



## VULKANLEDEN CARIHUAIRAZO-CHIMBORAZO

**This 5-day trek at the southern end of Ecuador's Volcano Avenue is an excellent opportunity to enjoy the spectacular landscapes of the Andes. With clear weather, this route provides magnificent views of the most impressive snowcapped volcanoes. You will also meet vicuñas and llamas, learn about the paramo vegetation, and finish the trek at the Whymper refuge on Mt. Chimborazo.**



**Day 1.** Departure at 9.00 a.m. from Riobamba by car. We drive north for about 45 minutes to the village of Tisaleo, located northeast from Mt. Carihuairazo at

3300 m. altitude. Here we will meet our muleteer and pack animals, and start the trek. The first part of the trip takes us along the San Antonio paramo highlands and the beautiful Salasaca Valley. After about 5 hours hiking we will reach the first campsite, at 3800 m. altitude.

**Day 2.** After breakfast we will hike up to a pass at 4270 m. altitude. If the weather cooperates, we will have fantastic views of Cotopaxi, Tungurahua, Altar and Carihuairazo. Now we will hike down to Paramos of Hatillo, at 3600 m. In this area we can see the *Polylepis* trees, also called "paper tree". We continue the trek in the Carbonería Valley until we will reach the second campsite, right at the foot of Mt. Carihuairazo, at 3800 m. altitude. From the camp we will have excellent views of Carihuairazo's Mocha peak.



**Day 3.** Today we will trek around the southflank of Carihuairazo. First we will hike up to a high pass at 4500 m. and then we will go down to Mechahuasca, at 4200 m. altitude. Here you will have good chances to observe vicuñas and llamas. Also, you will see typical paramo plants like tussock grass, *chuquiragua*, and wild lupin (chocho de monte), and pass the Laguna Cocha Negra. After about 5 hours hiking we will reach the indigenous community of Mechahuasca, where we will spend the night in a basic refuge.

**Day 4.** From Mechahuasca we will trek along the northwest flank of Chimborazo, part of El Arenal. This is a very arid, desert-like area, with tiny paramo flowers and herds of vicuñas. The Arenal is one of the best places to enjoy the views of the huge glaciers of Chimborazo. After about 5 hours hiking we will reach Los Pogyos where we will make the last camp, at about 4000 m. altitude.

**Day 5.** On the last day of this trek we will hike from Los Pogyos to the Whymper refuge at 5000 m. altitude, following the so-called Murallas Rojas (Red Walls) route. From the Whymper refuge we will hike down to the Carrel refuge at 4800 m. and then return by car to Riobamba. Arrive at Riobamba about 14.00 p.m.

**DIFFICULTY:** moderate; a basic acclimatization is recommended

**DEPARTURE:** any day with minimal 2 persons

**INCLUDING:**

- trekking guide
- private transfers from / to Riobamba
- accommodation in tents (3 nights) and refuge (1 night)
- meals (5 box lunch, 4 dinner, 4 breakfast) 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)
- pack horses for the equipment

**NOT INCLUDING:**

- entrance fee Chimborazo Reserve (if applicable)
- travel insurance
- tips