

A large, snow-capped mountain peak dominates the background, with a hiker in the foreground on a rocky, reddish-brown slope. The hiker is wearing a blue helmet and a backpack, and is pointing towards the mountain. The sky is clear and blue.

KE

ADVENTURE  
TRAVEL

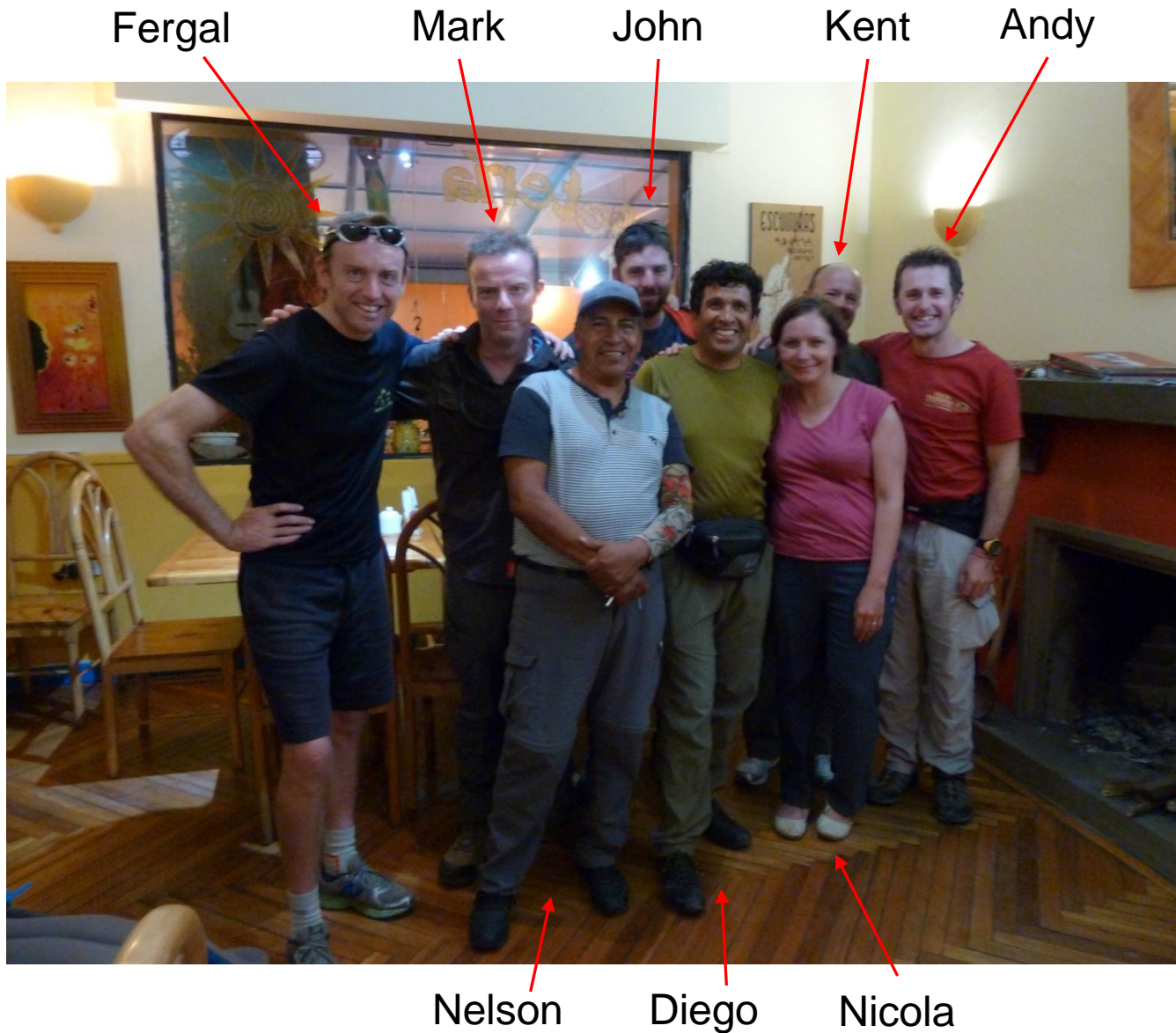
keadventure.com

Trip code ECU

# Ecuador's Triple Crown

Andy French. December 2015

# Team KE: Ecuador's Triple Crown. Friday 18/12/15 – Saturday 2/1/16





**Day 0-1 Thursday 17/12/15 – Friday 18/12/15**  
Winchester, UK to Quito, Ecuador



**Day 2 Saturday 19/12/15**  
Walking tour of Quito (2850m)



**Day 3 Sunday 20/12/15**  
Acclimatisation walk around Culcocha crater lake (3500m)



**Sunday 20/12/15 – Monday 21/12/15**  
Hosteria Pantavi



## **Days 4-6 Monday 21/12/15 – Wednesday 23/12/15**

Acclimatisation trek (2500m to > 4000m) in

Cotacachi-Cayapas reserve. Camp at Yanacocha lake.



## **Wednesday 23/12/15**

Rest & recuperation at the Chachimbuto thermal springs,  
then a feast at Hosteria Pantavi.



## **Day 7 Thursday 24/12/15**

Christmas Eve climb of Volcano Imbabura (4609m)



## **Thursday 24/12/15 – Friday 25/12/15**

Homestay in the rural village of St Clemente



### **Day 8 Friday 25/12/15. Christmas Day.**

Drive to roadhead at the base of Cayambe (5790m), and walk to Hermoso glacier viewpoint. Overnight at Bergé, Ruales, Oleas refuge (4650m).

Summit attempt at 23:00. Abandoned at lower glacier due to bad weather at 5000m. Returned to refuge about 04:30



### **Day 9 Saturday 26/12/15**

Return to Quito via Mitad del Mundo equator line exhibition



### **Day 10 Sunday 27/12/15**

Cable car to the Pinchincha viewpoint above Quito (4050m)



### **Day 11 Monday 28/12/15**

Drive to Cotopaxi national park. Three hour hike in the high páramo then lunch in the Tambopaxi lodge. Drive to Riobamba. Overnight at Hotel Rincon Aleman.



## **Day 12 Tuesday 29/12/15**

Acclimatisation walk to 5350m from Refugio Carrel (4850m) on Chimborazo. Overnight at Rincon Aleman in Riobamba



## **Day 13 Wednesday 30/12/15**

Return to Refugio Carrel (4850m) on Chimborazo. Summit attempt at 22:45



## **Day 14 Thursday 31/12/15**

Veintemilla summit (6267m) reached at around 07:00. Return to Refugio Carrel by 11:00. Drive to a hotel on the outskirts of Banños. Celebrate New Year's Eve at UK time, 7pm in Ecuador!



## **Day 15 Friday 1/1/16**

Zip line and Via Ferrata in Banños



### **Friday 1/1/16**

Baños waterfall visit and lunch in Rio Verde. Transfer to Quito on the Pan American Highway via 'Jeans Town' and Helados Mickos (!)



### **Friday 1/1/16**

Final group meal at the Beach Bar in Quito



### **Day 16 Saturday 2/1/16**

Ascend the Quito teleferico and climb Pichincha (4696m)



### **Saturday 2/1/16 - Sunday 3/1/16**

Return to Winchester, UK from Quito, Ecuador via Madrid

# Fly (BA / Iberia) London Heathrow to Quito, via Madrid







## Ecuador

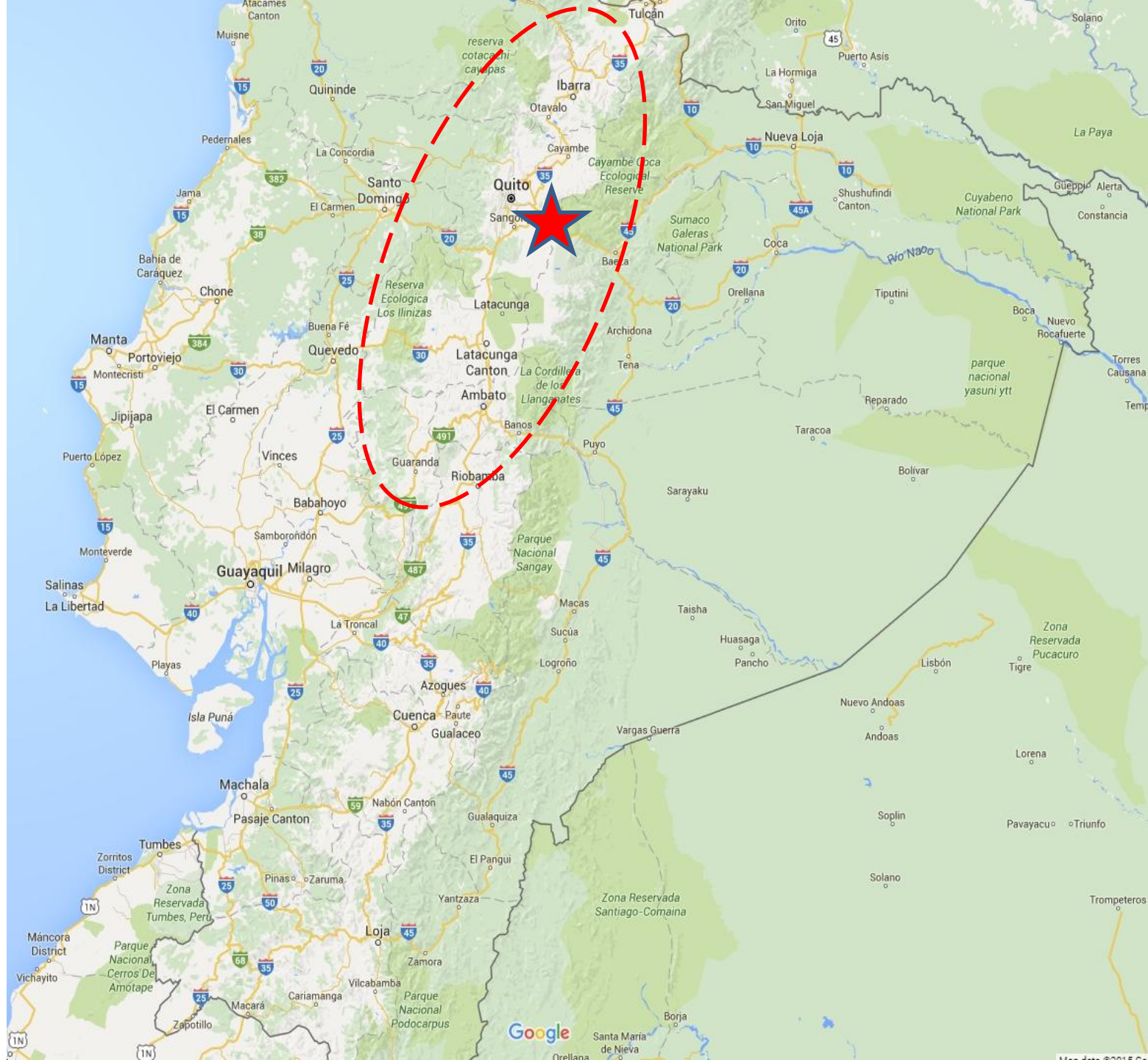
**Population:**  
16.1 million (2015)

**Area:**  
283,560 km<sup>2</sup>

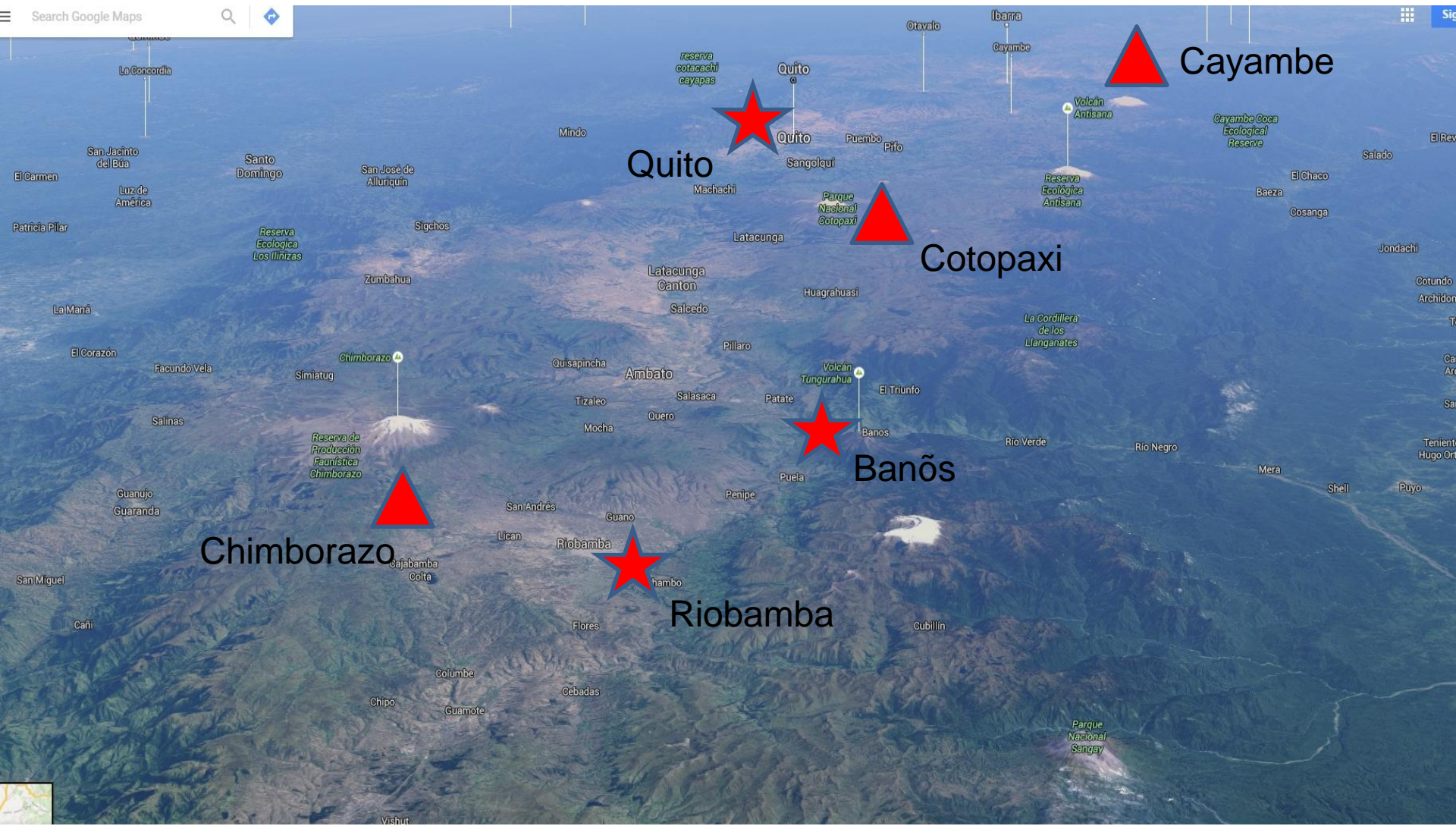
**GDP:**  
\$180.2 billion  
(65<sup>th</sup> /196)  
(\$11,244 per capita)



144km







Search Google Maps



Quito

Cayambe

Cotopaxi

Banos

Chimborazo

Riobamba

reserva  
cotacachi  
cayapas

Parque  
Nacional  
Cotopaxi

Reserva  
Ecologica  
Antisana

Reserva  
Ecologica  
Los Ilinizas

Reserva de  
Produccion  
Faunistica  
Chimborazo

La Cordillera  
de los  
Llanganates

Parque  
Nacional  
Sangay

144km



Quito

Cayambe

Cotopaxi

Chimborazo

Banões

Riobamba

Google



Quito

Cayambe

Cotopaxi



El Angel

Bolivar

Pimampiro

San Francisco  
de Sigispamba

Volcán  
Cayambe

Ibarra

Angochagua

Pesillo



Cayambe  
(5790m)





Sangolquí

Del Salitre

Parque  
Nacional  
Cotopaxi



Cotopaxi  
(5895m)



Angamarca

erva de  
ucción  
ística  
borazo



Chimborazo  
(6310m)

\*Veintemilla summit is 6267m

\*Whymper summit is 6310m

## WGS-84 ellipsoid

Equatorial radius (6,378.1370 km)

Polar radius (6,356.7523 km)

Difference between polar and equatorial radius is

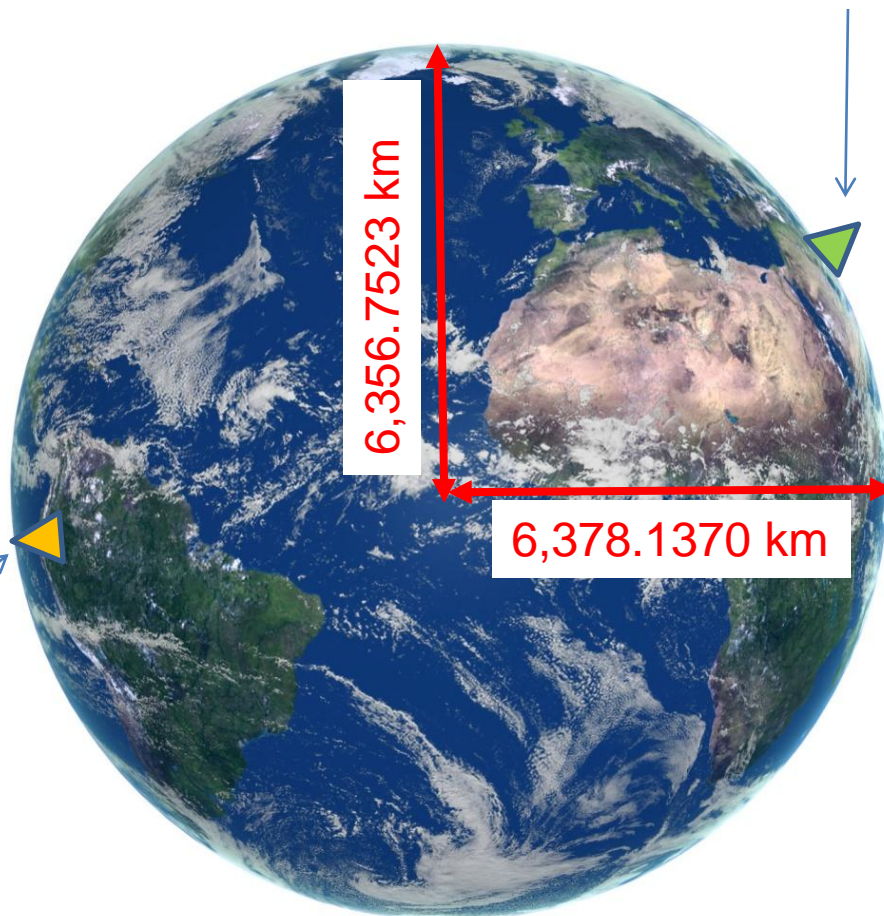
**21.3847 km**

**So Chimborazo is the highest mountain in the world! \***

*\*from the Earth's centre*



Mount Everest, Nepal (8848m)



Chimborazo, Ecuador (6310m)



**Thursday 17/12/15 – Friday 18/12/15**

Winchester, UK to Quito, Ecuador

Fly BA/Iberia from London Heathrow to Quito via Madrid.



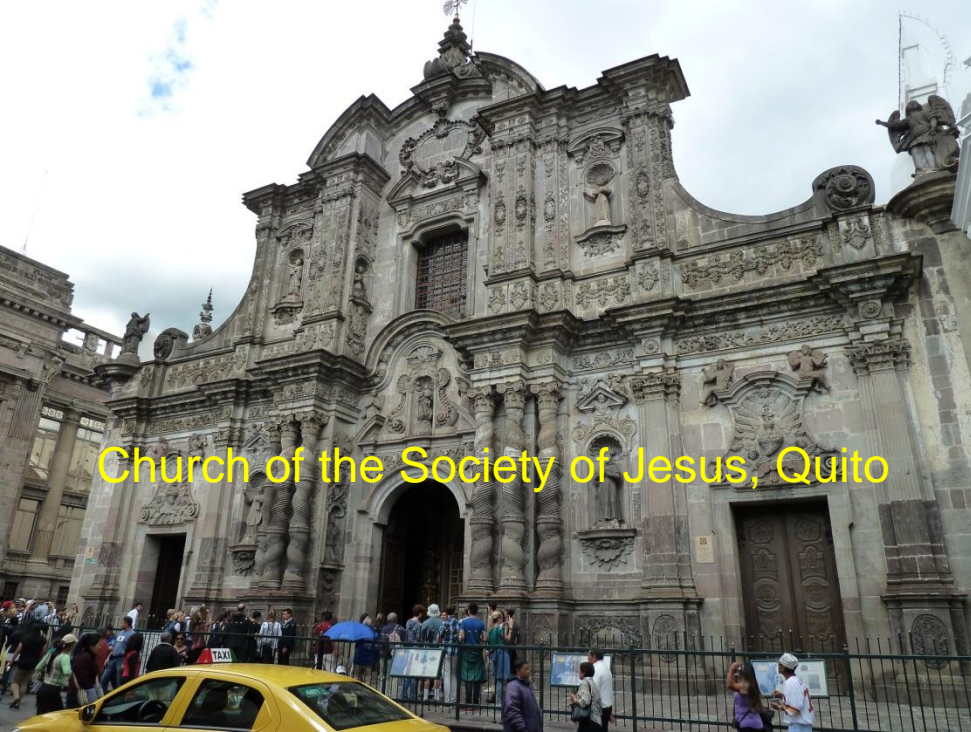
**Quito.** Capital city of Ecuador. Population 1.6 million.  
(Quito is the second largest city. The largest by population is Guayaquil at 2.3 million)



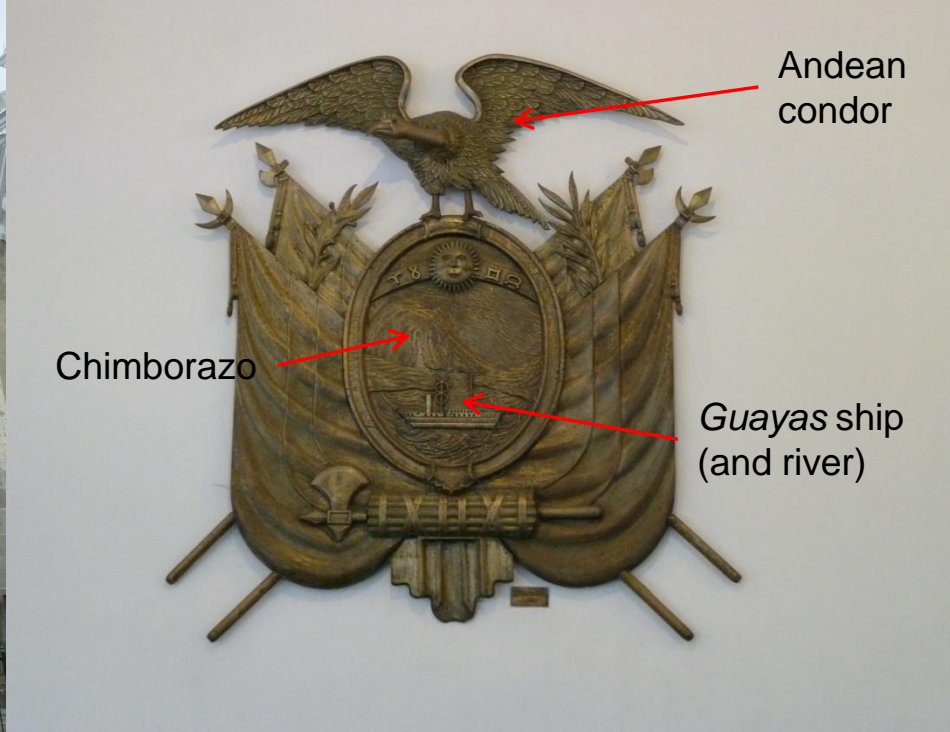


Madonna atop El Panecillo volcanic hill.  
7000 pieces of aluminium!  
(Agustín de la Herrán Matorras, 1976)





Church of the Society of Jesus, Quito



Andean condor

Chimborazo

Guayas ship (and river)



Palacio de Carondelet (seat of government)



Independence square

Colombian restaurant



Mark eating Cuy (guinea pig)





Acclimatisation walk  
around Culcocha crater lake (3500m)











Art by hotel owner, [Camilo Andrade](#)



# Feliz Navidad in San Francisco (Ecuador!)

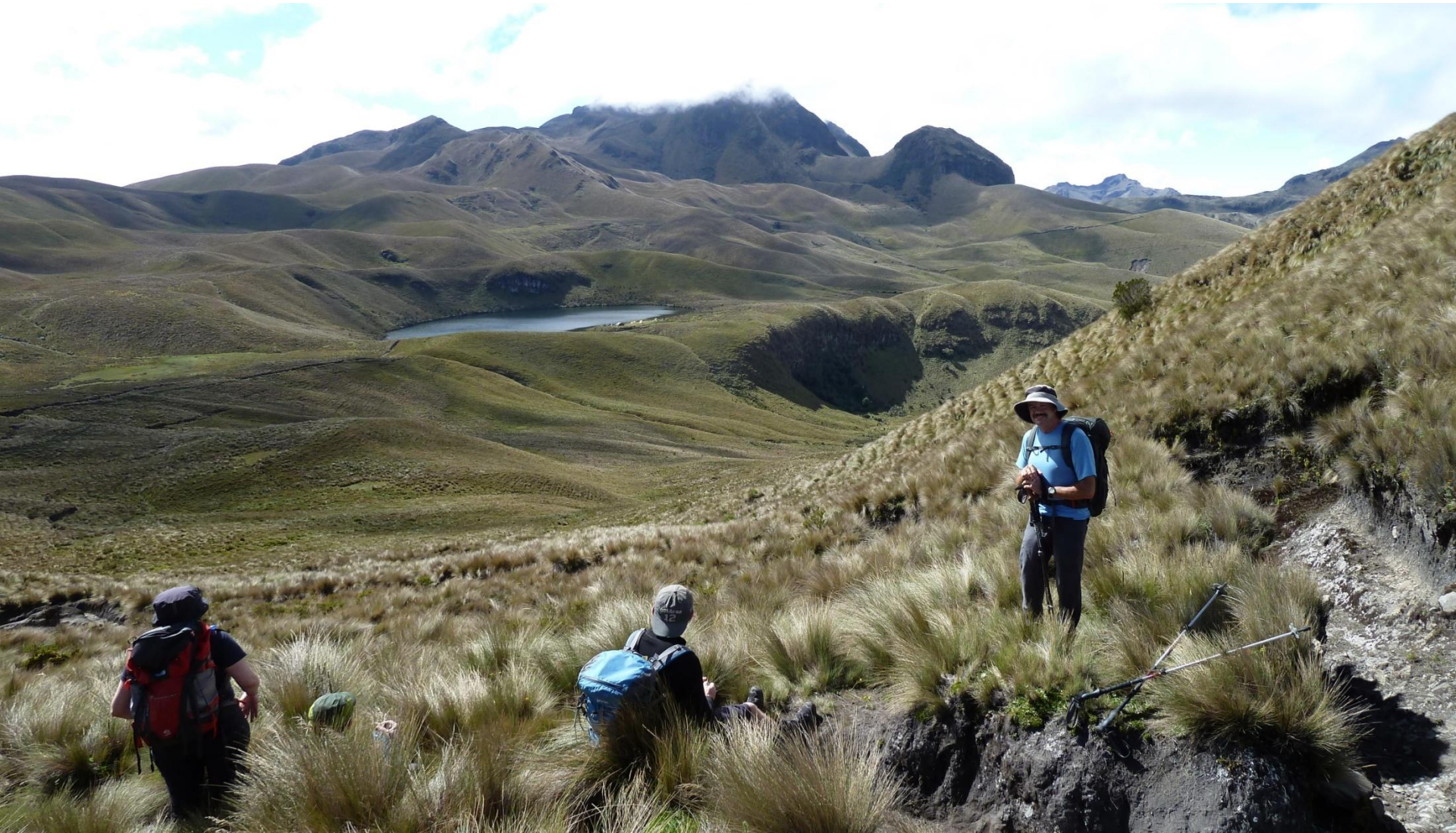




Full service camping on the village soccer pitch

Acclimatisation trek (2500m to > 4000m) in Cotacachi-Cayapas reserve.

Cotacachi-Cayapas reserve. Camp at Yanacocha lake



# Camp at Yanacocha lake (3870m)









Imbabura (4609m)



Chachimbito thermal springs



Climb of volcano Imbabura (4609m) on Christmas Eve







San Clemente homestay





San Clemente homestay



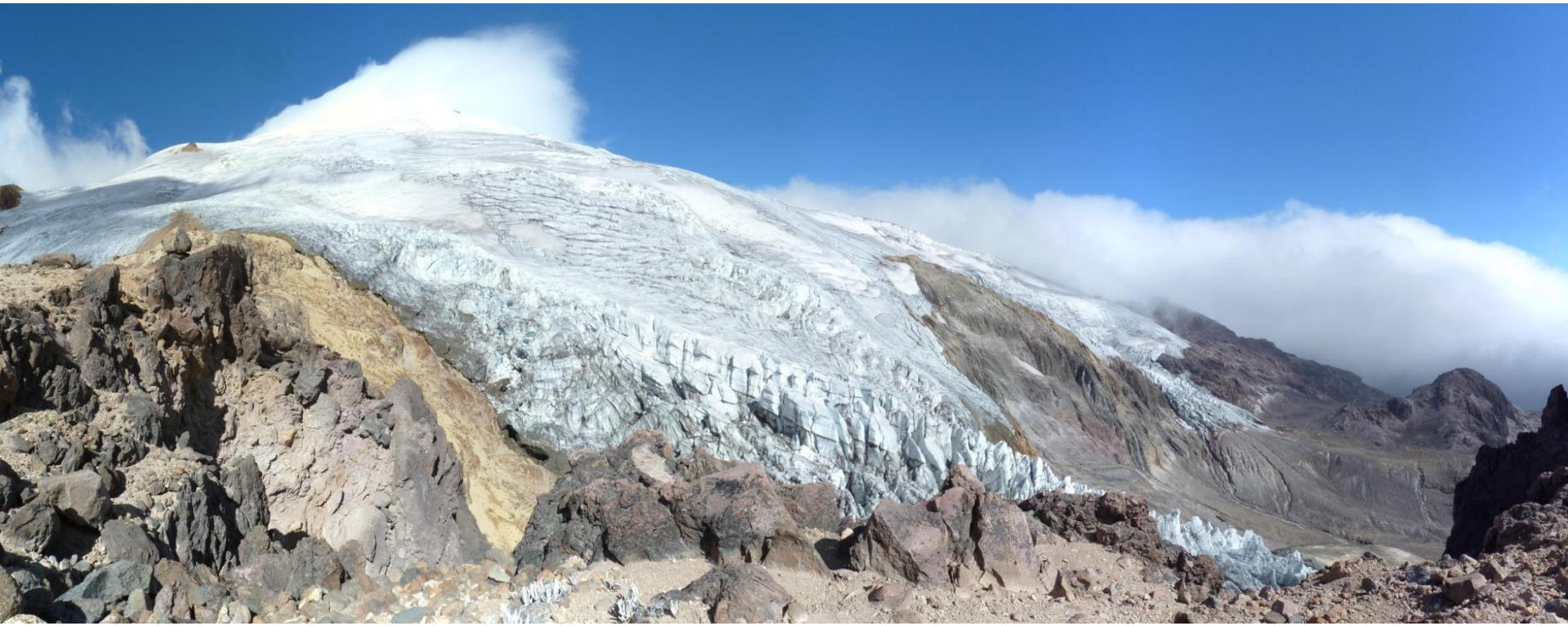
Cayambe town biscuit factory



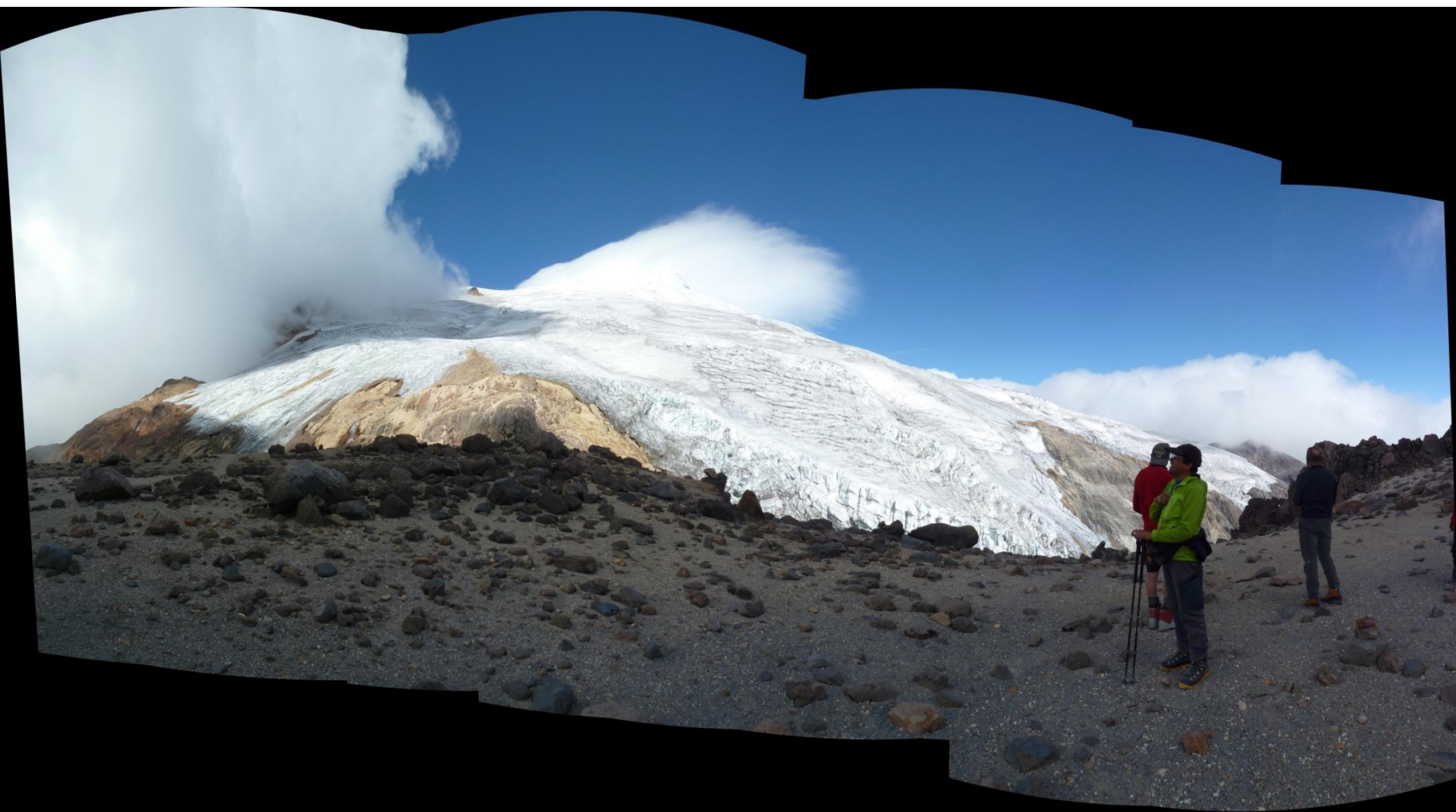


Cayambe (5790m)





Cayambe (5790m). Hermoso glacier

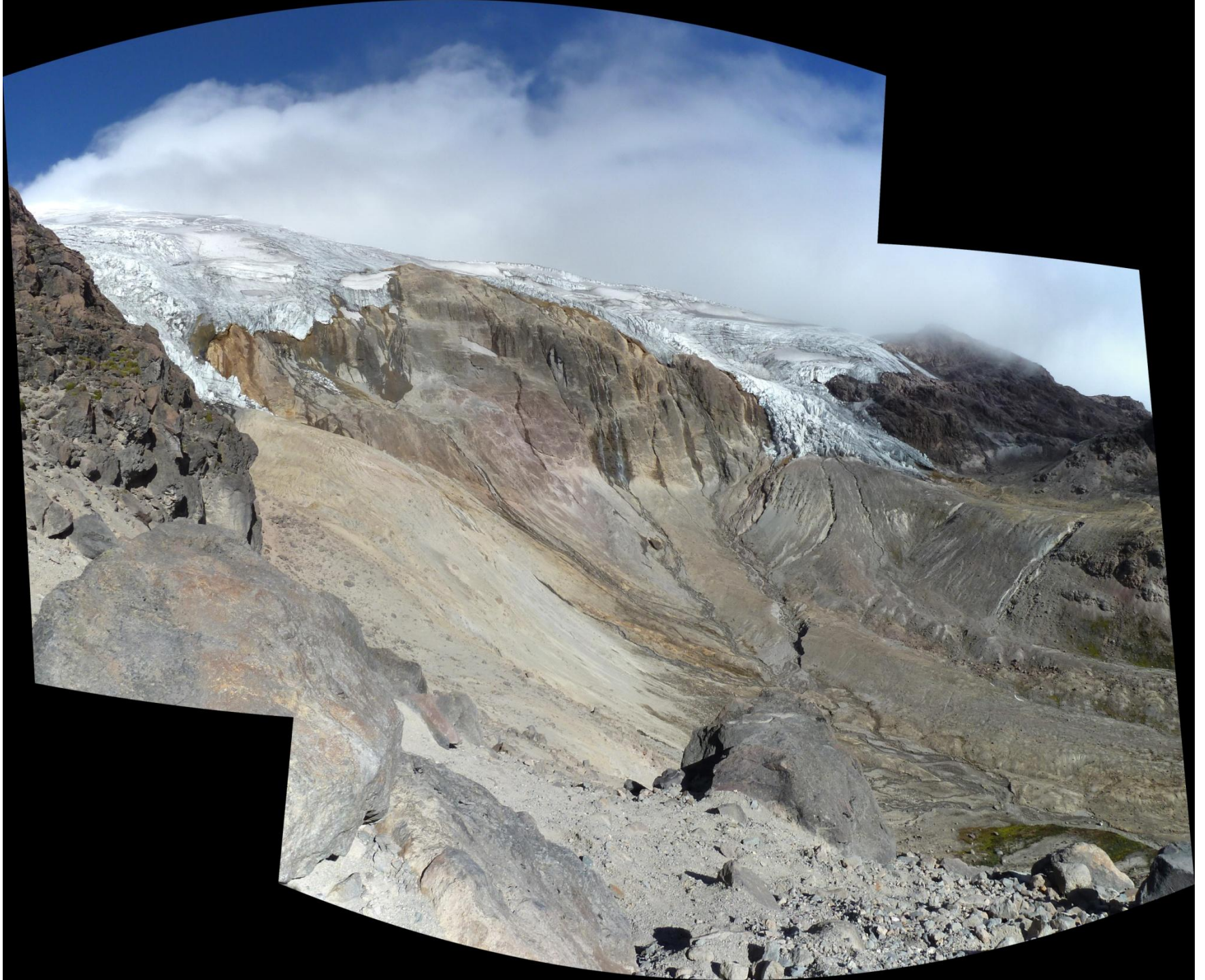


Cayambe (5790m). Hermoso glacier

Cayambe (5790m). Hermoso glacier.  
Christmas Day 2015







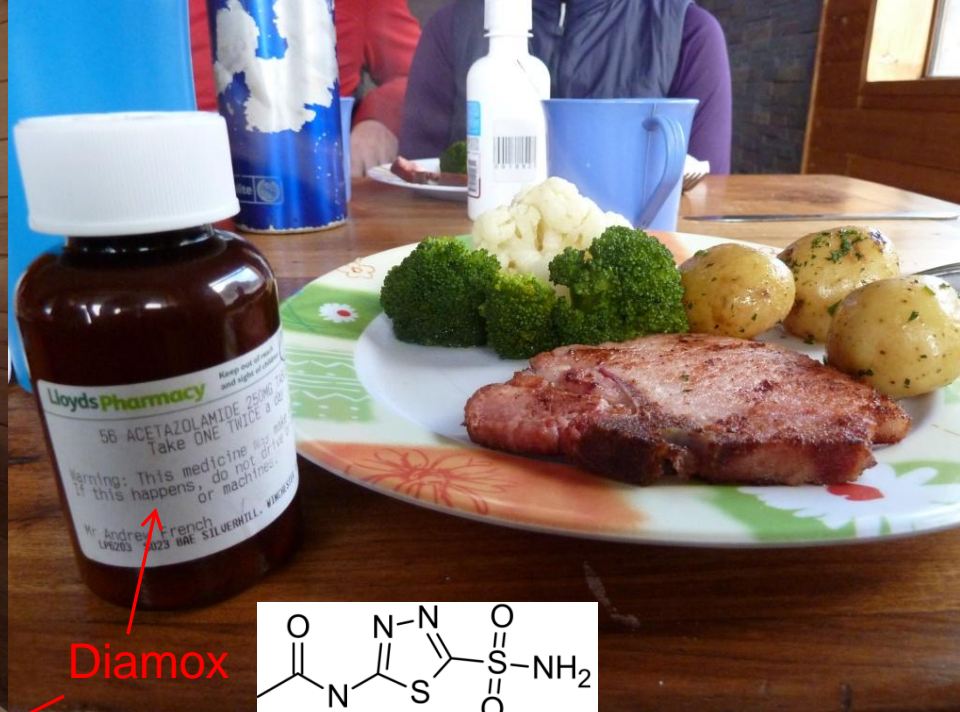




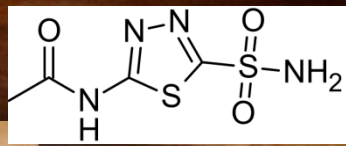




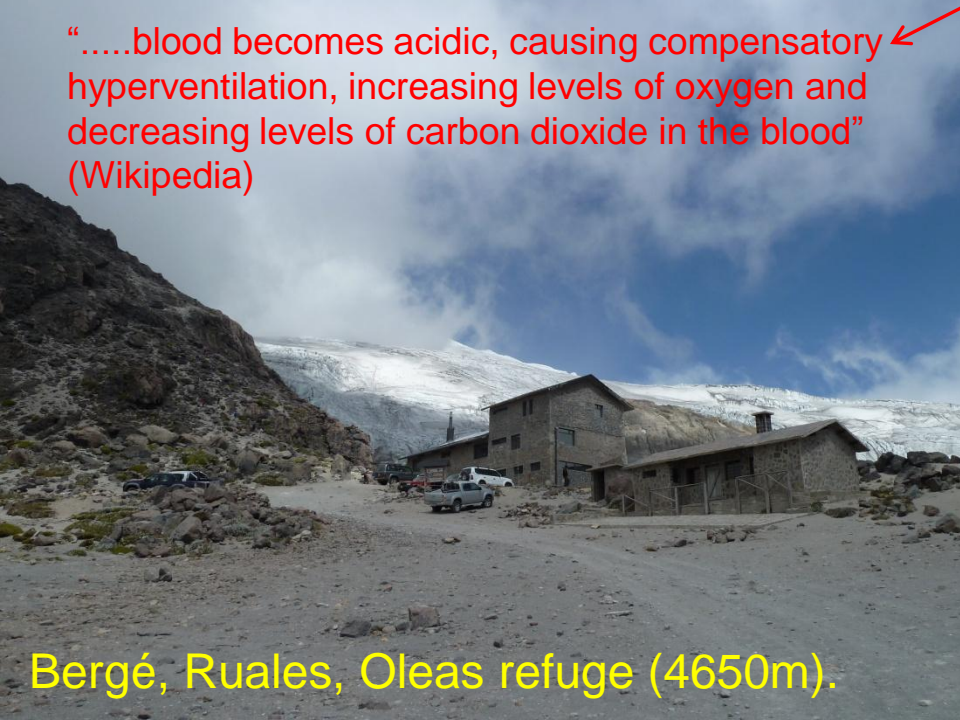




Diamox



“.....blood becomes acidic, causing compensatory hyperventilation, increasing levels of oxygen and decreasing levels of carbon dioxide in the blood” (Wikipedia)



Bergé, Ruales, Oleas refuge (4650m).



Summit attempt at 23:00. Abandoned at lower glacier (5000m) due to bad weather. Returned to refuge about 04:30

Mitad del Mundo equator line exhibition



# Cable car to the Pichincha viewpoint above Quito (4050m)



Pichincha (4696m)



Alpaca action!





Several 12 Megapixel digital photo images (taken using a Panasonic Lumix TZ8 in fixed focus 'panoramic' mode) *stitched* using [Microsoft Image Composition Editor](#) (ICE)







Cotopaxi (5895m). Active as of 2015.





Cotopaxi (5895m) and surrounding high páramo (alpine tundra ecosystem)



Cotopaxi (5895m)



# Cotopaxi (5895m)





Tambopaxi lodge

High páramo (alpine tundra ecosystem)





Sawdust filled dummies to be burnt as "los años viejos" (the old years) at midnight on New Year's Eve

# Chimborazo (6310m)



Estrella del Chimborazo (Chimborazo lodge).  
A homage to mountaineering history!







Arid desertscape in the rain-shadow to the west of Chimborazo



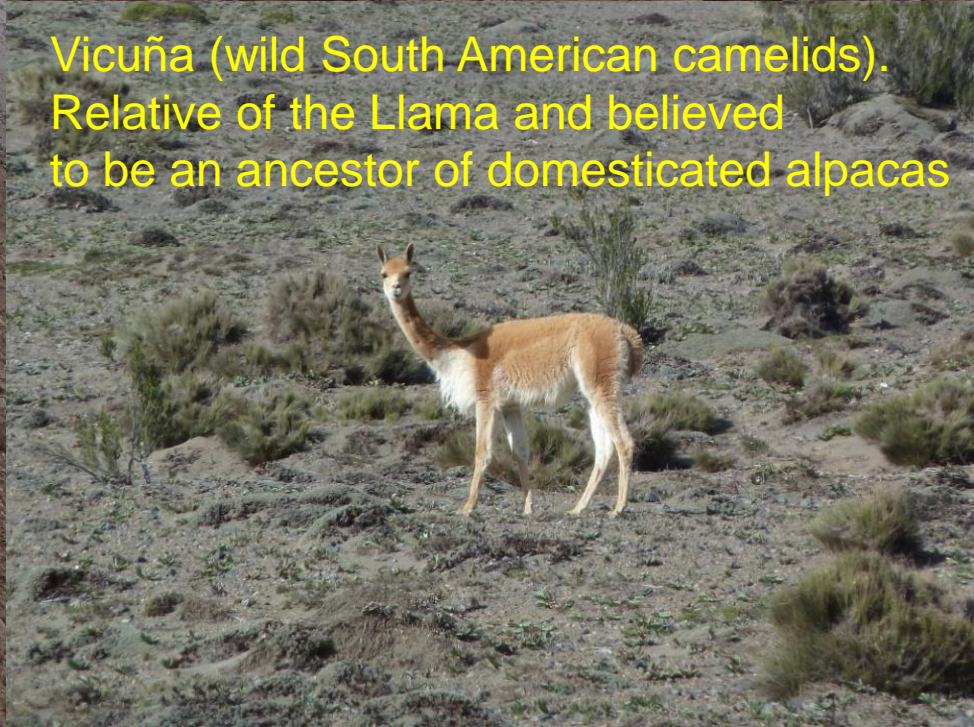
Acclimatisation walk to 5350m from Refugio Carrel







Vicuña (wild South American camelids).  
Relative of the Llama and believed  
to be an ancestor of domesticated alpacas







Alpacas

Strata of deposition from Chimborazo, revealed by a road cut into the hillside. Layers indicate past eruptions and or landslides. The thickness of the layers gives an indication of the relative magnitudes of such geological events



Chimborazo (6310m)





Whymper hut (5000m)





The track from the Carrel hut (4850m) to the Whymper hut (5000m)



Sunset at the Carrel hut,  
Chimborazo.

An early dinner, then rest before  
summit attempt at 22:45....



Dawn breaks on Chimborazo. High on the glacier (around 6000m)



Since the sun is rising in the east, Chimborazo casts a shadow upon the westerly cloud inversion





Andy, Fergal and Kent reach the summit of Chimborazo



Veintemilla summit (6267m) reached around 7am on New Year's Eve



Mountain guides Cosme and Manuel





The Whymper summit of Chimborazo (6310m). The furthest point from the centre of the Earth, and closest to the stars



Edward Whymper  
1840-1911  
First Ascent of the Matterhorn in  
Zermatt, Switzerland







Mountain  
guide Manuel



Wind formed ice *penitentes*



Crampons in contact with the ice at all  
times!



Traversing the glacier and avoiding crevasses



Towards The Traverse and El Castillo (The Castle)



# The Traverse and El Castillo (The Castle)

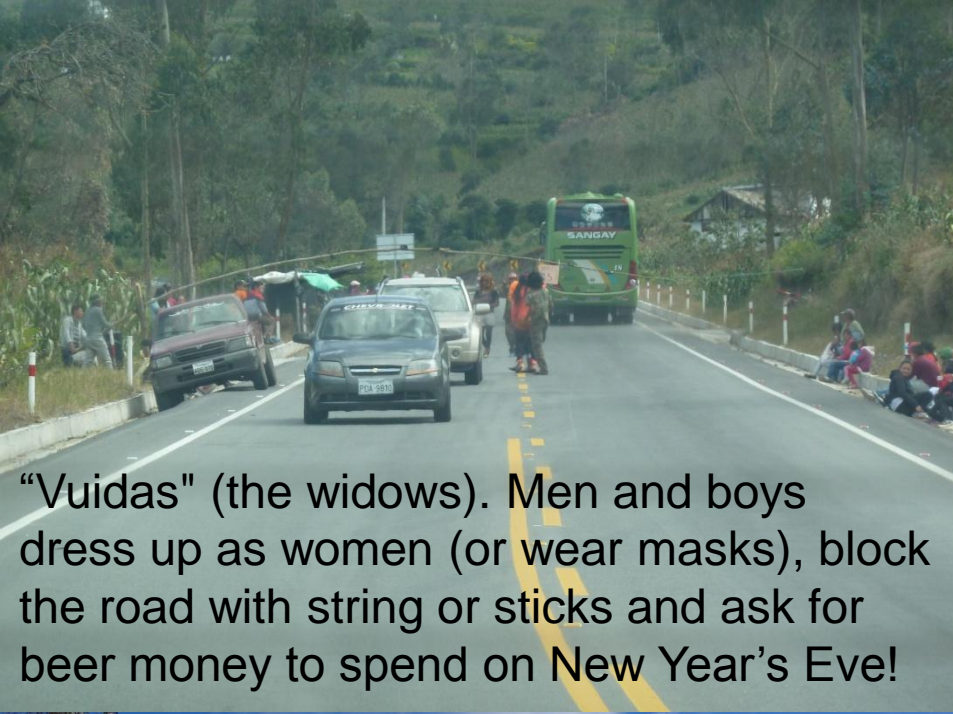




Route to the Veintemilla summit (6267m) of Chimborazo from The Traverse







“Vuidas” (the widows). Men and boys dress up as women (or wear masks), block the road with string or sticks and ask for beer money to spend on New Year’s Eve!



Active volcano Tungurahua (5023m)



Zip line and Via Ferrata in Banõs





After 800m of forward facing zip line into a canyon....



Via ferrata  
("iron way")





An alternative New Year's Day 'hangover' (!)



Pailon del Diablo (Devil's Cauldron)  
waterfall in Banõs







Pailon del Diablo (Devil's Cauldron) waterfall in Banõs



Final KE team meal in the Beach Bar, Quito



Fergal, Andy and Mark climb Pichincha (4696m)





**Saturday 2/1/16 - Sunday 3/1/16**

Return to Winchester, UK from Quito, Ecuador via  
Madrid



The next horizon?

Photos by Fergal, Mark,  
John, Andy and the crew  
at San Martin Zip lines,  
Banños

Design by Andy French  
2016

Enormous thanks to  
Diego, Nelson and all  
others in Ecuador and  
Keswick who made this  
expedition possible

