

Draft ITINERARY for Ecuador build Trip 2011

Friday, April 1

- Arrive in [Quito](#) late; travel to [Hostal Los Alpes](#); rest-up

Saturday, April 2

- Breakfast at Los Alpes
- Walking tour of [Quito Viejo](#) colonial center
 - o Our tour will start in Parque Alameda in Quito, the site of many recent political and historical events important to Ecuador. From the park we will walk up to the gothic Basilica de Quito where we can take in 360 degree views of the city and the Central Andean Valley.
 - o Other stops may include el Teatro Sucre, la Compania church, el Museo de la Ciudad, and la Plaza Grande, symbolic center of Ecuadorian government and church power.
 - o The tour is followed by a lunch and organizational and info meeting.
- Return to Los Alpes for rest and/or free time
- Traditional Ecuadorian Dinner at Restaurant



Touring Quito

Sunday, April 3

- Breakfast at Los Alpes
- Travel by bus to [Laguna Cuicocha](#)
 - o En-route, we will visit a site that marks the equator, and includes exhibits illustrating the remarkably sophisticated astronomy and cosmology of the pre-Columbian residents of Ecuador



Straddling the Equator

- [Laguna Cuicocha](#) is a high-altitude lake formed in the Caldera of a volcano, much like Crater Lake in Oregon. It is a stopping point, prior to crossing the Andes into the Intag valley. The volcano continues to release gas which bubbles up into the lake. The area provides spectacular views and a unique ecological setting.
- Lunch, dinner, and overnight will be at El Mirador, a lodge on rim of the lake. Participants will have the opportunity to hike the rim of the caldera (a 4 to 5 hour hike, with rest stops), and to explore the lake via boat.
- Dinner will include an entertaining and educational presentation by a local indigenous group
- Overnight at El Mirador

Monday, April 4

- Breakfast at Lake Cuicocha
- Travel over the Andes to the [Intag](#) Region
 - The trip takes from 2 ½ to 4 hours over winding gravel roads which pass through spectacular mountain vistas at up to 14,000 feet above sea level.



View into the Intag Valley

- Stop for welcome at Pucara
 - o We will stop to meet and greet the people we will be working with for the next few days, before proceeding to our lodging, which is a few miles further into the valley



Welcome to Pucara

- Travel to [Nangulvi](#), our home for the next few days.
 - o Accomodations are in cabins next to the hot springs of Nangulví, where the local youth organization has developed a cooperatively operated tourism complex. The setting is spectacular (right on the Intag River), and the food is passable. This is the very best lodging in the area, and it is consistently maintained, but it is on a par with camping cabins. There is hot water, if somewhat erratically produced. As one previous participant said: they are “better than a tent”. There are wonderful thermal springs feeding bathing

pools on this site, and they are much welcome after a days work on the project.



Our Lodging at Nangulvi

- Dinner and Orientation to Work Project
- Overnight at Nangulvi

Tuesday, April 5

- Begin work on projects in Pucará.
 - o Our volunteer work project takes place in the village of Pucará, which is the site of a housing project started by the group *Building Community* and co-organized by Inter-American CASA www.casainteram.org. The goal of the project is construction of 25 low cost homes in the village. A Housing Committee representing the different sectors of Pucará democratically decides which families receive housing and in what order. To receive a house, family members are expected to work on all subsequent home construction.
 - o The project has expanded over the past years to include development of a community center, gardens, and other community facilities. In the past we have assisted with the whole construction process: digging foundations, mixing cement, laying blocks, and pouring concrete floors. We have also assisted with public works projects such as laying water pipeline and re-forestation. Work goes on continuously around the year, and our group will attempt to assist with the areas that are currently in development.



Work Project in Pucara

- Lunch on site at Pucará (in the Community Center)
- Afternoon Tour/Educational Activity
 - o To be determined
- Dinner and overnight at Nangulvi

Wednesday, April 6

- Breakfast at Nangulvi Lodge
- Pucará volunteer project
- Lunch in Pucará
- Afternoon Tour/Educational Activity
- Dinner and Overnight at Nangulvi

Thursday, April 7

- Breakfast at Nangulvi Lodge
- Pucará volunteer project
- Lunch in Pucará
- Afternoon Tour/Educational Activity
- Dinner and Overnight at Nangulvi

Friday, April 8

- Breakfast at Nangulvi
- Stop in Pucará for Farewell Ceremony & Lunch
 - o This may last a while
- Travel by Bus to [Otavalo](#)
- Ecuadorian Dinner in Otavalo
- Overnight in Hotel in Otavalo

Saturday, April 9

- Breakfast in Otavalo
- Explore the World Famous [Otavalo Market](#)

- Lunch in Otavalo
- Travel by Bus to Quito
- Dinner and Overnight at Los Alpes

Sunday, April 10,

- Travel to the U.S.
- Optional Travel to Galapagos for next 6 days