



Artisan weavers workshop.

## OTAVALO HIGHLANDS CULTURAL EXPERIENCE: FULL-DAY TOUR

This full-day excursion from Quito into the volcanic highlands north of the city offers an in-depth look at the traditional way of life for the people of the Sierra, including their history, customs, handicrafts, and music.

Depart Quito after an early breakfast and head into the countryside, crossing the Equator along the way. Visit the family-owned Hacienda la Compañía de Jesús, a typical 19th-century highland estate with a thriving rose plantation. Enjoy tea and see the plantation and exhibitions before continuing to Otavalo. Note that we may instead stop here on our return trip to Quito, depending on logistics.

After browsing the famous Otavalo market, continue to Peguche, a weaving village set across Lago San Pablo under the 15,000-foot Imbabura Volcano. Famous for textiles created on pedal shuttle and ancient back-strap looms, Peguche is home to many traditional weavers. Visit studios, roam around the town, and meet with villagers and weavers in their homes. Peguche is also known for its artisan shops where Andean musical instruments are produced, such as the large pan flutes, or *zampoñas*; traditional Andean *quena* flutes; drums; guitars; and *charangos*, a type of lute.

Enjoy a relaxing lunch at a charming hacienda with extensive gardens before returning to Quito in the late afternoon.

For more information call us at [1.800.397.3348](tel:1.800.397.3348) or call your Travel Advisor

**Tour Preparation and Packing:** This tour includes walking short distances over uneven and rough surfaces. Please wear good walking shoes, protect yourself from the strong Equatorial sun, and expect changeable weather conditions. Dress in layers; bring a sweater or jacket even if the day is warm and sunny, as well as a rain protection (especially October to May). Conservative dress is best; women should not wear shorts or short skirts, which would not be appropriate. Men also do not generally wear shorts in the traditional highlands.

**Altitude:** 8,400 feet. Do not overexert yourself, eat moderately, drink plenty of fluids and avoid alcohol.

**Climate:** Temperatures are reasonably constant throughout the year with daytime temperatures in the 70s°F and nighttime temperatures in the 50s°F. Northern winters (October-May) are cloudier with more rain than the northern summer (June-September).

**Price and Inclusions:** \$275 per person in 2024, and \$290 per person in 2025. Cost includes private guide and driver, lunch, morning tea, and gratuities.