

## OTAVALO

### THE INDIGENOUS MARKET & THE TEXTILE TOWN

### 1 day trip

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

The trip to Otavalo organized by our Spanish school is operated by the travel agency “Luis Tipan Travel Cia. Ltda.” It’s been based in Quito since 2001 and is insured in case of accidents.

#### ITINERARY

Our guide will pick us up Saturday at 6:50 AM in front of the entrance to the Cristóbal Colón school (Av. Colón Oe2-56 y Versalles) and will pick up the rest of the participants at Plaza Foch (Sector Moderno de Quito). We’ll travel directly from there north towards the province of lakes called ‘Imbabura’ with its capital Otavalo.

The first stop (optional) will be in Calderón, the town where the famous figures of marzipan are manufactured in various shapes, colors, and sizes. These crafts have been developed over decades and have been considered, nationally and internationally, as some of the best decorative souvenirs for friends and family.

After Calderón we’ll proceed to Otavalo, the main destination. We’ll make a short stop at the “Mirador de Tabacundo” (Scenic View of Tabacundo). Here we’ll take a cart ride to Cayambe to take pictures of the beautiful valleys and snow-capped mountains in the area.

After traveling a total of 1 hour and 45 minutes, we will arrive in Otavalo and we will be able to visit the “Mercado de Animales” (Market of Animals). This is an optional stop, as it will be more interesting to some people than others.

Once in Otavalo, in the “La Plaza de Ponchos” we’ll hear a talk about the area and afterwards, we will have 2-3 hours of free time to visit the infinite variety of clothing made by hand by the indigenous people of Otavalo. The people who make these garments and crafts are known world-wide for their indescribable imagination and skill, creating hammocks, multicolored bags, paintings, ponchos, clothing, musical wind-instruments, scarves, and more.

Once we have making any purchases, we’ll gather again to enjoy the exquisite local food for lunch.

After eating and taking a well-earned rest, we’ll drive to “La Cascada de Peguche” (The Waterfall of Peguche) located 15 minutes away.

In this magical place we will enjoy the tranquility offered by the natural world here, including its fresh and clean air. We’ll also feel the fresh breeze from the spectacular “Cascada de Peguche” (Peguche Waterfall) where, if you wish, you can jump into the natural spring and feel the force of the water fall over your body. Incredible!!

To warm back up, we will take a 20 minute walk in the mountain and then go to “Ciudad del Cuero” (City of Leather) Cotacachi 45 minutes from Otavalo. Here people

make and decorate works of leather with great skill: coats, jackets, shoes, belts, wallets, etc.

Finally, we will arrive at the grand “Laguna de Cuicocha” (Lake of Cuicocha), the Lake of the Gods inside the mouth of the volcano Cotacachi with two small islands and surrounded by a spectacular landscape. (4 hour walk - optional)

Here we can take canoes between the shore and the islands (optional). Then we will prepare for our return to Quito, a 3 hour ride.

<p><b>INCLUDED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Private transportation</li> <li>- Guide</li> <li>- First aid kit</li> <li>- Lunch</li> </ul> <p><b>NOT INCLUDED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drinks</li> <li>- Alcoholic beverages</li> </ul>	<p><b>TO BRING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Warm clothes</li> <li>- Sun block</li> <li>- Sunglasses</li> <li>- Hat of any kind</li> <li>- Water bottle</li> <li>- Warm gloves</li> <li>- Cotton socks</li> <li>- Long pants</li> <li>- Shoes/boots for walking</li> <li>- Waterproof coat</li> <li>- Warm sweater</li> <li>- Waterproof bag</li> <li>- Camera</li> <li>- COPY of your passport</li> </ul>
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