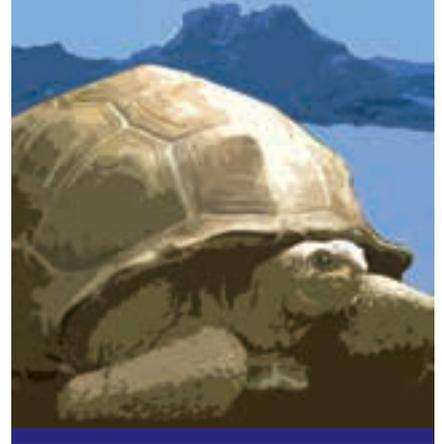


Suggested Itinerary for
Otavalo & Mashpi
7 Day, 6 Night Extension

Organised by

PRESTIGE
turning **EVENTS** into
OCCASIONS
since 1976

Celebration
of
Wildlife
in the
Galapagos





Day 1

Depart Quito for the drive to Otavalo in the Province of Imbabura in Northern Ecuador. The Otavalos are a very prosperous community of skilled textile weavers, who gather to sell their products at the market in the city of Otavalo as they have done for centuries, as regional markets have played an important role in Indian life, providing regular gathering places for trade and socialising.

This is a two-day excursion, giving you ample time to explore the fertile Valley of Otavalo, its landscapes of mountains, lakes and corn fields, see the artisans at work, visit Indian communities and its people.

First stop is Calderón, a small town where bread dough figurines are made in many shapes and sizes, and continuing along the valleys of Guayllabamba and Cayambe, with their dairy farms and flower plantations.

Your overnight accommodation will be at Relais & Chateau 5* La Mirage Garden Hotel & Spa. Perched on an Andean hillside, La Mirage stands on the grounds of a 200 year old Hacienda. You will enjoy its fragrant hummingbird-filled gardens, exquisitely furnished rooms and gourmet food. There will be an opportunity to visit the town of San Antonio de Ibarra, famous for the woodcarvings, the town of Cotacachi, an entire town dedicated to selling fine leather products, and the town of Peguche where textiles are woven in old-fashioned shuttle looms.

La Mirage Garden Hotel & Spa

After breakfast there will be a visit to the handicraft market of Otavalo, piled high with ponchos, woollen goods, tapestries, the original "Panama" hat, sweaters, Indian jewelry and many handicrafts for you to peruse and purchase – maybe.

On the return trip, there will be a break for coffee at one of the haciendas of the Cayambe area.



Day 3

Arrive at Mashpi Lodge, designed especially for those who seek a different sort of jungle experience. Time and space will take on a different meaning as you become immersed in the deep green forest, exploring pristine landscapes such as the rainforest canopy (with the special Aerial Tram), viewing on-site cultural vestiges of the earliest rainforest dwellers, learning about the native flora and fauna and interacting with local people. Mashpi Lodge brings together first-rate service and the singular natural and cultural wonders of the Ecuadorian rainforest. You will be able to explore the remote Private Rainforest Reserve – accessible only to guests – without sacrificing comfort or style. Mashpi Lodge features impeccable service and offers the utmost in accommodation, facilities and dining and qualifies as one of the prestigious “Luxury Camps and Lodges of the World.”

Day 4 & 5

Join in the various activities on offer at the Mashpi Lodge, including a visit to the Butterfly Vivarium and bird watching.

You will explore the rain forest canopy with the Aerial Tram with the option of taking a jungle walk and/or a dip in the Mashpi River. There will be visits to plantations and you will be able to harvest regional produce which will be prepared for lunch at the Casa Campesina by a local family.

Special spa treatments are also available at the Lodge to be taken at your leisure.

Day 6

After departing the Lodge there will be a visit to the community run Tree Nursery, after which you will go on to the Pululahua Crater - one of the world's largest volcanic craters, with an average base diameter of 8 km. It is also one of two in the entire world, which is populated and used primarily for agricultural purposes.

After lunch, and a visit to the Itinan Museum, we will continue on to Quito and to the Casa Gangotena Hotel for your final evening and overnight stay.

Day 7

After breakfast you will be driven to Quito airport for your return flight.



Included in your package:

- Two night's accommodation in Quito at Casa Gangotena, including breakfast
- One night's accommodation at La Mirage Garden Hotel & Spa in Otavalo, including breakfast and dinner
- Three night's accommodation at Mashpi Lodge, including all meals
- All transport on private, air-conditioned coaches
- Entrance fees to sites mentioned in the itinerary
- Lunch in Otavalo
- English speaking tour guides throughout

Not included:

- International and domestic flights
- Drinks taken with meals
- Tips and gratuities

Price per person: tba

Dress Code:

Dress in layers (T-shirt, blouse, sweater, coat). Take a warm coat for evening and rain protection from February to May.

This tour includes walking at an altitude of 2560 metres (8434 ft). Take a high sun protection (SPF 40).

Good walking shoes. Your camera!