

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 Yasunã (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.

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.



TRIP CODE

ECTSMA3

DEPARTURE

Select Fridays

DURATION

4 Days

LOCATIONS

Amazon, Ecuador



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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).



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on ship
Inclusions	<p>Shipboard accommodation All meals onboard All scheduled landings/excursions with certified naturalist guide Return transfers from Coca Airport to pier</p> <p>EXCLUSIONS: Air tickets Quito - Coca - Quito Airport transfers in Quito Community Entrance Fees Beverages onboard (other than water, coffee and tea) Gratuities Pre or post cruise travel expenses Personal expenses</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more information
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.

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3) Chimu's "Pass it on" programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.

4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.

5) Chimu Adventures' offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure's internal processes are also structured to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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