

# Hacienda Zuleta - Post Galapagos Extension



Hacienda Zuleta is the absolute perfect place for anyone to spend a few days discovering the highlands of Ecuador, after visiting Galapagos Islands. It works specifically well due to the fact that Zuleta is an easy 1hour45minute drive from Quito airport, away from the city through the Ecuadorian line and into the highlands of Ecuador. Scenery here is reminiscent of the Cusco highlands in Peru. Women wearing beautifully hand-woven textiles, condor sanctuaries, and stories of the past. Hacienda Zuleta offers guests a raw and authentic experience steeped in four centuries of Ecuadorian history and tradition. The working farm sprawls over 4,000 acres and has been owned and operated by the family of Mr. Galo Plaza Lasso, the former president of Ecuador, for over 100 years. Guests are warmly welcomed in the historic home, which features antique gardens, family heirlooms, hand-embroidered linens and cozy fireplaces in each of the 21 guest rooms.

## Quick Summary

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Day	Description	Accommodation
Day 1	Galapagos To Hacienda Zuleta	Hacienda Zuleta
Day 2	Hacienda Zuleta	Hacienda Zuleta
Day 3	Hacienda Zuleta	Hacienda Zuleta
Day 4	Departure	

# Itinerary Detail

## Day 1: Galapagos To Hacienda Zuleta



### DAILY SUMMARY

- Tour: Galapagos to the Andes
- Tour: Welcome to Hacienda Zuleta
- Accommodation: Hacienda Zuleta
- Meals: B, D

### Galapagos to the Andes

Morning transfer back to the Baltra airport after breakfast to begin the journey from Tropical Islands to the Andean Mountains. An initial 90 minute flight will make a short stopover in Guayaquil before continuing for 30 minutes to Quito. From Quito, the

drive will be approximately 1hr45min to get to Hacienda Zuleta, passing through Ecuador's principal rose-growing area and across the Equatorial line.

### Welcome to Hacienda Zuleta

Arrival time at Zuleta should be in time for dinner. Hacienda Zuleta is a true gem of Ecuadorian history and culture. Originally built in 1691, the Hacienda has since been owned and operated by the Plaza-Lasso Family from 1898 to the present day, a family with a legacy involving two of Ecuador's most famous Presidents. Still a family home of the family, but a working dairy farm that is the largest employer in the area and produces some of Ecuador's finest cheeses. After dinner in their historic dining room, guests can retire to the Presidential library, for no doubt more cheese and wine, and hear fascinating and incredible stories about the history of Zuleta from the gregarious and hilarious GM, Fernando Polanco-Plaza.

## Day 2: Hacienda Zuleta



### DAILY SUMMARY

- Tour: Explore Hacienda Zuleta
- Accommodation: Hacienda Zuleta
- Meals: B, L, D

### Explore Hacienda Zuleta

If you are an early morning person you might want to enjoy a short walk around the property prior to breakfast. There is profuse variety of bird life that is attracted to our gardens, and adjacent to the main courtyard, the milking barn is usually full of activity right at daybreak as some of the more than 300

Holstein dairy cows we have are being milked by the Hacienda staff.

After an exquisite farm fresh breakfast of eggs, pancakes, muesli, fruit and homemade bread we suggest a guided visit to the cheese factory in order to learn more about Zuleta's semi-aged handmade cheeses, how the process has changed throughout history and where our cheeses are sold both domestically and internationally.

As mornings are usually sunny throughout the whole year, it is best to take advantage of this and use the morning hike, bike or horseback ride to experience our Condor reserve or the "Condor Huasi Project". In the mornings, you are more likely to see wild Condors soaring as the sunlight creates thermal updrafts. The Condor project is located a short 3 miles from the guesthouse, directly in a native forest valley, and accessible via vehicle, horseback or on foot. You will learn about the foundation's efforts, see rescued condors in our aviary, and visit the nearby trout farm.

The tour back takes you through pastureland where you can discover ancient monuments of the Caranqui culture; seeing both small burial mounds dating back to 700 A.D., and giant ceremonial truncated pyramids from the 13th century. At lunch time you can enjoy freshly caught trout, and then have coffee in the patio while admiring the giant hummingbirds that come frequently to feed.

In the afternoon, opt for a visit to the Zuleta Embroidery project and workshop. Here you will meet with members of the Zuleta community, for which hand embroidery has been an important part of artistic and cultural expression for centuries. The project aims to keep this art form alive and well in the community through educational components and in providing the local people with a sustainable form

of income through their own embroidery shop.

Coming out of the shop our horse drawn carriage is already waiting for you and will take you down the eucalyptus alley to visit the foundation run library. This is where local kids spend their afternoons to get help with homework, read and play. You can also decide to do a more challenging hike up to Condor viewpoint, which provides a great panoramic view over the Zuleta valley. Spotting of the Andean Spectacled Bear are common in this area. You can end the day with a nice hot bath prior to dinner.

## Day 3: Hacienda Zuleta



### DAILY SUMMARY

- Tour: Zuleta Community Visit & Explore the Property
- Accommodation: Hacienda Zuleta
- Meals: B, L, D

### Zuleta Community Visit & Explore the Property

After breakfast, explore the organic garden, where you can learn about permaculture and see where the ingredients for their menu originate. You can

explore the farm operation, feed calf, count sheep, talk to the vaqueros (local cowboys) or watch our horsemen training young fillies before going on another horseback or bicycle ride.

We recommend on this day exploring the Zuleta community, and if weather conditions allow, we offer a lift up the mountain and a downhill bike ride.

After the bike ride, you are welcome to have lunch at the hacienda's antique mill house, with stunning views of a waterfall a few steps away. If time allows, you can explore the Paramo garden, an interpretative site where you learn more about the rare native plants that grow above the tree line.

Dinner is waiting for you and with some luck you will dine with of the family members who have endless stories of Zuleta's renowned history, including visits of celebrities and dignitaries.

## Day 4: Departure

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After breakfast, say goodbye to all of the amazing people and new friends at Hacienda Zuleta and make the 1hr 45min drive back to the Quito airport for your international return flight. If you flight out early the next day, we recommend staying at the Wyndham Quito Airport Hotel.

### DAILY SUMMARY

- Transfer: Transfer to Quito Airport
- Meals: B

# Accommodation

## Hacienda Zuleta

Imbabura, Ecuador

Cradled in an Andean valley at 9,600' above sea level and only two hours north of Quito, historic Hacienda Zuleta offers guests a raw and authentic experience steeped in four centuries of Ecuadorian history and tradition. The working farm sprawls over 4,000 acres and has been owned and operated by the family of Mr. Galo Plaza Lasso, former president of Ecuador, for over 100 years.

Guests are warmly welcomed in the historic home, which features antique gardens, family heirlooms, hand-embroidered linens, and cozy fireplaces in each of the 20 guest rooms. A condor and spectacled bear conservation project, pre-Incan burial mounds, indigenous handicraft cooperatives, and a working farm are all tied into Zuleta's sustainable community tourism initiatives, which can be explored by guests on foot, horseback, bike, and vehicle.

