

Trekking Northern Andes 5d/4n



Day	Itinerary	Accommodation	Altitude in m	Altitude Accommodation in m	Time in hours	
					Walk	Drive
1	Papallacta trek	Papallacta	4000	3500	4 hrs	2
2	Fuya Fuya – Mojanda Lagoons trek	Hacienda Cusin	4200	2400	4-5 hrs	2
3	Cuicocha lagoon trek – Cotacachi and Otvalo Market visit	Hacienda Piman	3500	2400	5 hrs	1.5
4	Páramo del Ángel trek	Hacienda Piman	4000	2100	4 hrs	1.5
5	Return to Quito	-	4700	-		2

Itinerary

Day 1. Papallacta trekking

We depart early towards the area of the Cayambe-Coca Ecological Reserve. This reserve covers some 400 000 hectares of land. It enjoys a great deal of biodiversity and the reserve can be easily divided into lowland rainforest and mountain rainforest regions. There are lakes, rivers and hot springs spread across the reserve and the hot springs have made the reserve a very popular weekend destination. We start at our trek at 4000m diving into the moorlands and descending towards Papallacta hot springs. The vegetation is very special, despite the altitude you will see a lot of tropical plants and a unique fauna, small rivers and waterfalls everywhere. During the hike we go to the moorlands, observing the Andean nature and natural lagoons. After our excursion and enjoying our box lunch, we head to the famous hot springs for a rewarding bath!

Accommodation: Hotel Papallacta

Meals: breakfast, box lunch, dinner



Day 2. Fuya Fuya 4200 m

Today we start early and drive to reach one of the most popular tourist destinations in northern Ecuador, Otavalo. There we will take a small road, which will take us to the Mojanda Lagoon, where our trek to the Fuya Fuya will start. A nice short trekking with amazing views of the lagoon and moorlands. After the trekking we descend to Otavalo to rest at our hotel.

Accommodation: Hacienda Cusin

Meals: breakfast, box lunch, dinner



Day 3: Cuicocha Lake + Cotacachi Town + Otavalo Market

After resting the night your guide will pick you up at 7am. After 40min you will arrive in the beautiful Cuicocha National Park, the Crater Lake from Mt. Cotacachi 4944mtrs. The hike around this amazing lake (9.7 kms) will take you approx. 4-5 hours at 3500mtrs altitude. The hike is wonderful; the path is perfectly signed and described. After this lovely hike you will have the opportunity to discover the town of Cotacachi, famous for its leather goods and further on we continue to the city of Otavalo, to visit the unique and colorful world famous handcraft market. A full packed day will end with a night at our hotel near Ibarra.

Accommodation: Hacienda Piman

Meals: breakfast, box lunch, dinner



Day 4: Páramo del Angel

We drive north to discover a magical place, El Ángel Ecological Reserve. This Reserve has an area of 15,715 hectares, at an altitude of 4,692m over sea level. It is the birthplace of many rivers that eventually deposit their water in major river basins. This is the reason why these are the most humid moors in Ecuador and why the flora has adapted so well to the environment. The Páramo of El Angel is covered by frailejones (*Espeletia pycnophylla*), a species endemic to the area, which covers 85% of the area. These plants grow up to 6m in height and form a forest. Their flowers are similar to the sunflowers and their leaves are hairy to protect the plant from cold weather. Other beautiful flowers found in this area are the El Angel Flowers (*Senecio* sp.), which look very similar to the Frailejones with its hairy leaves and yellow flowers. Another interesting plant is one that looks similar to a pillow and captures a large amount of water.

The mountains of the Ecological reserve have remains of deciduous forests on them. These forests are made up of Pumamaqui, Aliso, Alder (*Alnus* sp.) and Myrtle (*Luma apiculata*) trees. The Paper Trees (*Polylepis incana* ssp. *icosandra*) are so named because their thin bark can peel off. A beautiful place to walk and have amazing views to the valley. Andean Condors have also been seen around this area becoming one of the country's few places where you can appreciate this magnificent endemic Andean treasure.

The trekking will take us about 4-5 hours and we head back to our hacienda.

Accommodation: Hacienda Piman Meals: breakfast, box lunch, dinner



Day 5: Return to Quito

After breakfast, return to Quito. (B)



Hacienda Piman

Includes:

- Professional mountain guides English/Spanish
- Private transportation
- Accommodation as described in program
- Meals as described in program.
- Accommodation and meals for guides and driver

Not Included:

- Alcoholic and soft beverages
- Tips
- Insurance
- Services not specified in program