

# EQUATOR ESCAPE ECUADOR



**MAKE THIS  
AN E-BIKE TRIP!**  
PRIVATE DEPARTURES ONLY.  
CONTACT US FOR  
DETAILS.

GROUP SIZE 4-10

DURATION 9 nights, 10 days

SKILL & FITNESS LEVEL Level 2+

TYPE all-mountain

**FROM THE ANDEAN RANGE TO THE VAST JUNGLE TO A SNOWY VOLCANIC PEAKS; THE LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY, UNIQUE CULTURES AND QUALITY RIDING OF THIS ALL-MOUNTAIN TRIP WILL INSPIRE YOU.**

## WHY BIG MOUNTAIN?

**Professional Leaders.** Mountain bike trips to far-away places requires local knowledge. We work with the best guides in all destinations, many since 2001.

**Your Safety.** Our guides have first-aid certification, our trips have safety management plans and our riders' wellbeing is the number one priority on all of our trips.

**Groups that Work.** All riders complete a detailed Rider Questionnaire to ensure that they are well matched for the trip physically and technically and with the rest of the group. We almost always have optional rides just in case.

**Preparation is Key.** We offer excellent pre-trip support and all departures include a detailed Preparation Guide specific to the destination. Of course we've been on every trip that we offer.

**Expert Trip Design.** We know how to create exceptional mountain bike trips. And, we're constantly reviewing and improving itineraries if we feel that it's needed.

**Piece of Mind.** Travel & Medical Insurance is mandatory on our trips and Big Mountain Bike Adventures Ltd. has commercial general liability insurance.



## OUR GUIDES

*Think kind, genuine, sincere, helpful, funny, professional and there you have it, our guides and drivers in Ecuador. We can't say enough about this team and their passion for sharing their beautiful country and amazing trails with mountain bikers.*

CHROMAG

EVOG

TREK

**BIG MOUNTAIN  
BIKE ADVENTURES**

# ITINERARY ECUATOR ESCAPE

The following is a general outline for the Equator Escape trip. Big Mountain reserves the right to make alterations and substitutions to the itinerary as weather or terrain conditions dictate or as necessary to improve the trip quality or to accommodate the comfort, convenience, and well-being of our guests.



## DAY 1

### Arrive in Quito.

Upon arriving in Quito, you'll be greeted by our driver at the airport and transferred to our nearby hotel. After building bikes and having our Trip Briefing we'll explore the city and head out for dinner in Quito's famous colonial Old Town (Centro Histórico). Overnight at: [hotelnuevoaerpuerto.com/index.php](http://hotelnuevoaerpuerto.com/index.php)

## DAY 2

### Ride Pulumahu geo-botanical reserve.

Visit the Middle of the Earth Museum. The Pulumahu trails are the perfect introduction to your first equatorial experience. Today we'll ride into a massive extinct volcano among tropical vegetation on the famous Infiernillo trail, on singletrack that descends nearly 1800m. Next stop is the Middle of the Earth Museum, before heading back to our hotel La Jimenita. Overnight at 4-star Hotel Picollo  
**Altitude+** 2840 m **Distance:** 21 km ↗ 940 m ↘ 1390 m

## DAY 3

### Ride Pinchincha Mountains.

Today we'll ride a flowy singletrack traverse that descends from Guagua Pichincha volcano towards its twin brother, Rucu. Amazing and long set of trails that overlook Quito and its valleys. We'll grab a lift at Rucu Pichincha's cable car for a big final descent through high páramo landscape. Overnight at: [hotelnuevoaerpuerto.com/index.php](http://hotelnuevoaerpuerto.com/index.php)  
**Altitude+** 4360 m **Distance:** 31 km ↗ 571 m ↘ 2400 m

## DAY 4

### Ride Cotopaxi Volcano.

Ever ridden down a 5900m volcano before? Experience the mighty Cotopaxi Volcano by taming two different downhill runs through the most surreal moonscape scenery. We'll then explore more of the huge expanse of land that composes the Cotopaxi National Park. Drive to Urbina (near Riobamba) for our overnight at [urbinaecuador.blogspot.ca/2009/10/posada-urbina.html](http://urbinaecuador.blogspot.ca/2009/10/posada-urbina.html)  
**Altitude+** 4645 m **Distance:** 36 km ↗ 391 m ↘ 1690 m

## DAY 5

### Ride Chimborazo Volcano & Hieleros Trail.

Another day of incredible high Andean exploration. We'll visit the highest mountain in Ecuador, Chimborazo. We'll hike and bike up to 5000m to the 2nd mtn. refuge, and then descend towards the famous Hieleros Trail and end up near the town of Guaranda. Big day of descending today, on a historical ice merchant route. Overnight at [www.hosteriaelangel.com/](http://www.hosteriaelangel.com/)  
**Altitude+** 5002 m **Distance:** 32 km ↗ 633 m ↘ 2250 m

## DAY 6

### Ride the famous Mama Rumi Trail.

Experience the most legendary trail in Ecuador. Once a pre-Inca walking route and later a smuggling route, Mama Rumi now serves as one of the best descents in Ecuador. Over 2000m of down over 10 km ending in the small town of Telimbela. We'll have the chance to sample some more local trails in the afternoon like Lourdes DH or Camino del Rey. Overnight at [www.hosteriaelangel.com](http://www.hosteriaelangel.com)  
**Altitude+** 3000 m **Distance:** 12 km ↗ 56 m ↘ 2040 m

## DAY 7

### Ride Alausi & Nizag Trails.

A bit of a deserved mellower day today. We'll meet our local guide at the town of Alausí and get a sense of the huge mountains that surround us. Expect amazing views and incredible singletrack riding towards our most famous train station, La Nariz del Diablo train station (The Devil's Nose). After lunch we'll drive to the beautiful Cañar province, overnight at [posadaingapirca.com/en/](http://posadaingapirca.com/en/)  
**Altitude+** 3613 m **Distance:** 18 km ↗ 152 m ↘ 1882 m

## DAY 8

### Ride Cuenca Trails.

After our breakfast we'll visit the famous Inca Ruins of Ingapirca and it's famous Temple of the Sun. Afterwards we'll sample more of southern Ecuador's finest singletrack, riding a couple of trails that overlook the beautiful city of Cuenca. This afternoon we'll explore the old town before heading to our amazing colonial hotel, [hotelvictoriaecuador.com/en/](http://hotelvictoriaecuador.com/en/)  
**Altitude+** 3140m **Distance:** 13 km ↗ 192 m ↘ 1086 m

## DAY 9

### Ride La Paz Trails.

Our last day of riding on possibly the most fun trails in the country, the iconic La Paz trails. A perfect way to wrap-up our amazing riding adventure. We'll have some amazing seafood at Yunguilla valley before driving back to our hotel in Cuenca for our last dinner celebrations at [www.elmercadocuena.com/](http://www.elmercadocuena.com/). Overnight at [hotelvictoriaecuador.com/en/](http://hotelvictoriaecuador.com/en/)  
**Altitude+** 3099m **Distance:** 11 km ↗ 328 m ↘ 2000 m

## DAY 10

### Fly to Quito. Flights home.

This morning we'll board a one-hour flight at 8:50 am to Quito. Upon arrival we'll transfer to the nearby La Jimenita Hotel to pack our bikes. Flights departing for home should not leave before 2:00pm.



# DETAILS

## BIKE AND EQUIPMENT

The perfect bike for this trip is a 6-inch all-mountain dual suspension with disk brakes. As we are doing lots of descending, make sure to ask us about tips on customizing your bike for this type of riding (shorter stem, bigger tires, etc). Also required: helmet, hydration pack, eye protection and clothing for all types of weather. Kneepads are strongly recommended for bigger descents. All participants are required to bring extra brake pads, tubes, a patch kit, and any other parts specific to your bike. We will send you a detailed list of required equipment and clothing before departure. All participants are required to have their bikes in excellent working order before the trip begins.

### SUGGESTED BIKE FOR THIS TRIP:

#### TREK SLASH



### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Expert local leadership.
- Entrance fees to museums & national parks (noted as part of the trip).
- 3-star hotel accommodation (based on double occupancy).
- All breakfasts, nine lunches and one dinner (eight dinners at own cost).
- Domestic flight from Cuenca to Quito on final day.
- Airport transfers on scheduled days.
- Private transportation and shuttling.
- Detailed pre-departure information & trip extension assistance.

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

- International airfare.
- Personal travel and medical insurance.
- Airport taxes and excess baggage charges.
- Your bike and related equipment.
- Six dinners/one lunch and alcoholic beverages.
- Personal items and expenses, optional excursions, tipping to leaders and local staff.
- We recommend \$20-25 USD per day for dinners and extras.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

Medical Insurance is mandatory on all Big Mountain Bike Adventures' trips and Travel Insurance is strongly recommended. Please [visit our recommended insurance provider](#) World Nomads to learn more.



## ACTIVITY LEVEL

The technical ability required for the Equator Escape is rated as 'advanced to expert.' In other words, the descents are long and have some technically challenging sections with exposure. For fitness level, participants must be fit. All participants must train accordingly to fully enjoy this trip. Even though we will be shuttling the rides and stopping quite often (to enjoy the view, take photos, eat and drink, wait for others, repair our bikes etc) – the altitude, jet lag recovery and accumulation of multiple, long days of riding will add up. This trip is a true adventure - the rewards are FANTASTIC.

## LODGING AND FOOD

We'll be staying in small locally owned hotels and a remote lodge on Cotopaxi. We have tried to balance flexibility and convenience regarding meal options. For this reason, we include lunches (except one) as we are often traveling off the beaten path where restaurant choices are limited. In the cities and towns, there are a wide variety of restaurants – so we do not include dinners to allow our travelers the flexibility of choosing their own food preferences. Your guides will always recommend some great restaurant options. Common foods in Ecuador include potatoes, corn, rice, and meat dishes, often with a spicy sauce. Please let us know if you have any dietary needs.



## CLIMATE

Being on the equator temperatures are quite warm. Altitude, however, will drop the temperature considerably. Expect temperatures to range from 25-30 degrees Celsius (78-86 Fahrenheit) to 5-15 degrees Celsius (41-59 Fahrenheit) at the highest altitudes. Temperatures can (infrequently) drop below 0 Celsius (32 Fahrenheit) at night at higher altitudes.

## DETAILS *cont.*



### YOUR SAFETY

All participants must ride safely and within their limits daily as mountain biking is a dangerous sport with risks and hazards. Most accidents occur at the beginning of a trip due to jet lag, fatigue and unfamiliarity of trail conditions and obstacles; it is imperative that riders especially take it easy at the beginning of the trip. Alcohol and drugs are not permitted while riding. Participants will remain hydrated and rested throughout the trip. Riders will be responsible for their daily bike checks and keeping bikes in good working condition. Everyone is ultimately responsible for their own well being on our trips. Our guides have basic first aid training and if a serious injury is suspected, will call local search and rescue and/or an evacuation helicopter at the cost of the participant. The majority of our trips take place in remote regions with limited evacuation options. Personal medical travel insurance is mandatory on all trips.

### THE NEXT STEPS

Call us toll free at 1-866-894-0220, or +1-604-902-1807 for international guests or email at [info@ridebig.com](mailto:info@ridebig.com) to confirm there's space on this trip. If Skype is preferred please send us an email to arrange a meeting. We like to speak to everyone interested in joining our trips. This helps ensure everyone signing up is well matched for the group!

Make sure you have read and understand our [Terms and Conditions](#) and also our [Waiver](#). Both found on our website under registration.

To confirm your spot please complete our secure online [Booking Form](#) found on our website.

Once your online registration form has been received, we'll send you detailed pre-departure information, for review, to ensure you're well prepared for the adventure ahead.

### PAYMENT

Once you've completed our online registration form and we've confirmed that we have the needed number of riders to proceed, we'll collect a \$750.00 CAD deposit that is refundable up to 14 days after registering (outside of 90 days before the trip departure), afterwards your deposit becomes non-refundable. At 90 days prior to the departure, the full trip balance will be collected. Please review our [Terms & Conditions](#) for full details on payment, cancellation and refund policies. Please note that while our land costs are quoted in the destination country's preferred currency, the balance and deposit are processed in Canadian dollars. The exchange rate is based on the daily rate quoted using the Bank of Canada. If you are paying with credit card and reside outside of Canada, you may incur a foreign transaction fee. If you wish, there's the option of paying with a wire transfer or you can also send us a cheque. Please contact us anytime to discuss your options.

### SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

The single supplement of \$495 USD is an additional fee for solo travellers who wish to have their own rooms during the trip. If riders agree to share a room with someone of the same gender BM will pair you up. If there isn't another single participant of the same gender available, you will automatically have your own room and incur the additional single supplement fee.



### WHY BIG MOUNTAIN IS YOUR CHOICE

*Since 2001 Big Mountain Bike Adventures is the pioneer of performance mountain bike adventures to destinations worldwide. Our itineraries are designed by local professional guides and Big Mountain travel experts and lead by the very best local leaders available. Our mission is to deliver safe, quality trips with the best customer service - ensuring a trip of a lifetime.*

### REFERENCES

We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travellers.

### QUESTIONS?

Feel free to call us at 1-866-894-0220 or email [info@ridebig.com](mailto:info@ridebig.com) if you have any questions or need any additional information. We are here to help!

### CONTACT US

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