

# Amazing Ecuador: Amazon Rainforest & Andes Escorted Trip

February 17 – 24, 2023

Cultural Adventures: Tours for the Young-at-Heart

**Cultural Adventures** tours offer you the opportunity to learn about both the Andes Mts and the Amazon Rainforest as part of a small group of visitors. You'll enjoy select experiences away from the usual tourist sights during a visit that combines **soft adventure** with **maximum comfort**. Not only will you experience diverse ecosystems of Ecuador, but you will also meet local people and learn about their culture. When you take a *Cultural Adventures* trip you are supporting local people who provide information, services and love of their environment.

- Designed for travelers who want an active adventure in two very diverse ecosystems: the Amazon Rainforest and the Andes Mountains.
- As home to over 650 species of birds Ecuador is a bird lover's paradise.
- Escorted by Connie who will smooth out any bumps & provide useful travel tips before and during the trip.
- Group size is limited to 10 or less.

## Highlights:

- Explore the Amazon Rainforest for five days while staying at a comfortable eco-lodge.
- Climb a canopy tower for a close look at colorful tanagers, macaws, toucans, flycatchers and even Howler Monkeys feeding themselves on the nearby trees.
- Enjoy the natural thermal springs at Papallacta, considered one of the most scenic areas in Ecuador.
- Wander through beautiful scenery as you walk past waterfalls, view Andes plants, look for birds, and watch condors fly overhead.

**Trip Fee:** \$2995 per double occupancy -single supplement available. I can also try and match you with a roommate. Cultural Adventures alumnae received a \$100 discount.

**Included:** All hotels, local flights, motorized canoe to the jungle, entrance to the thermal springs, and transportation, tours, airport transfers, escort, guides & 21 meals.

**Not included:** International flight to Ecuador, tips, and personal expenses.

## Itinerary:

**Feb 17 – Arrive Quito** on your own. You'll be met at the airport and escorted to our hotel near the airport. Hotel Mariscal Sucre or equivalent

**Feb 18, 19, 20, 21 - Amazon Rainforest** – Our visit to the rainforest begins today. Traveling to our comfortable eco-lodge is an adventure. First, we take a short flight from Quito to Coca where we hop on a motorized longboat for a ride through the jungle. The Yasuní National Park is one of the most biologically diverse regions in the world. Daily activities are based on interest and will include hiking in the jungle, canoe rides, a visit to an indigenous family, canopy tower visits, relaxing in a hammock and kayaking. In the evening you might canoe the river or walk to view nocturnal rainforest animals such as caiman, monkeys, insects, and owls. [Napo Cultural Center Eco-Lodge](#) (B, L, D)

**Feb 22 – Papallacta** – After our return from the rainforest, we'll be met by Angel, our guide, to drive in a comfortable, private van south to the hot springs. Our first stop will be [Sacha Rose Farm](#) to learn how rich soil, natural springs, and the perfect amount of sunlight produce the largest roses on earth. We'll continue our journey past towering mountains to Papallacta known for its splendid location and marvelous hot springs. Papallacta overnight (B, L)

**Feb 23 –Thermal Hot Springs**– Today you'll have the opportunity to relax and enjoy the hot springs of varying temperatures, from hot to cold. Antisana volcano, the source of the thermal springs, rises 10,827 feet behind the resort. You might want to treat yourself to some of the spa's services, such as massages and facials. As you relax in the hot springs watch for hummingbirds. They are popular near the springs with over 130 species of the world's 340 species here. Those interested can join Angel on a hike to enjoy views of towering mountains and condors flying overhead. (B, L,D) Papallacta overnight

**Feb 24- - Quito** – You'll have the morning to leisurely enjoy breakfast and perhaps a final visit to the spa or a short hike. We'll return to Quito, a cosmopolitan and historic capital city, to explore the historic area, the largest and best preserved in South America. You'll return to the Quito airport by 6 pm for your flight home. (B, L)

### **Participant's Background Information:**

- \* US and Canadian citizens do not need a visa to visit Ecuador.
- \* All travelers will need a valid COVID vaccination card showing that they have received a complete series of the COVID -19 vaccine
- \* The currency of Ecuador is the US dollar so there is no need to change money.
- \* This is an active adventure. Because of the heat and humidity, an Amazon jungle tour requires a reasonable level of fitness. Participants must be in good health, mobile and able to participate in 2-4 hours of physical activity daily climbing stairs, walking on cobbled streets and, uneven surfaces.
- \* Basic travel insurance with medical evacuation coverage is mandatory; insurance to cover trip cancellation is highly recommended.
- \* A deposit of \$750 will reserve your spot. Cost of trip is \$2895 per double occupancy, single supplement \$460. Cultural Adventures alumnae receive a \$100 discount. Deposit is due by November 1, 2022. Final payment is due by December 1, 2022.
- \* Refunds, less \$75, will be returned upon written request until December 1, 2022. After this date, no refunds of any type will be made.

**Reserve your place today.**  
**For more information go to [www.culturaladventures.info](http://www.culturaladventures.info) or contact**  
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