

Quito & Surroundings

TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

Quintaesencia
travel experiences





Who are we?

Why should travel be all about checking places off a list? At Quintaesencia we believe in the authenticity of places, the actual experience of visiting the place of your dreams and doing so at your own pace and desire. We understand how valuable the trip of your dreams is, and we will treat it with utmost respect, going above and beyond for it to become the experience of your life. At it is with this same care that we present you some of our favorite experiences not just to enjoy but to embrace the quaint essence of Quiteño culture.

Keep on scrolling and see some of our recommendations while in the Ecuadorian capital, and remember that you can always change, add or combine elements, as wished. After all, we are only here to craft your dreams, as desired.

USD 336 pp

*based on double occupancy

Quiteño Afternoon at Mosquera Atelier

With over 50 years of experience, dozens of single and collective exhibitions and an outstanding international trajectory, Washington Mosquera is one of the most lured contemporary Ecuadorian artists, and for this experience you will be his special guest, at his atelier, in Quito.



Delve in a world of colors and vibrant emotions, sharing with a character that will tell you all about his work and experience, as he brings to life a portrait to the light of the brushstrokes, the aroma of the colors and the tantalizing flavors of fine Ecuadorian wine. Enjoy an afternoon of emotions, learning the secrets behind his work, and what it was like to grow up in this city, as you listen to his anecdotes. From the time he mistakenly was almost forced to stay at a psychiatric hospital, in his early 20s to how he met his wife at a convent, how he closely collaborated with artist Oswaldo Guayasamin or how he painted the very first public mural in Quito. An afternoon with Mosquera is an experience to enjoy, remember and fall in love with the city through the eyes of a dreamer.

USD 429 pp

*based on double occupancy



“One Hell” of a Quito City Tour

Being Quito a city whose foundations lie on traditions, flavors, legends, legends and more legends, we thought we would bring them to life for you instead of just sum them up in just a couple of words.

For this full-day experience we will do things in an unusual way, we'll start off with a visit to the Middle of the World to take fun pictures for your followers and make your inner child's dream of standing on both hemispheres come true! And now that you are hungry for emotions and equatorial flavors, we will be bringing you to a place where you will learn how agave was a sacred plant for the local peoples of the area, as one could get pretty much anything out of it. In fact, as part of your experience, and right after you've learned all about the agave culture, it will be time to get hands on and make your very own Ecuadorian-style pizza with agave-based dough, agave capers and more local produce. This is an experience that has proven to be fun and educational, making it perfect for couples, families and solo travelers!



The next stage of the tour will find you in the Colonial District, where besides visiting the sites of interest, we will bring you to the San Francisco Monastery, which is said to have been built by the devil himself. Legend has it that the person in charge of building the complex was not going to make it on time. For this, he asked the devil for help in trade of his soul, under the one condition that not a stone could be missing. The devil accepted, not knowing that the mason had hidden a block, thanks to which he could save his soul from an eternity in hell. Now, picture yourself, listening to the story at this very monastery, with preferential access, and surprise actors performing part of the story for you!

This is definitely a way not just to visit Quito, but to blend and embrace its charming traditions and culture.

USD 426 pp

*based on double occupancy

Private Artisanal Quiteño Coffee

Although life in the Andes rewards you with precious peach-colored sunsets and impressive views of the mountains to wake up to, the chilly afternoons are also part of the deal. It is for this reason that in most Andean cities it is pretty much an institution to gather at the late afternoon/night and enjoy a hot beverage and a hand-made bread roll, not just to warm up the body, but as the perfect scenery to share a moment with the family, friends or your loved one.

For this experience we will be taking you to a private country-style property, 1 hour from Quito, to an area so privileged that served as an astronomical observatory for the pre-Inca cultures. At this beautiful property, we will be walking you through this charming and intimate tradition, as you make your own bread rolls and bake them in our wood-fired brick oven. Embrace the essence of Quiteño tradition in a place that -we'll be honest here- won't remind you of home at all, instead will have you dreaming of how to implement this simple yet meaningful tradition at your own place, with your special ones, back in your country.

Let the aroma of the burning wood dance with your senses to the rhythm of Andean folk. Listen to the local stories and myths that are still part of today's everyday. Sit back, relax, enjoy and let the simple things in life carry you away, knowing that your hardest next decision will be weather to pair your freshly-baked rolls with all-Ecuadorian hot chocolate, freshly brewed coffee, an Andean infusion, or secret option 4: all of the above.



USD 349 pp

*based on double occupancy

Chocolate World with a Chocolatier

Visiting Ecuador without having enjoyed a chocolate-related experience is like not having come at all!

Let us take you to one of our 2 suggested locations, either in Quito or one hour from the city, where you will dive in the world's favorite treat. From learning what makes Ecuadorian cacao the best in the world, to enjoying a pairing experience by the hand of a fine



chocolatier, that will awaken your senses.

Blow your mind as you try innumerable types of chocolate and have them dancing on your palate with wine, cheese, herbs and more, the options are infinite, but one thing is for sure. You will keep asking yourself: how is it I didn't know chocolate was so versatile, and how in the world, I didn't know these flavors even existed?!

From truffles to delicious cake, cookies or pure chocolate, this fun, educational and spoiling experience will be the right fit for both the sophisticated and the sweet toothed.





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