

## Horse backriding + Hiking by the Lagoon in the Cotopaxi National Park



Observe the Andean grassland by the Cotopaxi Volcano. If you love horses, this is one of the best opportunities to visit the Andes and get lost in the depth of the “Paramo”. Open fields surrounded by volcanoes and mountains are home to wild horses, wild rabbits, deer, and endemic birds, among others, that you will be able to see depending on whether you take the ride in the area of the Cotopaxi Volcano. In any of these landscapes, you will feel the freedom of riding in breathtaking areas of the Andean Paramo. All our horses are trained on natural horsemanship-based methods, this won't only make you enjoy the views but also the connection to your horse and yourself!

### **Itinerary:**

Pick up from the city of Quito to head out of south of the city. We will take the Pan-American Highway and after an hour and a little more we will enter the Cotopaxi National Park for our registration. On the way, you can see vegetation typical of the Andes.

### **2-hour Horse backriding by Pita river canyon & Salitre Inca Ruins:**

Upon our arrival at the horseback riding station, our local guide will welcome you and after a brief explanation on how to ride these gentle Andean creol horses, we will begin our journey towards the Pita River canyon

The Pita River canyon begins its flow in the western Paramos of the Sinchologüa volcano and a part of the melting of the Cotopaxi volcano. The topography of the Pita River is marked by the presence of the Cotopaxi and Sinchologüa volcanoes, and minor ravines.

The Pucara Del Salitre presents a main residential complex of three small rooms and one large room, surrounded by two rectangular walls each one meter high.

Towards the east side there are two sets of small destroyed cylindrical constructions, possibly residential areas.

The Pucara rises 15 meters above the bed of the ravine and has excellent visual control of the Pita bed at its beginning in the Mudadero region, which in turn is the entrance to Valle Vicioso, an area where it rises towards the south east the Quilindaña hill (4,919 msl).

### **Hiking around the Limpiopungo lagoon for birdwatching (3,800 msl / 12,467 feet)**

Finally, we will make a short visit to the Limopungo lagoon whose waters come from the extinct Rumiñahui volcano. Near the lagoon, you can observe birds typical of this high aquatic ecosystem such as: Andean gulls, coots, lapwings, teals among others.

If luck is with us, it is possible to see the lord of the Andes, the Andean Condor.

#### **The program includes:**

- A naturalist Guide/driver (English-speaking)
- Transportation and pick-up from/to Quito
- Horseback riding guide (Spanish-speaking)
- Horseback gear (helmet, poncho, zamarro)
- Box lunch (vegetarian available)
- Entrance fee registration to the Cotopaxi National Park

#### **The program does not include:**

- Travel insurance
- Tips
- Services not mentioned

**Note.** - For this activity, it is important to fill out a release form. The horses are gentle and adapt to your riding experience.