

ANDEAN PATHS JOURNEYS ECUADOR

January 15th to the 26th 2027

Day 1: Arrive to Quito, transfer Hotel close to the airport

Day 2: Quito City tour: Explore the colonial neighborhood (Old city), have lunch and in the afternoon, visit the ethnographic museum.

Day 3: Quito-Banos-Puyo:

We will travel south through the “Avenue of the Volcanoes.” If the weather is clear, we will see the volcanoes: Antisana at 18,874 ft. (5,753mts.), Sincholagua at 16,069 ft. (4,898 mts.), Pasochoa 13,776 ft. (4,199mts.), Rumiñahui at 15,459 ft. (4,712mts.) and Cotopaxi National Park, the home of the tallest active volcano in the world at 19,347 ft. (5,897mts). This route allows us to see and learn firsthand about the Andean volcanoes.

Then we will descend from the inter-Andean valleys through intertropical valleys and lushly cloud forest until we get to Puyo in the limit of the Amazon basin.

Day 4: (Monday): Puyo-Kapawi

From Puyo/Shell airfield we will fly in a small aircraft over the Amazon forest, going from populated areas to pristine primary forest. Landing on the airstrip in the Achuar community of Kuzutkau which is located on the shore of the Capawari River, we will then travel downstream in a motorized canoe to Kapawi Eco-Lodge.

After getting settled we will do an introductory hike in the rainforest visiting a giant Kapok tree to meditate and introduce our self to this grandfather and to the Amazon forest.

Kapawi Eco-Lodge

Due to the isolation and lack of hunting in this area, there are wonderful possibilities for viewing wild life: howler monkeys, macaws, marmosets, tamarind monkeys, an incredible variety of bird life, and possibly, the pink dolphin.

Kapawi Lodge is a project that now belongs to the Achuar Nation. It was built through an alliance with a private tourism corporation in Ecuador. The corporation invested \$1.7 million US dollars, **without** buying the land, **and** with the obligation to give back the Lodge (and the business for the Lodge) to the Achuar after 15 years. This happened in 2011, now the Achuar are the owners and operators of this community-based tourism project.

Day 5: Kapawi

The Lodge offers many varied options: jungle hikes (for all levels), night hikes, bird watching (every morning), and wildlife viewing, cultural experiences with the Achuar, kayaking, canoeing, tubing and swimming. Most activities include an Achuar guide who

will provide information about the wildlife, plants and trees of the forest. The system of trails open for hiking offers a variety of ecosystems: terra firma forest (small hills that have never flooded); varzea (forest which floods seasonally); igapos (forest which is always flooded). We will explore the river/ lake system and small tributaries of the Capahuari River, a beautiful river where the lodge is located. Here it is possible to see pink dolphins (fresh water river dolphins), and float with the easy current near the Lodge.

Today we will hike in primary forest (easy 3 hours hike) and visit an Achuar community to learn about their environment, their culture, gastronomy and their everyday life. In addition, they are very curious people and will want to hear all about us.

Day 6: Kapawi

The Achuar

The Achuar group of people is a “dream sharing” culture. For them their dreams rule their daily life. They do the Wuayusa ceremony every morning their whole life. It is a moment to share dreams among each other, also to transmit the oral tradition, to teach the children how to make baskets, fishing nets, and ceramics, and to relate stories and ensure that their customs and rituals are carried on.

Another important function of the Wuayusa ceremony is to provide the time and space for important negotiations, solution of conflicts, decisions about alliances and political arrangements, and other important issues that affect the entire community. The Achuar people were pacified at the end of the sixties. They continue to keep strong in their ancestral traditions and way of life which they maintain with determination and courage.

Today is a ceremonial day which will allow us to share the spiritual world of the Achuar. At 4am, we will gather in the communal hut of the Lodge for a Wuayusa tea ceremony, where we will share with the Achuar elders our dreams.

At mid-morning we will do a hike in primary forest to a Waterfall to do a purification bath and a tobacco ceremony, after we will hike again to the shaman house to rest and wait until 7 pm for the Natem (Ayahuasca ceremony - optional). We will spend the night in the Community camp site

Day 7: Kapawi

After breakfast, we will be invited into the Shaman's house to visit with him and his family, and also to share our experience of the ceremony from the night before. We may receive insights from the Shaman about our experience. After saying goodbye to our hosts we will take the canoe back to the Lodge for rest and relaxation.

In the afternoon there will be time for swimming and floating down stream in the river - very relaxing! There is a good possibilities to swim with the pink dolphins.

Dinner and a sharing circle.

Day 8: Kapawi – Papallacta hot springs:

At 5am there will be an optional Wayusa ceremony to share with the shaman their experience with the Ayahuasca ceremony and for the others to share their dreams.

We will fly again over the pristine Amazon forest for 45 to 55 minutes to Shell. From there and following the Interamazonian route, we will start climbing again the Andes Mountains to head out to Papallacta Lodge and Spa, located at an altitude of 3,250m (10,600 feet). (5 hours north of Puyo). This is a unique and friendly atmosphere, in the midst of a beautiful natural environment, where the combination of hot springs and the comfort and of the facilities will provide an experience of relaxation and rest.

Day 9: Papallacta to San Clemente

We will arrive in San Clemente, a Kichua Karanqui indigenous community. They work in agriculture using the old techniques and knowledge; very organic, combining certain plants to protect them and not use chemicals. At the beginning of the 90's they developed a very interesting lodging program, using the houses of the local people to host visitors. We will have comfortable accommodations in the families' houses, in a real Andean atmosphere. San Clemente and its people are the perfect place, to consolidate and feel a connection with our self.

Day 10: San Clemente Community

The community is located at the base of the Imbabura Volcano, which is the most powerful Apu (sacred mountain) of the region. We will spend the day with our local friends, learning about their agricultural calendar, hiking in their large medicinal plant garden, and doing activities such as plowing, planting, harvesting, cooking or anything the families have planned for that day.

Late in the afternoon, we will participate in a traditional Andean cleansing ceremony with Tayta Elias one of the elders of the community, and a revered Kichua Shaman.

We will spend our second night in San Clemente will have comfortable accommodations in a real Andean atmosphere. We will spend our second night in San Clemente.

Day11: San Clemente to Quito.

We will visit the amazing Otavalo indigenous market that make this small city famous. Indigenous Otavaleños excel in the production and sale of textiles. It is a skill they have cultivated and nurtured and as a result, they are one of the wealthiest indigenous groups in Ecuador. In addition, the people here are very proud of their ancestral heritage. The majority of the population still wears the traditional clothing and maintains the ancient traditions and customs. Saturday is the day almost the entire city converts itself into a street market – the largest in Ecuador and one of the largest in all of South America

Traveling south, we will arrive in Cayambe and visit an astrological observatory in the middle of the world latitude 0°0'0", the Equator. Here we will learn about the concept of the four directions under the Andean Vision of the Cosmos.

We will arrive at the EB Hotel at Quito's airport to rest and have a farewell dinner. You can book a flight later tonight, or next day, at your convenience.

Price per person: \$3800 (double occupancy) based on 8 people
Single supplement: \$870

A deposit of \$1000 will reserve your space.
Second payment of \$1800 is due October 15th 2026.
The balance of \$1000 is due December 15th 2026.

Reservations: All reservations are subject to availability. For information about how to reserve your space and make your deposit for the journey, please contact Linda Leyerle at lleyerle@aol.com. In Ecuador it is not possible to reserve rooms, flights, etc. without a copy of the traveler's passport. Linda will give you details about how to send a copy to us. Time is of the essence so please respond as soon as possible if you are interested in this journey.

Cost includes: Private Aircrafts in the Amazon, private tour bus or van for travel during the journey, all meals, hotels, tips for restaurants and hotels, nonalcoholic beverages during meals, local guide and/or community leaders to share history and cultural information. Daniel Koupermann assistance during all the journey.

Cost does NOT include: Roundtrip airfare to Quito, Ecuador, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages, healing with the shaman, tips for the local guides, and private bus driver, personal items, souvenirs.

This journey is for individuals ready to have an educational/experiential experience. Persons with physical or psychiatric challenges may find this journey too difficult or uncomfortable. **We recommend a visit with your doctor at least 6 weeks in advance of departure. No immunizations are required unless you will be entering Ecuador from a country with Yellow Fever – in which case you will need a Yellow Fever immunization certificate and be prepared to show proof.**

No visas are required for most people entering Ecuador (US, Canadian, UK, EU, Australia and New Zealand citizens). If you have questions about this, please let Linda know. **Your passport must be valid at least 6 months after the date of your departure from Ecuador (July 26th, 2027).**

Once you have reserved your space, we will send you more information – packing lists, info about the country, etc. You will be fully prepared for the journey. Also, Linda is always available by email for any questions or concerns – whatever they may be.

Cancellations & Refunds: Due to availability of space on our journey and the time required to process trip reservations, **payments will not be refundable after October 15th, 2026.**

We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance in order to protect yourself in case

extenuating circumstances force you to cancel your trip. There are many different options available on-line.

Responsibilities: ANDEAN PATHS reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a participant at any time, and to make changes in the itinerary whenever deemed necessary for the comfort, convenience, and safety of our participants, and to cancel a journey at any time. In the event a journey is cancelled, ANDEAN PATHS shall have no responsibility beyond the refund of monies paid to it by program participants as listed. By registering, the participant agrees that neither ANDEAN PATHS nor their affiliates shall be liable for any damages, loss or expense occasioned by any act or omission by any supplier providing services to any program participant. Reasons that Andean Paths might cancel a program include, but are not limited to, issues around safety due to impassable roads, protests in Ecuador, or similar unforeseen events.

We are available to address any questions, concerns or comments.

By Andean Paths ©