

Abby Lodge
Cotopaxi/Volcanos

The colliding of the continents created the colossal mountains of ice and rock known as the Andes. The mountain chain runs for 18,000 kilometers. The Ecuadorian Andes are crowned by volcanos over 5,000 meters high. Chimborazo is the highest peak in Ecuador, and this makes it the heart of Ecuadorian Andes. Chimborazo has five separate peaks, main one at Whimper at 6,310 meters. Lamas and alpacas have thick fur and extra red blood cells to stay alive at these heights. Carihuairazo is 5,020 meters high and the great rock mountains have been cut by the glaciers over hundreds of thousands of years.

The volcano Tungurahua is 5,029 meters high, cone shaped, and when it snows it is white capped which contrasts its black rock face. The snow that falls on its peak supports a fragile ecosystem that hydrates the land of pure water which flows down by water falls. Here, the soil is rich in nutrients, giving life to sweet fruits of the Andes. Andean meadows are blessed with a variety of flowers. In this habitat every species is biologically unique.

Cotopaxi has ancient snow and permanent glaciers, making it one of the most beautiful mountains on the planet – at its peak it is 5,897 meters high. As one climbs up the winds increased and make a strong whistling sound. The higher one goes; the air becomes thinner and harder to breathe.

Illinizas has two peaks: the southern peak is 5,246 meters high, while the northern peak is 5,126 meters high. There are four access routes for climbers to the southern peak, while northern peak has two. The volcano El Quilota has crystal green/turquoise water and invites tranquility and meditation. The volcano is 3,940 meters high with a salty lake of volcanic origin more than diameter of 3 kilometers.