

ECUADOR MAINLAND: OTAVALO REGION

This region can be visited as below on a 2 day 1 night private guided tour, or as a private or non-private day tour from Quito as well as a longer 3 day 2 night private tour.

2 day 1 night Otavalo private tour

To the north of Quito, the province of Imbabura is one of the most popular destinations in Ecuador: a magical land of lakes, snow-covered mountains and terraced farmlands.

For centuries, regional markets have played an important role in Indian life, providing regular gathering places for trade and socializing. The colourful local markets of the Andean Valleys are famous for their fine handicrafts. The Otavalo Indian market dates back to pre-Inca times and is famous for its textiles woven on backstop and shuttle looms.

This overnighter is the most recommended trip to Otavalo, allowing guests to explore the fertile valley of Otavalo, enjoy its landscapes of mountains, lakes and corn fields, its craft centres, and wonderful people. Spend the night at a authentic hacienda in the area and the next day, arrive early at the handcraft market. Guests will thoroughly enjoy this two-day excursion, with ample time to explore the fertile Valley of Otavalo, its landscapes of mountains, lakes and corn fields, see the artisans at work, visit Indian communities and its wonderful people.

Day 1

First stop is Calderón, a small town where bread dough figurines are made in many shapes and sizes. Continue along the valleys of Guayllabamba and Cayambe, with their dairy farms and flower plantations. Arrive at one of the charming country inns or colonial haciendas where you will spend the night. Visit the town of San Antonio de Ibarra, famous for the woodcarvings, the town of Cotacachi, an entire town dedicated to selling fine leather products, and the town of Peguche where textiles are woven in old-fashioned shuttle looms.

Day 2

The second day have an early start at the handcraft market of Otavalo, piled high with ponchos, woollen goods, tapestries, the original "Panama" hat, sweaters, Indian jewellery and many handicrafts. Accommodations and all meals are included.

On the return trip, a stop is made for a coffee break at one of the haciendas of the Cayambe area.

Included

Accommodations
All meals

Important facts

The order of the visits may vary - depending on the weather and the day of the week.

Travel facts

Dress in layers (T-shirt, blouse, sweater, coat). Take a warm coat for evening and rain protection from February to May. This tour includes walking at an altitude of 2560 meters (8434 feet). Sun protection (SPF 40). Good walking shoes. Great photo ops.