

From QUITO – General Notes

Black Sheep Inn is about 3 to 4 hours driving from Quito. It is best to leave in the morning in order to ensure great views along the way and to have enough time for photo breaks and stretching your legs. You do not need a four wheel drive to get here, even the smallest rental cars make it, but the road can be rough.

All roads in Ecuador have been greatly improved over the last few years. Many streets, roads, and intersections are only

recently being marked. Therefore these instructions will describe clear landmarks to look for as you drive. When referring to bridges in the city, these instructions ignore pedestrian walkways that go over the road. It may be helpful if someone can be your navigator, and read to you as you are driving. Please be aware that landmarks are constantly changing and sorry if some of the instructions are redundant.

From Quito – New Town – Mariscal

If you know how to head south out of the city on the Pan-American Highway, skip ahead to the next page.

You have two options from Quito:

Via 'El Trebol' **This is now the fastest route.**

These directions start from the intersection of Naciones Unidas and Rio Amazonas. Head south on Amazonas. This is a main street that goes along a large park (La Carolina) on your left and Malls. At the J.W. Marriott, a big beige building on your left, turn left (east) on Francisco de Orellana.

Continue on Orellana up a hill until you get to a traffic circle, turn right (south) on 12 de Octubre. Pass another traffic circle, but continue on 12 de Octubre past the Swiss Hotel and Radisson on the left. You will go under a bridge in the middle lane, marked with a sign Oriental. This will curve under the bridge and go to the left. Traffic will be merging in with you. Stay straight with the main traffic flow past a large Military Hospital on your right and Rumiñahui Stadium on your left. After the Hospital stay in the right lane. The road curves right and leaves houses/apartments behind. You'll pass a Mobile Gas Station on your right.

The traffic pattern has changed at 'El Trebol'; it is now a large traffic circle combined with a clover leaf. Go until a bridge and clover leaf intersection, pass under the bridge and turn right, which loops you around to the top of the same bridge, merge and stay left following the road uphill. This is the first step out of Quito on via General Rumiñahui, also called E-35.

This is currently a 2 lane highway up and 3 lanes down, you will climb up. Pass under a bridge and get in the right lane. Exit right before the next bridge. Sign says to Chillogallo. You are now climbing on the Nuevo Oriental heading south; also called Simon Bolivar. This is a Quito bypass. It goes up high on the eastern ridge above Quito. There is a pull out on the right with a great view over the Southern part of the city.

Continue on the Nuevo Oriental/Simon Bolivar heading south and follow a sign for 'Tambillo - Aloag - SUR'. This is a fast road, El Periferico/Simon Bolivar, that stays high. The Pan American Highway merges in from the right and the road expands to 4 lanes in each direction.

You are now on the way to Latacunga (see next page).

Via Interoceanica → Guayasamin Tunnel → Eastern Valley

WARNING: Traffic through the Guayasamin Tunnel is one way into Quito from 7-9:30 am. Additionally the NEW Quito Airport is adding traffic to an already congested route.

These directions start from the intersection of Naciones Unidas and Rio Amazonas. Head south on Amazonas. This is a main street that goes along a large park (La Carolina) on your left; turn left on Republica and at the next intersection turn left again onto Eloy Alfaro. At the next stop light turn right on Los Shyris. At the next stop light veer right following the traffic circle, but stay left and immediately take the first exit left going down an underpass. This will put you into the Guayasamin Tunnel via the Interoceanica E-28 going east towards Cumbaya and Tumbaco.

When you come out of the tunnel there is a 40¢ toll booth. Take the first exit right and loop sharply around to the Nuevo Oriental heading south; also called Simon Bolivar. This is a Quito bypass and curves around behind the city. It will cross a large bridge and climbs up the other side. After crossing another bridge over a large road (this connects to the 'El Trebol') continue straight and climb up on the Nuevo Oriental/ Simon Bolivar heading south.

The Nuevo Oriental/Simon Bolivar goes up high on the eastern ridge above Quito. There is a pull out on the right with a great view over the Southern part of the city.

Continue on the Nuevo Oriental/Simon Bolivar and follow a sign for 'Tambillo - Aloag - SUR'. This is a fast road, El Periferico/Simon Bolivar, which stays high. The Pan American Highway merges in from the right and the road expands to 4 lanes each direction.

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From the NEW Quito Airport opened in 2013 Via Interoceanica →

From the Airport head south to Pifo and then turn right (west) on the Interoceanica E-28 through Tumbaco and Cumbaya.

There is a new road under construction, "La Ruta Viva" that will connect the New Airport with the Simon Bolivar heading south (or north). Until it opens you still have to go thru the traffic of Tumbaco and Cumbaya.

The road curves and climbs towards the Guayasamin Tunnel into Quito, but you will turn off heading south on the Nuevo Oriental/Simon Bolivar. After passing over a large bridge keep right to exit and loop underneath going south on the Nuevo Oriental/Simon Bolivar. This is a Quito bypass and curves around behind the city. Follow the directions above as if you came out of the Guayasamin Tunnel from Quito.

UPDATE 2014: The Toacazo-Sigchos road is finished and in good shape and fast, although it is narrow in parts.
The Latacunga-Zumbahua-La Mana road is also finished and in great shape and fast.

DRIVING TO BLACK SHEEP INN

www.blacksheepinn.com
blacksheepinn@gmail.com

If it's the rainy season, call the Inn before you start: 03-270-8077

SOUTH OF QUITO

General Notes

You are on your way south to LATACUNGA. Black Sheep Inn is in the middle of a loop, so there are two different ways for you to get here. Both are beautiful and take about 3 to 4 hours from Quito. You can choose the **Northern Route** (this page) or the **Southern Route** (next page).

You should plan on driving in one way and out the other. This way you can complete the loop and enjoy the unique scenery in both directions. It is recommended to come in via the Northern Route and Sigchos; then when you depart you can see Laguna Quilotoa in the morning when the weather is the best and continue on the rest of the-loop.

Northern Route - through Sigchos

The Northern Route goes near Saquisilí and then through Toacazo and Sigchos to Chugchilán. This route is slightly harder to find your way. You may need to ask directions once or twice. People are very friendly, and if you ask the name of the next town, they usually point you in the correct direction. Remember that many people do not own vehicles, so they may not have an accurate sense of how long it takes to get somewhere driving. Also many people have not traveled through the back-country to locations such as Chugchilan.

After leaving Quito you will go through **Aloag**. All traffic goes to the right, follow signs to the south Latacunga, Ambato or Riobamba. Aloag is the turn-off for traffic going down to Santo Domingo and the coast. Make sure you continue south to Latacunga, not west towards Santo Domingo.

Lasso is 33 kilometers south of Aloag. You will pass through **Machachi** and there are a few gas stations. After Café de la Vaca on the left there is a Panavia toll booth (currently \$1.00). Then you will climb over a mountain pass. If it is clear, Cotopaxi is very close on your left, the Ilinizas Twin Peaks on the right. Sometimes coming down this pass you can see the **Avenue of the Volcanoes**: Tungurahua (smoking), Las Altas, Sangay (also smoking, but further away) and Chimborazo to the right.

Follow the Pan American Highway down past the entrance to Cotopaxi National Park. This is about 1+ hour south of Quito. On the right will be your last chance to buy high octane gasoline - "SUPER". Gasoline is also available near Sigchos, but only "EXTRA" - which is REGULAR unleaded gas. Continue on to **Lasso**. This part of the Pan American is brand new and the exits are changing. Currently turn right at a stop light towards Toacazo, Saquisilí and Sigchos. This road passes a tall communications antenna and has several speed bumps. Continue straight, crossing over a main road. You are now on your way to **Toacazo** (toe-ah-CAH-so) on a paved road.

NOTE: If it is **Thursday** and you want to go to **Saquisilí** (pronounced sock-ee-see-LEE) for the market before coming up to Chugchilan, then you will turn left on the main road after the tall communications antenna otherwise skip ahead to Lasso to Toacazo.

You should be on a paved road. You will pass a gray sign with white and yellow letters on your right that says "SANTUARIO DE CUICUNO" and then go down a steep hill and over a river. The village is just a few kilometers away. Lock your vehicle and have someone watch it while you wander around the extensive market squares.

When leaving Saquisilí Market return the same way and turn left at the "SANTUARIO DE CUICUNO" sign. The potholed road climbs steeply up to a beautiful old church on your left and turns right. Visit the

Church if it is open and you have time. Many people have been cured of sicknesses and disease there. The road is paved, but being worked on. In Toacazo they have changed the traffic pattern of the one square village. You must turn right one block away from the main square on a one way street, at the next block you are forced left, drive straight into the main square. Keep going straight one block past the main square and turn left. There will be a gas station on your left in about a ½ km. After merging at a stop light, you are on your way to Sigchos. You can also ask in Toacazo for the road to **Sigchos** (SIG-choe-z).

LASSO TO TOACAZO

If you did not go to Saquisilí, Lasso to Toacazo takes about 15 minutes. You will pass a few flower plantations (plastic covered greenhouses) and a hotel called La Quinta Colorada on your left. Follow the road as it curves around; do not turn at any of the intersections. At a stop light follow the bypass around the right side of Toacazo that passes the cemetery.

TOACAZO TO SIGCHOS

Sigchos is about 1½ hours away. Toacazo to **Plancha Loma** is very fast now on a new road, about 10 minutes. (After Plancha Loma there is a turn off to the left to go to Isinlivi on a bad dirt road; you do NOT go to Isinlivi to get to Sigchos or Chugchilan). After Plancha Loma you climb to a high pass and the road is good almost all the way to Sigchos, watch your speed on narrow hairpin turns.

The road begins to drop into a beautiful canyon. Continue on the main road staying left at a hairpin turn at a large painted white rock. You will cross a small bridge over a nice clear stream. The next community is called **Las Manzanas** with a small store on the right. You will drop down into the Rio Toachi canyon and climb up the other side. About half way up they are working on paving the road through Yaló (yah-LOW). There is a gas station on your left in Yaló; last chance to fill your gas tank. Keep going up to Sigchos.

Sigchos now has street signs and even a few stop lights! As you come into Sigchos you will be on a road called "14 de Noviembre". After passing the Municipio parking lot with some road equipment and paving stones, take the second left onto "Eloy Alfaro". Continue straight through 2 stop lights and about 6-8 intersections. The road becomes cobbled for about 1 kilometer and you are on your way to Chugchilán on a dirt road. OR ask in Sigchos for the road to **Chugchilán** (choog-chee-LAHN). This road stays high above the canyon, if you are dropping down right away, you are on your way to Isinlivi, turn back. Black Sheep Inn is just under an hour from Sigchos (24 kilometers). You'll see the sign on the right. The driveway is steep, so drive it with a little bit of speed.

WELCOME!

If it's the rainy season, call the Inn before you start: 03-270-8077

The Southern Route - through Pujili and Zumbahua

After leaving Quito you will go through **Aloag**. All traffic goes to the right, follow signs to the south Latacunga, Ambato or Riobamba. Aloag is the turn-off for traffic going down to Santo Domingo and the coast. Make sure you continue south to Latacunga, not west towards Santo Domingo.

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Lasso is 33 kilometers south of Aloag. Continue down the Pan American Highway south through Lasso to **Latacunga** (lah-tah-COON-gah), about 20 minutes. Just past a military installation they are building a bypass around Latacunga and Salcedo that will allow you to continue easily onto Ambato. When completed this will be a short-cut to Pujili and the turn-off for the Southern Route.

Currently you will pass the NEW Quito Prison and the turn off to Saquisilí on the right. The road narrows coming into Latacunga. There is a new shopping mall on the right with a stop light. At the next stop light turn right (west) on the **Latacunga - Quevedo** road.

If coming from the South of Ecuador

From Baños, Ambato, Riobamba, Chimborazo or even Cuenca

When heading north on the Pan American, they are currently building a bypass that starts between Ambato and Salcedo that will allow you to get to the Pujili traffic circle without ever seeing Latacunga.

Until then come through **Salcedo** (on some maps it is called **San Miguel**) and when you arrive in Latacunga on the Pan American Highway, take a left at a stop light (west) after the Terminal Terrestre (Bus Station). This is the **Latacunga - Quevedo** road.

Go over the railroad tracks and continue straight. There is a traffic circle with a statue of people making cement blocks in the middle, curve left. Pass an old church on the right; continue towards **Pujilí** (pooh-hee-LEE) about 15 kilometers.

If you need gas, this is your last chance to buy "SUPER" - high octane gas. You can buy gasoline further in the Loop, but only "EXTRA" - which is regular unleaded gas.

After the gas station you'll be on a new road with light posts on both sides of the road. You will pass over a new interchange circle for the Latacunga bypass (unfinished). Just after the turn off on the right for La Victoria, cross a bridge and at the traffic circle, turn right on the Pujili by-pass. When you come to a T intersection turn right. The road you are on has been completely rebuilt all the way to Zumbahua and beyond.

The climb from Pujili goes up and up and up on a winding good road. Now you are heading towards **Zumbahua** (zoom-BAH-wah) about 45 minutes from Pujilí (60 kilometers). **Tigua** is about 10 km before Zumbahua and they have a small gallery on the right featuring Naïf Paintings. More paintings are available at Laguna Quilotoa. There is some road work before Zumbahua, sometimes with delays.

At the turn off into Zumbahua there are some small stands selling drinks and food on the right. The turn off to Zumbahua, Quilotoa and Chugchilán is just after these stands on the right. If you pass a gas station, you have gone too far and you are on your way to Quevedo, turn back. You can fill your gas tank, if you haven't already. The entrance road to Zumbahua is paved. Continue through the village with the main square on the right, going down and crossing a bridge over a river.

ZUMBAHUA TO QUILOTOA (key-low-TOE-ah)

is 14 kilometers (about 20 minutes driving). After a few kilometers along the paved road, you cross another stream and pass through a small community. The road follows along the canyon's edge, turn right at the fork and then over another bridge. There is a painted sign for Quilotoa at this junction. Follow the paved road. The road climbs gradually to Quilopungo, a small school and walled in playground.

Continue past the Ponce turnoff and a sign for Shalala on the right, pass a sign for Nino Rumi and up to an archway indicating the entrance to Quilotoa on the right and the road to **Chugchilán** (choog-chee-LAHN) to the left. It is worth stopping to see Laguna Quilotoa on the way in, even if only for a few photos. Chugchilán is about 30 minutes away.

MAJOR ROAD WORK is being done on the road from Quilotoa to Chugchilán. It used to be the worst part of the road and the total distance was 22 kilometers. The finished road is now only 16 km and paved. Mountains were literally torn down, curves filled in and valleys

bridged... The road now arrives at the way to Chugchilán. It used to take an hour from Quilotoa to Chugchilán.

church and some buildings). The driveway and sign will be on your left. The driveway is steep so drive it with a little bit of speed.

Black Sheep Inn is about a ½ kilometer down the road past the village of Chugchilán (a small plaza with a

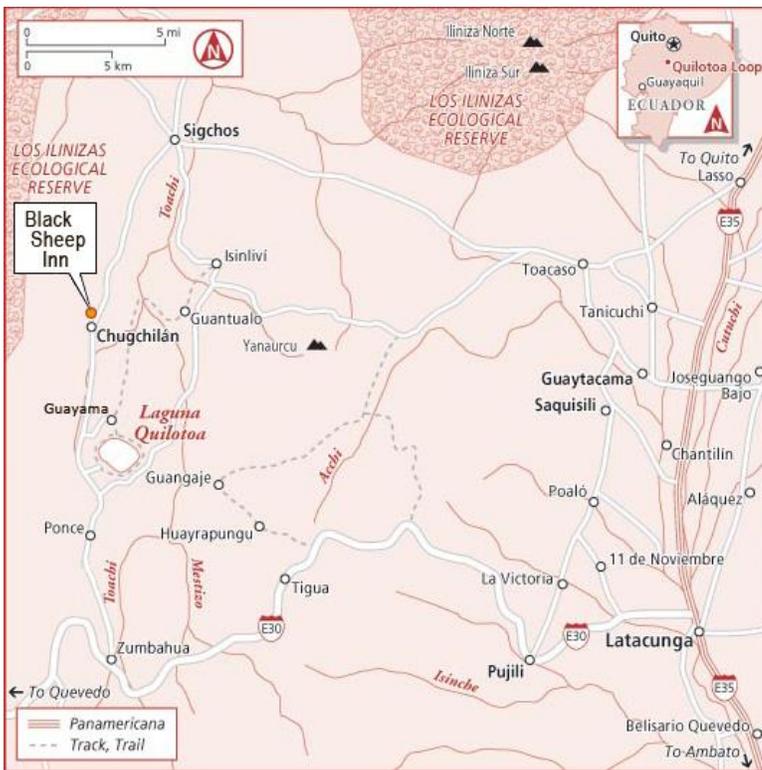
Welcome!

DRIVING TO BLACK SHEEP INN

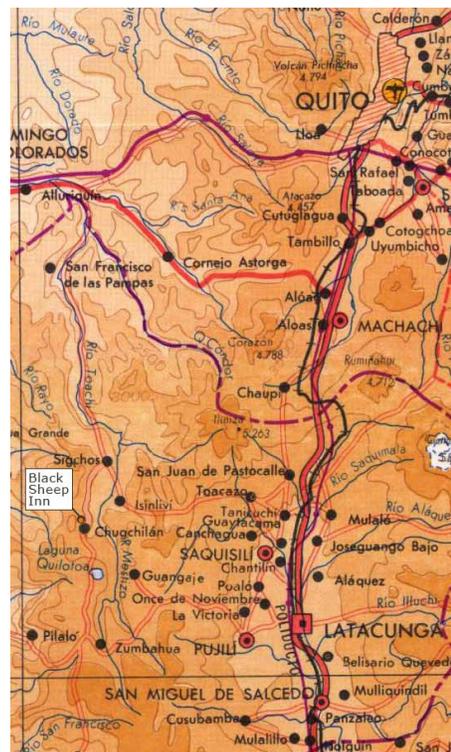
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Map of Quilotoa Loop



Wider Area



Driving Distances and Driving Times			
Quito to Chugchilán	180 km	115 miles	3-4 hours
Quito to Latacunga	95 km	60 miles	1.5 hours
Latacunga to Zumbahua	60 km	37 miles	1 hour
Zumbahua to Quilotoa	14 km	9 miles	20 minutes
Quilotoa to Chugchilán	16 km	10 miles	30 minutes
Latacunga to Saquisilí	15 km	9 miles	20 minutes
Latacunga to Sigchos	64 km	40 miles	2 hours
Sigchos to Chugchilán	24 km	15 miles	45 minutes