



Amazon rainforest. Photo credit: Murray Foubister



On the river at Zábalo village

This one-of-a-kind eco-adventure in Ecuador gives you an opportunity to see incredible wildlife while supporting the indigenous people who are protecting 400,000+ hectares of their ancestral lands in the Amazon jungle by not allowing mining, oil drilling, logging, or other environmentally destructive activities. This tour will be led by Goshen College professor of economics Jerrell Ross Richer, who lives among the Cofán people for 6 months each year with his wife Jane and their children. Also, travel through the Andes mountains to Tena. Meet indigenous church leaders at the Nate Saint House and Museum. See tropical wildlife at a butterfly sanctuary. Take a short hike to the San Rafael Falls—the largest waterfall in Ecuador.

Itinerary

Sunday, February 24 Quito

After a day of travelling, settle in to your hotel, and gather with your tour leader and travel companions.

Monday, February 25 Tena

Enjoy a traditional lunch en route to Tena. Cross the Andes – the tallest mountain range in the Western Hemisphere – as they climb and drop into the foothills of the Amazon Basin. Stretch your legs on a walking tour of Tena. Then trek through Parque Amazonia. For the best view, climb the tower to see the sights.

Tuesday, February 26 Tena

Learn the tragic, yet inspiring story of the first missionaries to the Waonani people at the Nate Saint House and Museum. After lunch at a traditional barbecue restaurant, tour the Omaere Ethnobotanical Centre to learn about traditional medicine plants and Shuar culture.

Wednesday, February 27 Coca

Walk among thousands of species of exotic butterflies at a sanctuary on the Napo River. Travel through the mountains at the edge of the Andes. Along the way, stop at the Ninawachi Bible Institute to share a meal and spend some time with indigenous students who plan to return to serve their communities.

Thursday, February 28 Zábalo

Sail the Aguarico River to Zábalo, home of the world's first community-based ecotourism project. From there, venture into the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve, which you can view from the comfort of the tour boat. This area has no roadways and is one of Earth's most biologically diverse places with eight major ecosystems. Once in Zábalo, greet your indigenous Cofán hosts and take part in an orientation of what the next few days will hold.

Friday, March 1 Zábalo

Gather inside the leaf house for breakfast, then tour Zábalo village with a community leader. Visit the school and church to learn about the people who live in this special place. In the afternoon, learn about the first

missionaries in this area, and their efforts to protect the people and their lands from exploitation. Relax on the bank of the Aguarico River, and spend time interacting with local village children. Gather in the evening to hear how the Cofán advocated for legal title of their ancestral lands and the challenges they still face to this day.

Saturday, March 2 Zábalo

Board small, motorized watercrafts to venture further down the Aguarico River, and deeper still into the rainforest. Look for freshwater dolphins frolicking about as you approach the mouth of the Zábalo River. Take in the spectacular sights of the black water river and the virgin rainforest that surrounds it. Completely untouched by modern civilization, the monkeys that are native to this environment are tamer than most because they are not hunted. See what wildlife you can spot as you take in the wonder of the rainforest.

Sunday, March 3 Zábalo

Worship in a local church this morning. Then divide into smaller groups to follow local guides through the rainforest. Immerse yourself in a jungle of green diverse enough to support hundreds of tree species in a single hectare. Listen intently to the sounds in the trees. Glimpse exotic birds and other fauna native to this place. This afternoon, visit with local villagers in their homes. Learn some of their trades such as jewelry making, wood carving, and how they use natural resources to create beautiful art.

Monday, March 4 El Reventador

Enjoy your final meal in the village and bid farewell to those who have made your jungle stay so memorable. As you depart, wave goodbye to the children who will gather on the bank of the Aguarico River. Watch the landscape slowly change as you head upstream, toward the mountains. Arrive in El Reventador with enough time to explore the grounds and settle in to your accommodations for the evening.

Tuesday, March 5 Quito

El Reventador is home to San Rafael Falls – the largest waterfall in Ecuador. Take a short hike to see the falls up close and to view the foothills. Then, travel into the Andes and enjoy a traditional lunch of fresh, local trout. Spend the afternoon soaking in the natural hot springs at Papallacta.

Wednesday, March 6 Puerto Ayora, Galápagos

Depart from Quito on your flight for home.

Tour Fare per person:

CAD: Double Occupancy \$2,803; Single Supplement \$410

USD: Double Occupancy \$2,207; Single Supplement \$315

Fare includes

- All land transportation within the tour
- All hotel accommodations
- All entrance fees included in itinerary
- Quito airport transfers at start and end of tour
- Expert tour leaders and knowledgeable local guides
- All meals
- Gratuities for drivers, guides, and meals

Fare excludes

- International airfare
- Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance

Insurance

Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance are not mandatory but are highly recommended.

Payments

Rates shown are in effect 02/18. Though every effort is made to maintain established prices, TM reserves the right to adjust prices should it become necessary. The price is guaranteed when paid in full. We accept cheque and credit card payments. Credit card payments are charged a 3% fee.

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