



## ECUADOR : ROUND UP TRAIL AND CATTLE DRIVE EXPERIENCE YOUR ITINERARY

*The "rodeo in Ecuador" comes from the verb meaning surrounding "ride around the farm" to collect the cattle that is distributed in the mountains in small groups throughout the year that have remained in the wild, isolated grazing at the "paramo" (moorland).*

*The rodeo (cattle round-up) is the harvest of the year, allowing a group of bulls to be sold for an income to be able to sustain the farm management.*

*"Paramo" is called to the land of the Ecuadorian Andes that is over 3500 meters high, this area is where the Chagras horsemen of the Andes live. They have learned from their predecessors the Spanish and Indian, the wild cattle handling using their horses and lasso, that allows to maintain its traditions such as "play the bull," get some "passes" and finally if it is "brave enough" take it to the bull ring to the town "festivities".*

*All this makes this collection of livestock in the Ecuadorian Andes a unique activity in the world, full of adrenaline and history, to reach these hidden paramos we must travel through the eastern mountains for two long riding days and meet the "chagras" to start the round up, which is an incredible not accessible activity for every body.*

*After this 2 days of work on the Hacienda Chalupas, we will return by the south side of Cotopaxi doing 360 degrees to the highest active volcano in the world and meet some of its secrets.*

*Cette chevauchée permet d'allier une partie de l'itinéraire en hacienda, sur l'Avenue des Volcans, et 2 jours de conduite ou de rassemblement de troupeaux de chevaux ou de bétail.*

### DAY 1 : EUROPE – QUITO

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Arrival, transfer from airport to a hotel in the ancient city of Quito. Night at the hacienda.

### DAY 2

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After the breakfast, we visit the old city, walking around town squares and churches, learning about the colonial period. Then, transfer to the Gabriel's Hacienda. After the lunch, we spend the afternoon with activities. Dinner in a cozy dining room with fire place and night at the hacienda. Night at Hacienda.

### DAY 3

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After breakfast, we try horses and saddles in the paddock getting ready to a nice and comfortable ride through the hacienda state. After lunch, we walk to the hacienda surrounding to learn the geography of the area and acclimatizing to the altitude. Dinner and night at Gabriel's Hacienda.

### DAY 4

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Breakfast at the Hacienda. Then, we prepare horses for our first long journey from Gabriel's Hacienda eastward the Andes. Crossing the



Machachi valley and volcano Rumiñahui, we arrive to our overnight refuge at Cotopaxi National Park, where we will have a hot shower and a delicious dinner by the fire, with the Cotopaxi volcano as our main scenery in front. Night in mountain refuge at 3750 meters.



#### DAY 5

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The challenge of the day will cover the northern base of Cotopaxi, heading East on a long journey that ends in the plains of the volcano Quilindaña. This valley was part of an old volcano where Hacienda Chalupas is based, our destiny for the two day "rodeo". Chagras from the haciendas of the area come to participate in the rodeo. Dinner and night at Hacienda Chalupas to 3500 meters.

#### DAY 6

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After breakfast, we get ready for an exciting day of work. That starts with a Chagras meeting on horseback, with their ponchos and warm fur chaps, forming a semicircle, where the Chagra rodeo chief gives instructions for the day very similar to a military strategy! Several groups of Chagras will be distributed up-mountain to cover the largest possible area. This will take around 5 hours of work. Gradually, appears the first group of cattle. Some try to return to their hideouts in the mountains. There is, when the strategy requires help from all, the riders by shattering voices, horse canter, cutting the livestock. Possibilities to return to the mountain and drive them to the hacienda corrals. Lunch. In the afternoon, we reached the corrals where Chagras do a unique "work" with the cattle. This is to lasso and take them to the post to mark, deworm and be

released to the group where it corresponds. At the end of the day, Chagras get together to sing there music where woman, horses and bulls are the main subject, drinking their typical sugar cane liquor and dancing. This will enable us to immerse and understand the Chagra's culture. Warm fireplace and dinner to recover our energy for the next day journey. Night at Hacienda Chalupas.

#### DAY 7

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Today we drive wild horses from the hacienda and take them to the corral. The horses introduced (Spaniels XVI century) remains a unique tool in these remote places. The aim is to cut the horses' hooves and deworming. The hoof trimming is important because in these vast prairies there is no proper use of the hoofs which may harm the horse in its growth. The deworming reduces the burden of parasites, decreases the risk of disease and allows them to get the nutrients of the pasture in a better way. We will have the opportunity to fish trouts for our dinner. Night at Hacienda Chalupas.



#### DAY 8

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It is time to begin the return. We must leave the mountain and head West on long trails of large wilderness areas with pine trees. We continue along the warmer valley before the stop for lunch and hopefully see the giant volcano Cotopaxi from the south side. At the end of the afternoon, we arrive to Hacienda La Cienega (built in 1570, also former owners of hacienda Chalupas). Nowadays, it is a luxury hotel which will allow us to rest after a long journey. Optional of the hotel facilities a relaxing massage.



Dinner and night at Hacienda La Cienega.(3000 meters).

#### **DAY 9**

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Today, our direction is North through the valley of Cotopaxi to the Valley of Machachi. The colossus will be on the East by what we will have completed the ride around the Cotopaxi. Late in the afternoon, we arrive to the Gabriel's Hacienda where a delicious meal will be waiting for us to celebrate with a Champagne cup our wonderful riding experience. Nighth at Gabriel's Hacienda.

#### **DAY 10 : QUITO**

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Breakfast and transfer to the airport.

**Important** : L'itinéraire est donné à titre indicatif, il pourra être modifié par l'organisateur en fonction de la saison, ou des conditions climatiques et de l'activité des haciendas.

*Chacun contribue à la cohésion et à la bonne entente du groupe, gage du succès de votre voyage. Cela par une participation positive aux petites tâches quotidiennes : soins aux chevaux (pansage, harnachement, abreuvement, alimentation).*

*Chaque randonnée étant une aventure humaine et équestre, nous pourrions éventuellement être amenés à modifier certaines étapes en fonction de contraintes logistiques ou climatiques par exemple. Bien évidemment, nos équipes locales feront le maximum pour respecter l'itinéraire prévu. L'itinéraire est donc donné à titre indicatif, le programme des randonnées pouvant être modifié sans préavis.*