

Chugchilan to Quilotoa

Begin your hike at Hostal Cloud Forest and go up through the village, passing the square and the church.

When you reach the library (biblioteca) on your left, turn left going down hill (you will see a big sing opposite the library for the trail).

Walk down this dirt road, passing Hostal El Vaquero on your left. Take the left turn immediately after the hostel which goes down hill (you will see a sing <<Quilotoa 10.24Km>>).

Stay on this dirt road and after 10 minutes you have 2 options (1):

- [Option 1:](#) follow the sing <<Quilotoa>> going on your left downhill to the rio Toachi.

WARNING: because of a landslide, watch out for rocks that may on your way!!!

Keep following the track going down to the río Toachi and then uphill until reaching the road to Guayama San Pedro, on the other side of the canyon. Once you've crossed the village, keep on the same road and at the intersection with the road to Guayama Grande, go straight ahead: you're on your way up the rim!

- [Option 2:](#) follow the yellow sing <<La Moya/Quilotoa 11Km>>, continuing along the dirt road down to a small stream.

Continuation of Option 2:

10 minutes after crossing the stream, take a small footpath on your right (2). It turns quite narrow and sandy and winds uphill for about 30 minutes, passing a view point on your right. Soon, you will reach La Moya: stay on the road through the village.

When the road bends to the right you will see a sing <<Quilotoa>> straight ahead: follow the footpath uphill with a fence and trees on your left.

When you see sing <<Quilotoa>> and <<Cascadas: siga>>, you have the choice (3):

- [Choice a:](#) you go directly down into the valley, until crossing a small stream and then the path turns sandy and zigzags uphill out the other side of the canyon.
- [Choice b:](#) you follow the signs to your right, on a footpath going along the valley for about 15 minutes before going down to the small stream and going uphill out the other side, passing by a viewpoint on cascadas on your right.

You may find closed fences: open them to keep on your way, don't forget to close them!

At the top of the canyon you reach a road to Guayama Grande: turn left and walk for 50-100 (depending on choice a or b) then turn right, following a sing for Quilotoa (4). Pass a few buildings on your left and continue uphill. After 5

minutes follow the sing to Quilotoa going uphill with the valley on your right. Stay on this path for about 30 minutes. When you reach trees and the path goes down (5), go on your left to reach a wide dirt road and a sing <<Quilotoa 3,5Km>>.

You may find a closed fence: open it to keep on your way; don't forget to close it!

Upon reaching this road, follow it uphill to the crater rim – the high point you can see in front of you! On reaching the rim on a sandy area, you can go on the side you want to reach the village of Quilotoa (6):

1/ Turn right and follow the path along the ridge with the lagoon on your left – about 1 hour;

2/ Turn left, pass by the small wooden building and follow the path along the crater with the lagoon on your right – about 3-4 hours.

The path turns steepy and sandy, and passes by the highest peak of the crater (3930 m asl).

Maps

