

LET'S EXPERIENCE SOUTH AMERICA TOGETHER

ECUADOR WITH NEW VIEW TOURS MOUNTAINS IN THE SUN

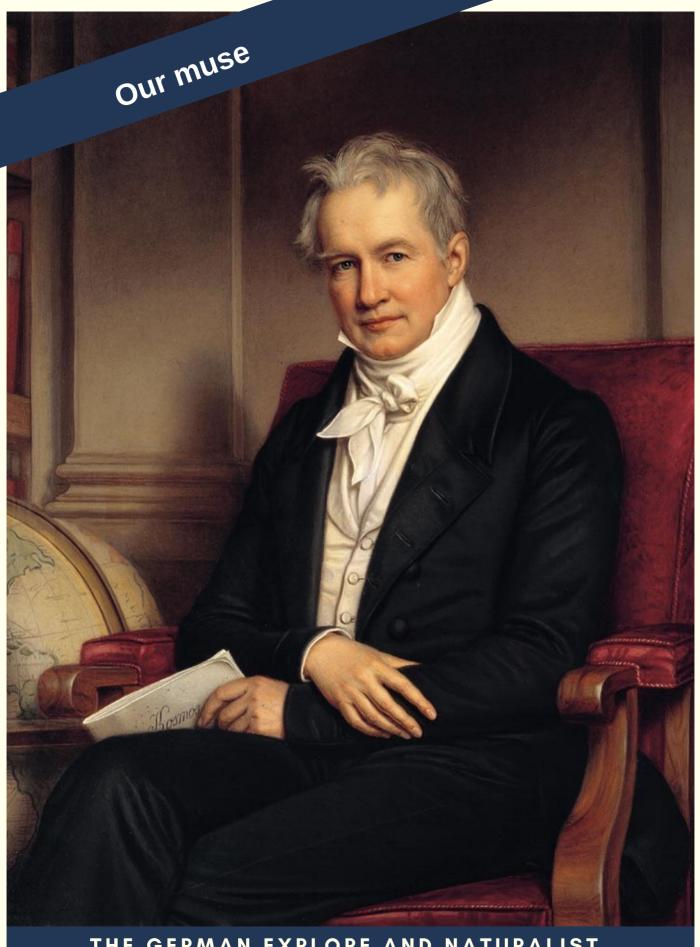
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LAS PALMERAS INN

Ecuador offers travelers spectacular landscapes throughout the High Sierra region of the Andes Mountains. With multiple volcanic peaks, many still snow covered all year, vistas inspire us to explore - right on the equator. Join us to visit anew three destinations over ten days. Find hospitality, excellent English speaking guides, beautifully appointed accommodation, delicious food enhanced by local gardens, and the warmth of hacienda living in this country of distinct and diverse ecosystems.

An 18th-century scientist and explorer is our muse, throughout this customized journey. The German explorer and naturalist Alexander von Humboldt spent four years in South America measuring temperatures, collecting botanical samples, and recording in meticulous detail the diversity of species. In his footsteps came American Frederic Church, Hudson River School painter looking for the most dramatic landscapes he could find!



THE GERMAN EXPLORE AND NATURALIST ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT (1769-1859)



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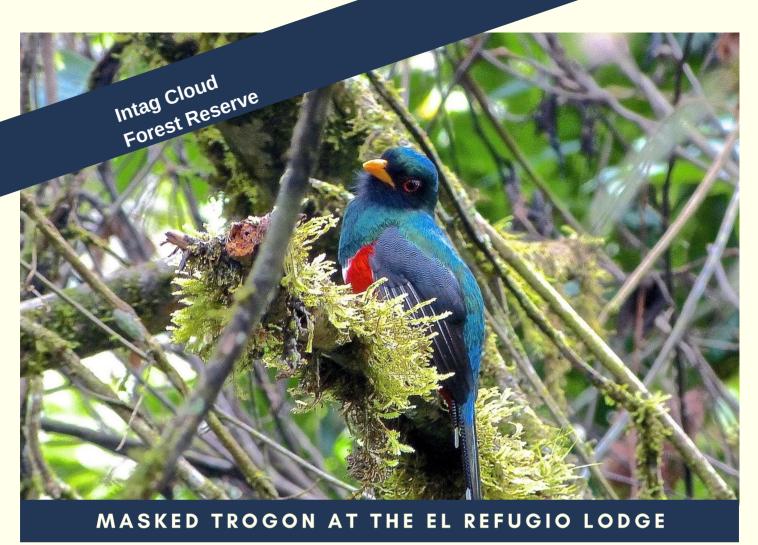
We commence in Otavalo, at Las Palmeras Inn, in the pueblo of Quichinche outside the bustle of the growing town. Enjoy living in small private guesthouses nestled within a lush garden landscape. Daily tours explore neighboring villages and visit the market place known as the Plaza del Ponchos, world-renowned for its local craftsmanship. Join for as much hiking as you like — all trails will leave you invigorated by the breathtaking views. Horseback riding can be scheduled for those desiring an alternative approach to the mountain terrain.

Ask us for a free copy of Nan, a bi-lingual magazine which details a new look at von Humboldt's routes and discoveries, 250 years after his birth

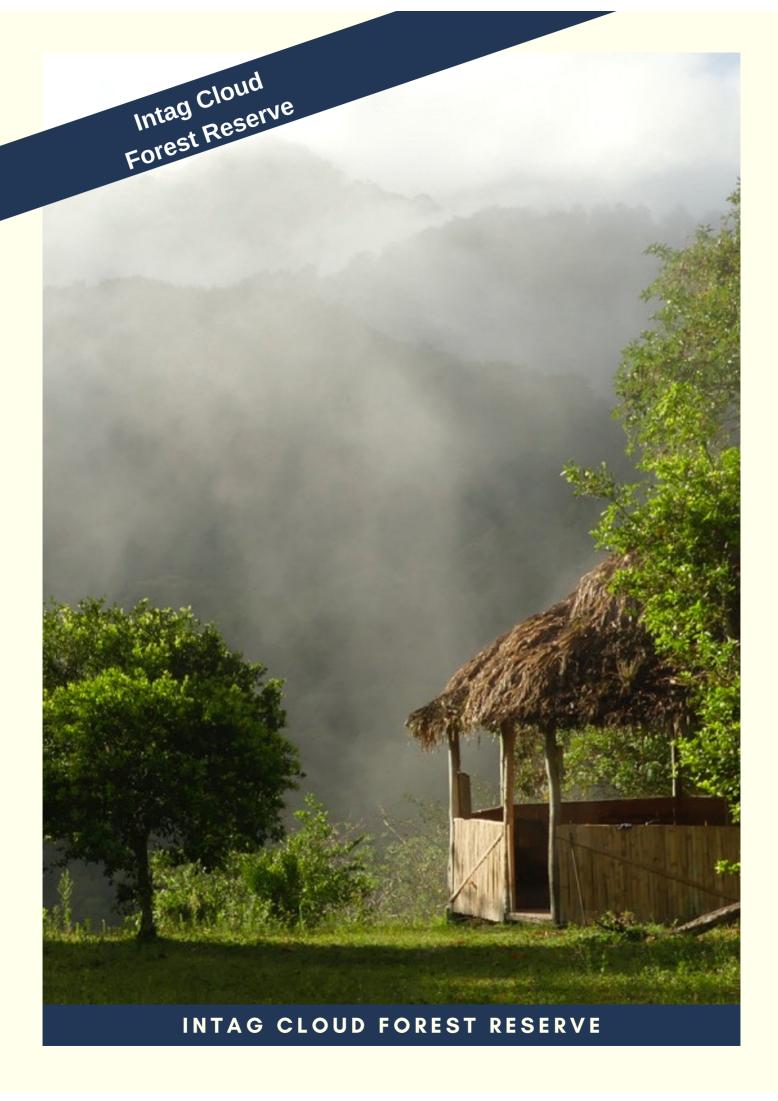


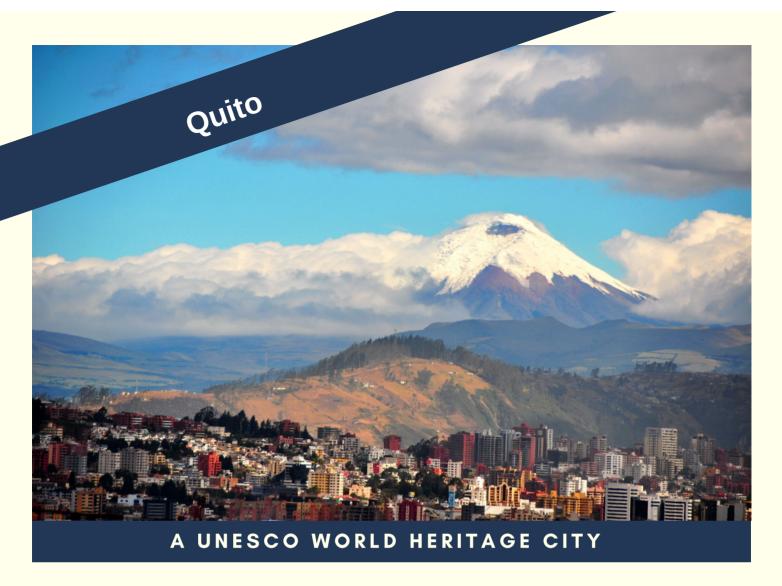
At nearby Cuicocha lake, we discover volcanic cones that became islands that today appear to float in the water in the form of guinea pigs – or at least that's how locals see the formations in these pillars of rock – and take time to drive up to the raptor preserve for a flight demonstration by eagles, hawks, and owls.

In recent years, retired Americans have discovered the charm of leather village Cotacachi – we benefit, as now restaurants abound! A stop at a weaver's studio reveals back strap looms still in operation – then it's on to a musician's home and a wood carver's workshop.



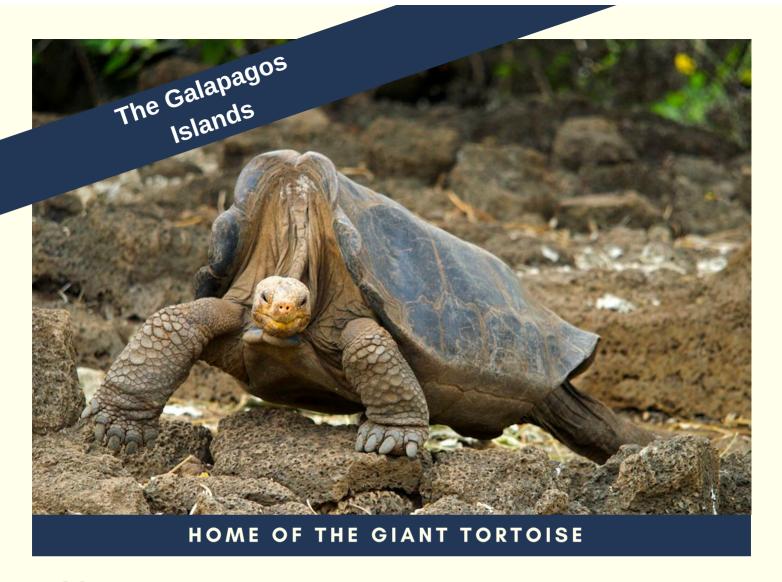
Following a transfer north and west of Cotacachi, a dormant volcanic mountain, we arrive at a naturalist's paradise for bird watching and hiking, the El Refugio Lodge in the Intag Cloud Forest Reserve, a completely new unique ecosystem. Exploring this mountainous terrain, we'll visit a shade tree coffee plantation and soak up the healing properties of near by natural hot springs. And we won't miss the beautiful sisal weavings.





To retreat from the bustle of Quito, a Unesco World Heritage city celebrated for its monuments, museums, and stunning churches, we suggest Casa Aliso, a hotel in a restored home in the finer contemporary section of the thriving metropolis.

Our curated experience provides plenty of opportunities for both group activities and alone time for personal exploration. One consistency: Just about every day is welcomed with yoga. A gentle Kripalu-style class for all abilities is offered most mornings by Michael Pulitzer.



Add-On

A tour of the Galapagos Islands is within reach. Just a two-hour flight from Quito, a four-to-seven night cruise provides the perfect opportunity to see the complex life forms and endangered creatures that call this region home. Contact us for a quote.

Travel Days

January 10 - 20, 2020; January 20-30, 2020

Cost is \$2,040 per person; \$2500 single occupancy, for 10 days.

Required Fitness

Travelers need to be in good health and able to walk distances and port their own luggage through transit hubs.

Itinerary details available upon request.

Want to chat about various options? Your best dates to travel?
Just give us a call.

Contact Us

A complete itinerary is available on request.

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