



# EXPLORE ECUADOR

Natural history & cultural emphasis  
tour

**SOUTHERN SKY  
ADVENTURES**  
IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS



Discover the mystical  
Amazonian & Cloud  
forests

[www.southernskyadventures.com](http://www.southernskyadventures.com)

14 Days / 13  
Nights

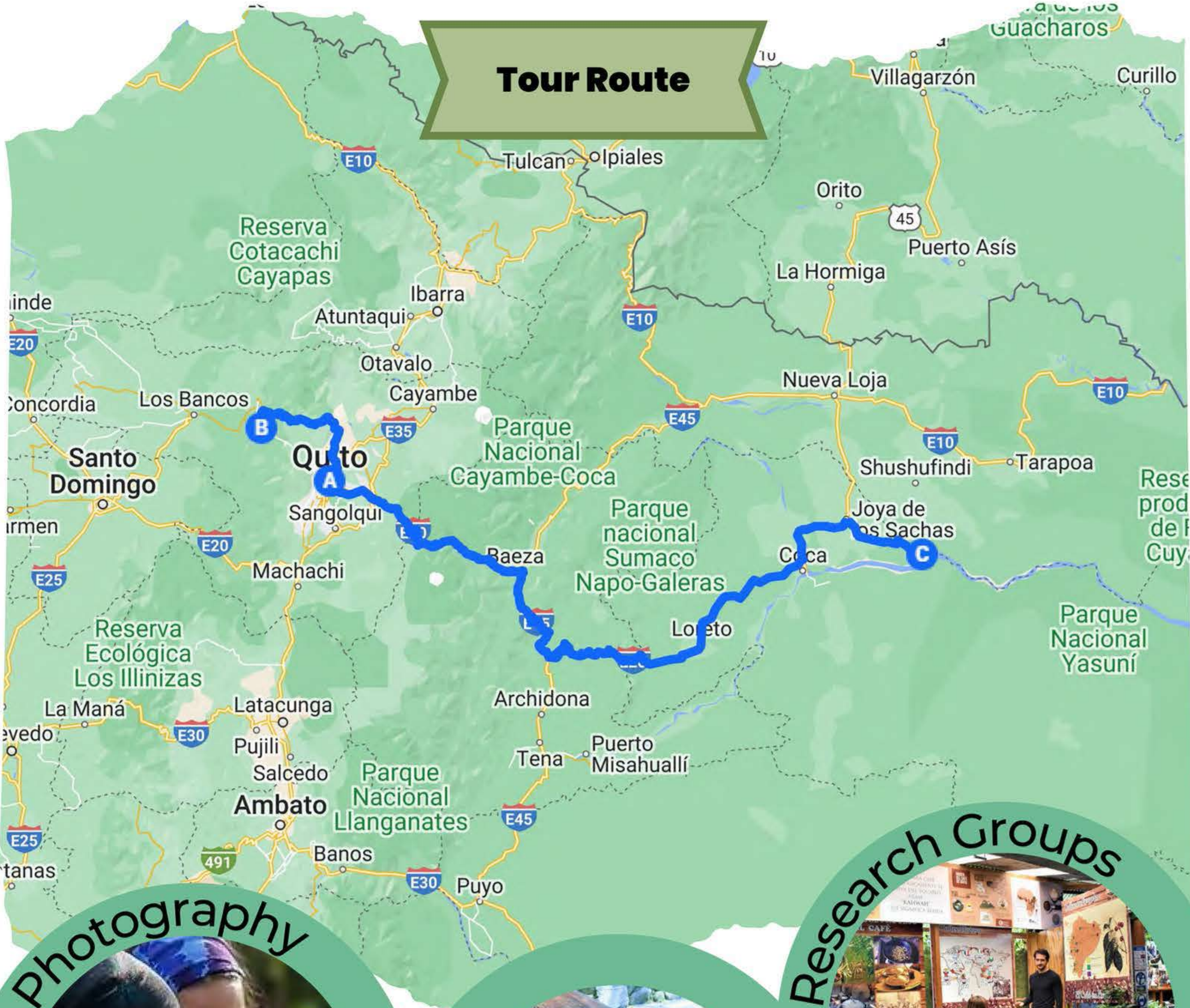


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## Tour Route



### Photography



Students will stay at Bellavista & Tucan Lodge, two beautifully contrasting slices of paradise. With a great variety of birds and landscapes, you are guaranteed beautiful views all year round.

### Education through experience



The best way to learn is through experience! In the Bellavista Cloud Forest, students will have direct contact with animals of all kinds, while learning within a safe environment.

### Research Groups



At Bellavista, we receive groups of researchers from different parts of the world. This facilitates the development of new activities in a scientific way so that we can apply them in the nature reserve.

## Day to Day

### Day 1

Upon arrival in Ecuador, located on the equator on South America's west coast, we head to Bellavista cloud forest.



### Day 3

Pack your snacks and get ready for a full-day excursion to a very active Cock of the Rock lek. Here, we get to see the brightly coloured males squawking in the trees and strutting their stuff to attract the females. Thereafter, we head up to the Amaguza Reserve, a perfect place for observing rare and colourful birds up close.



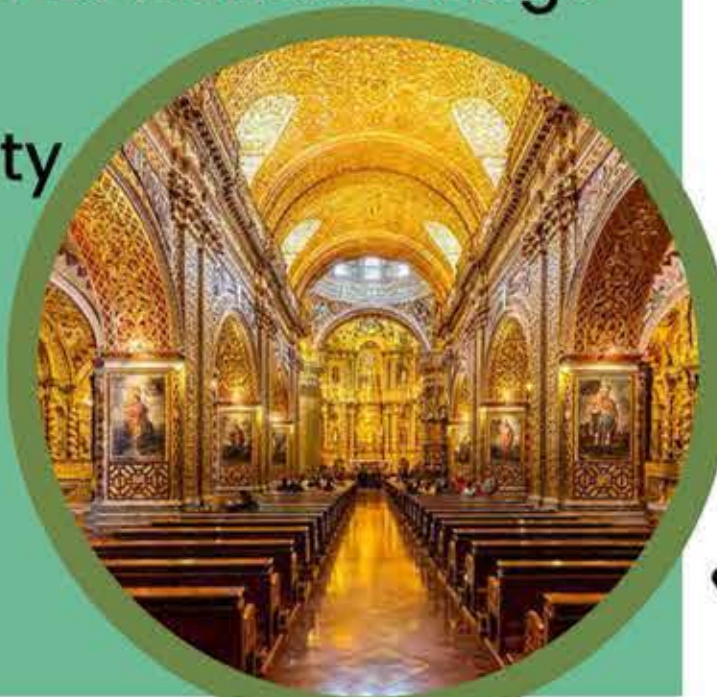
### Day 5

Get ready for another full-day excursion! We head to Mindo, a town about a 1-hour drive from Bellavista. Here, we get to go ziplining and tubing down the river. We also visit a chocolate factory to learn about how artisan chocolate is made. Lastly, we learn all about the life cycle of butterflies at Mariposario butterfly park.



### Day 7

We leave the beautiful Bellavista Lodge today and head to our next destination: the city of Quito. It is a cultural hub with ancient houses and churches, and narrow streets buzzing with activity.



### Day 2

While accompanied by guides, we explore the Bellavista cloud forest. Get your binoculars ready for some incredible birdwatching! Some sightings may include the Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, Masked Trogon, Turquoise Jay, and a myriad of Tanagers. Expect a close encounter with hummingbirds, who often land on your fingers when you hold out a feeder! Don't forget to jot down ideas for your mini wildlife ecology projects to be presented on our final evening at Bellavista.



### Day 4

We embark on a trip to a hidden waterfall deep in the cloud forest and we get to explore the Bellavista reserve some more. We also set up some moth traps and camera traps within the forest. Some animals you can expect to spot on the camera traps are the spectacled bear, peccary brocket deer, various feline species, and more. Remember to keep working on your wildlife projects!



### Day 6

Today is our last full day at Bellavista. We will spend the day working on your mini projects and present them in the evening.



## Day to Day

### Day 8

We take the Teleferico cable car to the top of the Pichincha Volcano. Up here, the views are spectacular, and we get to learn all about the geology of the Andes Mountains. We also visit one of Quito's bustling markets, and taste some of the exotic fruits! One of our meals for the day consists of local dishes – get ready for a taste explosion!



### Day 10

We travel through different forests; first the elfin forest, then down the eastern slope cloud forests, into the tropical Amazon basin.



### Day 12 + 13

We explore the streams and rivers near Tucan Lodge and learn more about the ecosystem from our Quichua guides. We get to delve deep into the tree canopy by climbing up trees as tall as buildings! We also head to a parrot lek, where we can spot many brightly coloured species of parrots. We learn about the culture of the local people from Siona and their partial adaptation to modern civilization.



### Day 9

We start our trip towards the Amazon basin, descending the eastern slopes of the Andes. Along the way, we stop at the Antisana Volcano, which is known to be the home of the Andean Condor in Northern South America. Other special species to be seen in the Andes are the *Giant Hummingbird*, *Andean Ibis*, *Ecuadorian Hillstar*, *Carunculated Caracara*, and *Andean White-tailed Deer*. In the afternoon, we continue to Papallacta where we find some amazing hot springs for us to soak in while surrounded with spectacular *Andean Vistas*!



### Day 11

We go canoeing deep into the Amazon jungle. Enjoy the wonderfully varied scenery, listen to the insects, and try to spot some monkeys and birds!



### Day 14

Today we leave Tucan Lodge and fly back to Quito.



# BELLAVISTA HISTORY



Richard Parsons and his wife Gloria first started thinking of buying a piece of the cloud forest in 1989. After many months of searching, they came across 55 hectares of land which had recently become available. Both Richard and Gloria were so enticed by the beautiful view and surrounding forest, that they immediately purchased this land and started on their journey of conserving the forest and all the creatures inhabiting it.

Over the years, Bellavista has grown to more than 400 hectares. Conservation comes first at Bellavista, and ever more birds and other wildlife are seen close to their buildings and new, spectacular orchids are discovered every year. Bellavista not only contributes significantly to the local economy, but also offers opportunities to learn how to live in synergy with the breath-taking forest. Ecotourism is at the heart of all they do; introducing people from all over the world to the deep connection that exists between humans and nature and the importance of conservation and preservation. Bellavista works with both local and international schools and universities, on study programmes and projects to learn more about the cloud forest ecosystem.

In 2019, they succeeded in having Bellavista Reserve declared the first Private Protected Area as part of the National System of Protected Areas of Ecuador.

# TERMS

## Included

- Local flight back from Coca (Amazon) to Quito
- Transport by bus
- All entrance fees mentioned in the itinerary
- Shared accommodation
- Three meals per day (except on arrival and departure days)
- English speaking guide services
- Tax and service costs
- Bottled drinking water

## Excluded

- International flights
- Personal health insurance (should be considered essential)
- Items of a personal nature
- Laundry
- Soft drinks or alcoholic drinks
- Snacks outside meal times
- Optional gratuities

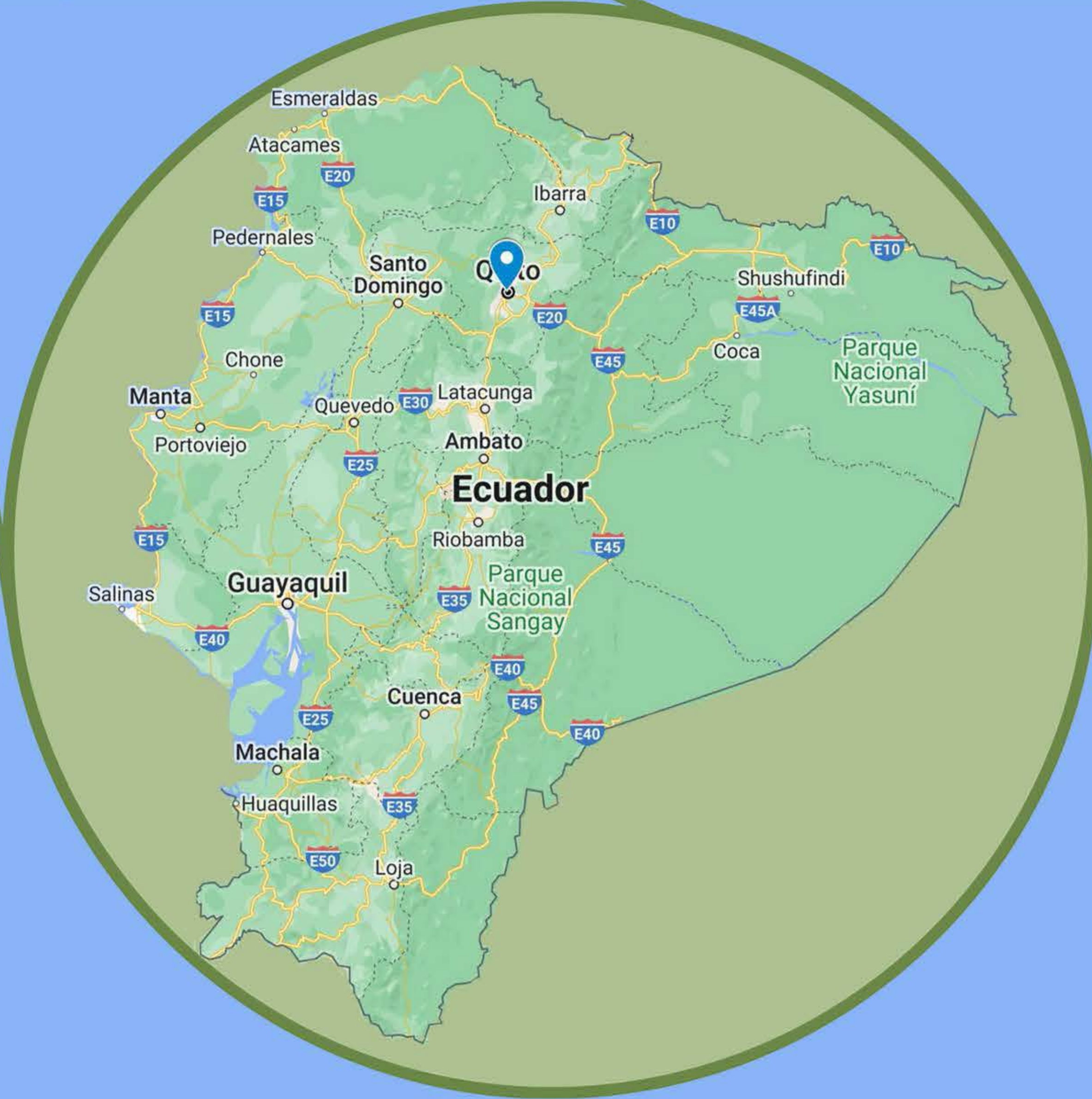
...IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS...

\*All itineraries can be adjusted/customised to suit your specific needs

**Ecuador is one of our many tour locations, as indicated by the pin drops!**



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# ABOUT Us

## Southern Sky Adventures

For almost two decades Southern Sky Adventures has introduced discerning travellers to the sheer magnificence of AFRICA. A land of warm welcomes, breathtaking sunsets, pristine wilderness areas and diversity as colourful as the local artwork.

Our tailormade- and expertly-guided safaris showcase Africa's finest hidden gems, the elusive BIG 5, wild remote locations and a natural space to unplug from the stress of modern-day living. We pride ourselves on the delivery of exceptional, once-in-a-lifetime and truly memorable travel experiences for not only families, honeymooners and friends but also business travellers, school- & university groups and adventure seekers. Although passionate about travel, we care deeply for the preservation of these untouched wild areas, the inhabiting wildlife and the surrounding communities.

Sit back, relax and allow our team of destination specialists to design and deliver your dream vacation!



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