

Cuenca – The Sultan of the Andes



With its cobblestone streets, its colonial cathedrals, historic parks, and natural beauty, walking through Cuenca is an excursion through Ecuadorian history.

3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS

DAY 1 CUENCA AND VALLEY OF GUALACEO AND CHORDELEG:

Departure from Quito by plane.

The city of Santa Ana of the Four Rivers of Cuenca is the capital of the province of Azuay, located in the south of the Ecuadorian Andes. The colonial center of the city was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO due to its many historic structures. Our initial walk will take you through the main square, Calderon Park, its two cathedrals, among other emblematic sites.

We will also visit the straw hat museum-factory, a place that relives the history and significance of the toquilla straw hat. After a delicious lunch, we will arrive at the Gualaceo Valley and Chordeleg, two small towns where you will find traditional handicrafts, fine gold and silver jewelry, ceramics, textiles, and weavings made with pre-Columbian techniques.

DAY 2 PRE-COLUMBIAN RUINS OF INGAPIRCA:

Ingapirca is, without a doubt, the most important and largest pre-Columbian archaeological site in Ecuador. In this site, located in the province of Cañar, lies the best-preserved Inca architectural complex in the country. After the visit and a typical lunch, we will return to Cuenca.

DAY 3 EL CAJAS NATIONAL PARK:

The Cajas National Park is located one hour from the city of Cuenca and is famous for its flora, fauna, paramo, and forests. With over 230 lakes and ponds, El Cajas National Park is the largest national park in the country. We will walk throughout the park to see nature and the Andes in all its splendor. After lunch we will head back to the Cuenca airport for your flight to Quito.

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