



Chimborazo Ascent

Quito, Ecuador

PROGRAM ITINERARY

PROGRAM DETAILS: This program offers you an opportunity to climb Chimborazo (20,703 ft), the highest peak in Ecuador and one of the great climbing goals for alpinists in the Andes. This program must follow an appropriate acclimatization program.

DIFFICULTY GRADE: Intermediate

PREREQUISITES: Climbing to over 20,000 feet on Chimborazo is a significant undertaking. To join a climbing team for this ascent and have a good chance for success, you will need to know the fundamentals of glacier climbing, be in very good physical condition, and be well acclimatized to at least 18,000 feet within seven days of the climb.

Most climbers prepare by joining our ten-day Cayambe-Antisana program. In addition to having an opportunity to thoroughly acclimatize, you will also learn or refresh glacier climbing skills and raise your fitness level as you hike two 13,000 and 15,000-foot peaks and then make ascents of two very beautiful 18,000-foot summits.

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS:

- Long walks of 4 to 10 hours.
- Each climber carries his or her own personal equipment. Staff assistance is provided for group gear. Personal porters can be arranged. The average day pack will weigh between 5 and 15 lbs; climbing bags typically weigh between 25 and 35lbs.
- Moderate to big gains drops in altitude (400 to 1000 m; 1300 to 3200 ft).
- Lodging in camps, in mountain huts, and in town (twin share accommodation).

PROGRAM COST INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS:

Inclusions: Lodging in hotels, haciendas, huts, and tents on a shared basis for the dates of your program (available on a private basis by special arrangement, subject to availability, and at added cost); Meals while at huts and while climbing; Group cooking equipment; Admissions to museums and national parks; Group climbing equipment; Transportation during trip.

Exclusions: Airfare; Personal equipment; Meals in cities, hotels, haciendas, and lodges; Gratuities to guides; Government and airport taxes; Inoculations; Personal insurance; Excess baggage.

POST-ACCLIMATIZATION ITINERARY

Day 1: Travel to the flank of Chimborazo

We drive south, down the “Valley of Volcanoes” along the Pan-american Highway through the towns of Latacunga and Ambato. We will stop along the way for lunch. In the afternoon we move up onto the eastern flanks of Chimborazo where we spend an evening in a lodge at 3,499m/11,480 feet. It sits picturesquely in grassy plains below Chimborazo and allows us to rest and enjoy views of the Ecuadorian Altiplano surrounding Chimborazo and Carihuairazo (also known as “Chimborazo’s Wife”).

- **Accommodations:** Urbina Mountain Lodge
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast*

Day 2: Travel to Chimborazo Basecamp

From the lodge on the eastern side of Chimborazo we drive to the western side of the volcano passing through the town of Riobamba. Chimborazo Province is very hilly and is populated by a very high percentage of indigenous people. Great views of the Chimborazo massif, the surrounding rolling terrain and wild vicuñas and llamas will be had during our drive. Around noon we will reach the Carrel hut (4,800m/15,700 ft) for lunch. The afternoon will be used to complete a two hour hike to the Stübel Camp. Climbers carry their own personal gear to camp while porters carry water, tents, and food. In preparation for our alpine start, around midnight we will have an early dinner. Despite the building excitement for the next day’s summit climb we will go to bed early, with anticipation for a safe and rewarding climb in the morning. If conditions on the mountain are different and a direct route is more favorable, the team may stay in the Whympfer or Carrel huts and make the summit attempt from there.

- **Accommodations:** Stübel Camp
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3: Chimborazo Summit (6,310m/20,703 ft)

From Stübel Camp, we follow the Stübel Glacier until it joins the Castle Saddle (5,499m/18,044 ft). It takes an average of eight hours to get to the Whympfer summit from Stübel Camp. By the time we reach the 18,500 foot level (5,640m), we will have surmounted most of the technical challenges on the mountain, and on the remainder of our route we will ascend compact and moderately angled snow. The summit crater area is a vast one that is normally covered in its entirety either in soft snow or nieve penitentes. Although this is our longest day, we will be well acclimatized from the conditioning we have achieved on our previous climbs. Round trip we will spend 10 to 12 hours on route, which includes some ice ramps, snow bridges, and sections of icefall. It is a very interesting route on an impressively large mountain. We will descend to the Carrel Hut and then continue in our vehicle to the lower altitude and oxygenrich town of Baños at the edge of the Amazon Basin.

- **Accommodations:** Hotel in Baños (or camp/ hut depending on how the climb goes)
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 14: Chimborazo Summit Attempt Contingency day

Should Day 13 be needed to wait out inclement weather, we will make our summit climb on this day. If we climb on Day 14, we will hike out after our ascent and drive to Baños where we will spend the night in a hotel. Once in the semitropical town of Baños we will rest, relax, enjoy good food, and some time in the hot springs.

- **Accommodations:** Hotel in Baños

- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch*

Day 15: Return to Quito – End of Part 2

We will have an easy morning in Banños and return to Quito in the afternoon. The last evening is usually spent recounting, celebrating our successes, and discussing plans for future adventures.

- **Accommodations:** Hotel Reina Isabel

- **Meals Included:** Breakfast*

***Note**

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