

QUILOTOA HORSE TREK 2-5days

Day 1:



Departing from Hacienda Tilipulo we will ride slowly through the dry zone towards the slopes of San Francisco hill and climb up to Cochapata highlands where you will be able to feel how people live there and see herds of lamb and llamas with their shepherds, and typical crops of the area such as potatoes, pumpkin, and onion. The dirt path allows galloping before we start descending to Pumacunchi River where the horses will be happy to freshen up/refresh. The ride finishes at Huintsa plainfields on the slopes of the imposing Illiniza volcano.



Day 2:



With the magnificent Illiniza Sur near, we will slowly leave behind Huintsa's highlands as we approach the Inca trail which will take us through green and fertile land and mountain forest to the surroundings of Sigchos. Following this fantastic dirt trail and saddle track, we will ride near hidden ancient shelters (pucarás) and without thought, almost magically, we will cross the Andes and watch the most beautiful scenery sitting right on your horse. Small towns and kind people will greet and bid us farewell to our final destiny of the day, the small town of Isinlivi located at the border of the Toachi river.



Day3:



A road different from all others will take us along the border of the Toachi river to the slopes of the Quilotoa volcano where we will go up the steep hill of a saddle track which will take us right to the edge of the Quilotoa. We will see the lake and live the unforgettable experience of riding at the edge of the crater from where we will be able to see the blue salty lake of this amazing volcano. The presence of eagles and other birds goes hand in hand with the vision of little plants that tolerate the cold and dryness of this incredible place.

The Quilotoa volcano exploded 800 years ago creating a completely different scenery from what used to exist there. The indigenous communities living in that area elaborate artisanal products ranging from woodwork and textiles to paintings in goat skin. They frequently pasture their cattle in all flanks of the volcano.

Return to Tilipulo in approximately 1 hour. To continue the route towards the tropical humid forest we will remain in the Quilotoa area during the night and continue the journey the next day.



Want to elongate this trip? Then let's ride through the cloud forest!

Trails of Puycayacu

Day 4:



This adventure starts by going around the volcano. We will be able to see the native flora of the dry zone and the life style at the highlands of Ecuador. At the present time, many communities pasture llamingos and lambs and use their wool for artisanal textiles but they also do paintings of Andean designs on lamb skin. After descending to the town of Guayama, we will go as far as Chugchilán where we will end this great day.



Day 5:



In the morning we will again climb to the edge of the occidental cliff of the Andes to view the highlands of Zumbahua and, if the weather allows, enjoy the last sights of the great snow-capped Ecuadorian mountains before descending to the cloud forest following the trail of the Quindigua River. This route has 21 Km distance from Chugchilán. Another alternative longer in descent could be contemplated in the surroundings of Sigchos. (This alternative could include an additional riding day).

