

## Sacred route

Departure from Pantaví at 08h00 heading toward Urcuquí and Campus Universitario de Yachay. In our vehicle, we'll reach Pucará at 2100 a.s.l, where we can enjoy a spectacular view of the entire Imbabura province. From this location, considered a sacred place of ritual in pre-Colombian times, we will continue walking toward the following sacred hills.

The area is covered by xerophytic vegetation, like cactus, bromelias, acacias and other plants. This is a habitat where you can find native pigeons like the small *Columbina passerina* and *Cenaida auriculata*. It's also possible to spot raptures, like the *cernícalo americano*, some species of hawks and vultures.

Next, our path will take us to the afro-Ecuadorian town of Tapiapamba and, from there, we will head uphill to the next hill called the Mirador. We'll descend again to follow the last hill called Cachiburo at 1960 m. Finally, we'll walk downhill toward the railroad that joins Ibarra with Salinas. Here, we will meet our vehicle and return to Pantaví.

### Highlights:

- v **Drive:** 1 hour total
- v **Walk:** 3 hours up and down hill
- v **Temperature:** 20 - 25 ° C
- v **Important:** Take mosquito repellent, sun protection (hat and glasses), light clothing, long pants and sufficient water