



Nestled on the hillside

Casa Mojanda Otavalo, Ecuador

Generously donated by: Rachel Malinowitzer and Nancy Shaffran

Website: www.casamojanda.com



View from the house



View of Cotacachi Volcano



Offer: Five nights valued at \$1,200
Not included: cleaning/service fee of \$300 or meals and activities
Sleeps: 6 Bedrooms: 2 Bathrooms: 1
Restrictions: Good for one year dependent on availability, unavailable the month of February, no pets or smoking



Kitchen and dining area



Living room



Otavalo market



Lake Cuicocha



Casa Mojanda grounds

Nature In All It's Glory

On offer is a lovely two bedroom home in the Andes Mountains. This unique setting offers an abundance of natural beauty that you truly must see to believe. You will wake up to breathtaking views of forested mountains, snow-capped volcanoes, stone terraces, farms and a bucolic countryside. Llamas are found throughout the property and yes, they are friendly. Each bedroom has a full bed and a bunk bed. There is a full kitchen and living area. You also have the option to purchase a meal plan at the Inn (not included in auction). There is Wi-Fi on site, portable heaters in each room plus a fireplace in main living area where the innkeepers will prep a fire for you. They can also provide laundry service and transportation arrangements to local sights for a fee.

Things To Do

The Mojanda region's biodiversity is one of its most striking features, adding to the incredible beauty you can enjoy. The three lakes nestled in the perfectly shaped collapsed caldera of this old volcano allow for a very unique high altitude ecosystem in the northern "sierra" (highlands) of Ecuador. Wildlife species historically present in the area include: white-tailed deer, pumas, páramo foxes and over 100 species of birds (see their website for details). A wide variety of flowering plants attract 20 species of hummingbirds, including the Giant Hummingbird, largest of the world's 319 species. Additionally, the endangered Andean Condor, world's largest raptor, can be seen soaring the crown of Fuya Fuya summit and Cerro Negro in front of it. For the adventurer, there is horseback riding, hiking in the Andes Mountains, mountain biking and fishing. Visit the Mojanda Lakes or fly to the Galapagos Islands or the Amazon Rain Forest, both just a one-hour flight away from Quito. There is so much to explore in this spectacular part of the world. If you choose to relax a bit more, you can picnic by the waterfall or soak in the nearby hot springs. Or you can simply lie in a hammock and take in the tranquil scenery. It's all up to you!

A visit here would not be complete without a walk or short taxi ride to Otavalo, one of the most important indigenous markets in all of Latin America. There you will find an abundance of beautiful flowers and local delicacies including just caught fish and freshly harvested vegetables. And on weekends you get to experience the amazing artisan craft center.

FAQS

Best time to visit? Anytime of the year. Situated on the equator, Otavalo is around 75 degrees all year round, though it gets chilly at night

Best way to get there? Avianca Airlines is usually a good value and flights from Miami or Panama City to Quito are 5.5 - 6 hours. To get from the airport to Casa Mojanda, approximately a 1.5 hour ride, you can arrange, in advance, for transportation through the inn directly. They'll even stop at la Mitad del Mundo so you can straddle the equator along the way!

What is the language? Spanish speaking. However, English is widely used.

What is the currency? The American dollar.

What is the altitude? The property sits at 8,500 feet.

Is shopping close by? Yes, you may walk to town, just a short distance down the mountain, or go by car. You may also visit neighboring indigenous villages to watch the artisan families at work.

Where can we eat? You may choose to dine at any of the many Ecuadorian restaurants in town, pick up food at the amazing market (fish is a specialty - tilapia and trout) and cook in the cottage OR you have a choice (for an additional fee) to dine at the inn. The inn offers organic breakfast and dinner with an option for a picnic lunch. Dining reservations should be made in advance.

The Inn

The central lodge and cabins are spread over the farms' grounds, with each cabin providing expansive views and a homey Andean feel. The Inn's kitchen serves healthy and creative home-cooked meals served family-style based on traditional Ecuadorian and international recipes made from their own produce harvested daily from their organic gardens. Though they are located at the center of the earth, they like to think you'll be on top of the world when you visit.

REVIEWS

Thank you for a glorious few days. The food was absolutely sensational, the horses beautiful, and the singing and dancing joyous. (May 2010)

Laurie Liberman - Melbourne, Australia

Thank you from the very bottom of our hearts for an amazing week. It has changed us forever! The food, the company, the children, and the land will be in our souls forever. (June 2010)

Denn & Victoria Dupuy - San Jose, CA

The air, the horses, the dogs, the view, the food, the PEOPLE! We enjoyed our stay here immensely. Renewed and refreshed, we head home to take on the world again. (January 2010)

Geoff, Sharon, Skye & Zoe - Vancouver, BC

Thank you for a glorious weekend and a harmonious setting. We savored the food, the spirits, and the company. We especially appreciated the hot tub after a long day's work. (June 2010)

Amanda and Randy - California

Wonderful oasis amidst the clouds. Thanks for everything. (May 2010)

Steve and Liz - Seattle, Washington