

SNOW CAPPED - CLOUD FOREST TREK (5d/4n)



PULLURIMA TREK

Day 1: Quito – Pullurima

We leave Quito early in the morning, heading northeast towards the Antisana Volcano. Our trek begins in the entrance of the Antisana Ecological Reserve at 10.170 ft (3.100m). As we gain altitude we will have to our left a gorgeous canyon which was formed by ancient lava flow creating a moon like scenery. Ascending towards the paramo with impressive surroundings with its very distinctive and unique flora like chuquiraguas, frailejones, orchids, moss, polylepis forest and mountain cloud forest. After 4 to 5 hours of acclimatization trek we will arrive at the entrance of the Hacienda Pullurima at 12.139 ft (3.700m) where we will have our camp. *(Picnic Lunch and Dinner)*



Day 2: Pullurima – Antisanilla Valley

Today our trek begins crossing the spectacular Antisanilla Valley and lakebed. Antisana Ecological Reserve is notable for beautiful birds like Andean Gulls, Black-faced Ibis, Brown Speckled Teal, Silvery Grebe, deer, andean fox and wild horses. This day we will spend around 6 to 7 hours walking. This trek will offer you a spectacular view of the Antisana volcano (18.871 ft - 5.752m). This pristine natural refuge known is simply breathtaking. Camp at the Antisanilla valley 4.200m. *(B, PL, D)*

Day 3: Antisanilla – Laguna Volcan

The volcano is surrounded by striking lagoons that tend to reflect the Antisana Peak in their clear and undisturbed waters – a most memorable sight. If we are fortunate we may be able to spot a condor swooping overhead. The Antisana is a Condor Sanctuary,

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providing refuge for one of the largest concentrations of Andean Condors left in Ecuador. This day we will start descending into the cloud forest, passing through bamboo zones and we will stop to observe bromeliads and orchids at close quarters. You will be amazed by the fast change of the vegetation; this trek would take about 6 to 7 hours mainly downhill. We will camp & overnight nearby the Laguna Volcan at 11.811 ft (3.600m). *(B, PL, D)*



Day 4: Laguna Volcan – Papallacta

After breakfast our trek will bring us to the south-east behind the Antisana slopes, traversing the in-between highland rainforest and paramo area until reaching Río Tambo, which is about a 5 to 6 hours hike. Our vehicle will meet us for a 20 minutes drive to Papallacta Hot Springs for a soothing dip in the clear healing waters of the thermal pools surrounded by lush vegetation. We enjoy the many warm springs and cool off in the fresh mountain air. Overnight at Termas de Papallacta at 10.170 ft (3.100m). *(B, PL, D)*



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Day 5: Return to Quito

Relaxed morning, enjoying the thermal's baths. Return to Quito mid-morning. (B)

Trekking equipment list:

(this equipment is not included, you could bring the pieces you have and also rent the equipment here in Quito)

Water proof windbreaker and hiking boots, sleeping bag, daypack, woolen gloves, woolen cap covering entire head and ears, warm trousers, good sunglasses, hat, sunblock (at least 20 spf), canteen, flashlight, pocket knife, camera, binoculars, and wash kit. We advise to consider several layers of clothing for cold temperatures.

We provide the tents and mats.

END OF SERVICE

The itinerary may change due to unusual weather patterns, natural events, the strength of the group and so on. We will do our very best to keep to the set itinerary however we cannot be held responsible for any last minute changes that might occur. In all such circumstances your expedition leader will have the final word.