



## ECUADORIAN ESCAPE: MOLINO DE SAN JUAN

Embark on a journey through Ecuador's cultural and natural heritage. Begin with a drive to Molino de San Juan, near the Cayambe volcano. Explore the landscape of the Cayambe-Coca Ecological Reserve and learn about the history of indigenous communities in the region.

## BRIEF ITINERARY

DAY	DATE	ITINERARY	HOTEL	MEALS
1	21/9/2024	Otavalo Indigenous Market - Angla Community - Trasfer to Molino de San Juan	Molino de San Juan	(L, D)
2	22/9/2024	Cayambe National Park - PM: Time at the hacienda	Molino de San Juan	(B, D)
3	23/9/2024	Transfer to Quito / <b>END OF SERVICES</b>		(B)

## DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 1 . ANGLA COMMUNITY - OTAVALO INDIGENOUS MARKET – TRANSFER TO MOLINO DE SAN JUAN (L, D)

Today, we will drive north towards Imbabura, also known as the Lake Province, while enjoying an exciting trip by tasting exotic fruit in the Guayllabamba valley. Cross the Equatorial Line in Cayambe, where on a clear day, it is possible to admire its majestic snow-capped volcano (5,790 m. / 18,996 ft), the world’s highest point crossed by the equator. This is an ideal spot to try Cayambe’s famous salt biscuits with leaf cheese, this region’s traditional snack. At the base of Imbabura volcano, you will be able to enjoy the picturesque view of Ecuador’s largest lake - San Pablo.

Afterwards, we will visit the local Angla indigenous community. During this visit you will have authentic insights into the community’s everyday life, actively learning about their traditions and experiencing unforgettable cultural encounters. Here, you will enjoy a natural healing ritual called Andean “Chakana” which merges traditional indigenous and religious beliefs. You will also create cherished memories with the community by making traditional beverages and feel the peace of being surrounded by the awe-inspiring Imbabura Volcano and the stunning San Pablo Lake. This visit will undoubtedly immerse you in Ecuador’s indigenous culture.



When we arrive in the town of Otavalo, it will be time to visit its world-famous Indigenous Market, the largest in South America. Here is where vendors proudly offer a stunning variety of weavings such as the famous ponchos, among other textiles like rugs, mittens, and scarves. This market is like a rainbow due to the colors of the textiles exhibited. Without a doubt, it is an ideal place to find handicrafts, jewelry, and other artisanal craftwork. Accommodation at Hacienda Molino de San Juan

*Molino San Juan is the living testimony of the culture of grinding wheat to produce flour.*

The walls of adobe of the Mill keep the customs of the wheat farm “The Compañía de Jesús”, that was one of the great colonial patrimonies of the religious congregation Society of Jesus (Jesuits); hence his name. The history of the hacienda “The Company” dates back to the sixteenth century and since 1812 it is owned by the Jarrin family and their descendants



## **DAY 2 . CAYAMBE VOLCANO - PM: AT LEISURE (B, D)**

Today, we will drive north, Cross the Equatorial Line, from here, we'll be able to admire today's destination, the imposing snow-capped Cayambe volcano, standing at 5,790 m or 18,996 ft, it is the highest point on Earth crossed by the equator. We will make our way to the Cayambe-Coca Ecological Reserve, an area that extends through four provinces (Imbabura, Pichincha, Napo and Sucumbios), and holds many important ecosystems from the paramo grasslands in the Highlands to the cloud forests and rainforests of the Amazon.



We will take a 45-minute ride down a dirt road until we arrive at the foot of the Cayambe Volcano. After another 30 minutes, we will arrive at the Ruáles Oleas Berge Refuge, located at an altitude of 4,700 m or 15,419 ft. At the refuge, you will have a beautiful view of the magnificent landscapes that surround the volcano and, if we're lucky, even see the iconic Andean Condor in flight above us. We can also visit the "Hermoso" Glacier, ideal for people who want to have a closer look at the volcano and have some fun in the snow.

Accommodation at Hacienda Molino de san Juan

In the afternoon, you'll have free time to explore the Hacienda Molino de San Juan at your leisure.



### **OPTIONAL HOT AIR BALLOON THEDERED FLIGHT OVER HACIENDA MOLINO DE SAN JUAN IN THE MORNING:**

Experience a hot air balloon ride over Hacienda Molino de San Juan. Marvel at panoramic views of Cayambe Volcano and the surrounding valleys as you float through the air. Capture memorable moments and



immerse yourself in Ecuador's natural beauty from a new perspective.

#### OPTIONAL ARTISAN BEER EXPERIENCE IN THE AFTERNOON:

This experience allows you to immerse yourself in the rich history and flavors of craft beer in Ecuador. Explore an underground cellar, where the Molino San Juan turbine, built in 1890, once operated, providing optimal conditions for storing and tasting craft beer. It's a unique and authentic attraction at Hacienda Molino San Juan.



#### OPTIONAL HORSEBACK RIDING IN THE AFTERNOON:

We will then head to Molino de San Juan for a horseback riding experience along exclusive trails throughout the hacienda's grounds. As we advance through the property, you'll have the opportunity to observe native bird species and enjoy spectacular landscapes. Later, return to the hacienda.

This experience is limited to a maximum of 2 persons

#### DAY 3: TRANSFER TO QUITO (B)

At an appropriate time, you will be picked up at your hotel and transferred to Quito

#### END OF SERVICES

### PRICE SUMMARY

PRIVATE PROGRAM	CATEGORY	ACCOMMODATION	NET RATE PER PAX
Molino de San Juan 3 Days / 2 Nights	TOURIST SUPERIOR	Molino de San Juan	\$ 180
Supplement for German or French Guidance			\$ 6

### SUPPLEMENT FOR OPTIONAL ACTIVITES

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES (DAY 2 OR 3)	NET RATE PER PAX
Carafsted Beer Experience	\$ 6
Horseback Ridign (Max 2 pax)	\$ -
Captive balloon flight	\$ 66

#### Important Notes:

\* Horseback riding refers to a short intern circuit inside Hacienda's grounds

\* Horseback riding can only be for a maximum 2 pax as the hacienda only has 3 horses

**INCLUDED:**

- Private Bilingual Guide (English or Spanish)
- Private transportation
- Accommodation at your selected hotel with breakfast
- Meals mentioned in the program (B: Breakfast, BL: Boxed lunch, L: Lunch, D: Dinner)
- Excursions mentioned in the program.
- Contribution to the local community
- Entrance Fees (As described in itineraries)
- Local Experiences

**NOT INCLUDED:**

- International or Domestic Airfare
- Meals or beverages not detailed in the itineraries (only if meals apply)
- Tips for guides, drivers, or porters (Not mandatory)
- Travel Insurance
- Optional Excursions
- Personal Expenses

## CONTACT

- **Your Company Name:** GEO BOUTIQUE TRAVEL DESIGNER
- **Tour Name:** Molino de San Juan 3 Days / 2 Nights
- **Contact Person for Questions and Reservations:** FELIPE MONTALVO -  
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