



TANDAYAPA
TRAVEL ESSENTIALS



CAMPUS USFQ
Cumbayá - Pichincha



TIPUTINI BIODIVERSITY STATION
Amazon Forest



CAMPUS GAIAS
San Cristobal - Galápagos

Welcome to Ecuador!

We hope you enjoy your stay in this magical country!

The Office of International Programs has prepared this small guide to give you tips and important information for **Tandayapa Cloud Forest Station.**

We are more than happy to assist you in anything you may need during your visit. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,
USFQ Team



Ecuador

Straddling the equator in western South America, Ecuador has territories in both the Northern and the Southern hemispheres. It borders Colombia to the north and shares a border with Peru to the south and to the east. The Pacific Ocean is Ecuador's western border.

Ecuador is geographically divided into four regions (the Amazon, the Highlands, the Coast, and the Galapagos Islands) and is politically split into 24 provinces. Ecuador is a multiethnic and multicultural nation, with a population of more than 16 million people.



ABOUT
USFQ



Universidad San Francisco de Quito

Founded in 1988, USFQ is the first private and liberal arts university of Ecuador. Today, our university has over 8,000 students and receives 1,000 international students per year. We offer 46 undergraduate programs, 34 graduate programs and 1 PhD program, distributed among our 10 academic colleges. We are also ranked as the #1 University in Ecuador and #57 in Latin America (QS University Rankings).

USFQ is the only university in the world with scientific stations in the Amazon Basin (Tiputini), the Choco Andino (Tandayapa) and the Galapagos Islands (GSC). The main campus is located in Cumbaya, and has an extension in the Galapagos and a new hub in Valencia, Spain.

We form creative, free, innovative and enterprising human beings based on the philosophy of the Liberal Arts and the values of:

Truth, Goodness, Beauty and Freedom

USFQ Address

Diego de Robles y Vía Interoceánica
Quito, Ecuador
ZIP Code: 170901



USFQ Services

USFQ DENTAL CLINIC

USFQ offers attention to the general public. In addition, it serves the USFQ community with special promotions.

SIME MEDICAL SYSTEM

It is fully equipped to offer care in various medical specializations. The medical services provided are freely accessible to both the USFQ community and the general public. Members of the USFQ community get benefits in clinic services.

USFQ Veterinary Specialty Teaching Hospital

fulfills the function of training Veterinary students and serving the community through excellence in care for pets (dogs, cats, and exotic animals) and wildlife.

USFQ Food Services

- Marcus: Culinary lab focus on fine dining cuisine.
- Epikvs: Catering Service
- La Tratto: Italian cuisine
- Apice: Healthy, fresh, and natural food theme
- No sea malito: Fast food/Grab and Go cafeteria
- La Piramide: Fruit smoothies, personalized sweet and savory crepes.
- Via Bonita: Buffet lunches daily, with a varied and nutritionally balanced offer (home cooking)
- Ambrosia: Bakery and pastry shop.





ABOUT

Tandayapa

Tandayapa Cloud Forest Station

Ecuadorian Choco Andino

The [Tandayapa Cloud Forest Station \(TCS\)](#) is a research facility established in the Andes of the Pichincha Province in 2022 by Universidad San Francisco de Quito.

TCS protects 55 hectares of primary and secondary forests. TCS is situated within the Chocó Andino Biosphere Reserve, an area internationally recognized by UNESCO's Program on Man and the Biosphere (MaB) in 2008.

You will see some unique biota that includes emblematic species of mammals such as the spectacled bear, and the olinguito (*Bassaricyon neblina*), as well as endangered birds like the black-breasted puffleg, and others like the Cock of the rock and the Plate-billed Mountain Toucan.

Additionally, you will also observe countless species of insects, amphibians, and reptiles. Therefore, we recommend you always wear insect repellent during the excursion.

HOW TO GET TO THE STATION

The only way to get to the station is thru land. It is located 2 hours away from USFQ and we have daily guided tours by researchers.





Itinerary

Dates & Prices

Dates: Thursday, October 16th

Minimum Pax: Minimum 4 pax

Price per pax: \$250 all included

Activity Difficulty:

Moderate

Itinerary

- 07:30** Depart from hotel
- 10:00** Mindo Cloud Forest
Hike in private reserve
- 12:30** Lunch at Research Station
- 17:00** Estimated arrival to Hotel



Tandayapa Essential List



Original Passport



Light Backpack



Long socks



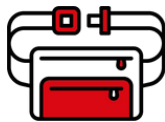
Water Bottle



Hat or Cap



Sunglasses



Fanny Bag



Sunscreen 30+SPF
& Bug Spray



Small flashlight



Hiking shoes



Camera or binoculars



Rain Clothing



Activity Difficulty Scale



About the Scale

Level 1: Very Easy

- Minimal physical effort required.
- Suitable for all participants without prior preparation (e.g., a short introductory talk or a guided city tour).

Level 2: Easy

- Light physical effort (e.g., short walks).
- Suitable for most participants with minimal preparation.

Level 3: Moderate

- Moderate physical effort (e.g., hiking for an hour or a marine activity like snorkeling).
- Some cultural or logistical challenges (e.g., visiting a remote community).
- Participants may need some prior information or preparation.

Level 4: Challenging

- High physical effort (e.g., long hikes, extensive walking, or activities in demanding environments).
- Significant cultural or logistical challenges (e.g., participating in cultural activities, traveling to remote locations).
- Participants require detailed preparation and/or specific skills or fitness levels.

Level 5: Very Challenging

- Extremely demanding physically (e.g., strenuous hikes, diving).
- Complex cultural or logistical requirements (e.g., multi-day trips in remote areas, managing difficult cultural expectations).
- Suitable only for participants with advanced preparation, specific skills, or experience.

In Case of Emergencies

Hospital for emergencies in Quito

Hospital Name: Hospital De Los Valles

Phone: +593 2 297 7900

Address: Av. Interoceánica km 12.5 y Av. Florencia

USFQ EMERGENCY CONTACT

For emergencies only

+593 980 834 444





For further information

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