



Quilotoa Loop Horse Riding Tour



QUILOTOA LOOP HORSE RIDING TOUR: DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day	Description	Meals	Spanish Speaking Driver or English Speaking Guide
1	<p>Arrival to the Hacienda: Ride at the paddock to get acquainted with the horses and tack that we will use during the ride. Then we ride around the neighboring Haciendas. Our first experiences at altitude starts this first day. Lunch in the Hacienda house, visit the milking barn and aging cheese cave, and enjoy the hot tub and fireplace. Overnight at Hacienda La Alegria (Riding time 4 hours).</p>	LD	ESG
2	<p>Ilinizas:The day starts with a ride an hour south of Hacienda La Alegria, and begin your adventure south of the Ilinizas Volcanoies. You will observe a less agricultural and drier ecosystem always accompanied by friendly locals, eager to help travellers. You will ascend from the small valley to the ridge with scenery of rock peaks and mountains that make up the Quilotoa volcano. You will ride along ancient mule tracks, nowadays used by the local farmers. We stop on the way for lunch and continue until the tiny town of Insilivi, where you will find a comfortable hostel to spend the first night at the mountains, where you will be able to enjoy a hot tub and steam room, a delicious dinner and rooms with a fireplace.</p>	BLD	ESG
3	<p>Sigchos: This day you will continue ridding down the path to the Toachi River and Canon. You will see a very rural landscape mostly with agricultural subsistence. As you make your way to the canon, you will appreciate the geographical barriers that the canyon walls create between the small towns forcing locals to travel for hours. You will make your way up to Hacienda San Jose which is located at a higher point and looks like an oasis because of its trees and green pastures. After lunch, continue to Hacienda San Gabriel, from which you will have the opportunity to see the sunset.</p>	BLD	ESG



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4	<p>Chugchilan: Today you continue your way toward the western mountain chain. As you ride you will enjoy the view of the eastern chain where the Illinizas volcanos predominate. You will ascend to the edge of the mountain range, and pass an ancient observation point called "pucarás", which were built by the incas. As you descend you will stop at an artisanal cheese factory to learn about the cheese making, local traditions and lifestyle. Then you will arrive to Chugchilan, a small town with important tourist activity based on the beauty and popularity of the Quilotoa Volcano. Enjoy dinner and stay at the eco-lodge</p>	BLD	ESG
5	<p>Quilotoa: Today begins with a ride to the great Quilotoa volcano and its unique emerald blue lagoon that was formed at its crater. You will descend to one of the canons and then ascend to the edge of the volcano which is a part of the ride. Then ride to the crater, until you reach the hostel along the edge of the crater. After leaving the horses and freshening up, you will walk towards the edge of the crater and explore the lake. Dinner and accommodation at the hostel.</p>	BLD	ESG
6	<p>Tour ends: After breakfast and a visit to the viewpoint of the lagoon, we will be transferred by car back to Hacienda la Alegria (2.5 hours) where we will prepare our way back to your next destination.</p>	B	ESG



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Inclusions:

- ✓ All the necessary equipment, including wool ponchos, rain ponchos and chaps, horse bag, and helmets.
- ✓ Accommodation in double/twin rooms
- ✓ Bilingual guide (Spanish/English)
- ✓ All meals feature delicious, gourmet international and Ecuadorian food, wine and beer included
- ✓ Your choice of wool protected saddles. You may also bring your own equipment

Exclusions:

- ✗ Single supplement
- ✗ Transport to and from Hacienda (Happy Gringo can quote a driver separately for this service if required)
- ✗ Personal expenses
- ✗ Tips



This program can be adapted to your personal needs - just let us if you would like to make any changes, we'll be happy to help!

NOTE: Licensed English-speaking guides are more expensive per day than Spanish-speaking drivers. For that reason this tour has a mix of both included, in order to balance trip cost with service level for you. Of course the mix is lexible, so if you would like to make changes then just let us know.



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