

ECUADOR - MANATEE 4 NIGHT CRUISE



INTRODUCTION

This is a journey into a planet's heart. The Amazon Basin, home of the world's largest body of freshwater – the vigorous Amazon River – represents about one-fifth of all running water on Earth. Its jungles power clouds across our skies, its trees are our damper against the effects of global warming.

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 [4 day cruise](#) and [8 day cruise](#).

GREEN POINTS!

☞ 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

TRIP CODE

ECTSMA4

DEPARTURE

Select Mondays

DURATION

5 Days

LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Amazon



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companies. Manatee have personally designated a region of the amazon river as a protected area to help keep the population of pink river dolphins stable. 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. 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: Monday: 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 night time 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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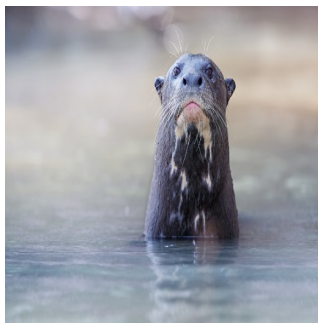
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DAY 2: Tuesday: Yasuni National Park

Early in the morning, visit Yasuni National Park. This is a pristine and relatively undisturbed region of the Ecuadorian Amazon and home of the legendary Pink River Dolphin. In this area you can also find anacondas, river turtles and various primate species, as well as the colourful Hoatzin, a unique bird that is known locally as the “Stinky Turkey”. Later in the afternoon, take part in canoeing on a blackwater lake, home to giant otters and the magnificent, albeit elusive manatee. Also enjoy a pleasant hike in the Riparian/Gallery Forest, where you may have the chance to spot a flock of birds and marvel at the intricate organization of a colony of leaf-cutter ants by the “Giant Fig Tree”, a truly majestic tree that is home to an abundance of wildlife, much like the “Giant Kapok Tree”.



DAY 3: Wednesday: Quechua Family & Canoeing

Start the day off by visiting an authentic Quechua family located on the banks of the Napo River, where you will receive cultural immersion and the opportunity to learn directly from members of the local community. Return to the M/V Manatee Amazon Explorer for lunch and some leisure time as the ship continues cruising upstream. At this time, you are invited to participate in a cooking class with the chef who will share recipes and techniques for preparing exquisite traditional Ecuadorian food that you can replicate at home. You are also invited to try your hand at making traditional handicrafts. Kayaking is also available for those who want to get close and personal with the river.



DAY 4: Thursday: Forest Adventure & Observation Canopy

After breakfast, disembark to explore by foot the nearby forest and discover a myriad of different animals and plant species that can only be found in the Amazon basin. In the afternoon, visit a canopy tower, built against a giant Kapok tree. The perspective at the top of this observation tower is truly glorious, looming above the lush treetops and providing a view of the sheer vastness of the Amazon Basin. In the evening, bravely venture into the river on a canoe to search for black caimans with the help of flashlights.



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DAY 5: Friday: Disembarkation & Return to Coca

Enjoy the last part of our journey before disembarking the M/V Manatee Amazon Explorer and taking a motorised canoe to take you back to Coca Airport. This journey will take about one and a half hours.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard
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 on-board (other than water, coffee and tea) Gratuities for staff & crew Pre or post cruise travel expenses Personal expenses</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details
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

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printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

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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