, we head to the indigenous area of the Zumbahua indigenous community. Here we'll spend most of the day over 10,000ft, the perfect climate for quinoa, fava beans (habas), potatoes, rapeseed (canola) and onions (cebollas). We'll spend time with this indigenous community that has prospered in this harsh climate for centuries. We'll also have some free time to visit the majestic Quilotoa Crater Lake. Many great hikes and photo-ops in this country. **Dinner included. Overnight in a self-sufficient hacienda run by the same family for generations.**





**Dec. 20:** We'll have a busy morning working with the communities of Zumbahua and Tigua. After lunch free to relax or explore the picturesque surrounding areas. **Lunch & Dinner included. Overnight in a self-sufficient hacienda run by the same family for generations**

**Dec. 21:** We'll head north up through the "Avenue of the Volcanoes" seeing dozens of towering peaks and drive by many rose plantations and kale, broccoli, cauliflower farms. We'll have time to **visit one of the rose plantations**. Roses are a major export for Ecuador. **Lunch at Hacienda La Cienega, the country's oldest hacienda (not included)**. Continuing north to the area of the Otavalo indigenous community and their famous market. Late afternoon arrival at our hotel. **Overnight in Cotacachi/Peguche area** Nighttime Canalazos. Optional free time for massages.



**Dec. 22:** We will have a full day visiting various indigenous communities in the surrounding areas of Otavalo. This is an active day! We'll be getting dirty, helping to prepare Mother Earth for a fertile season. Expect to learn many century-old AG methods handed down many generations. Late afternoon free time to visit the Otavalo market and CAPAC RAYMI festivities. **Lunch and dinner included.**  
**Overnight in Cotacachi/ Peguche area**

**Dec. 23:** We will start our day visiting one of the area's master traditional backstrap weavers, **Don Miguel Andrango's** workshop in Agato. From there we will continue exploring by driving small highland roads to the picturesque town of Zuleta where we will work with the indigenous people. We'll also see why the indigenous people of Zuleta are famous for their embroidery work and their cheese. From here we'll head to a hotel close to the airport and for those flying on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, you'll have time to shower, relax and freshen up before your international flights. **End of tour.**



Note: Itinerary and points of visit might vary slightly based on people's interest, weather, festivities or delays.

**Price per person:**

**\$1675 on a shared basis**

**\$1850 on a Private basis (Where possible)**

**Optional Special “In Depth” visit to Colonial Quito at Navidad (Christmas) +\$100**

We offer you to take advantage that you are in Quito, the world’s first UNESCO Cultural Heritage site, we are offering an in-depth City tour of the main Cathedrals and Plazas of Colonial Quito. Quito is one of the loveliest cities in South America. Our city tour allows you a memorable visit at the holiday season.

Includes hotel accommodation on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, tour guide, transportation, all entrance fees to the main cathedrals, lunch and transfer to the airport. Tour ends in the afternoon of the 24<sup>th</sup>.