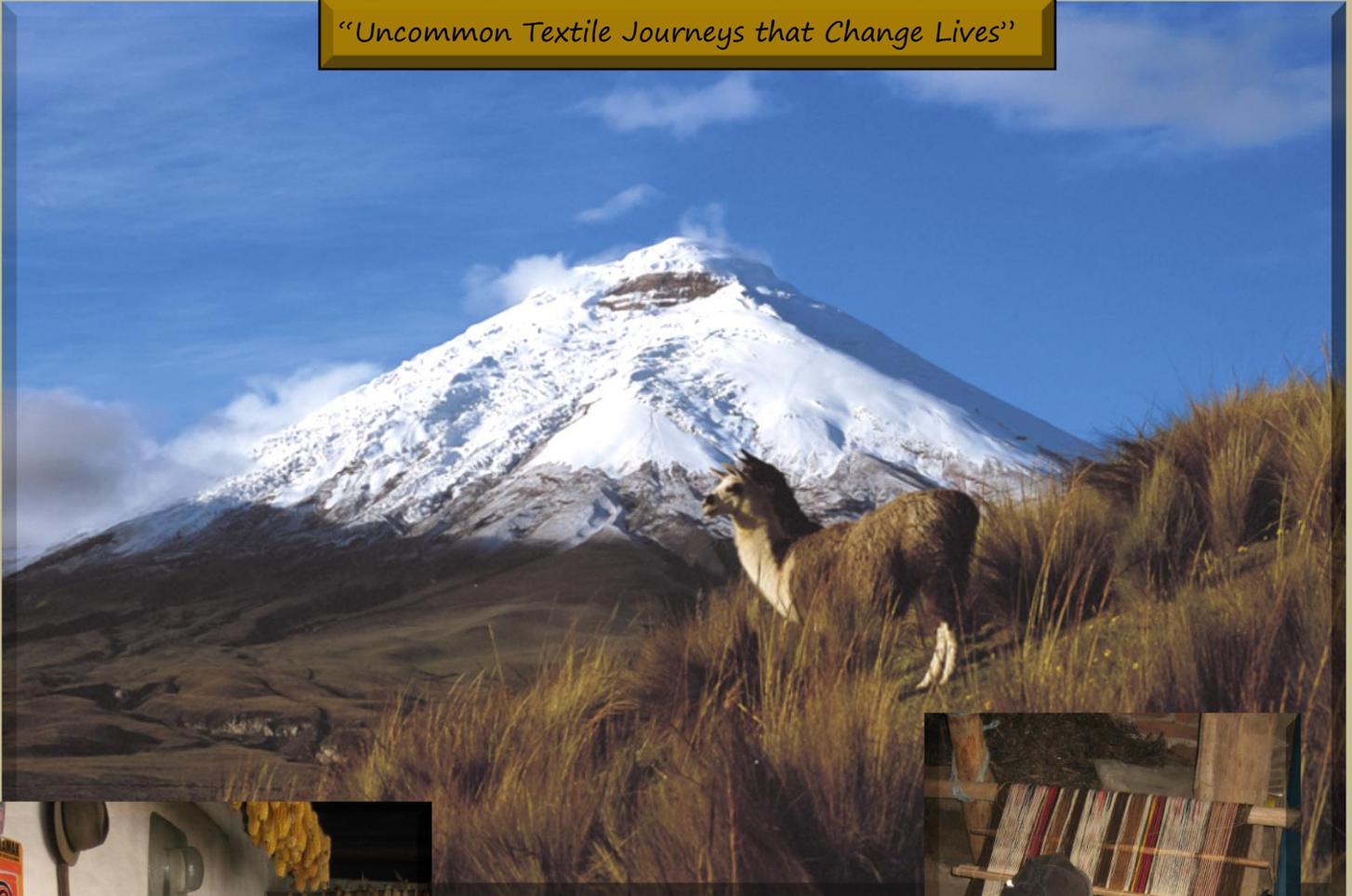




Ecuador

*An Extraordinary Journey into Andean Artistry
in the Enchanting Land of the Inca*

"Uncommon Textile Journeys that Change Lives"



October 12 - 22, 2017

Featuring 3 Days
of Hands-on
Textile Workshops
and
Many
Exclusive
Visits

Perfect for non-
fiber
companions
with options
for
horseback riding,
hiking
and
photography.

Discover Remarkable Ecuador...

Ancient land of the Inca, Llamas, Historic Haciendas,
Indigenous markets, Volcanoes, & World Class Textiles



Weaving a History in the Land of the Inca

“To weave is an essential element in the Otavalan culture. It has been greatly valued by its people and practiced with great pride.” ~Obraje Weaving Museum

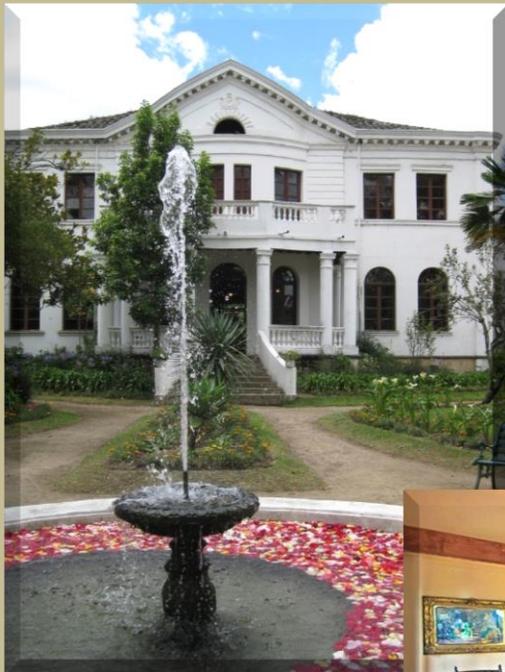


Backstrap weaving is an art that has existed for thousands of years. In Ecuador, the Cayambe and Caranqui people were weaving on these types of looms when they were conquered by the Inca around 1495. Then the Spanish came to Ecuador conquering the country in 1534 which changed everything for the indigenous weavers. They were forced to work in Spanish textile factories using a new kind of loom, the treadle loom, which allowed for much faster production than the backstrap loom. Thus, textiles became the main export of Ecuador for many years with the weavers working in servitude. The local textiles were exported to Peru, Columbia and Bolivia. These weavers worked for the haciendas which often included working the lands of the colonial estates. Sometime after

1964 and the passing of the Law of Agrarian Reform and Colonization, many indigenous local tribes of Ecuador were granted titles to their land and encouraged to weave for their own profit.

Today in Ecuador, many highly skilled indigenous people are still weaving using their ancestors' ancient techniques. The result are hand-woven textiles renowned all over the world. Weaving has allowed the Quichuas to improve the quality of their lives. Otavalo is considered the center of the country's textile production along with many other crafts including leatherworks and embroidery.

Information extrapolated from www.wildtussah.com/history-weaving-part-3-america/#Otavalo_the_center_of_Ecuador8217s_crafts_and_textiles_37_40



Ecuador's Historic Haciendas

Many are familiar with the Paradors of Spain and the Estancias of Argentina. Ecuador has their Haciendas. Our magical journey into Ecuador has us staying at several of these historic haciendas. Dating back to the 16th century, these country estates are vestiges of the Spanish colonial era. Spanish settlers were given large tracts of land to raise livestock and farm. While each property is unique, staying in these remarkable accommodations give us a glimpse of Ecuador's rich and glorious past. Each hacienda is steeped in old world charm and ambiance with unrivaled hospitality and tucked into a spectacular landscape of volcano-fringed valleys. Many serve farm-to-table meals creating a fine dining experience in lovely atmospheric dining rooms.



**We Strive to Support
the Local
Communities**

In addition to providing participants one-on-one experiences with local textile artists, we also strive to be responsible stewards of the money entrusted to us through participation in our trips. Our tours offer aid in sustaining worldwide textile populations by funneling a significant amount of this money and support back into the local communities through our tours. We feel that interaction with local textile artists, local fiber producers, farms, neighborhood fiber art shops and other outlets for traditional products is an essential part of the experience. We will always strive to offer the opportunity to shop locally for a variety of products and to offer the chance for authentic contribution to the local community.



Thursday, October 12

Arrive Ecuador

Today you fly to Quito, Ecuador. We will be happy to offer suggestions for your air arrangements. Please keep in mind that many flights arrive late at night. Upon arrival, you will be greeted and transferred approximately 20 minutes to Casa de Hacienda La Jimenita. Located on a 90,000 square meter private natural reserve, with an archaeological Incan tunnel on site, Hacienda La Jimenita is registered as a World Heritage Site. Here there are ancient trails dating back to the 1400's where several historical fragments have been found like vessels, obsidian arrows, farming tools, among other artifacts. The hacienda has been owned by one family for 100 years and was originally part of Hacienda Olalla dating back to the 1800's. Overnight at Casa de Hacienda La Jimenita. (No meals included)

Friday, October 13

Hummingbirds, Gardens & Hot Springs

Today is a time to relax from your travels, marvel at Ecuador's hummingbirds and soak in natural thermal pools. The morning is at your leisure to observe the more than 25 species of hummingbirds found on the property. The hacienda also has a private Botanical Reserve. Here we find a vast forest of eucalyptus, *guabos* trees, organic black raspberries, tangerines, avocado trees and organic vegetable gardens. For those that are interested, there are a variety of trails that offer opportunities to walk in a beautiful setting surrounded by forest-covered mountains. In the afternoon, we visit Papallacta Hot Springs located in a magical Andes landscape. Here one can discover an integral holistic experience with thermal pools and hot springs all surrounded by



lush blossoms and grass in the shadow of high peaks. We will spend the afternoon here relaxing and pampering ourselves in this unique setting. If you prefer just relaxing on the wonderful grounds of our hacienda, the choice is yours. Tonight we enjoy a group dinner at Hacienda La Jimenita. Overnight at La Jimenita. (B,D)



Saturday, October 14 Otavalo Market and Textile Visits

Today we travel into the Otavalo region of Ecuador's highlands. In the morning, we visit the famous Otavalo Market. For hundreds of years, Otavalo has hosted one of the most important markets in the Andes. The renowned market of Otavalo has become one of the top destinations in Ecuador and South America. It's one of the better places on the continent to experience the colorful sights and sounds of a true indigenous market due to its authenticity and accessibility. Locals dressed in traditional Kichwa outfits hawk wares that include beautifully woven textiles, hand-crafted wooden items, and much more. A backdrop of mountain scenery on a clear sunny day adds the finishing touch to this typical highland scene. The experience is priceless and makes you feel as if you have walked into another era.

In the afternoon, after lunch on your own, we have a couple of interesting textile visits in the province. First we stop at Museum Tejido y Obraje. While small, it is a wonderful place to visit to learn about the traditional weaving methods used around Otavalo which will provide a context for our upcoming weaving adventures. The museum shows the process from shearing the sheep to the final woven products.

From here we travel to Casa Matico where we learn about the colorful dress of the indigenous women of Otavalo and the Kichwa culture.





Our accommodation for the next four nights are at Hacienda Cusin, a restored 17th century estate dating back to 1602. It is located at the foot of Cotacachi Volcano. Immersed in old colonial style elegance, the guest rooms, garden cottages and salons are furnished with antiques and Andean craft. Most have log-burning fireplaces and beamed ceilings and overlook several acres of landscaped perennial gardens, ancient trees and snow-capped mountains. We'll enjoy a group dinner here tonight in the gorgeous dining room. Overnight at Hacienda Cusin. (B,D)

Sunday, October 15

Weaving Workshop and Treadle Looms

Today is a real treat! We will visit Miguel Andrango, one of Ecuador's most famous weavers. Visiting his home is a spiritual experience. We spend a few hours with him and his family for a weaving workshop. We will learn about the preparation of the wool and the natural dyeing. Each of us will work on our own backstrap loom.

In the afternoon, we also have a special visit to master weaver José Cotacachi's workshop and home with treadle looms. Jose learned to weave when he was 9 years old. Jose's unique creations feature complex geometric patterns derived from pre-Hispanic civilizations. He also weaves Ecuadorian birds, animals and indigenous people into his tapestries. We will have a chance to see these fabulous tapestries as well as his woven sweaters. Overnight at Hacienda Cusin. (B,D)



Monday, October 16

Weaving Workshop and Leatherworks

Today we continue our workshop with Miguel Andrango for a few more hours. Each of us will learn how to make a scarf on our backstrap looms. In the afternoon, we carry on to visit Casa Condor Weavings in Peguche. Here we enjoy a demonstration of dyeing with natural colors and the use of their treadle looms. Lunch will be in the village of Cotacachi, Ecuador's "Leather Capital." We'll have time in the afternoon to shop on its quaint main street. Overnight at Hacienda Cusin. (B,D)

Tuesday, October 17

Embroidery, Indigenous Dancers & Music

Following breakfast we travel to San Clemente Indigenous Community which is a project managed by Kichwa-Karanki indigenous families who live at the feet of the Imbabura Volcano. The families are mostly dedicated to agriculture. These indigenous people have made a commitment to their traditional ways of life, and a commitment to share it with others. You will have the chance to observe their customs and daily life with views of Volcano Imbabura. The people of San Clemente also create wonderful colorful embroidery. We will spend time with the women from the pre-Inca Caranqui indigenous community who will demonstrate their techniques of embroidery. We enjoy a hands-on opportunity to learn how to draw the design on a piece of cloth and will embroider our own designs.

We also have lunch here and enjoy a performance of indigenous dancers and musicians with Andean wind instruments. Overnight at Hacienda Cusin. (B,L,D)



Wednesday, October 18

Incan Hacienda and Llamas

Today we drive south into the Cotopaxi Province of Ecuador through spectacular scenery. We'll stop for a wonderful and unique lunch at one of Ecuador's most interesting haciendas, San



Agustin de Callo. Built on 15th century Incan ruins, the hacienda was the site of an Incan palace. It is one of the two most important archeological Inca sites in Ecuador. The hacienda features remnants of Incan walls and trapezoidal doors. The courtyard showcases not only the Incan legacy, but the architectural styles of the 18th century Spanish Colonial and 19th century Republican periods. We'll have a private lunch in their dining room and interact with the resident llamas.

Our accommodations for the next three nights are at Hacienda La Cienega, one of Ecuador's oldest colonial haciendas dating back more

than 400 years. Built in 1580, it is the only hacienda that has been completely preserved and is classified as a Historical Monument. It's 6-foot-thick volcanic stone walls are surrounded by the remarkable natural beauty of the Andes. Overnight at Hacienda La Cienega. (B,L,D)



Thursday, October 19 Saquisilí Market, Tigua Paintings & a Beautiful Crater Lake



Today we visit what is touted to be perhaps the most vibrant, authentic and important indigenous market in all of Ecuador. It is like stepping into another time and another world with its riot of color and goods including animals, fruits, vegetables, tools, instruments, weavings and handicrafts. Quite different than the Otavalo Market, local people come from miles around every Thursday for this important social event dressed in their best clothes. The market is a wonderful way to observe how the local people truly shop and to people watch. It is a cultural treat to immerse oneself in this amazing event that offers a glimpse into native life.



We'll travel from the market to visit the first famous Tigua painter for a demonstration in his gallery. Living in a small collection of communities high in the Andes, the Tigua people

are farmers and sheep and llama herders and are tied deeply to the land. Tigua paintings depict their daily lives and landscape. Often with Cotopaxi in the background, they paint with chicken feather brushes on sheep hide, depicting the people, sheep and llamas, weavings and their typical festivals of this region of the Andes. The result is a wonderful and colorful example of fine folk art.



We'll travel on Quilotoa Lake for lunch. This is one of the most beautiful crater lakes in all of South America. The local people believe that this water-filled caldera has no bottom. For those that would like to, we can hike around the lake. In the late afternoon, we return to La Cienega. Overnight at La Cienega. (B,L,D)



Friday, October 20

Roses, Relaxation and Other Options

This is a day to relax with plenty of time to appreciate Hacienda La Cienega and its surroundings. In the morning, we will visit a nearby rose plantation. Ecuador grows about 500 varieties of roses. These flowers are regarded worldwide as the very best roses in the world. The farms here are close to the sun at an altitude of 3000 meters above sea level which produces the largest blooms and longest stems. Returning to La Cienega, the afternoon is at your leisure. You might opt for horseback riding around the Hacienda. Or perhaps you would like to go hiking or fishing. Or maybe you just want to relax in the tranquility of 400 years of colonial history. The choice is yours. Overnight at La Cienega. (B,D)



Saturday, October 21

Cotopaxi, Return to Quito, and a Farewell Dinner

Today we travel full circle back to where we started our adventure. On the way back to Quito, we'll visit Cotopaxi National Park. While we saw the majesty of Cotopaxi Volcano from Hacienda San Agustin, today we'll travel into the park which is considered to be one of the most impressive in Ecuador. The massive 19,347 Cotopaxi, the highest active volcano on earth, as a backdrop, the ecosystem is the habitat for a variety of wildlife and unique flora. For those that are interested, we can walk the 2.6 km around Limpiopungo Lake on an easy hike through the wetlands. There is great birdwatching and wonderful views of the surrounding mountains and its wild horses. On a clear day, as the lake is located in the shadow of Cotapaxi, it is possible to enjoy good views of the volcano. Returning to the Quito area and the now familiar Casa de Hacienda La Jimenita where we have a farewell dinner. Overnight at Casa de Hacienda La Jimenita. (B,D)

**We would be happy to arrange a couple of days in Ecuador's capital, Quito
or charming colonial Cuenca, either before or after the trip.**

We can also arrange a 3, 4 or 7 night cruise in the Galapagos Islands. Just give us a call!

Land Costs Include:

- 10 Night's accommodations based on double occupancy. Single accommodations available at additional cost
- Private tours and textile visits
- Various Workshops and Special Private textile visits including 3 Days of exclusive weaving, dyeing and embroidery workshops and demonstrations
- Private van and local expert guide
- Most meals as described in the itinerary – all breakfasts, and most dinners; some lunches not included
- Entrance fees

Land Costs Exclude:

- All air transportation
- Meals not designated on the itinerary
- Any item not specifically included in your program including all snacks, extra personal beverages & bottled water, etc. other than during designated meals, alcoholic beverages
- Excess baggage fees, laundry, phone calls, internet and any other items of a personal nature not specifically indicated
- Tips for your guide, drivers, hotel porters and other service staff
- Additional insurance of any kind

Cost: \$2,995 Per Person Based on Double Occupancy
For those wishing single accommodations, there is a \$495 Single Supplement

Save Your Spot!
Please call our office for details or questions!
800-369-3033



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Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys

does not believe in large group, bargain or "ordinary" tours. Instead, we strive to immerse the discerning and adventurous traveler into the wondrous world of global fiber arts with quality cultural encounters. Our typical group size is limited to 10-14 participants to allow for a more hands-on, intimate travel experience.

We invite you to join us;
be a traveler, not a tourist.



As with all true adventures, this itinerary is subject to change without notice based on a variety of factors. Although Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys will do our best to adhere to the scheduled itinerary, we are all at the mercy of Mother Nature and varying weather conditions. This itinerary should be considered an approximation of activities only. The itinerary or accommodations may be changed subject to unexpected and worthwhile opportunities, weather, group desires, and circumstances beyond our control, etc. Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys and its guides reserve the right to alter the itinerary without prior notice. Also please be aware that any voluntary changes on your part to your itinerary while in Ecuador will be made at your own expense. There is no refund for any unused portion of the itinerary including hotels, activities, etc.