

CUENCA THE ATENAS OF THE ECUADORIAN ANDES

GREAT
ESCAPES



You could say that Cuenca is the most charming among all the cities of Ecuador, with its cobbled streets, its ancient cathedrals, its colonial parks and the rivers that cross it.

ITINERARY 3 DAYS / 2 NIGHTS

DAY 1: CUENCA, GUALACEO VALLEY AND CHORDELEG:

Departure from Quito by air, reception in Cuenca and transfer to the hotel. Once you have registered at the hotel we will begin our visit to this beautiful city.

The city of Santa Ana of the Four Rivers of Cuenca is the capital of the province of Azuay. It is considered to be the most European city in the country due to its Spanish colonial architecture of the 16th and 17th centuries. The city is located south of the Ecuadorian Andes, the center of the city was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO due to its many historic buildings.

Visit this colonial city and feel the history that surrounds it. Walk through the main square, Calderón Park and enter the new Cathedral, whose pink marble construction and colorful stained-glass windows will leave you breathless. Cross the same park to visit the old Cathedral, the Monastery of El Carmen and the Immaculate Conception.

In our tour we will include the Straw Hat Factory Museum, which is a space that revives the history of the straw hat. In 2012, the weaving of straw shawls was declared the INMATERIAL CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY by UNESCO.



Lunch at a restaurant in the area.

In the afternoon, we will visit the Valley of Gualaceo and Chordeleg, two small towns where you can find traditional handicrafts, fine jewelry in gold and silver, ceramics, textiles and fabrics made with pre-Columbian techniques.



Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

DAY 2: PRE-COLUMBIAN RUINS OF INGAPIRCA

Ingapirca is, without doubt, the most important and largest pre-Columbian archaeological site in Ecuador. In this site, located in the province of Cañar rests the best-preserved Inca architectural complex in the country.

We will leave from Cuenca with North direction until the province of the Cañar, arriving at this imposing architectonic construction. We will visit the

Museum which recovers the traditional social memory of Ecuador. Later, we will go to the Complex where we will walk through all its chambers.



After a typical and delicious lunch, we will start our return to Cuenca.

Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 3: EL CAJAS NATIONAL PARK

El Cajas National Park is located one hour from the city of Cuenca and is famous for its flora, fauna, paramo and cloud forests. With more than 230 lakes and ponds, the National Park of El Cajas is the richest in lakes and ponds of all the Andes. At a distance of one hour from the city of Cuenca, we will cross the moor, admire its beautiful landscape and walk through one of the most beautiful parks of the World.



After lunch we will go to Cuenca airport to take your flight back to Quito.