

## Visiting Ecuador



"I was lucky enough to travel to Ecuador with my dad," said Kylie French. "It was a phenomenal experience and the perfect place to practice and improve my Spanish and learn more about this beautiful country. We spent time in Quito, Ecuador's capital, a stunning city filled with art, beautiful churches, friendly people, extraordinary statues, and architecture. The food was delicious. We visited a chocolate shop and sampled different types of chocolate ranging from 100% cacao to lemon grass chocolate. One of my favorite excursions was to the equator, where gravity is all over the place, and you can easily balance an egg on a tiny nail."



"We also hiked around Cotopaxi, a volcano near Quito with gorgeous views. There are many Condors around Cotopaxi, and I was lucky enough to see one."

"While in Baños, we zip lined and visited the swing on top of the world, which lived up to its name. When I was on it, I felt on top of the world."



"We also stayed in Tena, which was my favorite location in Ecuador. We went to a Balsa wood shop, and I purchased a wooden hummingbird after watching them hand-carve and paint the items sold in their shop. We visited a school and played and danced with the students. We brought and distributed school supplies and volunteered to paint the school. It was a rewarding experience. I was happy we could give back to this community that had been so welcoming and kind."

"We went tubing in the Napo River, which was so much fun! We also went white water rafting. I had never been before, and it was an incredible team-building experience as we had to work together to be successful. We used a mix of Spanish and English when communicating. Next, we hiked in the Amazon Rainforest and visited an animal rehabilitation center. We observed many birds, monkeys, turtles, and a toucan, in addition to the incredible work these people do to rehabilitate injured animals to be released back into the wild."



"We went to a music shop with handmade instruments of all shapes and sizes. I watched the woman running the shop make a pan flute and then demonstrate the gorgeous music that could come from the little flute. I purchased a small pan flute, which I brought to school



for the Multicultural Festival presentation.”

“This trip was extraordinary. I learned so much about Ecuador. I bonded with the friends I traveled there with and made new friends along the way. I improved my Spanish and gained confidence in conversing in the language. I would gladly go back for another adventure. I want to inspire my peers to be open to new experiences and travel if they have the opportunity.”

“The final poster and presentation at the Multicultural Festival was a mix of hard work and research, personal experiences, and what I learned during my extraordinary trip to Ecuador.”