

Quilotoa to Chugchilan

Leave Quilotoa on the main road heading north, passing the information office and view points on your right. From the lookout, you can go round the crater rim on the side you want (1):

- 1/ Follow the path on the left until you reach a large sandy area with great view of the lagoon and a small wooden building straight ahead – about 1 hour.
- 2/ Follow the path on the right, passing by the highest peak (3930 m asl) and steepy sandy parts, until you reach the small wooden building and the large sandy area with great view of the lagoon – about 3-4 hours.

At the sandy area, start to descend on the dirt road. When you reach a right hand bend and the sign <<Quilotoa 3,5 Km>>, you have 2 options (2):

- Option 1: Keep on going down the wide dirt road. At the intersection with the road to Guayama Grande, go straight ahead until reaching Guayama San Pedro. Cross the village and follow the road until reaching the rim of the canyon. Then follow the track going downhill to the rio Toachi, and uphill until reaching a dirt road. Turn right on this road going uphill to Chugchilan.

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

- Option 2: look out for a trail leading off the road on your left. The trail goes straight down hill. To make sure you are on the right trail, check behind you for a green bench and row of pine trees in the direction of the crater.

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

Continuation option 2:

Continue downhill with the valley on your left for about 30 minutes, until arriving at Guayama Grande. Pass a few buildings on your right, then turn left along the road. Here you have the choice (3):

- Choice a: after 50m, turn right off the road following the sign <<chugchilan>> to a sandy track through a farmer's field. This track zigzags steeply downhill to a stream at the bottom of the valley, then rises at the other side.
- Choice b: after 100m, when you see a sign <<Cascadas de la Golondrina>> turn right off the road, taking a sandy track. This track zigzags downhill to a small stream at the bottom of the valley, then rises at the other side. Keep on the quite leveled footpath going along the valley for about 15 minutes.

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

When you reach signs <<Quilotoa>> and <<Cascadas>> (4): pointing to where you come from, follow the footpath uphill with a fence and trees on your right. Continue on this road passing through La Moya.

Descend to the left, you will pass a view point on your left and after about 30 minutes going down a sandy zigzagging narrow path, you will reach a large dirt road (5): leading you to a stream at the bottom of the valley.

After crossing the stream, continue on the road, up hill for 30 minutes. You will reach an intersection with a sign for Hostal El Vaquero, directly in front. Turn right along the road passing the hostel on your right. Stay on this road and follow it up hill to a library (biblioteca) on your left.

At the library, turn right along the main road and walk down hill through the centre of Chugchilan. Pass the church and the square, and you will find Hostal Cloud Forest on your left.

Maps

