

Mindo Cloud Forest Full Day



Immerse yourself in a thick area of plants, trees and wild flowers into the Cloud Forest which is located on the edge of the Western Andes. Mindo is 61 miles away from the Quito city. Cloud Forest Forest is the transition zone between the highlands and the coast. The altitude ranges from 6,000 and 4,400 feet above sea level. Enjoy a sub-tropical weather and walking through the eco-route to observe the most biodiverse and endangered habitats. Mindo was awarded as a Biosphere Reserve in 2018 by the UNESCO.

Mindo offers a variety of cultural and adventure activities such as; **hummingbird watching**, photograph several species of hummingbirds in a few minutes, this is thanks to the fact that you can visit a private reserve who, with the help of feeders, will attract the different species of hummingbirds that live into the forest. **Ziplining**, enjoy hanging in a harness to cross from one hill to another and feel the hot and humid air of the forest that comes from the Pacific Ocean. **Tarabita or cable car**, transport yourself in a basket from the arrival station to another mountain and then start a walk in the middle of the cloud forest and learn more about its flora and fauna. Try delicious Ecuadorian food like; grilled trout, chicken or meat stew or if you prefer we can suggest a vegetarian or vegan restaurant in the area. **Mindo Butterfly farm**, enjoy observing Mindo's native butterflies. Walk through a world of colors and wildlife.

Itinerary

You will be picked up from our Guide from the hotel. Early departure from the city of Quito to go to the northwest of the city. Leaving the city behind, the first thing we will observe is the town of Calacali, this town is characterized by having been a pre-Hispanic area of great astronomical, commercial and agricultural importance. Later, we will see how the forest and its vegetation change, becoming denser and greener. The journey takes about 2-hour one way.

Birdwatching and relax in the Hummingbird Paradise:

Our first stop will be, in a private reserve, which has an extension of 247 acres. On this reserve, we will only focus on visiting the garden that is adjacent to the house that also works as a hostel. Depending on the weather season in which we will visit the hummingbird sanctuary, a variety of hummingbirds can be seen such as the White-Neckd Jacobin, Rufous Colored, Purple-throated Woodstar, Fawn-Breasted Brilliant, Booted Racket-tail among others. Also, the reserve is full of tanagers, like the golden and silver one. Occasionally, the garden is visited by Oropendolas, woodpeckers, toucans or birds that are distributed over 5,000 feet.

Gliding in the Cable car and hiking unto waterfall sanctuary:

Enjoy the Tarabita from Mindo or cable car, this metal basket powered by a vehicle engine will take you on a journey in the air until you reach the next station. From here, you can take a walk through the vegetation and native trees from this forest. There are several trails to walk, you can choose one of the trails to start the descent and at the end of these, we can see waterfalls of natural origin, where you can take a refreshing swim, or take several selfies with them or simply meditate or admire the natural beauty of the waterfalls.

Visit the Mariposario (butterfly farm):

Mindo is the habitat of many native butterflies. Discover the transformation process or metamorphosis of these particular insects. A local interpreter is going to tell you when the caterpillar finishes growing, it forms a pupa, also called a chrysalis. Once inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar will undergo a transformation called metamorphosis, and a beautiful butterfly will emerge. Butterflies leave their eggs on the underside of the leaves of plants they like to eat. There are more than 1200 butterflies in Mindo. Unfortunately, many of them are in danger of extinction. This garden is a perfect place to take pictures and to do slow-motion videos.

Chocolate Tour:

The local guide will explain what type of cocoa is used to make the famous chocolate bars. The fermentation and refining of the chocolate is extremely important. The steps to be followed are careful to obtain a high quality chocolate bar. There will be a tasting of the different fruit flavored chocolate fusions. Part of this experience is to taste the honey and cocoa barbecue sauce.

Choose your favorite activities in Mindo and our friendly and knowledge Guide with take you to do entertaining and fun activities.

Other activities that can be done in Mindo are: Tubing or Ziplining. These activities could be shift with those that are in the original itinerary and so you can customize your tour.

The tour includes:

- ✓ A certified Guide/Driver (English/Spanish-speaking)
- ✓ Transportation, pick up/drop off from Quito
- ✓ Activities according to the program

The tour does not include:

- Entrance fees or admissions.
- Meals
- Tips, optional or not mentioned services

What to bring?

Rain jacket, hiking shoes, a cap, extra clothes in case you can get wet, optional swimming suit, sun protector, insect repellent and cash for your entrance fees and personal expenses.