



MEETING WITH CHAGRAS!

You will meet the gauchos and the local cowboys, dressed in their multicoloured ponchos and traditional chaps. It is chagras which lead their herds of cattle through the Andean altiplano. So we ride with these incredible riders before coming down for night in the valleys where nest colored villages.

DAY 1: TUESDAY JULY 12TH

Welcome at the airport and transfer from airport to the accommodation. Gabriel, the hacienda's "patron" will acquaint visitors with his hacienda in the country side, at 2800 meters! The hacienda will offer to you a new living room area with chimney and rooms with private bathroom and great view on the wonderful Pasochoa's mountain...

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY JULY 13TH:

Riding time: above 3 hours

This morning, you will go to the arena to try out the horses and make sure each rider feels comfortable on his saddle and horse. Today's ride is an acclimatizing ride around the hacienda surroundings. From its top you will be able to enjoy a spectacular sunset view of the Volcano Avenue, your riding area for the following days...Native moorland vegetation enriched with the humidity that rises from the coast provides the most unbelievable landscape and view of Quito and its surrounding valleys of Machachi, Pifo, and Puenbo. This mountain is a perfect fit for a first day ride on Ecuador's highlands. In the evening, riders will return to the hacienda for dinner served in a cozy environment with a warm fireplace. You may later enjoy our bar and listen to the old farm tales.

DAY 3: THURSDAY JULY 14TH

Today, we will have a very special day : we will discover a local Indian market ! As it is located in the small village of Saquisili, we join it by car.

This native's market, one of the biggest of the region takes place each week. We can observe several specialties: animals, fruits, vegetables, herb... during this day, we will meet a lot of inhabitants!

Dinner and night at the Gabriel's hacienda.



DAY 4: FRIDAY JULY 15TH

Riding time : above 5 hours

Today, we get back on our horses and ride towards the west through the dairy farms. Up to 3500 m, we continue behind the Viudita mountain (3800 mts) with the opportunity to ascend to the top! We will have a snack and come back to Hacienda for a late lunch.



During the afternoon, will take the car and it will be the time to visit a amazing rose flower breeding hacienda (one hour by car). Then, we will enjoy the evening in the fireplace room at the hacienda, listening to local music... Night at the Gabriel's hacienda.

DAY 5: SATURDAY JULY 16TH CHAGRA'S PARADE

Riding time: above 5 hours

This morning, we have a special emotion discovering the local cow-boys demonstration and lasso practice: the Chagras! We will ride to Machachi (the capital of the Chagras) to honor the Chagras and their culture. You will be part of the Parade. Between 1-2 thousand horses will be part of the parade that takes place in the streets of Machachi. The food, the music, the colorful dresses and decoration, makes the environment very festive. There are hundreds of Chagras dressed with their attire and showing off her horses.

Dinner and night in a hacienda.



DAY 6 : SUNDAY JULY 17TH

Riding time : above 4 - 5 hours

We discover the market & lasso competition (Machachi optional by car). After the lunch at the Hacienda, we leave for a ride to Bomboli cloud forest, located on the skirts of Corazon, near 3500 mts. We could estimate the important biological variety. Then, we will arrive at the Hacienda located at 3000 mts, and will have time for a short walk, and appreciate beautiful orchids, fern trees and guneras before dinner.

Dinner and night at Bomboli

DAY 7: MONDAY JULY 18TH

Riding time: above 5 hours

After breakfast we continue the ride towards the Machachi Valley through secondary roads and dairy farms. The opportunity to meet new people and share experiences. We continue our ride to Hostal Sierra Loma were we will stay the night. Overnight at Sierra Loma.

DAY 8 : TUESDAY JULY 19TH

Riding time: above 5 hours

We start our ride from the hotel, towards th the Volcan Illiniza. From there, we will be able to observe closer the peaks of the two Illinizas located at 5100 mts! Finally, we will arrive at the Hacienda La Cienega, built 1570. Dinner and night at the hacienda Cienega.

DAY 9 : WEDNESDAY JULY 20ST

Riding time: above 5 hours

After the breakfast, we join our horses and cross the flat lands of the Mulalo Valley. Then, we continue towards the east until arrive to the hacienda of the day, at 3200 mts, located at the skirts of the Cotopaxi Volcano. Dinner and night in hacienda.

DAY 10: THURSDAY JULY 21TH

Riding time : above 5 hours

After the breakfast, we start our ride from the hacienda, and continue ascending to Morro. We leave behind the pine forests and appreciate the change of vegetation from the valley to the paramo... We have our lunch, at hot spring, at the mountain, and continue towards the east to Volcan Quilindana. During the afternoon, we arrive to hacienda located at 3600 mts, for the dinner and the night.



DAY 11: FRIDAY JULY 22TH

Riding time: above 8 hours

Today's horse riding lead us towards the west, through the valleys that have been formed in the base of the Cotopaxi Volcano, by the lava. We ride up to 4200 mts and then down towards the valley to the refuge... On our ride we will see the wild horses and the majestic Cotopaxi. Finally, we join the only structure of the region: our welcoming refuge for the dinner and the night.

DAY 12 : SATURDAY JULY 23TH

Riding time: above 7,5 hours

Early wake up today ! Take a nutritious breakfast in order to get ready for our 7+ hour journey to the Lipiopungo plains (Cotopaxi base). It feels like if we were riding on the moon's surface. Here, we do the highest gallop in the world on the edges of the rocks of the Ruminahui Volcano, where we pass to the highest point of our ride : 4200 mts. We follow our ride toward the green Machachi Valley, as always guarded by the Volcanoes Avenue. Then, we cross the Machachi plaza, where the horsemen are always welcomed! We pass the town of Aloag and arrive to the Gabriel's Hacienda for a pleasant dinner and rest time.

DAY 13: SUNDAY JULY 24TH

Transfer to Quito after lunch, City tour, handcraft market, old city, visit churches, lunch, dinner in town.

Overnight at Quito

DAY 14: MONDAY JULY 25TH

Transfer to the airport after breakfast

