

ECUADOR - MANATEE AMAZON EXPLORER



INTRODUCTION

This is a journey that takes us into the endless heart of biodiversity, which extends its fabulous prism of life throughout the Amazon Basin. The very nature of this jungle realm teaches us that the best way to explore it is through a unique means of transportation: by navigating down the river on a fabulous, state-of-the-art vessel set to explore this truly unique environment. The inspiring adventure will provide many unexpected, astonishing encounters. We will discover the YasunÁ (the largest of Ecuador's continental National Parks), a wild and untamed realm in the heart of the Ecuadorian Rainforest. We will climb observation towers to enjoy unique perspectives of the forest and explore black water rivers escorted by otters and turtles. We will hike trails learning about the wonderful flora that makes up the eternal green of Ecuadorian Amazonia.

The Manatee Cruise Experience

Ridge the Amazon river on the Manatee Explorer, a sustainable vessel that is gentle towards the pristine Amazonian environment and certified by Smart Voyager and Rainforest Alliance. Manatee Amazon Explorer offers all the necessary comforts while still being an exciting jungle adventure. Explore Wildlife Reserve or Yasuni National Park and extend your knowledge about Amazon's tropical rainforest and living wildlife with the onboard naturalist guide. Other excursions will take you to local communities to observe and immerse in local life and original Amazonian culture. Let yourself be treated by the spacious interior and exterior on board. A variety of national and international delicious cuisine is served by the onboard chef in the dining areas whereas the Sun Deck or comfortable seating areas enable you to relax and take in the sights and sounds of the encapsulating Ecuadorian Amazon.

Manatee Cruise also offers a [5 day cruise](#) and [8 day cruise](#)

TRIP CODE

ECTSMA3

DEPARTURE

Select Fridays

DURATION

4 Days

LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Amazon



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GREEN POINTS!

â This cruise works in direct collaboration with the local communities in order to preserve the rainforest, it was designed specifically to offer locals employment away from the destructive oil companies. â Manatee have personally designated a region of the amazon river as a protected area to help keep the population of pink river dolphins stable. â They also work closely with the Wildlife Conservation Society of Ecuador and have introduced programs to protect the population of Charapas turtles. They sponsor protected breeding programs. â In terms of operation the Manatee Explorer is certified by SmartVoyager and the rainforest alliance meaning that it confirms with the highest sustainability standards in its operation.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Friday: Arrive Coca & Embarkation

On arrival at Coca Airport, you will be met by a representative from MV Manatee and transferred to the dock. Board a motorized canoe to begin the journey down the river for approximately an hour and a half, taking in the first sights and sounds of the Amazon. After boarding and once settled in, you will be joined by expert local naturalist guides who will provide you with a brief and informative introduction to the Ecuadorian Amazon, after which you will have your first opportunity to discover the exciting features of the cruise ship: spacious social areas, comfortable suites, and the observation deck that allows you to admire the changing rainforest landscape as we glide down the Napo River. After dinner, plunge straight into the Amazon by going for a nighttime forest walk to observe the forest's nocturnal activity and experience the thrill of the vivid noises and aromas that come from so much biodiversity.



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DAY 2: Saturday: Pañacocha Biological Corridor

Cruise downstream to the Pañayacu River delta, where you will take a canoe trip to experience the sights of this fascinating water reserve.

Pañacocha Lake is an ecosystem flooded by blackwaters. Pañacocha means “Piranha Lake” in the native Quechua language. The surrounding protected Rainforest is home to 9 species of primates, 500 species of birds and more than 100 fish species. This is the perfect habitat for Piranhas, the Water Monkey Fish (Arawana) and the White Caiman. In this little piece of paradise, participate in nature walks led by local naturalist guides, and relax at a nearby campsite to enjoy a delicious Amazon-style BBQ and refreshing beverages. After lunch, do some kayaking, and the bravest among you will enjoy a nice refreshing swim in the Piranha Lake. Back on board the M/V Manatee Amazon Explorer, you will have the opportunity to attend a lecture given by the concierge and watch an educational documentary about the region.



DAY 3: Sunday: Parrot Clay Licks - Amazonian Communities

This morning, set out on canoes to observe one of the most incredible sights on this side of the Western Amazon – the Parrot Clay Licks. This unique place is rich in minerals and attracts hundreds of colourful parrots, parakeets and amazon birds, every day. Later, visit a Quechua Cultural Center, where you will learn about Amazon communities and their ancestral culture, traditions, and cuisine. Members of the local community will teach you about indigenous lifestyles along the Napo River and have the opportunity to support the local community by purchasing handicrafts, local products, and souvenirs. Before sunset, visit an observation tower in the rainforest canopy, which offers an astonishing 360-degree view of the Amazon basin and is the perfect photo opportunity. Birdwatchers and bird-lovers alike will especially enjoy this outing.



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DAY 4: Monday: Disembarkation & Return to Coca

After breakfast, disembark the M/V Manatee and take the motorized canoe back to Coca (one-and-a-half-hour ride).



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on ship
Inclusions	<p>Shipboard accommodation on board Manatee Amazon Explorer</p> <p>All meals on board</p> <p>All scheduled landings & Excursions</p> <p>Return transfers from Colca airport to pier</p> <p>Exclusions</p> <p>Airfare to embarkation/disembarkation city</p> <p>Airport transfers in Quito</p> <p>Air ticket Quito-Colca-Quito</p> <p>Pre or post cruise travel expenses</p> <p>Personal expenses such as laundry & on board communication</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request.
Notes	Contact us for more information
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

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Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

Manatee cruises undertake a number of local sustainability initiatives focused on education and the environment, offering unique guest experiences that also benefit local communities and the environment. In collaboration with the Kichwa community of Martinica, Manatee has designated a region for the sole preservation of the pink river dolphin, allowing for the species population to grow. A similar program is undertaken in collaboration with the 'Wildlife Conservation Society Ecuador' (WCS), to protect endemic species of Charapas Turtles. Itineraries on board Manatee are designed to include cultural encounters, allowing for a shared exchange of experience and information benefiting both travellers and local community members.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore remain culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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