

## PRE-TOUR TRAVELMART LATINAMERICA 2017

*(Tentative dates 09-13 September 2017)*

### Day 1: Arrival Quito Airport / Transfer In



Upon arrival, a private transfer from the Airport to the local hotel located at 50 minutes from the airport, private transportation and English-speaking guide will accompany you. Check in at your Hotel.

**Hotel:** Patio Andaluz or similar

**Meals:** N/A

### Day 02: Quito city tour & Lunch at Yunguilla Community & Middle of the World



This interesting city tour goes through diverse neighborhoods for a look at both colonial and modern Quito, and visit top Quito attractions such as Independence Plaza and the Presidential Palace. Our first stop will be at the Museo Del Banco Central, this unique museum combines the science of archaeology, and cultural diversity and high technology through innovative slide shows and permanent exhibits including gold artifacts, colonial paintings and sculptures. We will do a panoramic visit to the main churches of Quito. Finally, head to the most famous hill in Quito, Panecillo viewpoint, where you will notice the contrast between colonial and modern Quito. In the afternoon, we continue to visit Yunguilla Community located only an hour from the north of Quito in the parish of Calacalí, the community is in the cloud forest at an altitude of 2650 m. This community program is managed by a group of people committed to the development of sustainable economic alternatives including community tourism. Afterwards our next destination is the middle of the world, the origins of this place goes back to the First Geodesic Mission, which came to our country for the purpose of study and determine the exact curvature of the planet. This mission, managed by the French scientist Charles Marie de la Condamine and the Ecuadorian scientist Pedro Vicente Maldonado, determined where the equator crossed. We have the opportunity to visit Intiñan museum just 200 meters north of the Mitad del Mundo monument, here is the actual "middle of the world," marked. This museum shows cases what modern-day GPS has proven to be



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the true site of the equator line. Here your device will actually read zero degrees latitude and zero degrees longitude.

**Hotel:** Patio Andaluz or similar

**Meals:** Breakfast and lunch

### Day 03: Day tour to Otavalo Market



Early in the morning, transfer to Otavalo. On the way there will be a chance to stop at Cayambe to visit a rose farm to learn the process of production of Ecuadorian roses are known as the best roses on earth! Afterwards, we will visit Otavalo market, it is world-famous for its indigenous population, the so-called Otavalos, many of which are travelling around the world to sell their famous handicrafts or play in Andean Folk music

groups. The Otavaleños are considered the economically most successful indigenous group of Latin America. The Plaza de Ponchos is located between street Sucre and Jaramillo, where indigenous and mestizo people from Otavalo and surrounding communities sell their handicrafts. You will find a wide range of weavings, jewelry, clothes, wood and stone carvings, paintings, Panama hats, and some products from our neighbors Peru and Colombia. Rugs and shoulder bags are made of sheep wool; do not expect many products of Lama Wool, as Lamas never occurred as far north as Otavalo and most products are from the Imbabura province. Table clothes are usually made of some kind of artificial fiber, woven on machines, but probably still made at someone's home or house atelier. Finally back to Quito.



**Hotel:** Patio Andaluz or similar

**Meals:** Breakfast and lunch

### Day-04: Quito-Cotopaxi National Park-Tigua Valley

Early morning to head south along the Avenue of the Volcanoes, we will visit Cotopaxi National Park where is located the second highest volcano of Ecuador, once here a nice hike at Limpiopungo. Once here no matter what the weather, you are guaranteed to see birds if the weather is clear, you should be fortunate enough to catch at least a glimpse of the majestic volcano, Cotopaxi, as well.



The trail around the lake takes about 1.5 hours. The trail is well maintained and practically flat,

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making it a perfect hike for those that are not handling high altitude well. Afterwards continue to Tigua Valley where an overnight awaits at old and small hacienda.

**Hotel:** Posada de Tigua

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch and dinner

## Day-05: Tigua Valley-Quilotoa Lake-Guayaquil

Today after breakfast we get ready for our third hiking day. A full day is required for hiking about six hours or by car just 30 minutes to reach one of the most beautiful volcanic lakes in Ecuador, Quilotoa, a beautiful emerald lake! To get here



we pass few small villages such as Zumbahua town where is good place to admire the complex structure of the canyon walls, finally we reach the loop of Quilotoa. Once here you have a chance to take pictures of this volcanic crater. Afterwards we take the highway empties out into the hot and muggy Quevedo, where a majority of the country's Chinese immigrants has settled to take up an agrarian life. Quevedo is also an important transportation hub to all directions of Ecuador. Farther south on the road is Guayaquil, the biggest Ecuadorian city. Drop off at any hotel.

**Hotel:** Not included








**Meals:** Breakfast and lunch

## PRICES 2017






PRE-TOURS	1 PAX	2 PAX	3 PAX	4 PAX	5 PAX	6 PAX	7 PAX	8 PAX	9 PAX	10 PAX	SINGLE SUPL.	TRIPLE DISCOUNT
Normal Price	1561	903	721	750	667	640	599	568	544	536	77	20
Price for Buyers	1249	723	577	600	534	512	479	454	435	429	61	20
Price for Suppliers	1327	768	613	637	567	544	509	483	463	456	65	20

*Prices mentioned are per person base in US American dollar*


### Rates include:

-  Private transportation for routes mentioned above
-  English speaking guide
-  Hotel mentioned based in double room
-  Entrance fee Quito museum and Middle of the world
-  Entrance fee to Quilotoa lake
-  Daily breakfast and lunch, (Dinner where is mentioned)
-  Excursions mentioned

### Rates do not include:

-  Domestic and international Airfare
-  Drinks during the meals
-  Dinner
-  Personal expenses
-  Meals not mentioned above

### Observations

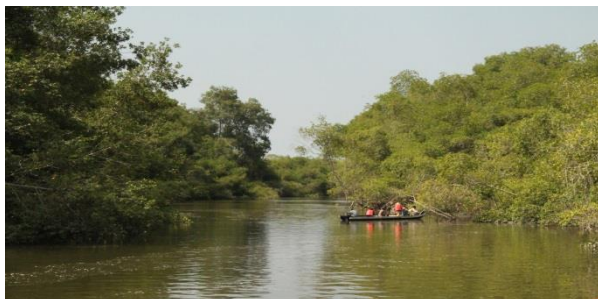
-  Hotels mentioned are subject to previous availability



## POST-TOUR TRAVELMART LATINAMERICA 2017

*(Tentative dates 16-21 September 2017)*

### Day 01: Cuenca-Manglares Churute-Cacao Farm-Cuenca



After breakfast you will be picked up from your hotel to go ahead Ecological reserve Manglares Churute, it takes around 1 ½ to get there. This tour begins with a canoe ride down a river through the mangrove forest. Here you will see many species of birds and receive an explanation as to how the reserve preserves their habitat, as well

as that of the local Mangrove Ghost Crabs. You may also see a Coastal Crocodile, though most likely not.

The tour continues with a hike on the 'Howler Monkey Trail,' where you will most likely (though are not guaranteed) to hear and see howler monkeys, as well as White-Fronted Capuchins. Your guide will also show you which trees and plants have medicinal or other useful purposes. The hike takes a little less than an hour and is not particularly strenuous, though there is an uphill portion and there are many bugs. After the hike, continue to local cacao farm for a typical Ecuadorian lunch, cooked by a local community member. The final part of the tour, you will go to a local organic cacao farm and learn the process of making cacao into chocolate. Eat the cacao raw, see the different stages of the tree's growth, the steps in the process, and of course, try some 100% cacao, as well as processed chocolate. Finally continue to Cuenca.



**Hotel:** Balcones

**Meals:** Lunch

### Day-02: Cuenca tour and its local stores

Today you will have the opportunity to stroll around this charming colonial city, declared a Cultural Heritage site of Mankind by the UNESCO. The city gets familiar with its colonial buildings with beautifully decorated patios; It is nice and gentle inhabitants and the cozy atmosphere. The trip up to Mirador de Turi is one of the most popular excursions in Cuenca. Turi is located in the perfect place to bask in the breathtaking panorama of the entire city of Cuenca. Mirador means "lookout" or "viewpoint"; "Turi" means "brother" in Quechua, the language of the pre-colonial indigenous people of the same name. Near the city center you will also visit a Panama hat fabric.

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These hats, made of the local 'Paja Toquilla' palm leaves, are originally Ecuadorian hats and Cuenca is one of the main cities exporting this worldwide known product. Afterwards we'll visit local bakeries, Cuenca is famous for its bread, there are bakeries all over the city that smell of fresh bread in the air. It is hard to resist stopping in and picking up something.



**Hotel:** Balcones

**Meals:** Breakfast and Lunch

### Day-03: Cuenca-Ingapirca-Baños

After breakfast departure to Ingapirca an Inca Ruins, which is known as the Temple of the Sun, storage chambers, observatories and roads, each with its own purpose. The temple is a very fascinating part of the complex and is located in the center of the archeological site. Finally, drive to Baños passing through Alausi town very famous for its train trip known as Devil's Nose with an incredible zigzag part to cross the mountain.



**Hotel:** Sangay

**Meals:** Breakfast and Lunch

### Day-04: Amazon excursion

After breakfast catch the last glimpse of the Ecuadorian upper Amazon basin with a little hike after this walk and a refreshing natural fruit juice, prepare yourself for your departure to Baños. On route we will stop at Pailon del Diablo waterfall, an impressive cascade surrounded by subtropical vegetation and colorful orchids. The adventure runs can descend down to the cascade bottom for a closer look whilst others can appreciate the overwhelming force and sound of the rushing waters from a lookout point. Continue descending to Amazon rainforest.



**Hotel:** Cotococha Lodge

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch and dinner

## Day-05: Baños, avenue for the waterfall and continue to Amazon



After breakfast, we depart by canoe upstream for ten minutes, arriving to a small shore where we begin a fun and thrilling one hour walk, marveling ourselves with the jungle's secondary forest diverse flora and fauna. After our short hike, we'll find ourselves in a breathtaking cascade "La Cascada de Latas" where we will take a refreshing bath in its clear crystal waters

and enjoy the surrounding views, which, mixed with the jungle sounds, makes it an unforgettable experience. We return along the same way to have lunch at the lodge. After lunch we put on our rubber boots to start an exciting walk in the jungle's primary forest ready to find the secret wonders of the mysterious hidden jungle, finding amazing plant species with medicinal properties, which will be explained in detail by our expert native guide: their characteristics and how the jungle inhabitants used them in ancient times. We'll also observe a great variety of insects, small groups of monkeys weaving around the giant trees; though we will need some luck to observe them, that's why we must stay very quiet to admire these beautiful creatures. Dozens of curious colourful birds tag along with us during our walk whistling enchanted notes delighting our senses. After about three hours of walking we will arrive at the Lodge again. At night, dinner and gathering around the fireplace. It's time for a good and peaceful rest delighted by the nightly sounds of the jungle.

**Hotel:** Cotococha Lodge

**Meals:** Breakfast, lunch and dinner

## Day-06: Amazon-Papallacta-Quito

After breakfast departure to Quito, the capital of Ecuador. On the way, we will visit Papallacta town, famous for its thermal hilling water. The thermal waters are rich in minerals and sulfates, and are said to provide numerous health and beauty benefits. We can also set up optional spa treatments for the ultimate relaxation experience (**Optional**). Around 14:00, you will be picked up to continue to Quito.



**Hotel:** Not included









**Meals:** Breakfast and lunch

## PRICES 2017






POST-TOURS	1 PAX	2 PAX	3 PAX	4 PAX	5 PAX	6 PAX	7 PAX	8 PAX	9 PAX	10 PAX	SINGLE SUPL.	TRIPLE DISCOUNT
Normal Price	1556	933	769	802	730	704	654	626	604	600	129	16
Price for Buyers	1244	746	615	642	584	564	523	501	483	480	103	16
Price for Suppliers	1322	793	654	682	621	599	556	532	513	510	110	16

*Prices mentioned are per person base in US American dollar*


### Rates include:

-  Private transportation for routes mentioned above
-  English speaking guide
-  Entrance fees Ingapirca ruins
-  Entrance fees to Pailon del Diablo waterfall
-  Entrance fees to Papallacta thermal pools
-  Hotel mentioned based in double room
-  Daily breakfast and lunch (Dinner where is mentioned)
-  Excursions mentioned

### Rates do not include:

-  Domestic and international Airfare
-  Drinks during the meals
-  Dinner
-  Personal expenses
-  Meals not mentioned above

### Observations

-  Hotels mentioned are subject to previous availability

## EXTRA HOTEL SERVICES IN QUITO & GUAYAQUIL

ACCOMODATION IN QUITO	SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE
Marquiz Hotel "Standard room"	70	95	
Patio Andaluz "Standard room"	140	160	
Rio Amazonas "Standard room"	78	85	

ACCOMODATION IN GUAYAQUIL	SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE
Whyndham "Deluxe room"	130	140	
Oro Verde "Standard room"	140	150	
Unipark "Standard room"	105	115	

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## WHAT TO BRING TO THE JUNGLE

**Clothing:** The weather in the Amazon Basin is very humid and warm. You will likely be fine bringing no more than one or two sweaters, as sometimes it can get a little chilly at night. Try to stick to relatively fast-drying material as far as pants and shirts go, it can get humid there, and you are pretty much guaranteed to see rain, especially from March until September. Many cotton socks is a good rule of thumb to go by. Maybe even bring all the cotton socks you own, they get wet fast. A good quality rain jacket will really come in handy, or if you do not have one, at least buy a waterproof poncho or a big thick plastic bag.

**Temperature Range:** 23º to 26º C (72º to 80º F)

**Equipment:** Sun protector will be extremely helpful. Even though the sun will not be as scorching as in the coast, it is still definitely not a bad idea to bring along sunglasses, sunblock and a hat with a brim. To fight the enemy of dehydration, always drink lots of boiled or pre-bottled water, and if you are always carrying a water bottle, you are surely going to drink more, even if you are not thirsty. Insects are everywhere in the jungle, so whatever method you prefer to deal with that, it is recommended to do that. Regarding this, if you have some worries about malaria or other tropical diseases please see our Health section. Seeing as though it rains a lot, it is likely a good idea to keep all your things in well-sealing plastic bags. You will thank yourself later. It also gets very dark in the jungle, so if you are going outside of town on a trek, bring a flashlight so you can make it to the bathroom at night. Besides the footwear you might normally use, you might want to add rubber boots to the list, that is, if you are going on a trek outside of town.

## WHAT TO BRING TO THE ANDES

**Clothing:** Light wool is ideal and a warm jacket is usually necessary in the highlands after the sunset. Try not to forget your bathing suit and comfortable shoes for walking or good hiking boots if for trekking. If you are planning to visit the Cotopaxi National Park or other places of a rather high altitude, it is advisable to bring a thick sweater and a jacket. Remember that the higher you are, the colder the weather will be.

**Temperature Range:** 5º-25ºC (41º-77ºF)

## WHAT TO BRING TO THE COAST

**Clothing:** This place, as you can imagine, is hot! Probably, for that reason, bring all the sun protection you can get your hands on. The clothes worn in the coast are mostly shorts, a t-shirt and sandals. At night, you might want to have a long sleeved shirt and light pants, but it will not get very cool there, even at night.

**Temperature Range:** 24º-32ºC (80º-96ºF)



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