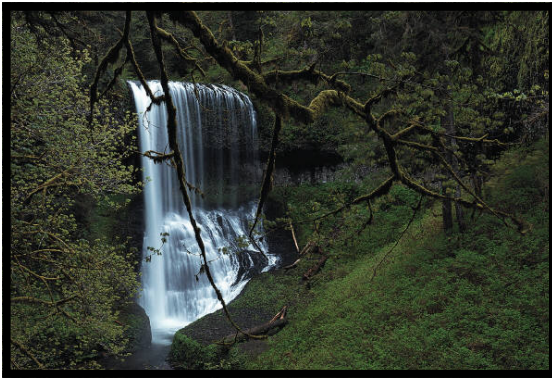


# LANGUAGE HOMESTAY IN ECUADOR

**ITINERARY NIGHTS:** Quito Homestay (2), Cloud Forest (4), Quito Homestay (1)

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Quito City Tour • Equatorial Monument • SierrAzul Cloud Forest • Waterfall Hike • Horseback Riding • 20 Hours Intensive Language Classes



**DAY 1 QUITO** Journey to enchanting Ecuador and arrive in charming Quito! Your courier waits to escort you to the homestay community and introduce you to your host family. Located in the inter-Andean valley, Quito is a city of sun and sky, surrounded by mountains, with three snow-capped volcanoes in view on a clear day. Its climate has been described by many as eternal spring, due to its location close to the equator at high altitude. It has a daily average temperature of about 65° F, with highs around 75° F and early morning lows around 45° F.

**DAY 2 QUITO** This morning your host family will bring you to the Academia Latinoamericana which resides in a former ambassador's compound located in one of the many beautiful residential neighborhoods of Quito. The school is considered one of the premier language schools in all of Ecuador and South America. The facilities are excellent, the teachers are experienced and enthusiastic,

and the administration is very helpful. Here you will have a general orientation about your trip and then take a placement test. After lunch at the Academia, you're off to explore the capital on a **Quito City Tour**. Drive along the broad avenues of the modern city and see the Ecuadorian House of Culture, the House of Congress and the Alameda Park before arriving in the colonial section of Quito. Walk along the narrow cobblestone streets and feel the charm of 16th century Quito. See the beautiful French-styled Independence Plaza with its Government Palace and Cathedral. Visit the Sala Capitular at San Augustin Convent, one of the most important historical sites in Spanish America. The first Act of Independence was signed here on August 10, 1809. Ride up to El Panecillo Hill for an impressive view of the snow-capped Andes. Then drive to the **Equatorial Monument** in the middle of the world, a spot where you can stand in two hemispheres at one time by straddling the equator! Climb to the top for a great view and visit the museum here.

**DAY 3 CLOUD FOREST** Depart for the **SierrAzul Cloud Forest** where you will

be met by your naturalist guide and the Program Director of Academia Latinoamericana. SierrAzul is a cloud forest reserve located where the Amazon jungle meets the Andes mountains. You will be able to admire a variety of species of orchids and birds like the Giant Antpitta (long thought to be extinct), the mountain tapir and the spectacled bear. Relax by a waterfall and enjoy breathtaking landscapes while you feel in complete harmony with nature. Your guide will describe the country's main environmental problems, and the environmental, social and economic impacts people have on cloud and rain forests. After lunch, you will begin your **Spanish Language Classes**. You'll have dinner and spend the night at the lodge.

**DAY 4 CLOUD FOREST** This morning continue your language classes. After classes, enjoy a hike through the forest to nearby **waterfalls**. You'll want to be sure to bring your bathing suit!

**DAY 5 CLOUD FOREST** Another morning language class, then trek into the rain forest. Mountains and valleys, volcanoes, rivers, and varied plant life provide spectacular scenery in the area of Quito. You will see an incredible diversity of flora and fauna--the region boasts 15 exquisite waterfalls, 250 plant species, approximately 100 bird species, eight different hummingbird



species, and numerous other forms of wildlife.

**DAY 6 CLOUD FOREST** During morning language classes you will have highly structured grammar lessons, interactive activities, conversation and written exercises. Today's rain forest adventure is **Horseback Riding**, just for the fun of it!



**DAY 7 QUITO** On your last day of classes you may be surprised at how your Spanish has improved during the past week's immersion experience. After lunch you will receive an academic certificate from the school, then return to your host family for a final afternoon.

**DAY 8 DEPART** Say "adios" to your host family and to this wonderful land, and jet home with improved Spanish language skills and lasting memories of your adventures in Ecuador.

*For more information, please contact:*