

# DISCOVER ECUADOR

WITH NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC TELEVISION AND WILLEM LANGE  
NOVEMBER 11-18, 2016



## HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE



- Mindo Cloud Forest
- Otavalo craft markets
- Antisana Ecological Reserve
- El Pahuma Orchid Reserve
- Parque Condor
- Pacha Quindi Nature Refuge
- Special meetings with experts on ornithology, ecology, and archaeology





**Imagine yourself in Ecuador next March; experience its dramatic mountains and lush cloud forests, take in its phenomenal bird life, and learn about Andean culture, ecology and conservation. Highlights of the tour include ornithologist-led excursions in Mindo Cloud Forest and the Tandayapa Valley; the Otavalo craft markets; a visit to a traditional weaving workshop; a visit to the Antisana Ecological Reserve; and special meetings with experts on Ecuador's natural history, archaeology, and ecology. Each day, you will be treated to storytelling by Willem Lange, host of NHPTV's "Windows to the Wild." Experience all this while making friends with fellow NHPTV viewers on the trip of a lifetime!**



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A pelican in flight

## DAY 1 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2016 *Departure*

Meet **Willem Lange**, host of NHPTV's "Windows to the Wild," at the Boston Logan Airport. Depart for Quito, Ecuador, with a connection in Atlanta. Arrive in Quito this evening and meet your tour manager. Transfer to your hotel and get acquainted with your fellow travelers over a welcome drink.

## DAY 2 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2016 *Quito's Historic Center*

After **breakfast** at the hotel, join **Willem** and your tour manager for an **overview of the days to come**. Embark on a locally **guided city tour of Quito** featuring the city's impeccably preserved historic center and its magnificent colonial architecture. Admire **La Compania Church** and the majestic buildings flanking **Independence Square**, and stroll **La Ronda**, a narrow pedestrian promenade lined with workshops and old-fashioned stores.

Visit the **Middle of the World Monument**, built to mark the Equator and commemorate this surveying feat of the 18th century. Our tour will conclude with a delicious **lunch** at a traditional restaurant. The afternoon is yours to explore Quito at your leisure. Reconvene this evening for dinner.

## DAY 3 SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2016 *Orchids, Birds, and Cloud Forests*

Following **breakfast** at the hotel, check out and depart for the **El Pahuma Orchid Reserve**, an expansive cloud forest reserve home to a multitude of species of epiphytes including bromeliads, orchids, mosses, and ferns. Join a local **naturalist** on a guided walk of the reserve; get a close-up look at the 270 orchid species that make it so special, and learn about its abundant bird life. Continue on to the **Mindo Cloud Forest**, an ecological reserve renowned for its biodiversity and wide array of bird species. There is an excellent chance you will see a Plate-Billed Mountain Toucan, a Silver-Throated Tanager, and other colorful representatives of the avian realm.

Next, head to the **Tandayapa Valley** and visit **Pacha Quindi**, a unique nature refuge run by an American ornithologist who welcomes travelers and birdwatchers. Enjoy a **picnic lunch** here; then, embark on a guided walk through the cloud forest and the **hummingbird garden**, where 42 species of hummingbird have been recorded.

Stay overnight at Bellavista Lodge in the **Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve**, a certified conservation area established by pioneers in sustainable ecotourism. **Dinner** is served at the lodge. **Willem** will share stories of his experiences **birding in Mindo** and will discuss how the relationship between the local people and the birds of the region has changed over the years.

## DAY 4 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016 *Birding and Traditional Crafts*

Have **breakfast** at Bellavista Lodge, and embark on a morning **bird walk** with a local ornithologist or spend a relaxing morning at the Lodge. Return to Bellavista for **lunch**; then, check out and travel north through the beautiful valleys and fields near **Cayambe Volcano**, the third highest mountain in Ecuador. The Cayambe region is Ecuador's flower capital; most of the country's fresh cut flower production takes place here, and the region's roses are exported all over the world. Continue to the **Otavalo** region as **Willem** tells you the **geological story of Ecuador**. This afternoon, explore the craft village of **San Antonio de Ibarra**, known for its **woodcarving** tradition. See artisans at work and get a glimpse into the lifestyles of indigenous people. This evening, check into **Hacienda Cusin**, an Andean estate in the foothills of the Imbabura volcano that has been restored to its 17th century splendor. The estate's meticulously landscaped grounds boast vegetable gardens, labyrinthine pathways, water features, and numerous species of flowers and trees. Enjoy **dinner** upon arrival and listen to **Willem's stories of explorers, Incas, and conquistadors**.

## DAY 5 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016 *Otavalo Markets and Parque Condor*

After **breakfast** at the hacienda, check out and visit **Otavalo's markets**, famous throughout the Andes for exquisite **handicrafts, textiles, tapestries**, and rich offerings of local produce. We also visit **Peguiche**, a traditional village known for its magnificent **textile weaving** products. Lunch will be served today at a local restaurant on the shores of the **San Pablo Lake**. Enjoy a relaxing meal as you take in the majestic beauty of the surrounding mountains and the serene tranquility of the lake. This afternoon, visit **Parque Condor**, a wildlife refuge for owls and raptors situated on a rocky outcropping above Otavalo. The facility's main concern is the protection of the Andean condor, the national bird of Ecuador. Return tonight to Quito, where the evening is free to pursue individual interests.



San Rafael Falls



Plaza Grande in Quito's colonial center



Wild horses at the base of Cotopaxi Volca



Cuichocha Caldera and Lake



Ecuador's stunning coastline

**DAY 6 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016** *Antisana Ecological Reserve*

Following **breakfast** at the hotel, check out and visit the **Antisana Ecological Reserve**, which provides grassland vegetation for numerous endangered species such as the Andean condor, spectacled bear, puma, Paramo wolf, and Andean hillstar hummingbird. Situated within this breathtaking area of natural beauty is the Antisana Volcano. Meet with an **ecologist** and learn about the reserve's ecology and conservation efforts. A **picnic lunch** will be served during your visit. Later today, continue on to **Hacienda San Agustin de Callo**, a working farm built on the site of an Inca palace.

The hacienda's rich history, peaceful atmosphere, and charming setting make it a sanctuary of sorts for artists and nature enthusiasts alike. Check in and enjoy **dinner** and an **evening of storytelling with Willem**.

**DAY 7 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016** *Hacienda San Agustin De Callo & Return to the USA*

Over a leisurely **breakfast** at the hacienda, meet an **archaeologist** who will show and tell you about the legacies of **Inca architecture** that are still visible on the hacienda. The remainder of your last morning in Ecuador is free to enjoy all the hacienda and its vicinity have to offer. Explore the **walking trails** in the highlands surrounding the hacienda grounds. From nearby Cotopaxi National Park, you will have wonderful views of the **Cotopaxi Volcano**, the highest active volcano in the world at 19,347 ft. You may also opt to **ride a horse** on ancient Inca paths through Andean villages, **mountain bike** into the Cotopaxi refuge, or visit a **rose plantation**. Gather together again at the Hacienda for a tasty **lunch**; then, check out and transfer to Quito for a sumptuous **farewell dinner**. There will be plenty of opportunity to recount your adventures of the last week before transferring to the airport and boarding your return flight. Welcome home!

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

- 6 nights in double occupancy rooms with private shower or bath
- 3 nights Quito
- 1 night Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve
- 1 night Otavalo
- 1 night Cotopaxi National Park area

**TRANSPORTATION**

- Private transportation
- Domestic round-trip flight from Boston to Quito

**MEALS**

- Breakfast buffet served daily in the hotel dining room
- 6 lunches
- 5 three-course dinners as described in the itinerary

**SPECIAL LECTURES AND STUDY VISITS**

Special lectures and study visits will be especially arranged for the NHPTV group, pending confirmation by the speaker.

- Ornithologist-led bird walks in Mindo Cloud Forest and Tandayapa Valley
- Lecture by an archaeologist about Inca architecture
- Lecture by an ecologist about Andean ecology and conservation
- Visit to a weaver's workshop in Peguche

**TOUR HOST, TOUR MANAGER AND LOCAL GUIDE**

NHPTV's Willem Lange will host the tour.

A full-time Music Contact International tour manager and local guide will accompany your group from arrival to departure.

**ENTRANCES**

- Middle of the World Monument
- El Pahuma Orchid Reserve
- Pacha Quindi Nature Refuge
- Parque Condor

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

Each member of the group will receive:

- A customized handbook with detailed tour itinerary and regional and travel information
- Luggage tag and ticket jacket

**AIRFARE AND FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS**

Round-trip group flights from Boston to Quito are available through Music Contact International. The group airfare is currently \$720.00. Customized flight itineraries can be arranged upon request.

**L A N D P A C K A G E P R I C E**

**\$4,334.00** per person in double occupancy  
**\$250.00** supplement for single room

**TOUR ADMINISTRATION**

This tour of Ecuador is designed by New Hampshire Public Television and Music Contact International, Inc. The tour aims to give NHPTV travelers an in-depth glimpse into the geography, ecology, culture, and history of Ecuador through site visits and lectures by local experts. NHPTV's Willem Lange will host the tour.

A portion of the tour proceeds benefits New Hampshire Public Television but is not considered a tax-deductible contribution according to IRS regulations. If a minimum of 20 participants is not reached by August 1, 2016, NHPTV and Music Contact International reserve the right to cancel the tour. In this case, all payments made will be refunded.

**CHANGES IN THE PROGRAM**

NHPTV and Music Contact International, Inc. reserve the right to alter the travel program and to make changes deemed necessary for the quality of the program and the comfort, convenience, and safety of the participants. Every effort will always be made to adhere to the printed itinerary, but weather conditions, transportation difficulties or other circumstances could force the cancellation or substitution of events or specific services.

**RESERVATION PROCEDURE**

To register for the tour, please go online to [nhptv.org/travel](http://nhptv.org/travel) or call us at 1-800-624-0166 or e-mail [ecuador@music-contact.com](mailto:ecuador@music-contact.com).

A \$1,500.00 per person registration fee, payable by credit card on-line, is required to reserve your place on the tour.

Registrations will be accepted in the order in which they are received. Space is limited.

**WILLEM LANGE**

Avid outdoorsman, author and award-winning *Windows to the Wild* host, Willem Lange has been called "one of the most beloved storytellers in Northern New England." Willem writes *A Yankee Notebook*, a weekly newspaper column and his book, *Words from the Wild*, was published in 2015.

In addition to hosting ten seasons of New Hampshire Public Television's *Windows to the Wild* series, Willem is the host of five NHPTV birding documentaries that have won New England Emmy, Telly and New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters awards: *Journey of the Broad-Winged Hawk*, *Saving Songbirds*, *Bird Tales*, *Counting on Birds*, and *Plight of the Grassland Birds*. He's published ten books and several audio recordings. His knack for storytelling, background in education, and love for the outdoors make Willem the perfect host and tour guide.

Will was born in 1935. A child of deaf parents, he grew up speaking sign language and first came to New England to prep school in 1950 as an alternative to reform school in his native New York State. During a few absences from New England, Will earned a degree in only nine years at the College of Wooster in Ohio. He has worked as a ranch hand, Adirondack guide, preacher, construction laborer, bobsled run announcer, assembly line worker, cab driver, bookkeeper, and bartender.

From 1968 to 1972 Will directed the Dartmouth Outward Bound Center. From 1972 until his "retirement" in 2007, he was a building and remodeling contractor in Hanover, N.H.

In 1973 Will founded the Geriatric Adventure Society, a group of outdoor enthusiasts whose members have skied the 200-mile Alaska Marathon, climbed in Alaska, the Andes, and Himalayas, and bushwhacked on skis through northern New England.

He and his wife Ida have been married since 1959. They live in East Montpelier, Vermont, and have three children and four grandchildren.



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