

Bombolí Cloud Forest - Full Day Excursion



Just half an hour away from the southern limit of Quito, on the 20th Km of the Aloag-Santo Domingo road; located on the occidental side of the Andes mountains inside the Illinizas Ecological Reserve, we will find a natural treasure called Bomboli, a private reserve that's up high about 3000 meters above sea level. This private reserve has an extension of 120 hectares of Primary Highland Forest and 80 hectares of Secondary Forest; well preserved and taken care of by a couple of long life lovers of nature by the names of "Oswaldito and Marianita". This beautiful family has dedicated a big part of their life's, 30 years to be exact, to see these inspiring results. Bomboli shows us how with lots of patience and love you can conserve and appreciate mother nature, which is essential for this planets existence.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✓ Millenary trees
- ✓ Giant Ferns Forest
- ✓ More than 200 different species of orchids in their natural state
- ✓ Wide variety of birds
- ✓ 16 beautiful waterfalls
- ✓ More than 11 Km. of different trails with a wide variety of flora and fauna.
- ✓ Organic meals made off products from the local community.
- ✓ Orchid gardens
- ✓ Bond with the local hosts at Bomboli
- ✓ Preparation of craft cheese, more than 15 types of jams and also caramel flavored cream.
- ✓ Easy walks through the forest.



Via Alóag Santo Domingo, KM 19, tomar la curva grande entrada a la hacienda la florida ingresar hasta Bombolí y 6 km cuesta arriba camino de segundo orden

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Horseback riding
- ✓ Rafting (2 days program)
- ✓ Train (2 days program)
- ✓ Ecuadorian cousin tutorials
- ✓ Guest craftsman
- ✓ Camping (for families and teenagers)
- ✓ Summer vacation programs
- ✓ Environmental conservation
- ✓ Visit to the Tsachilas community (2 days program)



The adventure starts early in the morning, as soon as our guides pick us up to take us to this natural paradise. Just 30 minutes from the Aloag town, on the road to the coastal region of Ecuador, you will find the Bomboli Private Reserve which will welcome us in giving out a feeling of peace and tranquility. This feeling of peace goes along with the pure contact with nature that you will find only in a place such as this one.

Once we have arrived to the refuge house, the local family will give us a warm welcome. You will receive an introduction briefing by Oswaldito, where you will hear about their life in the mountain and also their complete dedication to protecting the forest. After this briefing, all the guests will have the opportunity to taste some delicious local delicacies like cheese, jams and caramel flavored cream, all of these products are completely made by the local family.



Once we have enjoyed this warming welcome, we will begin our excursion by visiting the gardens that are full of local plants like orchids, ferns, begonias, alders and much more. This visit will be done by walking around the refuge house while the host gives us some great information about the botanical and scientific aspects of this forest, also about his efforts to conserve this beautiful natural paradise located at 3200 meters above sea level. On this walk we will also visit the Orchids Nursery, which was completely built by Oswaldito so these plants can have their own home, many of the orchids found here are in a peculiar miniature size which can only be found here.



We continue our excursion towards the highlands of the forest so we can have the opportunity to visit a small Polylepis forest where you can admire all three-species found in Ecuador regarding that type of fauna. Next to this part of the forest we will also visit the family's organic orchard where we can take a look at this unique idea of reutilizing old car tires to make them into flowerpots, the combination of this idea with the microclimates that are found in this area, it creates a space that is great for the growth of different edible plants like: lettuce, onions, mint, chamomile, carrots, lemon balm, lemon, cilantro, parsley, babaco, etc.

Following this visit, we will continue towards the upper part of the private reserve, we will walk through a trail surrounded by lots of trees and native plants of this area, also a wide variety of orchids. During this walk, we will hear from our guide an explanation of all the natural health benefits each one of these plants can give as a gift to us, this until we finally arrive to the "Primary Forest of Millenary Ferns"; these giant ferns will be the highlight of the beautiful scenery we will find here, along with a small but majestic waterfall that can be found here during winter season.

The beautiful landscape, natural richness and wide variety of ecosystems are all product of hard work during many years to protect and conserve this forest by its owners. This walk is of easy-medium difficulty and takes around 2 hours and 30 minutes to complete, it's a perfect way to walk into nature and get away from the hectic city life.



After this beautiful experience, we will return to the reserves main house so we can have a delicious lunch, made by Marianita, with organic products that in their majority have been harvested in this same reserve. After lunch, it's time to participate in the elaboration of cheese, jams and or caramel flavored cream, all products that have been elaborated for many years here, making them of great quality and amazing taste. At the end of the day all of the visitors can acquire any of these products.

If time allows it, we can relax right by the chimney drinking some hot Bombolí coffee before having to head back to Quito.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ✓ This program is very flexible, so activities can vary depending on the passengers' preferences.
- ✓ This tour can be programed and operated on any day of the year.

INCLUDES

- ✓ Private Tourism Transportation: Quito-Bombolí-Quito
- ✓ Bilingual Guide (english/ spanish)
- ✓ Natural excursion with an ecological expert as a companion
- ✓ Entrance to the private reserve
- ✓ Lunch prepared with organic products
- ✓ Soft drinks (water, tea and coffee)
- ✓ Tasting of local made cheese and jams

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- ✓ Excursion to the Giant Ferns Forest
- ✓ Visit to the gardens and orchids nursery
- ✓ Cheese elaboration or Ecuadorian cuisine tutorial
- ✓ Visit to the Polylepis forest and organic orchard
- ✓ Coffee in the afternoon

NOT INCLUDED

- ✓ IVA (taxes) for Ecuadorian passengers and local agencies.
- ✓ Tips
- ✓ Personal expenses
- ✓ Any other item or service not specified in the program

¿WHAT TO TAKE?

- ✓ Warm and comfortable clothing
- ✓ Water poncho
- ✓ Trekking shoes
- ✓ Magnifying glass and Binoculars
- ✓ Cameras
- ✓ Plastic bags to protect your electronical items.



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