



INKALEDEN

The Incas made an impressive system of roads, which connected Quito, in the northern part of their empire, with Talca (south of Santiago, Chile). In the southern part of Ecuador's Central Valley it is possible to follow one of these old Inca trails, leading to the Inca ruins of Ingapirca.



Day 1. We leave at 9:00 a.m. from Riobamba by car and drive towards the south until we reach the small village of Achupallas at 3300 m. altitude. Here we put our equipment on donkeys and then start hiking on the páramo grasslands. After about 4 - 5 hours of hiking we make our camp for the first night at about 3850 m. altitude.

Day 2. Today's hike starts with a climb from 3850 m. up to 4400m. After 2-3 hours we reach the highest point of this trek, called *Cuchilla de Tres Cruces*. From here we have a beautiful view of *Sansahuín*, one of the many lakes in this area. Now we go down again and continue hiking for about 3 more hours, until we arrive at the Paredones ruins, that used to be a resting-place for Incan couriers. From here we continue southwest on the Inca Road until we reach the village of San José, where we pitch our tents.



Day 3. We continue descending to the south for about 3 – 4 hours. Soon we can see the Inca ruins of Ingapirca. Here you will visit the ruins and the museum, to learn about the culture of the Inca and of the Cañari. In the afternoon we return by car to Riobamba. Arrival at Riobamba at about 17:00 p.m.

DIFFICULTY: moderately difficult; a basic acclimatization is recommended

DEPARTURE: any day with minimal 2 person

INCLUDING:

- trekking guide
- private transfers from / to Riobamba
- accommodation in tents for 2 persons
- meals (3 x box lunch, 2 x dinner, 2 x breakfast, 1 meal in restaurant) and coffee, tea, purified drinking water
- all camping and trekking equipment (including 4-season tents, thermarest sleeping pads, warm sleeping bags with fleece sheet, rubber boots, gloves, balaclava, over pants, thermos bottle)
- donkeys for the equipment

NOT INCLUDING:

- entrance fee Ingapirca Ruins (USD 6 per person)
- travel insurance
- tips

