

# Walking through the Andes

12 Days/11 Nights



**Duration:** 12 Days / 11 Nights

**Students:** Maximum 4

**Locations:** The Route of the Andes

Highlands

**Meals:** Breakfasts

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## OVERVIEW

Explore the Andes in 12 Days

The Andes Mountain Range runs from north to south through the center of Ecuador, dividing the coast and the Amazon regions.

With our 12-day Walking through the Andes program, you will have the chance to discover this impressive landscape and to learn about the history, nature and culture of Ecuador.

Our Travelling Classroom combines Spanish courses with adventure, fun and action.

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Meet the indigenous community of Otavalo
- ◆ Enjoy an incredible horseback ride in the Quilotoa Lagoon
- ◆ View a stunning waterfall in Baños
- ◆ Depart by the famous train to La Nariz del Diablo
- ◆ Visit Ingapirca, the most important Incan site in Ecuador
- ◆ Discover the ancient Temple of the Sun
- ◆ Explore the cobblestoned streets of Cuenca

## TOUR PROGRAM

Explore the Andes in 12 Days

**Day 1:** Arrive in Otavalo – Discover the indigenous art and crafts market



On your first day you will arrive in Otavalo, one of the most beautiful cities in South America. It is famous for its arts and crafts market and its weekly fiesta celebrating the arts. Here you will have the opportunity to meet the local people, buy handmade textiles and crafts, and sample typical food. After exploring Otavalo, you will have your first Spanish class in the afternoon.

**Day 2:** Language course in Otavalo - Spiritual Peguche waterfalls – Eucalyptus plantation – San Pablo Lake



After your Spanish lessons in the morning, you will discover a spiritual place near Otavalo: the Cascada de Peguche. These waterfalls are famous as a ceremonial center for ritual purification during the festival of the sun, which is called “Inti Raymi”. Members of the indigenous community bathe there for purification and to connect with Mother Nature. Next, you will take a walk through a eucalyptus plantation and reach San Pablo Lake in the afternoon.

**Day 3:** Trip to Machachi



Today will start with a healthy and delicious breakfast and then morning classes. After class, we will enjoy lunch and then we will depart to the city of Machachi. Located in the central highlands, Machachi sits in among beautiful stretches of hilly farmland, mountains, and impressive volcanoes. Here, it is possible to see the jagged peaks of the Ilinizas volcanoes, which are sometimes covered in snow, as well as the amazing Cotopaxi volcano. After dinner in the evening, we will relax and prepare for next day’s adventure.

**Day 4:** Spanish lessons in Machachi -  
Snack in Latacunga – travel to Chugchilán  
– enjoy Rio Toachi



After just an hour of Spanish lesson, we will embark on an exciting trip. We will first stop for a small bite to eat at the peaceful Andean village of Latacunga before we head towards the mountainside town of Chugchilán where you will have the opportunity to enjoy a stunning view of the Rio Toachi canyon. At the end of the day we will have the remaining part of our Spanish lessons.

**Day 5:** Horse ride to from Chugchilan to Laguna Quilotoa – enjoy the view of Cotopaxi and Ilinizas



After breakfast, adventure is once again waiting for you! We will take horses on an incredible ride to Quilotoa Lagoon which is a stunning green lake in the midst of mountain peaks. During our trip we may be able enjoy a view of the snow-covered peaks of Cotopaxi and Ilinizas. In the evening, we will complete more Spanish classes in Chugchilan.

**Day 6:** Visit Baños – View Tungurahua Volcano – Rest and relax



Today you have to get up early for another exciting excursion to Baños which is located at the footsteps of Tungurahua volcano. It is known as the gateway to the Amazon jungle and it is a popular place of pilgrimage. Here you will have the opportunity to unwind and take a look around the town before your evening Spanish classes in Baños.

**Day 7:** Discover Pailon del Diablo –  
Adventure sports



For today's adventure, we will take a cable car ride across the river to Pailon del Diablo a majestic 80-meter tall waterfall located 18 km from Baños. After, we will hike a beautiful one kilometer trail to the falls, the bravest among you can go ziplining through the forest (of course, this activity is not obligatory). After visiting Pailon del Diablo, we will head back to Baños to enjoy a delicious lunch and participate in Spanish learning in the afternoon.

**Day 8:** Relax in Baños – Swim in thermal pools



After these last few exciting days in Baños, you will surely need a break. Today, you

can relax and spend some free time on your own walking around the town. You will have the opportunity to shop, treat yourself to a delicious meal and drink, and relax. You may also want to swim in the thermal pools near Baños, which are famous for their healing effects.

**Day 9:** Discover a sacred mountain – Enjoy lunch in Riobamba



Today you will arrive at Ecuador's highest point, Chimborazo. This mountain is sacred for the local indigenous people, and Chimborazo is also the closest peak to the sun in the world. Nearby in Riobamba we will settle in, have lunch, and start our Spanish courses right away. After class, you will have free time where you can take a well-deserved break.

**Day 10:** La Nariz del Diablo train ride – Arrival to Cuenca



Today will start with a railroad adventure from Alausi to Sibambe. We will depart by train on the famous La Nariz del Diablo, an exhilarating rail descent from Alausi to Sibambe. From there, we will continue to the beautiful city of Cuenca by bus. In the evening you will eat dinner and rest.

**Day 11:** Explore Ingapirca – Visit the ruins of the Temple of the Sun



You will start today with breakfast and a trip to Ingapirca, the most important Incan site in Ecuador. The main structure, the Temple of the Sun, was used for religious ceremonies. The ruins display the traditional craftsmanship in their stonework and doorways. You will explore the ruins and then head back to Cuenca for lunch

and Spanish classes. In the evening, you will have dinner and relax.

**Day 12:** Cuenca: Cobblestone streets and plazas – Churches and museum



This will be an amazing day full of history and culture, as well as your final day on this Travelling Classroom adventure. This day starts with a healthy breakfast and Spanish lessons in Cuenca. The rest of the day will be yours! You can spend time in Cuenca and discover the incredible cobblestone streets and plazas, or visit the famous churches and museums in town. After dinner we will head back to Quito, arriving in the night.

## INCLUDED

- ♦ 40 hours of Spanish Classes (30 hours of classroom Spanish Classes and 10 hours of practice activities and exercises while travelling with your Spanish teacher)
- ♦ Transportation by public buses
- ♦ 11 night accommodation in a cozy hotel or hostel
- ♦ Excursions described in the itinerary

- ♦ Wi-Fi in all accommodation properties.

## NOT INCLUDED

- ♦ All meals
- ♦ All beverages
- ♦ Personal expenses

## DEPARTURE DATES

- ♦ The **2nd** and the **4th** Monday of every month.
- ♦ Do you need a different date?  
Please just contact us to ask for availability.

## IMPORTANT NOTES

- ♦ This itinerary can be reserved by itself or together with other programs of the Instituto Superior de Español ISE.
- ♦ The Instituto Superior de Español ISE will pick you up at the Airport in Quito, will guide you and give you personalized assistance from your arrival to Ecuador until the last day of your program.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

- ♦ You can take either a private or group tour. A group tour has a minimum of two students and a maximum of four students per teacher.

- ♦ If the minimum number of students is not reached, you can take a private tour, please note that a 25% single supplement surcharge applies.
- ♦ Accommodation can be arranged for single or double occupancy.