



**Welcome to Ecuador! Your transformational Ecuador
FAM Trip Program September 2024, starts here.**

**Departure dates:
September 8 to 15
September 22 to 29
9 Days / 8 Nights**

TOUR CREATED BASED ON HERO'S JOURNEY CONCEPT

***"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."
Joseph Campbell***

***"A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom."
Bob Dylan***

The Hero's Journey concept does not allow us to tell you too much information about what you will be doing, but what we can tell you is you will find yourself in certain circumstances, in special spaces, making magical moments... curiously exploring and navigating a journey of riddles and clues. Come with an open mind and a participatory spirit.

DAY 1 ATO - Otavalo

Are you ready to experience the journey that will transform your life?

From the airport you will have an amazing ride through the Andean Mountain range. Relax and enjoy the view until you get to the jewel of Imbabura, Hotel Otavalo.

Check-in at Hotel Otavalo, your home for the next 2 nights, explore art and architecture in this surprising castle within the city.

Light dinner will be provided.

Have a good night sleep, you are going to need it.



DAY 2 Otavalo Full Day

After a hearty breakfast you will meet the safe keepers of Ecuadorian traditions that have dedicated their lives to keeping their ancestral culture alive.

Pleated or flat skirt? Embroidered blouse? Tall crown and short brimmed hat? The traditional dress of indigenous tribes does not follow fashion trends; it is one of the holdouts of humans' cultural adaptations over the years. It is a source and product of the indigenous peoples' handicraft, artistry and differentiation. Vibrant, handwoven textiles, stacks and stacks of hats, alpargata shoes, golden necklaces and warm ponchos are all part and parcel of daily work and life. Every garment has different characteristics allowing the knowledgeable to identify which of the 14 coexisting tribes in Ecuador each person belongs to. Additionally music, gastronomy and decorative craftwork are all fortitudes of Ecuador's indigenous peoples. Spend an unforgettable moment in the company of these great hosts and get acquainted with their cosmovision.



Following this ancestral awakening, a delicious dinner waits for in Sarance Restaurant, back at your home, Hotel Otavalo. Sarance means "People who live up right" and is the ancient name of Otavalo.

DAY 3 Otavalo – Quito

An early morning will be perfect to discover one of the natural wonders of the Andean Mountains. We will find out what happens to certain volcanoes over centuries... You will see one of them filled with stories and great surprises.

After this morning's visit we will continue south following the Andean corridor to the capital, Quito. We believe that every road trip is an opportunity to explore the communities we're surrounded by for some surprises, be captivated by them...

Lunch at Molino San Juan, its history will charm you while seeing amazing Roses in an old barn.

Arrival to Quito's Historical Downtown (UNESCO World Heritage Site)

Leap back in time into Colonial Latin America, traipse along columned corridors into skylit central patios and out onto romantic balconies. Devout or not, hail the marvelous architecture and beauty of the churches, cathedrals and convents exhibiting various periods of art within the historic centers of Quito and Cuenca. Watch the curtain rise in theatres graced by famous orchestras, plays and dramatized folklore. Theatrized expositions and walking tours bring to life past protagonists biographical, legendary or mythical. Take part in the living history of the best preserved colonial centers whose residents fiercely protect and promote their customs. Where the local barista not only brews the perfect high altitude arabica coffee, but also concocts works of art in fabric, wood and wax. Feast on home cooked meals in restaurants where secret family recipes have not been diverged nor divulged from generation to generation. Ultimately, call one of these colonial houses, with incredible personalized service, home for the night.

Recharged? Now we will visit some "vecinos". The neighbors that still keep the traditions and culture of Quiteños alive! Also enjoy access to very exclusive places in 15 and 16th century buildings... Remember the Hero's Journey... we have said too much already...



Hotel Mama Cuchara will be waiting you with a nonalcoholic welcome drink and a delicious dinner at our La Plaza Restaurant, maybe some wine before a good night sleep in this 150 year old mansion.

DAY 4 Quito Full Day

Discover Quito and some of its hidden treasures, a full day of exploring, understanding, tasting, experimenting and wondering awaits you.

Lunch in one of our favorite restaurants! Great cocktails are available and a distinguished menu ready for the most refine palates.

After lunch what better way to explore the historical downtown than by the hand of an important character of a colonial legend... he/she will get you closer to Hotel Mama Cuchara, relax and get ready for a wonderful goodbye dinner-show in a very special place.



Accommodation at Hotel Mama Cuchara, take your last night picture in our famous Roof top Bar.

DAY 5 Quito Full Day

This day we will enjoy the views: the Old town, the north of Quito and visit some amazing Churches and Museums filled with culture, history and secrets!

Lunch in a traditional Restaurant in Quito's old Town, with an amazing view!



Accommodation in Hotel Mama Cuchara, with a tasting you will never forget.

DAY 6 Quito – Cuenca

Early flight to the amazing city of Cuenca, the cultural capital of Ecuador. We will leave our bags, do a express check in in Hotel Cruz del Vado and enjoy walk city tour in the beautiful colonial center and visit beautiful alleys and impressive plazas and of course The Cathedral.

Lunch at Los Tiestos, and after which we keep enjoying experiences, don't forget your clues!

Dinner at Hotel Cruz del Vado, where French cuisine meets local ingredients and cooking ware... an unforgettable meal.



Back to your home in Cuenca, Hotel Cruz del Vado, your 120 year old home for the next two nights.

DAY 7 Cuenca full day

After breakfast with the most beautiful view of the city of Cuenca, we head to magical nature while understanding the “campo” and a visit to a National Park. Lunch will be included in this physical day! A reward for your effort is necessary, we have your back!

Night at Hotel Cruz del Vado.



DAY 8 Cuenca – Quito

Last breakfast in the beautiful city of Cuenca, last chance to take some pictures!

Let us keep up with our Hero's Journey in this artisans-filled city.

Lunch at Hotel Cruz del Vado, and then transfer to the airport to return to Quito.

Check-in at Hotel Mama Cuchara, business meeting with Art Experiences Travel a moment to share experiences and recap on the journey, your comments are crucial for us to improve and innovate.

Dinner at Rooftop Bar.

Night at Hotel Mama Cuchara.

OPTIONS:

DAY 9

Option 1: Going back home, **with many new ideas and in love with Ecuador.**

Quito – Airport

Free day and late check out in Hotel Mama Cuchara if needed and transfer to international Airport. Farewell we will miss you! Be aware of our Galápagos FAM, coming soon!

Cost: Transformational Ecuador from Day 1 to Day 9: \$1500 per person. Companions cost: \$ 2500 per person (in DBL accommodation)

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- ❖ Private English-speaking driver guide
- ❖ All excursions described in the itinerary
- ❖ Meals described in the itinerary
- ❖ Entrance Fees to churches and places of interest detailed in the itinerary
- ❖ **Local flights: Quito- Cuenca – Quito**

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- ❖ International flights and airport taxes
- ❖ Meals and services not specified in the itinerary,
- ❖ Alcoholic drinks, tips, fee of entrances not mentioned in the itinerary
- ❖ Personal expenses and travel and medical insurance.
- ❖ Gratuities to our wonderful staff
- ❖ Air tickets for local connections, Amazon and the Galapagos Islands.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- ❖ Itinerary subject to change due to availability, weather conditions.
- ❖ The order of activities may vary due to operational circumstances such as local regulations and/or weather conditions.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Sandals/Flip Flops
- Comfortable shoes for walking
- Swimwear
- Long Pants
- Rain jacket (Rain Poncho)/light jacket
- Light sweater/warm sweater
- Sunglasses/Hat
- Sunblock
- Insect repellent (Organic)
- Small backpack
- T-shirts (short and long sleeve)
- Any personal medication you deem essential (Consult your physician)

For more information in reference to our hotels and activities, please take a look at our commercial link:

LINK: [Art Hotels 2023](#)

FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS PLEASE CONTACT

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