

ANDEAN HIGHLANDS

Cities in the Sky

Quito

Quito, 2,850 m. high, capital of Ecuador and former Northern capital of the Inca Empire is a museum of Indian and Colonial art, beautiful cathedrals, elegant old world mansions, interesting museums, plazas and parks with statues of historical personalities, first class hotels and charming pensions, delightful restaurants, fashionable shops and street markets selling a wealth of Ecuadorian jewels, arts and crafts. This fascinating city sits on a cool Andean plateau, surrounded by majestic mountains, some of which are snow-capped year round.

Please note: Entrance fees to museums, churches, etc. are not included

<p>QC-01</p>	<p>Colonial Quito <i>3 hours, daily</i> Visit to the colonial center and South America's oldest capital, with its narrow streets and hanging balconies. The tour can include the San Agustin Monastery, one of Quito's most beautiful religious buildings, Independence Plaza, La Compañia Church and San Francisco Church, the first great colonial building. Drive to El Panecillo Hill for a panoramic view of the city.</p>	
<p>QC-011</p>	<p>Colonial Quito By Night <i>3 hours, nightly – dinner included</i> Same as QC-01, but visiting the historical centre at night with a breathtaking sight of all the colonial buildings and churches. Dinner at a typical restaurant.</p>	
<p>QC-02</p>	<p>Quito Archaeological Museum <i>2 1/2 hours, daily</i> The Central Bank Museum has an excellent collection of archaeological artifacts (some dating back 1,200 years) which depict Ecuador's human history and that of man's origins in the Americas.</p>	
<p>QC-03</p>	<p>Contemporary Art Tour <i>3 hours daily, except Sundays</i> Look at the work of two very famous Ecuadorian artists: Osvaldo Viteri and Osvaldo Guayasamin. The latter ranks as one of the ten most famous contemporary painters in the world. Visit the folklore shop of Olga Fisch with its great variety of tapestries, rugs, carvings, antiques and other artifacts.</p>	
<p>QC-04</p>	<p>Equatorial Monument <i>3 hours, daily</i> A few kilometers North of Quito is the Equator Memorial at latitude 0°00', which marks the place where an 18th century expedition established the exact geodetic position of the Equator. Visit the monument, the ethnographic museum, and surrounding complex.</p>	
<p>QC-05</p>	<p>Quito City Tour and Equatorial Monument <i>1 day, daily</i> QC-01 combined with QC-04 with lunch at a typical Ecuadorian restaurant.</p>	