# Runa Adventures CRATERS TO CLOUDS COLIBRÍ TOUR

Welcome: August 14th, 2025

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The adventure begins with a transfer to Yunguilla, a charming community nestled in the heart of the Chocó Andino Biosphere Reserve. Participants will settle into this tranquil setting and attend a charla técnica (technical briefing) to prepare for the days ahead. As the cool mist of the cloud forest sets in, dinner will be served, offering a taste of local flavors. The evening is reserved for free time to explore the peaceful surroundings, reflect, or rest in preparation for the journey.

## Pululahua and Middle of the World: August 15th, 2025

The second day starts with a scenic transfer to the Pululahua Geobotanical Reserve, one of only a handful of inhabited volcanic calderas in the world. Participants will explore Pululahua's lush biodiversity and breathtaking trails. The journey continues with a visit to the Museo del Sol, an architectural marvel celebrating the Andean worldview, followed by a stop at the Intiñan Museum or Mitad del Mundo, where you can stand on the equatorial line and learn about ancient cultures. Lunch will be a highlight at El Crater, a restaurant perched on the edge of the caldera of Pululahua, offering panoramic views of the valley below. Returning to Yunguilla in the afternoon, participants will enjoy a guided tour of the community, learning about its inspiring conservation efforts and sustainable practices. The day concludes with a warm meeting with local families, sharing stories and connections over a delightful dinner.

## Yunguilla and Macipucuna: August 16th 2025

On the third day, the journey continues with breakfast at Yunguilla before delving into the heart of the cloud forest. The day's exploration includes a walk along the historic culunco trails surrounded by lush vegetation. Lunch will be a special farm-to-table experience at Maquipucuna, featuring fresh, locally grown ingredients from the reserve's sustainable farming initiatives. This immersive meal highlights the deep connection between the land and the cuisine of the region. Afterward, participants will embark on a guided tour of Maquipucuna's trails, immersing themselves in the wonders of one of the most biologically diverse regions on Earth, with opportunities to spot vibrant hummingbirds and the endemic Platebilled Mountain Toucan. The day concludes with a delicious dinner at Maquipucuna Lodge with the participants of the other itineraries (Oso and Tucán).

### Yunguilla + Celebration

The final day begins with breakfast at Maquipucuna, accompanied by the serene sounds of the forest waking up. Participants will embark on a morning tour to explore the area further, with opportunities to spot rare orchids, colorful butterflies, and perhaps even glimpse the elusive spectacled bear. After lunch, the group will transfer back to Yunguilla, where the adventure concludes with a heartfelt farewell gathering. This closing moment offers time to reflect on the shared experiences, the incredible beauty of the Chocó Andino, and the impact of sustainable tourism in preserving this unique ecosystem.

# **DETAILS**

# The cost of your trip includes:

- All lodging according to itinerary
- Meals and trail provisions
- All park/reserve permits
- Scheduled in-country transportation
- Trail logistics

## The cost of your trip does NOT include:

- Flights to/from Quito, where the tour begins
- Additional nights in hotel outside of the itinerary
- Tips for local staff
- Travel, rescue, or any other type of insurance
- Hospitalization or evacuation costs
- Alcohol
- Other personal expenses

## **Ground Transport**

We use private vehicles for this expedition. Once you arrive in Ecuador, ground transportation is arranged for you including your airport arrival and departure transfers within the scheduled itinerary. Transportation outside the scheduled itinerary (early arrival/late departure) is available at an additional cost.

# Flights

All flights will arrive into Mariscal Sucre International Airport just outside of Quito.