

MOUNTAIN



LINK

ECUADOR: CAYAMBE & COTOPAXI



- Day 01** Fly from the United States to Quito, Ecuador. Upon arrival in Quito a Mountain Link representative will meet you outside of the airport once you clear customs to transport you to the hotel. No meals included.
- Day 02** Today, we leave the city and travel to the quaint town of Otavalo. We take an acclimatization hike in Mojanda on Fuya Fuya where we have a picnic lunch. We overnight at a beautiful hacienda. (B, L, D)
- Day 03** We drive to Laguna Cuicocha for our acclimatization hike on Cotacachi. We may have the opportunity to see condors so bring your camera along! We will overnight back in Otavalo. (B, L, D)
- Day 04** Today we will drive to Cayambe National Park. We climb to the Cayambe Hut. Overnight at 15,000 feet. (B, D)
- Day 05** We train on the glacier near the hut. Mountaineering techniques and acclimatization are the focus of the day. We review rope travel, ice axe arrest and more mountaineering basics. Overnight in the hut. (B, D)
- Day 06** We rise early and start our ascent of Cayambe. We climb on glaciated terrain and steep slopes and tackle the difficult bergshroud at the top of Cayambe. After packing up, a drive from the mountain takes us to our hotel. (B, D)
- Day 07** Today is a rest day. You may spend it as you wish, choosing to enjoy the beautiful grounds of the hacienda or go on a shopping excursion. (B only)
- Day 08** Today, we depart to Cotopaxi National Park. We drive to 15,000 feet and hike an hour to 15,500 feet to the Jose Ribas hut. The remainder of the day is spent hydrating and acclimatizing in and around the hut. We spend the night in the hut. (B, D)
- Day 09** We rise early in the morning, eat breakfast, and gear up for our summit bid. The first part of the route can be either snow or scree trail. At 16,500 feet, we ascend on to the glacier. The route is steep and moderately crevassed. We climb just to the right of a large rock outcropping called Yanasacha located on the north side of the mountain. The last stretch to the summit is steep and challenging which makes for a very rewarding summit. At the summit, there may be time for photos, food, water, and a brief rest in preparation for the descent. We overnight in the hut. (B, D)



- Day 10** Today, is to be used as a weather day; if we use it as such we will attempt the summit today. If it is not used as a weather day, we will take the opportunity to participate in some ice climbing for the morning. Upon completion, we will travel back to Quito for a celebration dinner and much needed rest. We then prepare for our flights home. (B, L, D)
- Day 11** Transport to the airport for outbound flights. No meals included.

**Itinerary subject to change.*

***B: Breakfast; L: Lunch; D: Dinner: Initials note where meals are included. Lunches on the mountain are snack lunches, they are not a prepared meal.*