



Andean Textile Arts Fall Ecuador Tour November 3-14, 2023

Join us in exploring folk art traditions and extraordinary landscapes

- Visit master artisans offering textiles, pottery, leatherwork, guitars, and Panama hats.
- Explore two UNESCO World Heritage cities: Quito and Cuenca, with renowned Spanish colonial architecture, busy markets, numerous museums, and world-class dining.
- Meet new Ecuadorian cooperatives, communities, and museums promoting traditional crafts.
- Discover natural wonders of the Andean highlands, the Equatorial line, Indigenous villages, an orchid farm, and bustling markets in the Andean highlands Sierra.
- Relax at Otavalo's gracious sixteenth-century colonial Hacienda Cusín in a volcano-ringed valley with fine farm-to-table dining.
- Enjoy ease of travel. You can see a lot in a short time! Ecuador uses the U.S. dollar so no confusing exchange rates.

For more information, contact Ginger Jones at tours@andeantextilearts.com

REGISTRATION

\$3,700 double occupancy

Single supplement \$400

\$500 non-refundable deposit included

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Hotel accommodations: two nights Quito, five nights Cuenca, four nights Otavalo
- All breakfasts, two lunches, one box lunch
- Airport arrival and departure assistance
- Quito-Cuenca roundtrip airfare
- Entrance fees to all activities in itinerary
- Comfortable transportation in a private coach
- Tips for included meals, drivers, hotel staff
- Water throughout tour
- \$500 tax-deductible donation to Andean Textile Arts

Not included

- International airfare
- Tips to primary local guides
- Bar bills, laundry
- Meals not included in itinerary

The cost of the tour does not include travel insurance, which is strongly recommended.

For more information or to register, contact Ginger Jones at tours@andeantextilearts.org



Andean Textile Arts, the proud sponsor of this tour, is a U.S. 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to supporting the people and communities of the Andes in their efforts to preserve and revitalize their textile traditions.

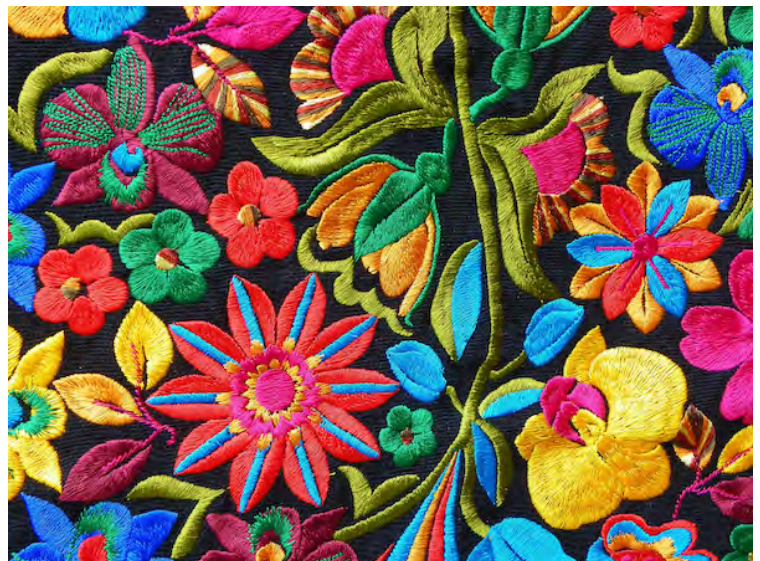
November 2023 Ecuador Tour Itinerary

Nov 3: Flight to Quito. You'll arrive in Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and capital of Ecuador. Set among three snow-capped volcanoes, the bustling capitol is filled with dozens of cathedrals and historic buildings. Most international flights arrive afternoon to late evening, and you will be met at the airport and taken to the hotel to relax and settle in. We'll stay two nights at the lovely Hotel Viaje Cuba.

Hotel Vieja Cuba. Elevation 9,370 feet

Nov 4: Explore Quito. We'll start the day with breakfast and welcome late arrivals. Then we head across the street to the Museo Etnohistorico de Artesanias del Ecuador Mindalae (Mindalae Museum of Handicrafts of Ecuador). A special tour will introduce us to Ecuador's textile, carving, and pottery traditions, as well as the spiritual connections between creative expression, art, and the cosmos. The tour will finish with a delicious traditional lunch with the museum's staff. In the afternoon, we will visit the old town's magnificent monuments, cathedrals, and plazas. That evening we'll try one of Quito's finest restaurants for dinner.

Hotel Vieja Cuba. Includes breakfast and lunch. Dinner at your own expense.



Nov 5: Morning in Quito and Flight to Cuenca. A leisurely breakfast followed by a visit to the City Museum. Then a light snack and hour-long afternoon flight to Cuenca, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll stay in the city's historic center near the lovely Tomebamba River amidst beautiful colonial architecture. Cuenca is an easily walkable city so enjoy a leisurely afternoon settling in or explore the neighborhood before a welcome dinner at the charming and historic hotel.

Hotel Victoria. Includes breakfast. Lunches and dinners at your own expense. Elevation 8,399 ft

Nov 6-7: Colonial Cuenca. Cuenca is well-known and beloved for a skyline dotted with a multitude of church domes. Four rivers wind through a charming cityscape of plazas, gardens, cobblestone streets, and ironwork balconies. It was founded by the Spanish in 1557 on the ruins of a sprawling Incan center.

During the next two days, we'll visit:

- Pumapungo Museum. Sited on Incan ruins and housing impressive cultural displays, arts, and textiles
- Remegio Crespo Museo. Colonial museum featuring a lovely lunch café along the Tomebamba river
- Homero Ortego Hat Factory. Museum and factory showcasing exquisite workmanship of the iconic Panama hat
- San Francisco Square. Artisan market cooperative offers silver filigree, basketry, hats, textiles, woodwork, and pottery
- Turi Overlook. Stately cathedral with panoramic views of the valley and city below
- Centro Interamericano de Artes Populares, (CIDAP). An important partner supporting Indigenous craftsmanship throughout Ecuador and housed in a beautiful riverside villa
- All Things Alpaca Shop. Visit with shop owners and alpaca breeders Patricia and Stuart who are reintroducing alpacas and offering beautiful fair-trade knits

Cuenca boasts of being the Ecuadorian "Capital of Gastronomy." We'll enjoy traditional Ecuadorian fare, bustling markets, quaint cafes, and elegant restaurants for lunch and dinners. Evening entertainment ranges from classical music in the cathedrals to cozy clubs with traditional music or dance.

Hotel Victoria. Includes breakfast. Lunches and dinners at your own expense.

Nov 8: Artisan Villages. We'll leave the city to visit several villages in the surrounding Azuay Province. You'll have an opportunity to meet the artisans and learn about their traditional Cañari culture. In Gualececo, we will visit the respected Museo de Macana Ikat Textiles and the nearby Ecugenera Orchid Farm. Chordeleg is known for silver filigree jewelry workshops and the historic plaza. We'll also visit San Bartolomé's traditional guitar-making shop. We'll return in to Cuenca where you can explore on your own or simply relax.

Hotel Victoria. Includes breakfast. Lunches and dinners at your own expense.



Nov 9: Rural Women's Weaving Project. We'll visit rural Indigenous communities with Pakarinan, a community-tourism group. Their "Maki" project empowers rural women from ancestral communities by offering fair-trade opportunities. Prepare to meet women in their homes or workshops, and learn about their textile traditions. This will be a special day to learn and work alongside these masters while gaining a better understanding of community life. A late afternoon return to Cuenca provides your last opportunity for exploring, shopping, and a night on the town.

Hotel Victoria. Includes breakfast and lunch. Dinner at your own expense.

Nov 10: Cuenca to Otavalo's Hacienda Cusin. We finish our time in Cuenca with a leisurely breakfast and short mid-morning flight back to Quito. After meeting our driver and local guide, we'll drive towards Otavalo with a stop at the "middle of the earth," the geological site straddling the equator line. We'll also leave time for a bizcocho shop to sample buttery pastries and purchase roses from the surrounding rose farms.

A special highlight of our trip is the four-night stay at Otavalo's Hacienda Cusín, which offers world-class hospitality. Built in the sixteenth century Spanish colonial period, it is tucked into a beautiful volcano-ringed valley. The property is owned and renovated by an avid textile collector and provides a fascinating exploration of styles. We will have an orientation tour through lush gardens, vegetable plots, and amazing works of folk art in every room. Each evening we will eat in the hacienda's gracious dining rooms which serve delicious farm-to-table Ecuadorian fare and international classics.

Hacienda Cusín. Includes breakfasts each day. Lunch and dinners at your own expense. Elevation 8,000 feet.



Nov 11-13: Otavalo and Artisan Communities. The next three and one-half days we will visit Otavalo and its surrounding communities which have long been associated with hand-woven textiles and other crafts. Kichwa people had been weaving on backstrap looms for centuries when they were conquered by the Incas and later the Spaniards. Indigenous weavers were forced to work in the Spanish textile factories using a new kind of treadle loom providing faster production. Today in Ecuador many highly skilled Indigenous people still weave using these techniques.

During the next three days we will visit:

- Artisan masters and workshops including the Andrango Family Tahuantinsuyo Weaving Workshop, Farinango Loom Textile Workshop, and Casa Matico
- A textile museum sited in an old Spanish mill
- Bustling indigenous markets and the main Otavalo Plaza market
- The villages of Zuleta for fine embroidery, Cotacachi for leatherwork, and San Antonio for wood carving and painting
- Marvels of serene glacial lakes, high Andean trails, and rushing Peguche Waterfalls

We'll return late afternoons to the welcoming Hacienda Cusín where you can stroll the gardens and nearby hiking trails, birdwatch, relax, and enjoy dinner.

Hacienda Cusín. Includes breakfasts each day. Lunch and dinners at your own expense.

Nov 14: Last Day and Return to Quito Airport.

On our last morning, we will wrap up visits to local artisan workshops or galleries. We'll return to the Hacienda for lunch and an afternoon relaxing with time to pack new treasures. We have arranged for a late check out and an early evening transfer to the Quito airport. This allows time to connect with late evening or after mid-night international flights.