

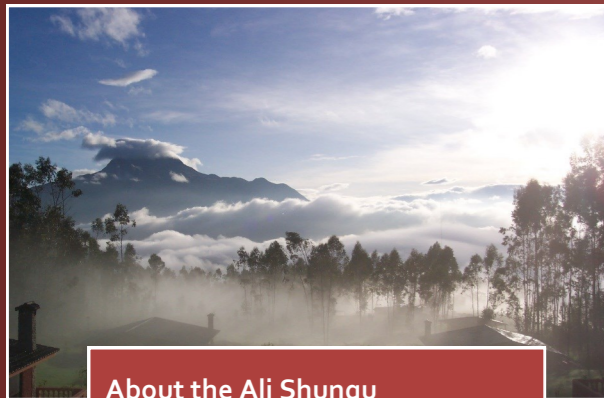
In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

TABLE OF CONTENTS

“ALI SHUNGU” it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people



About the Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge



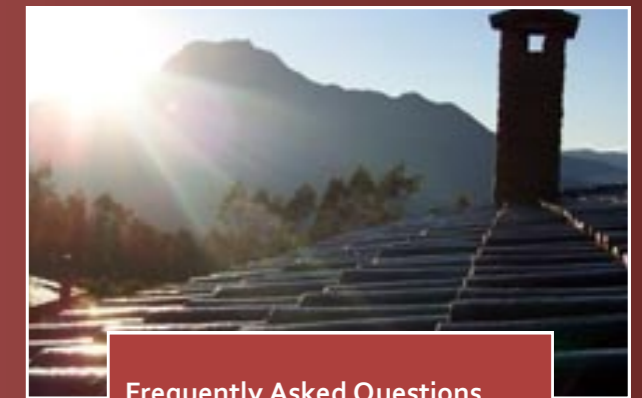
Your Vacation Rental



Gourmet Restaurant



Spectacular Views



Frequently Asked Questions



About Otavalo



Things to Do – Places to See



Vacation Rental Rates



Photo Gallery



Ecuador Travel Tips

In Otavalo, Ecuador

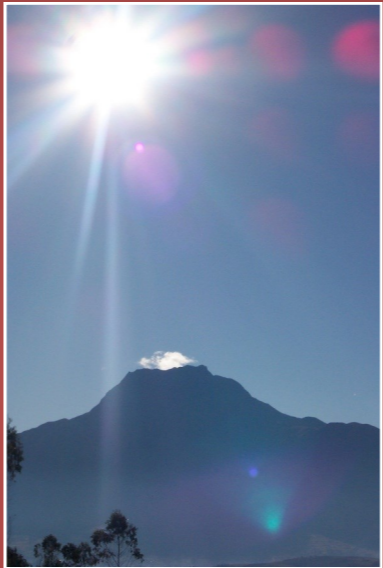
The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

“ALI SHUNGU” it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people

ABOUT THE ALI SHUNGU MOUNTAINTOP ECO LODGE

- ◆ Warm, spacious, luxurious Guesthouses
- ◆ Gourmet Vegetarian Restaurant
- ◆ Only 3 miles to the Otavalo markets
- ◆ High Speed WiFi Internet access for guests included
- ◆ Breathtaking views east, west, north, south
- ◆ Horseback Riding, Paths for Idyllic Walks, Downhill Bicycling, Hikes, Cultural Tours
- ◆ Safe and Tranquil Agricultural Indigenous Community
- ◆ 40 acres of Private Natural Reserve for Lodge Guests
- ◆ 3 miles from 2500 acres of Protected Cloud Forest
- ◆ 30 minutes from volcanic lakes Mojanda & Cuicocha
- ◆ 24 hour Security
- ◆ Efficient Wood Stoves and Dry Firewood
- ◆ Free Travel Information



We found magic here on the Mountaintop. We are Frank and Margaret, two expats from the US that decided to live and work in Ecuador over 23 years ago. We built and ran Hotel Ali Shungu in the city of Otavalo for almost 20 years. But as the growth accelerated in Otavalo, as constant noise and traffic jams began to dominate the ambient, we started looking for a tranquil place outside of the city.

What we found was a remote 40 acre mountaintop surrounded by volcanoes, in a safe and peaceful agricultural indigenous community.....only 3 miles from Otavalo!

Ali Shungu is also a working farm. We produce most of our own organic vegetables for at least 10 months of the year. Our organic tomatoes supply the base our world famous organic tomato soup with fresh basil and the authentic Italian Tomato Sauce used in several of our dishes. We are also cultivating Black Raspberries which we are using to produce a pleasant natural wine.

Perhaps most importantly, Ali Shungu has worked with the local Indigenous communities for the last 10 years. Through the Ali Shungu Foundation support has been provided in the form of high school scholarships, water system improvements, health programs, school supplies and the construction of a community center.

We prize our strong partnership with the community! Providing jobs and support for village projects fits in with our personal philosophies and ideas about what good business means!

[NEXT PAGE](#)

In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

YOUR VACATION RENTAL

"ALI SHUNGU" it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people

Four large Guesthouses grace the Yambiro mountaintop overlooking the Otavalo Valley. Space is a luxury! The four guesthouses at the Ali Shungu Mountaintop Ec lodge are each spacious enough for an entire family and beautifully decorated with local crafts! Each guesthouse has terra cotta floors, huge windows with great views, a large living room area, lots of sofas and chairs, an efficient woodstove, a complete kitchenette, stereo, CDs, books and magazines, board games and a large bathroom with plenty of towels and hot water. Each guesthouse has a patio with patio furniture and a private garden area. Guesthouses #1 and #4 have two private, full bedrooms. Guesthouses #2 and #3 have one full bedroom.

All are designed for beauty, warmth and your comfort!

- ◆ Warm, spacious, luxurious non-smoking Guesthouses
- ◆ One or Two Bedrooms
- ◆ Up to four persons comfortably in each Guesthouse!
- ◆ Huge Picture Windows
- ◆ Beautifully decorated with local art and treasures
- ◆ Courtesy Supplies of Organic Coffee, Herb Teas, Bottled Spring Water are Included
- ◆ Kitchen with Microwave, Toaster, Refrigerator, Oven, Stainless Steel Cookware and Kitchenware
- ◆ Only 3 miles to the Otavalo markets
- ◆ High Speed WiFi Internet access included
- ◆ Breathtaking views east, west, north, south
- ◆ 40 acres of Private Natural Reserve for Lodge Guests
- ◆ 3 miles from 2500 acres of Protected Cloud Forest
- ◆ 24 hour Security
- ◆ 32" flat screen Television with DVD player and an excellent selection of DVDs
- ◆ Efficient Wood Stoves and Dry Firewood (included)
- ◆ Outdoor Charcoal BBQ Grill



[NEXT PAGE](#)



In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

GOURMET RESTAURANT

"ALI SHUNGU" it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people

Prepare your meals in your Guesthouse kitchen or let our chef prepare your meals at fair prices! The Legendary Ali Shungu Restaurant has been serving travelers for over 20 years! Gourmet Home Cooking in our beautiful Restaurant overlooking the Otavalo Valley! Organic vegetarian (from our own greenhouses and organic gardens!) or specialty meat dishes and local dishes, all safe, delicious, and naturally home made! Full course breakfast and four course dinners are included with the price (alcoholic beverages and colas are not included). Are you Vegan or do you have a special diet? We have plenty of experience and a qualified staff! Our cook has been with us for 20 years so she knows exactly how all must be prepared!

WE OFFER A GREAT SELECTION OF CHILEAN WINES

If you just don't feel like cooking, let us prepare your meals!

These are a just a few of our Specialties!

BREAKFAST

DINNER

- ◆ Organic Coffee, fresh Herb Teas, Hot Chocolate
- ◆ Home Made Apple Raisin Muffins
- ◆ Organic Wild Blueberry Muffins
- ◆ Real Yogurt with Granola and Honey
- ◆ Exotic Fresh Fruit Salads
- ◆ Scrambled Eggs with Herbs
- ◆ Cheese and Tomato Omelets
- ◆ French Toast
- ◆ Oatmeal w/Fresh Fruit and Sweet Cream

- ◆ Soup of the Day
- ◆ Organic Tomato Soup with fresh Basil
- ◆ Cream of Broccoli with fresh Mushrooms
- ◆ Fresh Garden Salad
- ◆ Palm Hearts and Vinagrette
- ◆ Cucumber Salad with Yogurt and fresh Dill
- ◆ Three Cheese Vegetarian Lasagna w/Spinich
- ◆ Stuffed Vegetarian Green Peppers w/Veggies
- ◆ Oriental Stir Fry with Quinoa
- ◆ Baked Chicken in Cream Sauce w/fresh tarragon
- ◆ Smoked Ham Chops w/fresh vegetables
- ◆ Baked Apples with fresh sweet cream
- ◆ Stewed Strawberries with fresh sweet cream
- ◆ Organic Coffee, Herb Teas, Hot Chocolate
- ◆ Accompanied by Chilean Wines or Cold Beer

The Legendary Ali Shungu Restaurant has been lovingly preparing meals for travelers to Otavalo for over 20 years!



[NEXT PAGE](#)



In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

SPECTACULAR VIEWS

“ALI SHUNGU” it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people



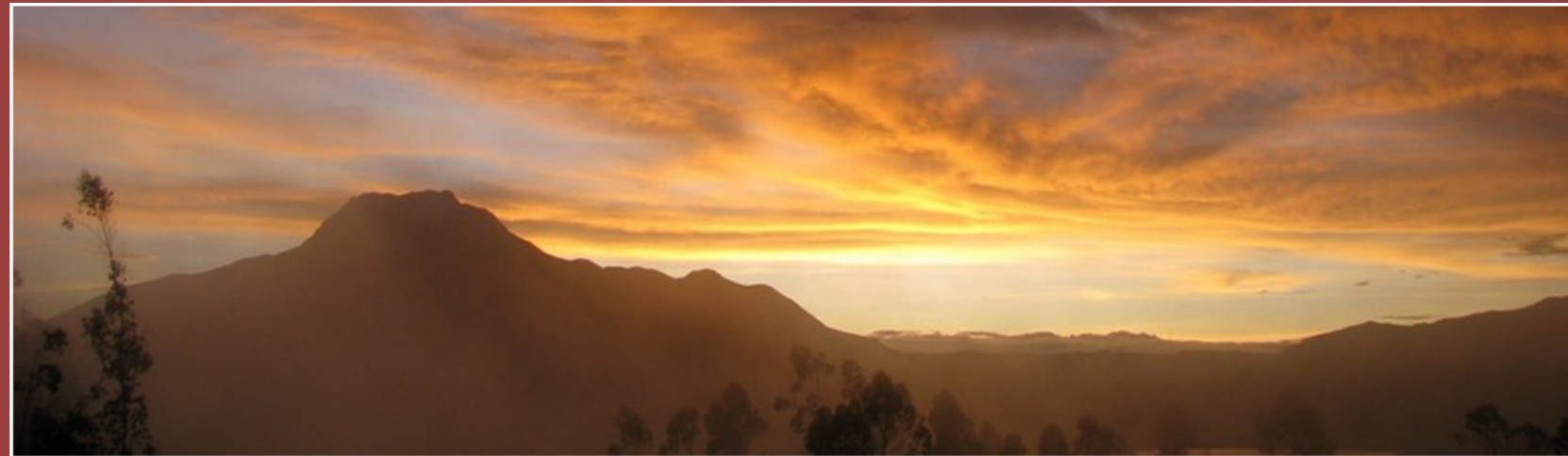
THE RINCONADA VALLEY



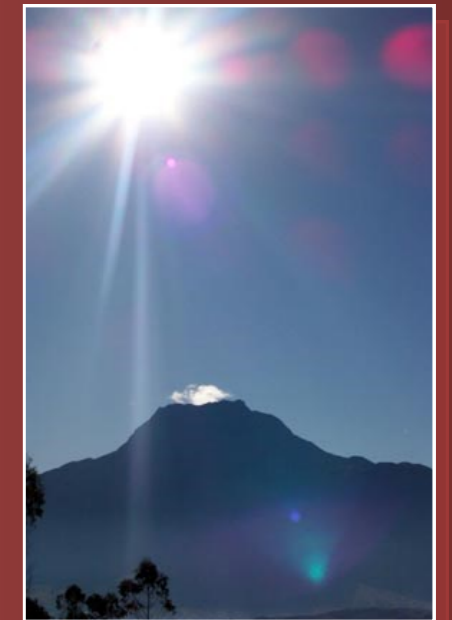
LAGO SAN PABLO



FUYA FUYA VOLCANO



IMBABURA VOLCANO, LAGO SAN PABLO AND THE OTAVALO VALLEY



IMBABURA



CAYAMBE



CALPAQUI—THE CORRIDOR OF THE SUN



COTACACHI VOLCANO



YOU ARE HERE
[NEXT PAGE](#)

In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

“ALI SHUNGU” it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



How big are the Guesthouses and how many people can stay?

Each guesthouse has 1500 sq. ft. of solid brick construction. Up to four persons can enjoy the space and privacy that each Guesthouse offers.

How can we pay?

We ask for a full prepayment using Paypal! We also ask for a security deposit of \$200. which will be returned when you check out.

How far are we from Otavalo?

Though Ali Shungu is remote, we are exactly 3 miles from Otavalo. The beautiful 45 minute walk to Otavalo follows a quiet cobblestone road and is easy.....it is all downhill.

How can we get to and from Otavalo?

The Ali Shungu SUV often drives down to Otavalo each morning between 8:00-9:00 am. Guests are welcomed to drive down with us at these times! Local buses pass by three times a day to and from Yambiro, not very convenient. Otherwise, a taxi costs only \$5.00 each way and we can easily have a taxi here at the Lodge within 10-15 minutes. The entrance road to the Lodge is a bit rough but most cars and trucks are able to arrive with no problems!

What do we do for food?

Your Ali Shungu Mountaintop Ecolodge Guesthouse has a complete kitchen where you can prepare meals. Guests are welcome to drive down with us to shop at the market and the supermarket. We also offer an excellent selection of gourmet vegetarian dishes and many choices of quality meats in our restaurant! If you just don't feel like cooking tonight, our chef will prepare entire meals or snacks.

What kind of clothing do we need?

Think in terms of layers when traveling anywhere in the Sierra of Ecuador. For the Lodge, here on top of our mountain, bring a sweater just in case it gets chilly and good walking shoes or boots.

Do the Guesthouses have a washer and dryer?

No, we prefer not to put that extra load on our septic system! There is an excellent, efficient and inexpensive same day service in Otavalo which we can arrange for guests.

Will we be cold?

The guesthouses are well insulated and retain the heat provided by the sun very well. Our watchman will light the cast iron wood stove if a mountain chill moves in. Firewood is included in the price. The wood stoves are efficient and smoke free and will keep the temperature inside crispy!

Will our kids be bored?

We have dogs, cats, llamas, sheep and horses, all glad to receive attention. There are plenty of trails and we have board games in each guesthouse. There are plenty of kids in the village that would love to play with a "gringito/a"!

I need access to the internet. What will I do?

Connect your laptop or ipad to our Mountaintop Lodge high speed wi-fi connection. We have a laptop in the reception of the Lodge so guests will not feel compelled to go into town only for checking e-mail.

How will I find my way to the Lodge from Otavalo?

*Visits to the Lodge are for guests only and **only by prearranged reservation**. Truly, though very close to Otavalo, the Lodge is a bit out of the way. We'll send you a map or a taxi to bring you up!*

Can you help us make plans to see the area?

Absolutely! Each guest receives a map and a list of things to do in the area. If you do not have a vehicle we can send you out for a taxi tour for \$10. - \$12. an hour. One can cover a lot of territory in 3 or 4 hours. There are also some excellent walks. We'll be glad to send you out in the right direction.

[NEXT PAGE](#)

In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

PRICES AND WHAT THIS INCLUDES

“ALI SHUNGU” it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people

1 week \$495.00

2 weeks \$950.00 (\$450.00 each week)

3 weeks \$1275.00 (\$425.00 each week)

Each month \$1600.00 (\$400.00 each week)

We have a one week minimum. There may be up to four people in a Guesthouse. Total prepayment through Paypal is required to guarantee your reservation. An additional \$200. security and damage deposit will be returned upon check out.

- ◆ Accommodation in your Guesthouse
- ◆ All Taxes and Service charges
- ◆ Courtesy Coffee, teas and basics for the kitchen and refrigerator
- ◆ Electricity and bottled gas
- ◆ Firewood for the cast iron wood stove
- ◆ Daily Basic Housekeeping 6 days a week
- ◆ Daily change of Towels
- ◆ Bedding changed each 4 days
- ◆ Access to WiFi Internet connection
- ◆ Access to our organic gardens
- ◆ Unlimited Bottled Spring Water
- ◆ Transportation to Otavalo
- ◆ Drivers available
- ◆ 24 hour Security
- ◆ Safe Parking
- ◆ Outdoor Charcoal BBQ Grill
- ◆ Free Travel Information



[NEXT PAGE](#)

In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

ABOUT OTAVALO

“ALI SHUNGU” it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people

ELECTRICITY - 110 volts, same as the US.

ELEVATION - 2560 meters, 8434 feet

WEATHER - Consistently spring-like, chilly at night

SAFETY - Violent crime is uncommon, pickpockets arrive for Saturday market so take basic precautions and beware.

POLICE - Call 2920911.

CURRENCY - \$US Dollars! Don't bring torn bills!

ATMs - Banco Austro, Plaza de Ponchos, Banco de Pichincha, Calle Bolivar, Banco de Pacifico, Calle Bolivar.

POST OFFICE - On the corner of the Poncho Plaza, 2nd floor.

PUBLIC REST ROOMS - On diagonal corners of the Plaza of Ponchos.

INTERNET CAFÉS - On every corner, \$.80 / hour.

INTERNATIONAL PHONE COMMUNICATION Claro Phone Centers can be found everywhere providing cheap international phone calls.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION - Efficient, easily accessible and inexpensive by bus, taxi or van. \$1.00 takes you anywhere within Otavalo.

FILM, CAMERAS AND ACCESSORIES - digital photos to CDs, flash, SD cards, Batteries, etc. A block below the city park.

EXPORT OFFICES - Many offices are located near the Poncho Plaza, export made easy! Check with them for legalities and processes.

ENTERTAINMENT - Live Music and Peñas, open air markets, museums, cafés, shopping, art galleries.

TRANSPORTATION TO and FROM QUITO - Two Hours, by bus (\$2.50) or taxi (\$60.-\$65.).



No visit to Ecuador is complete without at least a few days spent in the Otavalo area. Otavalo, two hours north of Quito on the Panamerican highway, is a small city of about 50,000 inhabitants and home to the famous Otavalo Indians. It lies at 2,530 meters in a spring-like valley, situated between the Imbabura volcano (4,609 meters) and the Cotacachi volcano (4,939 meters). The people of Otavalo possess an excellent work ethic and it shows! There is a handicraft market everyday. The Saturday market is the largest and most famous market in Ecuador and there you'll find virtually every handicraft being produced in the country. However, many travelers prefer the somewhat quieter market on Wednesday or the daily market. In the many surrounding Indian villages, including Peguche, Illuman and Agato, one may visit the workshops of local weavers working on backstrap and Spanish treadle looms, as well as other artisans at work. One may tour the many lakes in the province: San Pablo Lake, the largest, which is surrounded by many Indian communities, and offers lovely boat cruises, Cuicocha Lake, a half-hour from Otavalo, with its deep blue waters, the Mojanda Lakes, an impressive and unspoiled natural setting where condors have been seen and the famous Yaguarcocha Lake, called the "lake of blood" because of the famous Inca battles fought there, located near the colonial city of Ibarra. You may also shop for leather crafts in the town of Cotacachi, for woodcarvings in San Antonio de Ibarra or visit some of the many beautiful haciendas in the area. One may rent mountain bikes or horses or safely hike to the forest and waterfalls outside of town. Not to mention the excellent climbing! It is very economical to rent a taxi by the day or by the hour and explore the Andean mountain roads. Or simply relax, catch up on your birdwatching and enjoy the fresh mountain air. In the evening visit one of the many places in town that offer live Andean folk music. As an independent traveler you are sure to enjoy at least a few days in the Otavalo area!



NEXT PAGE

In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

THINGS TO DO- PLACES TO SEE

“ALI SHUNGU” it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people



All guests received a list of things to do and a good map. Taxi Tours start at \$10. an hour and we are always here to help you set up an itinerary at no extra charge!

PLAZA DE PONCHOS-SHOPPING — The center of Otavalo and only a few miles from the Lodge. **Absolutely the best shopping in the country!** There is a handicraft market each day but Saturday is the big day. Artisans from all regions of the country offer their crafts. Beware of the slick pickpockets!

ANIMAL & LIVESTOCK MARKET — Saturday only. Located on the panamerican highway on the west side of town. Get there early as the best deals happen between 6:00 and 8:00am

FOOD AND PRODUCE MARKET — At the top of Calle Jaramillo. Plenty of local color every day, but especially on Saturday. The old timers come in from the hills for their weekly chores. A must see

PEGUCHE WATERFALLS — About a one hour walk from the center of Otavalo. 20 Acres of well manicured paths through a century old forest and lovely waterfalls

JOSÉ COTACACHI — Master tapestry weaver and designer. See his two galleries in the main square of Peguche just to the right of the church. Visitors are always welcome!

PARQUE CONDOR & EL LECHERO — A “must see” while you are in Otavalo, Beautiful panoramic views of Otavalo and Lago San Pablo. Bird sanctuary and an ancient sacred site now home of the “wailing tree”. Walk down to the villages on the lake. Take a bus back to Otavalo.



MIGUEL ANDRANGO — Ecuador’s most famous weaver. His workshop and store are just outside of Agato. Go see his back-strap loom demonstrations.

SAMY-ANDEAN FOLKLORE MUSIC WORKSHOP — One of Otavalo’s top five folklore groups invites you to visit their home and instrument workshop. They may even jam for you.

MY GRANDFATHER’S HOUSE — Tio Mario Tonequimbo is an Andean naturalist. He cures many illnesses with plants and herbs. Visit his grandfather’s house in Peguche.

CUICOCHA LAKE — The laguna of Cuicocha is a 20 minute drive from Cotacachi. A spectacular setting with trails for short or extended hikes. Take your plastic poncho!

THE LAKES OF MOJANDA —18 kms. from Otavalo. There is no public transport. Well above the tree line and unmarred by even a Coca Cola sign. Great trout fishing!

EL OBRAJE MUSEUM — Taita Luis Maldonado and his wife Luz-Maria have been at the very core of the weaving community for over 55 years. They are dedicated to preserving the Otavalo culture

EL MOLINO — Located a few locks south of the main square, this mill house has served the indigenous community for a couple hundred years. Powered by water, it is a “must see”.

And Much More.....

[NEXT PAGE](#)

In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

PHOTO GALLERY

"ALI SHUNGU" it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people



[NEXT PAGE](#)



In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

ECUADOR TRAVEL TIPS

“ALI SHUNGU” it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people



ABOUT ECUADOR

Ecuador is one of the smallest and one of the more colorful of the Andean countries, about the size of Colorado or Great Britain, with many distinct tribes of indigenous peoples. Pure Indigenous peoples make up about 40 percent of Ecuador, with perhaps another 40% being "mestizo" (people having a mix of indigenous blood). The language spoken is Spanish, with some English spoken in the bigger cities. In the Andes (throughout Ecuador, Peru & Bolivia), the Indigenous peoples also speak Quichua, which varies slightly from community to community and country to country. In the jungle, indigenous peoples also have their own language. In general, Ecuadorians are kind and friendly people. Greetings are important to Ecuadorians, especially in the Andean highlands. A simple hello, from a "gringo," may bring a bevy of smiles and laughs and a willingness to help you with anything. It's always good manners to shake hands. As a tourist, you can receive a visa for up to 3 months a year in Ecuador. Ecuador is a wonderful destination for travelers who are interested in the outdoors and nature-related activities, as well as Colonial Architecture (there are no finer examples of Spanish colonial architecture, sculpture and paintings than those produced in Ecuador in the 17th and 18th centuries), cathedrals, museums, rainforests, isolated beaches, Inca treasures, birding, the Andes, volcanoes, handicrafts and food markets, colorful festivals and parades, traditional folk music, and colorful Indigenous peoples.

WEATHER

There are four different ecosystems: the "Costa" (rugged coastal shoreline), the "Oriente" (Amazon region-tropical rainforest), and the "Sierra" (Andes Mountains and highland areas, which make up the majority of Ecuador), and the Galapagos Islands (which lie 600 miles off of the coast of Ecuador). Travel in Ecuador is relatively easy, because the distance between remote sites and cities is far less than in most places. When coming to the Andes Mountains in Ecuador, even though you will be on the equator, the weather will be chilly. Temperatures are determined more by altitude (the higher you go, the colder it is) than by the calendar. Temperatures also vary greatly according to whether it's raining or sunny and the temperature can rise 10 degrees just because the sun is out. Unfortunately, it has been difficult to predict weather patterns in Ecuador the last few years, it has been quite unpredictable. September to December and March to June are the months of the Equinox, the rainy seasons. June to September and December to March are the Solstice months, sunny and warm. The Amazon and coastal areas are always warmer and more humid. Quito, at 9,300 feet, remains constant year round with lows in the mid 40s and highs around 68-72 degrees centigrade. Mornings and evenings are cool. The Ecuadorian mainland time is equivalent to Eastern Standard Time in North America. Because of Ecuador's location on the equator, days and nights are of equal length (12 hours) year round and there is no daylight-saving time.

ELECTRICITY

Ecuador uses 110 volts, 60 cycles, AC, the same as in North America, but not compatible with Britain and Australia. Plugs have two flat prongs, as in North America.

HEALTH

Altitude

You will feel the altitude more in Quito because of the pollution. Otavalo, a few hours outside of Quito, is only a few hundred feet lower, but the air contains much more oxygen because of the lack of pollution (and volcanic ash). When flying into high altitude areas, allow a day or two to adjust. Avoid alcohol, cigarettes and heavy foods. Try not to eat a lot of salt as the body retains fluid in the altitude. Altitude may make you feel dizzy and light-headed and also affects appetite and your sleeping patterns so you won't sleep as deep as you are used to. Drink lots of liquids, and simple painkillers will help with the headache you may have. It's always good to check with your doctor first. Be sure to bring all your prescription medicine with you.

[NEXT PAGE](#)

In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

ECUADOR TRAVEL TIPS page 2

“ALI SHUNGU” it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people



The Shots

Inoculations against cholera, yellow fever, polio, typhoid, tetanus and hepatitis might be recommended, although they are not required.

The Sun

The equatorial sun can be deceiving. You are the closest to the sun on the equator, especially in the altitude. Bring plenty of sunblock and always wear a hat because you can become dehydrated easily with the sun beating down on your head. Even when you don't see the sun, it's hitting you.

Insects

Insects are generally not a problem in the Andes (the Peguche Waterfalls and some lake areas have bothersome black flies), but for jungle and coastal trips, insect repellent is a must.

A Bad Stomach

Do not use ice unless you are absolutely sure that it is made with purified water. When in doubt, drinking water should be boiled at least 5 minutes. Always peel fresh fruit and vegetables and make sure restaurant food is fresh and steaming hot. Remember, in Ecuador, anyone with a few hundred dollars and a few aluminum pots can open up a restaurant. That does not mean that they are hygienic and have the knowledge to properly and safely handle food. There are few controls! Many little restaurants will save food until it sells, despite the fact that it is spoiling! Look for restaurants that have people in them and word of mouth recommendations should lead you to some good places. Some symptoms of a "bad stomach bacteria" could be low fever, nausea, vomiting, stomach bloating, diarrhea or constipation. Many pharmacies are familiar with these symptoms and can give you something. Mebendazole, taken over a period of 2-5 days is a usual treatment for giardia. Bring anti-diarrheal medicine (Immodium) and painkillers with you from the States. Eating antacids is not a good idea as you need all the stomach acid you can get for maximum digestion. Sometimes, a day or so of untreated diarrhea can get the "bug" out of your system, but drink lots of fluids. Eating fresh garlic and putting lemon juice in your drinking water are good preventatives. There are excellent clinics and hospitals in Quito, Metropolitan Hospital being the best, with an emergency room out clinic. Prices will be very reasonable and you will be expected to pay immediately. When you get home, you can arrange reimbursement with your insurance company. And almost everywhere you go, there will be a highly recommended doctor or laboratory for common complaints. Ask at your hotel.

[NEXT PAGE](#)

In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

ECUADOR TRAVEL TIPS page 3

"ALI SHUNGU" it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people



TRANSPORTATION

Taxis

There are two international airports in Ecuador-Quito (the Andes) and Guayaquil (the coast). When arriving in Quito, expect to pay \$7-10 for a taxi to the new city where most of the tourist hotels are located. Generally, "taxistas" in Ecuador are pretty honest and friendly. Ones that sit in front of the first class hotels will charge a bit more. For long trips, it's always good to hire a newer car and one that doesn't have an odor of gas inside (which means a bad exhaust system, and a headache for you). Here in Otavalo, taxis will charge about \$10.-\$12. per hour, and we have gotten very fair rates for people going to Banos or the Coast. Many times it's much cheaper to hire a taxi by the day than to actually rent a car yourself or pay a 4X4 tour company, with guide (some places do not require a guide and you can always be sure that your taxi driver will have a lot to say, and may speak a little English). Taxis in Quito have meters, though they are not always used. Establish a price first if the taxi has no meter. Ask at the hotel what a particular trip should cost. Taxi fares within the city of Quito are very inexpensive compared to North American standards. Also, there is an efficient electric trolley system in Quito that runs north and south. It's fast and easy, but beware of thieves. If you wish, we can send a sober, reliable driver to bring you from Quito to the Lodge for \$60. (add \$5. for airport or colonial city pickups).

Car Rental

Renting a car and driving yourself should be only for the adventurous and experienced who have some extra money to spend. Expect to spend at least \$80 per day. Driving in developing countries can be barbaric at times. If you do rent, check the contract well and make sure you understand all charges and check the car well, for spare tires, jacks, and working windshield wipers. You should choose hotels that have secure garages as *you can't leave the car on the street at night!* *Avoid driving at night!* And drive defensively! Bring a valid driver's license with photo, and if possible, an international driver's license, easily obtained through Triple A in the U.S. You will be expected to present it at the many roadblocks in Ecuador. Don't be afraid or intimidated by the routine police checks in Ecuador; they only wish to see your documents. Always be friendly; a smile will get you all the cooperation you need. While you are driving, ignore anyone on the highway who tries to motion you over to stop. This is a dangerous scam to extort money from you or rob you. Quito has a number of car rental agencies, including the three international companies, Avis, Budget and Hertz. The procedures for reporting an accident are somewhat hazy, but everyone agrees that you must report to the nearest police station as soon as possible. The police will try to decide and divide the fault, but almost always, the foreigner will end up paying.

Buses

Buses are an excellent way to "see the country" and can be considered an "anthropological experience." They will always take longer but cost practically nothing. It's *not* a good idea to put your bags in the back luggage compartment of the bus. There have been many cases of people getting robbed of their bags this way. And at the least, they will slide around and get filthy dirty. Most of the time, there is space on the bus for you to tuck your bags in somewhere, such as leaving them in the front, but keeping an eye. Or consider buying an extra seat on the bus for your suitcases or packs. Always keep an eye on your belongings. Two new bus terminals in Quito are both clean and efficient. One is located in the north of Quito, for destinations northward and one is in the south of Quito for arrivals and departures southward. There is no "shuttle" that connects the two terminals so you must take a taxi or a city bus to one from the other. If you plan to sleep on the bus, make sure you are connected to your belongings.

TAKING PHOTOS

Taking photos of the people is sometimes offensive to them. Some elderly people feel that it is robbing their spirit or that it is just plain rude. It's always a good idea to be friendly and ask in a polite way. Also, offer a tip for a photo, especially to the older people and poorer people who can use the money. When you are buying something, like in a market, it's always a good idea to ask for a photo for a "recuerdo" (remembrance) before you pay for the item. People are usually cooperative in this way. It's also a good idea to bring a few snapshots from home, perhaps of your house, children, mother, school or town. They can always relate. With digital cameras, it is easy to find a camera store that will upload your photos and print them instantly! Remember, we are asking for a copy of *their* image and it's only fair to "tithe" something for it! Never force a photo. Regarding film: If you still use 35mm film, it's a good idea to bring all the film you will need from home, as it will be fresher and generally cheaper.

[NEXT PAGE](#)

In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

ECUADOR TRAVEL TIPS page 4

"ALI SHUNGU" it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people



THIEVES

Thieves are another common complaint. They are everywhere in the world and Ecuador is no exception. Quito is much safer than it has been in years, but be very careful in big markets, bus stations and in the old city of Quito. Carrying a photocopy of your documents will do for short journeys- leave your airline tickets, passport, extra money and fine jewelry in a hotel safe when exploring these places. Always have a money belt or pouch. Carry bags or purses under your arm, preferably under a jacket. When walking through crowded streets or markets, it's a good idea to carry your day pack in the front. Be extremely careful when renting a taxi to visit the Virgin of Quito (Panecillo) Overlook. You should never go there on foot. Markets like those at Otavalo or Saquisilí are frequented by big city pickpockets that "work the circuit". (This is sneaky crime and only occurs when people are not paying attention to their belongings.) Luckily they go back to Quito in the afternoon, and these pueblos return to the relatively safe places that they are during the week. Thieves look for easy targets! They often work in pairs or groups. While one distracts your attention, another thief is robbing you. It's always a good idea to go in a group to remote areas, like lakes outside of towns, or to take long mountain hikes. Always go trekking or climbing with a reputable guide, as most robberies of tour groups or hotels are "inside jobs". Lately in the new city of Quito (the Mariscal), there have been some reports of armed assaults. It's not a good idea to go out at all at night unless you are in a group. Always try to look like you know where you are going, and never flash huge packs of cash. Always keep a few small bunches of the local currency in various places. Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Never leave valuables in an unattended car. Windows will be smashed by hit and run thieves. If you are careful, nothing should happen, and you'll return home with only good memories of your visit to Ecuador. Before you leave home make copies of EVERYTHING. Your passport, airline tickets, traveler's checks' numbers, and also have handy, phone numbers to call in case of lost items. Another safty precaution: Never accept food or drinks from anyone that you do not know. This goes for people on buses as well as "well-meaning" locals in bars, etc. Many people have been "drugged" in this way, only to wake up days later robbed of everything, even their shoes! If you have been robbed, make sure you get a police report as this may be necessary for you to collect from your insurance company when you return home. Many policies have a "travel insurance" rider, or if necessary, take out a travel insurance policy.

For the latest travelers' advisories, call the *U.S. Department of State Overseas Citizens Services* (202-647-5225); the *Canadian Travel Advisory Line* (800-267-6788 in Canada or 613-944-6788 outside Canada); *British Foreign and Commonwealth Office* (171-238-4503) or the *Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Consular Operations Section* (2-6261-3305) or check out their web pages.

TIPPING

As far as tipping goes, generally 10% tip is added on to most hotel and restaurant bills. Sometimes the employees do not receive this, sometimes they do. If you liked the service and you feel that the person was being honest and going out of their way to accommodate you, leave something extra, perhaps another 5%. If 10% is not put onto a bill, give 10-15% directly to the employee. Generally, all services such as carrying your bag, watching your car, etc., merit a tip (about \$1.00-\$2.00), especially if the service was good. Don't be surprised to find a 12% sales tax on all sales in Ecuador. The government tax department is very strict and not many services are exempt from paying it.

BEGGING

Begging is a fact of life in Ecuador. Especially concerning the elderly, it's a good idea to give something, a piece of food if you can. Follow your heart and common sense. Please show basic human respect to these people. More and more children are begging these days and are being brought into the big cities by their desperate mothers who have no way to earn a living in the country. Again, follow your heart- it's better to buy some fruit, bread and cheese or other food. Children may not spend the money you give them on food, which is their greatest need. There are so many homeless children roaming the streets of Quito, selling flowers, shining shoes. There are a number of centers in Quito, one being "The Centro del Muchacho Trabajador" which helps to educate and feed homeless kids. A tour of the place can be arranged, and donations are greatly needed. Talk to the folks at the South American Explorer's Club for more info on this. Elderly seem to have the "right" to beg and even the locals will tithe a little bit of food to them. Even a half U.S. dollar in the local currency can greatly impact the life of an old person.

MONEY

The country changed its currency to the US dollar twelve years ago but there is much uncertainty if it will remain the national currency. The wireless infrastructure in Ecuador is now excellent! ATM machines are reliable and consistent, especially in larger towns and cities. Most businesses will not accept traveller's checks. A common eccentricity in Ecuador is that almost no one will admit that they have change. Even the banks may not give you change. Bring small denomination US. dollar bills (ones, fives, tens and twenties). Do not bring old or torn US bills. The Ecuadorian banks will not accept any torn, ripped in even the smallest way, or old bills; consequently, the people will not accept them either. In our experience, only Supermaxi and the gas stations will accept beat up dollar bills. Expect to pay 10% to 14% additional to use your credit card in Ecuador. Most tourist services will add 22% on to your bill for sales tax and service.

[NEXT PAGE](#)

In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

ECUADOR TRAVEL TIPS page 5

"ALI SHUNGU" it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people



TELEPHONES, INTERNET AND E-MAIL

Ecuador's phone service has come a long way in the last few years! Internet cafés and public cellular phone centers are now located everywhere and are very efficient and economical for local and long distance calls.

Interprovincial calls can be made by using any one of six area codes.

- Dial 02 before all calls to the province of Pichincha and Quito,
- Dial 03 before calls to the provinces of Bolivar, Cotopaxi, Chimborazo, Pastaza, and Tungurahua, and the cities of Banos, Ambato, Puyo and Riobamba.
- Dial 04 before numbers to the province of Guayas and the cities of Guayaquil and Salinas.
- Dial 05 before numbers to the Galapagos and the provinces of Los Rios and Manabi and the cities of Manta, Portoviejo, Quevedo and Babajoyo.
- Dial 06 before numbers to the provinces of Carchi, Esmeraldas, Imbabura, Napo and Sucumbios and the cities of Esmeraldas, Tulcan, Ibarra, Otavalo, Latacunga, Tena, Coca, and Lago Agrio. (So, for example, to call the Ali Shungu Mountaintop Lodge (in Otavalo) from Quito, you would have to dial 06-890509945).
- 07 before numbers to the provinces of Azuay, Canar, El Oro, Morona Santiago and Zamora Chinchipe, and the cities of Cuenca, Machala, Azogues, Gualaceo, Loja (Vilcabamba) and Zamora.

TOURS

There are huge numbers of tour offices all over the country, especially in Quito. If you are planning to go to the Galapagos or the jungle, and if you are an adventurous person, you might want to wait until you arrive here in Ecuador to visit some of the agencies that offer Galapagos and Jungle trips yourself. Prices are very, very competitive and many places will be open to bargaining with you. Especially in light of the fact that there have not been a record high number of tourists here the last few years. The more middle men that are involved in your Galapagos or Jungle trip, the higher the price will be. It's always a good idea to ask other travellers who they recommended and to read the guide books. A place that was first rate some time ago, may not be that way now, or perhaps has even closed down, and new businesses and services are constantly opening. Again, the South American Explorer's Club has invaluable information-they have a "book of comments" so you can see what other travellers have to say about everything. Also as a member you have access to all their trip reports. Beware of any hotel or agency who may want to control your whole itinerary. Chances are they are making huge commissions on every leg of your vacation and what is "set up" for you may or may not be in your best interest. If you have read about a hotel and would like to make a reservation, it's always a good idea to call yourself and speak directly. Most places have an english-speaking representative and some hotels are even owned and run by Americans themselves. Most upscale places now use email for reservations. Making reservations through a third party can become jumbled with misunderstandings. When contracting a tour or trip with an agency, get EVERYTHING in writing-what you are paying, and what you are receiving. Try to cover and understand every detail of your trip before forking over your money, and don't forget to get a receipt.

[NEXT PAGE](#)

In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

ECUADOR TRAVEL TIPS page 6

“ALI SHUNGU” it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people



RECOMMENDED READING

Touring/Guidebooks

Ecuador & The Galapagos Islands, Lonely Planet Survival Kit, by Rob Rachowiecki (Lonely Planet). One of the best.

South American Handbook (all countries, Ben Box) and *Ecuador & Galapagos Handbook* (Alan Murphy), Footprint Handbooks, Passport Books.

Ecuador Handbook, Including the Galapagos Islands (Julian Smith), Moon Travel Handbooks, new.

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands (Alain Legault), Ulysses Travel Publications. Also is published in French.

The New Key to Ecuador and the Galapagos (David Pearson, David Middleton), Ulysses Press. Emphasis on Natural History and Ecology.

Insight Guides: Ecuador, edited by Tony Perrottet, (APA Publications). Beautiful photos, many contributing writers.

Climbing and Hiking in Ecuador (Bradt Publications, Globe Pequot Press).

The Panama Hat Trail, by Tom Miller (Wm. Morrow, NY). A light insight into everyday life in the Andes and the areas of the famous hat industry).

Walking the Beaches of Ecuador, by Jose-German Cardenas and Karen Marie Grenier.

Travel Amongst the Great Andes of the Equator, by Edward Whymper (out of print in the U.S. but likely available in Ecuador). A classic 1880 account of the region.

Savages, by Joe Kane. For interesting perspectives on Ecuador's oil policies, written from the perspective of an endangered Amerindian tribe.

The Amazon Stranger, by Mike Tidwell (The Lyons Press). Focuses on Randy Borman, the son of U.S. missionaries who now lives with the Cofan Indians and who has helped them win a number of battles with oil corporations.

Living Poor: A Peace Corp Chronical (out of print); *The Farm on the River of Emeralds* (out of print); and *The Saddest Pleasure: A Journey on Two Rivers* (Greywolf Press, Minnesota). 3 books by Moritz Thompson, the best accounts of peace corps life and an almost 30 years living as a foreigner here in Ecuador.

Otavalo, Weaving, Costume and the Market, by Lynn Meisch (a foremost Anthropologist, who has specialized in Andean Textiles and the Otavaleños Indians for well over 25 years).

Costume and Identity in Highland Ecuador, edited by Ann Pollard Rowe with text by Lynn Meisch, Laura M. Miller, Ann Rowe et al. The Textile Museum, Washington, D.C., Univ. of Washington Press, Seattle. The BEST there is for info on Ecuadorian Andean Indigenous textiles and costume. Exquisite photos.

Digging up Prehistory, The Archaeology of Ecuador, by Karl Dieter Gartelmann, Ediciones Libri Mundi (can be bought in Quito).

Witch Doctor's Apprentice, by Nicole Maxwell, Collier Books, Macmillan Publishing, NY. An easy to read account of a woman's travels amongs the Indians in search of healing plants.

A Traveler's Guide to El Dorado & the Inca Empire, by Lynn Meisch (Penguin Books). Full of interesting details and sketches on the textiles, crafts, peoples, markets, fiestas, archaeology and travel etiquette of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

[NEXT PAGE](#)

In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

ECUADOR TRAVEL TIPS page 7

“ALI SHUNGU” it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people



The Conquest of the Incas, by John Hemming (Harcourt Brace & Co.). A classic account of the Spanish arrival.

Crafts of Ecuador, by Pablo Cuvi (Dinediciones). Beautiful photos of Ecuadorian crafts.

Amazon Worlds, by Noemi Paymal and Catalina Sosa (Quito: Sincha Sacha Foundation). Beautiful photos of the indigenous cultures of the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Los Viejos, by Grace Halsell, Bantam paperback. An light story about an American woman who visits the "sacred valley" of Vilcabamba, Ecuador in search of their secrets of long life. A tidbit on the daily life of a remote little Andean village.

The Rivers Amazon, by Alex Shoumatoff, Sierra Club Paperback. An 8-month odyssey by bus, plane, boat and on foot, following the Amazon River and its tributaries to their headwaters high in the Peruvian Andes. An exciting ecological and cultural adventure.

Herbs of Ecuador, by Alan White, Ediciones Llibri Mundi (can be bought in Quito). A bilingual guide, with fine descriptions and illustrations, of every medicinal plant in the country.

BIRDING

Birding Ecuador, by Clive Green. Up-to-date and detailed directions to the hottest bird spots and natural areas in Ecuador.

A Guide to the Birds of Colombia, by Steven Hilty and William Brown. One of the best detailed field guide to the birds of Ecuador and Colombia.

South American Birds, by John Dunning (Harrowwood Books, Newtown Sq., Pa.). 1,000 color photos.

GALAPAGOS AND NATURE

A Neotropical Companion: An Introduction to the Animals, Plants, and Ecosystems of the New World Tropics, by John Kricher, (Princeton Univ. Press). Written for the lay person.

The Last Rainforest, edited by Mark Collins (Oxford Univ. Press).

In the Rainforest, by Catherine Caulfield (Univ. of Chicago Press).

A Traveler's Guide to the Galapagos Islands, by Barry Boyce. An excellent Galapagos guide!

Galapagos: A Natural History Guide, by Michael H. Jackson.

A Field Guide to the Birds of the Galapagos, by Michael Harris.

Plants of the Galapagos Islands, by Eileen Schofield.

[NEXT PAGE](#)

In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

ECUADOR TRAVEL TIPS page 8

“ALI SHUNGU” it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people



HEALTH

Staying Healthy in Asia, Africa & Latin America (Moon Publications). One of the best to carry.

Traveler's Health, by Dr. Richard Dawood (Random House). Easy to read, recommended but very large to carry.

SHAMANISM

Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice, by Mark J. Plotkin, Ph.D., (Penguin Books). An Ethnobotanist searches for new medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest.

The Way of the Shaman, by Michael Harner, (Bantam). Focuses on Shamanic practices and beliefs of the Shaur Indians of the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Hallucinations and Shamanism, edited by Michael Harner, (Oxford Univ. Press). An excellent compilation of Shamanic practice and Ayahuasca use.

Wizard of the Upper Amazon, by F. Bruce Lamb, (Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston). Account of life among So. Amer. jungle indians who use the hallucinogenic vine, ayahuasca, for healing.

Rio Tigre and Beyond, by F. Bruce Lamb, (North Atlantic Books, Berkeley). More about Amazon jungle medicine.

Amazon Beaming, by Petru Popescu, (Penguin). An exploration of native jungle telepathic way of life.

Healing States, by Alberto Villoldo and Stanley Krippner, (Simon & Schuster, NY). A journey into the world of spiritual healing and shamanism.

Visionary Vine, by Marlene Dobkin de Rios, (Waveland Press). Hallucinogenic healing in the Peruvian Amazon.

Voices from the Amazon, by Binka Le Breton, (Kumarian Press, W. Hartford, CT). Insight into human and environmental issues of Amazonia.

True Hallucinations, by Terrence McKenna, (Harper San Francisco). An account of time spent with Amazon Shamans in pursuit of hallucinogenic experiences.

Shamanic Voices, by Joan Halifax, Ph.D., (E.P. Dutton, NY). A survey of worldwide shamanic insights, with a section on South America.

The Yage Letters, by William Burroughs & Allen Ginsberg, (City Lights Books, San Francisco; probably out of print). A Classic '60s account of the correspondence of these two greats while visiting a "witch doctor" in the Colombian Amazon and eating Yage (ayahuasca).

Many of these books can be ordered in the U.S. or bought in Quito at one of the extensive Libri Mundi Book Stores (Located on Calle Juan Leon Mera 851 in the new city and with locations in the Hilton Colon and the Oro Verde Hotels.

In Guayaquil, there is the Libreria Cientifica on Calle Luque 223. Another place that publishes the best selection of works on the indigenous people of Ecuador is Abya Yala Press, Ave. 12 of Oct. 1430 and Wilson, Tel 562-622 or 506-247. Upstairs is an Amazonic Museum with real Tsantsas (shrunken heads). The Abya-Yala Journal of the South and Mero-American Indian Rights Center (SAIIC), P.O. Box 28703, Oakland, Calif 94604, tel. (510) 834-4263, email: saiiic@igc.apc.org, provides an indigenous perspective on news and native movements in Latin America. One year of four issues if \$25.

[NEXT PAGE](#)

In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

ECUADOR TRAVEL TIPS page 9

“ALI SHUNGU” it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people



ECUADORIAN HOLIDAYS

At least 19 days each year are celebrated nationwide in Ecuador. Many of these days are holidays for everyone, and travel or services can be very difficult to arrange. Other holidays are just celebrated regionally or only by some part of the population. There are historical and political holidays, usually commemorating famous generals, battles and independence anniversaries and can range from nationwide parties to special days for individual towns. Religious holidays combine the solemnity of Catholic processions and services with drinking and dancing celebrations, especially in indigenous Andean pueblos. At any rate, be prepared for some inconveniences, even though these national and regional celebrations can be an exciting and memorable experience. Be sure to change enough money into local currency when a fiesta is coming up. Also, transportation will be more crowded.

January 1 - Countrywide: New Year's eve is a big night in Ecuador with the burning of the old images (effigies), lots of local drinking, with possibly some local parades. On New Year's Day most shops and services close to recover from the previous night's celebration.

January 6 - Countrywide: The Religious holiday Three Kings' Day. Many businesses will be closed.

Catholic Spring Holidays - The Catholic Church's most festive season revolves around Easter, which technically occurs on the Sunday after the full moon of the vernal equinox. Carnival in February or March is the big celebration before the 40 days of fasting and penance known as Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday.

Holy Week (Semana Santa) occurs just before Easter. Palm Sunday kicks things off, with parishoners bringing palm fronds to church. Four days later, Holy Thursday, similar to the Day of the Dead in November, precedes the solemn processions on Good Friday and elaborate nighttime masses on Holy Saturday. Businesses not closed already will close on Saturday. Easter morning Mass (Pascua) signifies the end of the deprivations of Lent and the holiday cycle.

For the year 2001, Ash Wednesday falls on Feb. 28; Palm Sunday falls on April 7; and Easter falls on April 14.

February 27 - Countrywide: Patriotism Day-Speeches, parades, flag-waving.

Countrywide: Intense partying and revelry mark CARNIVAL- the three days prior to Ash Wednesday. Many shops and services close to celebrate the major holiday of the year. It is common for "carnival spirit" to start weeks before, especially with the water throwing.

May 1 - Countrywide: Labor Day-most shops and services stay open. Some parades and speeches focusing on workers.

May 24 - Countrywide: The Battle of Pichincha-commemorates Battle of Tarqui over Spain in 1822.

May/June (ninth Thursday after Easter) - Countrywide: Corpus Christi-honors the Eucharist, heavy indigenous influence in the Andean highlands; parades, street dancing, harvest fiestas.

June 24 - Otavalo, Guamote, Tabacundo: Saint John the Baptist Commemoration, one of the biggest Indigenous celebrations in the Otavalo area. Lots of dancing and folklore music, as of late-cultural programs, presentations. Goes on for 3 days, continues into the St. Peter and Paul fiesta.

June 28-29 - Countrywide: Religious fiesta of St. Peter and St. Paul. Largely celebrated in the "Campo". Lots of celebrations in the town of Cayambe.

July 24 - Countrywide: Lots of parties, drinking and dancing commemorate Simon Bolivar's birthday (Ecuador's liberator). Celebrations last one day in the highlands and two days on the coast, fading into the Anniversary of the Foundation of Guayaquil on the 25th.

August 10 - Countrywide: National Independence Day, few shops and services will be open.

[NEXT PAGE](#)

In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

ECUADOR TRAVEL TIPS page 10

"ALI SHUNGU" it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people



ECUADORIAN HOLIDAYS

September (first week) - Otavalo area: Yamor festivities, the harvest fiesta, lots of dancing and drinking, some cultural presentations. Cotacachi (minutes from Otavalo) simultaneously celebrates the Jora Corn Festival (another harvest celebration) with dancing and parades.

September (third week) - Loja: The Virgin of Cisne Festival, religious processions with several days of street parties and local color.

September (Third week) - Portoviejo (Manabi), The Arts and Tourist Fair-Many unique souvenirs can be found at this fair.

Last Days of September - Machala (El Oro) - The International Banana Fair

September 23-24 - Latacunga (an hour outside of Quito): Our Lady of Mercy Festival-religious processions, parties and festivities.

October 9 - Guayaquil: Guayaquil Independence Day.

October 12 - Countrywide: Discovery of America or Columbus Day-Another excuse for the usual in street dancing, drinking and general partying. Celebrated by Indigenous peoples as the "Dia de la Raza (Day of the Race).

November 1 - Countrywide: All Saints' Day.

November 2 - Countrywide: All Souls' Day, also known as the Day of

the Dead-Indigenous families bring food, flowers, and offerings to the graves of loved ones. There are often "celebrations" here in the Otavalo cemetery.

November 3 - Cuenca: Cuenca **Independence Day**.

November 11 - Latacunga (1 hour outside of Quito): Latacunga Independence Day-general festivities.

November 21 - Pichincha: Virgin of the Quinche Festivities-religious procession.

December 6 - Countrywide: the San Francisco de Quito Foundation Day starts a week before the actual holiday on Dec. 6 (Quito's birthday), which opens the bullfighting season in Quito. Mostly celebrated in Quito, a week of wild, frenzied celebrations.

December 24 - Countrywide: Christmas Eve-Midnight Mass with family meal following.

December 25 - Countrywide: Christmas is fairly quiet in Ecuador, with almost all shops and services closed.

December 28 - Countrywide: Although too soon after Christmas and too soon before New Year to be a big celebration, the Day of the Innocents, is an excuse for a few more parties.

[NEXT PAGE](#)

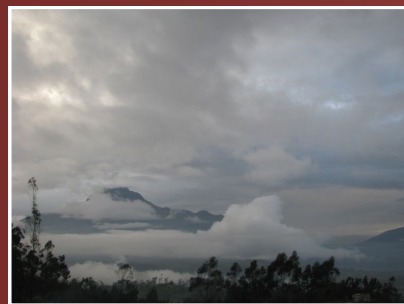
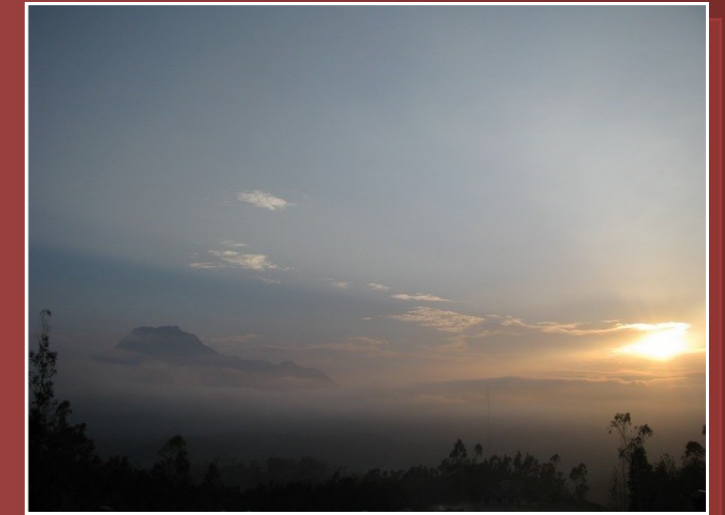
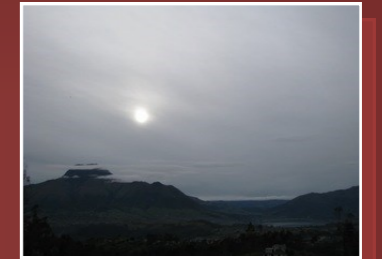
In Otavalo, Ecuador

The Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge

Vacation Rentals

SUNRISE AT ALI SHUNGU

"ALI SHUNGU" it means Good Heart in the language of the kichwa people



"Begin your day in Otavalo with us here at the Ali Shungu Mountaintop Eco Lodge, your balcony over Otavalo!"

mountainlodge@alishungu.com

[Back to Home Page](#)