



MANATEE  
AMAZON EXPLORER

## MANATEE AMAZON EXPLORER 5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS ITINERARY MONDAY – FRIDAY



### EXPLORING THE AMAZON

This is a journey that takes us into the endless heart of biodiversity, the Amazon Basin. Given the remote and pristine nature of this jungle, the very best way to explore it is by navigating down the Napo River on exclusively - designed vessel set to explore the Amazon in style.

The Manatee Amazon Explorer allows our guests to experience unparalleled adventures in total comfort. Journey with us down freshwater rivers, both whitewater and black water, and encounter different Amazonian ecosystems including the possibility to observe fascinating animals such as pink river dolphins, manatees, caimans, and piranhas, as well as hundreds of native bird and primate species.

These amazing adventures are possible on board our exclusive vessel featuring: 10 Standard Cabins, which offer air conditioning, balconies, ceiling-to-floor windows, and private bathrooms with hot water. Our 4 Deluxe Cabins come complete with all of the above, plus private balconies and private whirlpool bathtubs with a scenic view! Make yourself at home with our complete range of onboard amenities! We have a comfortable Bar and Lounge, Conference Room, a cozy Reading Room, an Explorer's Boutique, an Al Fresco Lounge, a Dining Room that provides exceptional culinary offerings to our guests, and even an Outdoor Hot Tub on the Observation Deck! We want to ensure that you enjoy the perfect rainforest journey in full comfort navigating deep into the heart of one of the most biodiverse places on the planet.

We are committed to caring for natural resources and the conservation of local cultures by applying responsible and sustainable tourism practices and community involvement in all of our operations. We also have initiated Capi's Amazon River Program (CARP) that runs 3 non-profit sustainable rescue programs for endangered animals in the Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest: the charapas turtle, the pink river dolphin, and the manatee.

## **LUXURY CRUISE EXPERIENCES:**

### **BE A NATIVE:**

- Kichwa women gastronomy project
- Secoyas community encounter
- Native house experience
- Amazonian delicacies

## **IN TO THE WILD**

- The pink river dolphin experience
- Bird watching
- Charapas experience
- Wildlife observation

## **BREATHE THE AMAZON**

- Rainforest excursions
- Canoe Rides
- Night Walks
- Observation canopy tower experience

## **LIVE DE ADVENTURE**

- Camping
- Kayaking
- Swimming

## **SHARE ON BOARD**

- Cooking lessons
- Amazon lectures
- Amazonian handicraft
- National & International cuisine

## **NATURAL RESERVES**

- Yasuní National Park
- Jatuncocha
- Pañacocha

## DAY 1: MONDAY: QUITO – COCA – NAPO RIVER



Our adventure begins in the city of Quito, Capital of Ecuador. After taking a short 30-minute flight from Quito to the Amazon city of Coca, located in the Orellana Province, we will transfer to the dock and board our motorized canoe to begin our 90-minute journey down the river, taking in the first sights and sounds of the Amazon. Soon, we will reach the Manatee Amazon Explorer and receive our welcome aboard.

Once we have settled into the Manatee Amazon Explorer, we will be joined by expert local naturalist guides who will provide us with a brief and informative introduction to the Ecuadorian Amazon. After, guests will have their first opportunity to discover the exciting features of our cruise ship: spacious social areas, comfortable suites, and the observation deck that allows us to admire the changing rainforest landscape as we glide down the Napo River.

After dinner, we will plunge straight into the Amazon rainforest by going for a nighttime forest walk (optional excursion) to observe the forest's nocturnal activity and experience the thrill of the vivid noises and aromas that come from so much biodiversity.

## **DAY 2 - TUESDAY: THE HEART OF YASUNI NATIONAL PARK (HOME OF THE LEGENDARY PINK RIVER DOLPHIN) & SECOYA COMMUNITY**



After a delicious breakfast, we will go on a motorized canoe to spend some time exploring one of the large islands where we could see eagles, oropendolas, woodpeckers, and many other birds.

We will then board the Manatee Amazon Explorer for lunch and enjoy of the onboard experiences such as a spectacular ever-changing scenery view from the Amazon hut tub, a delicious cocktail at the bar and lounge, or admire the breathtaking landscapes from the observation deck.

Later in the afternoon, we will visit Yasuní National Park, a pristine and relatively undisturbed region of the Ecuadorian Amazon. Our guests will be pleased to learn that this is the home of the legendary pink river dolphin! In this area, we can also find anacondas, river turtles and various primate species, as well as the colorful hoatzin, a unique bird that is known locally as the stinky turkey.

Near Yasuní live the Secoyas, a minority community that our guests will have the opportunity to visit and share their traditions and lifestyle.

## DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY: KICHWA FAMILY & LIFE ON BOARD



We will start the day off by visiting an authentic Kichwa family located on the banks of the Napo River, where we will have the opportunity to learn directly from members of the local community.

We will then board the Manatee Amazon Explorer for some leisure time as we continue our navigation upstream. At this time, our guests will be delighted with our life onboard activities and participate in a cooking lesson with our expert chef who will share recipes and techniques using fresh and organic ingredients to prepare exquisite traditional Ecuadorian food that you can replicate at home. After lunch, guests are also invited to try their hand at making traditional handicrafts and attend an ancestral cultures lecture with one of our local guides. For our more active guests, a kayaking activity is the best choice to explore the surrounding nature. There is an option for everyone!

- **For our adventurous guests, this day, we are pleased to offer a camping program as an alternative manner to explore this enchanting destination (Optional activity for the 5 & 8 days Itinerary).**

## DAY 4 - THURSDAY: OBSERVATION CANOPY TOWER & FOREST ADVENTURE



Our guests can relax and enjoy the Manatee Amazon Explorer during the morning. After, they will disembark to visit an observation tower in the rainforest canopy, which offers astonishing 360-degree vistas. 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. This is the perfect photo opportunity! Birdwatchers and bird-lovers alike will especially enjoy this outing.

In the afternoon, we will explore the nearby forest for a walk to discover a myriad of different animals and plant species that can only be found in the Amazon basin. A kayak activity is also available to explore this area.

Back on board the Manatee Amazon Explorer, we will be delighted with an exquisite farewell dinner.

## DAY 5 - FRIDAY: RETURN



This is where our adventure ends! Enjoy the last part of our return journey onboard and then disembark the Manatee Amazon Explorer to take the motorized canoe back to Coca (90 minutes ride approximately).

**NOTE:** The foregoing itinerary is our standard operating model. We intend to offer everything as planned and will make every effort to do so, however depending on inclement weather, technical or operational difficulties beyond our control, the Manatee Amazon Explorer reserves the right to modify the itinerary without notice.

## PREPARING FOR THE AMAZON

The Ecuadorian Amazon basin is a special place, teeming with natural life and adventure at every turn. There is no telling what you will see or experience, and the unexpected is most certainly one of its treasures.

Of course, there are constants as well. The Amazon is located in the lowland equatorial tropics in a humid environment. Excursions on land usually take place in the mornings and afternoons, as the temperature rises at midday when we regularly are on board the Manatee Amazon Explorer. The weather is relatively constant throughout the year (we're on the equator, so there are no sharply demarcated seasons).

It is a rainforest, so rain is a regular occurrence and is what makes the area so lush and beautiful. Rain showers are often short-lived and serve to cool the air, which is always welcomed and refreshing. The insects here are a unique, colorful, and natural part of the environment. Like most everywhere in the world, you'll find mosquitoes, but you'll be pleasantly surprised to learn that they are quite manageable with a little repellent from time to time.

Forest trails can be uneven (a sturdy walking stick is helpful if you do not feel steady on your feet), and one can expect to encounter mud and puddles on specific segments. While a good pair of hiking boots with appropriate traction might be helpful, they are not always the best footwear. Usually, you are better off with rubber boots and a waterproof poncho (both of which we provide onboard). By the way, the clothes you bring along should be lightweight and quick-dry. (Please refer to our packing list below).

When we say that things are unexpected in the Amazon, we mean it! You never know what you will encounter, and there is always something new. The Amazon is so unique and magical that for those who experience this environment for the very first time, it can prove to be a profound and life-changing experience.

The sound of the forest is unbelievable. When paddling along one of the winding black-water streams, we invite you to close your eyes and try to take in the plethora of fascinating sounds that fill the air. We invite you to slow down, live in the present, and experience the natural beauty and richness all around you. Just let go, enjoy, and allow the spirit of the Amazon to envelope and enthrall you.

## PACKING LIST

- Passport (and a color copy kept in a separate bag)
- Comfortable walking shoes or tennis shoes
- Walking stick (optional)
- Several lightweight pants (more than two)
- DON'T BRING JEANS!
- 3 or more long and short-sleeved shirts or blouses
- Vests with pockets are useful for carrying camera equipment and other accessories
- A windbreaker or sweater for breezy afternoons
- Waterproof socks (one pair per day)
- Small, sturdy umbrella (one)
- Shorts (at least one pair)
- T-shirts (at least three)
- Bathing suit/swimwear
- Cotton underwear
- Hat or cap
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen lotion
- Sunglasses
- A flashlight and extra batteries
- Binoculars (available on board as a rental item)
- Small waterproof backpack (available for purchase on board)
- Insect repellent
- Camera, spare batteries and enough memory cards
- Personal first-aid kit
- Plastic bags for storing wet clothing
- Your medications, if applicable. Don't forget them!
- Cash – we also accept credit cards on board.

## DO'S & DON'T'S

- Opt for neutral clothing colors and avoid conspicuous clothing in bright colors or white, so as not to distract or frighten animals. The more you can blend into your surroundings, the better!
- Make sure your electronic equipment is at least somewhat waterproof or packed in a waterproof bag or pouch, especially if you plan to use it during excursions.
- Speak softly when on forest trails or canoe trips – loud voices can scare away the wildlife that everyone wants to see.
- Watch your step and follow the group. Don't try to get ahead of the guide or tour leader, and avoid lagging behind.
- Always tell your guide if you see something and don't hesitate to ask questions. That's what your guide is there for!
- Don't Litter! Respect the forest and its wildlife. Bring a backpack or plastic bag in which you can discard plastic, wrappers, paper, and other waste.
- You are in good hands with our guides and staff. You can trust us! We have decades of experience showing guests the wonders of the Amazon. We are not only here to guide you and show you around, but also to take care of you and make you feel at home.
- Take advantage of as many outings as possible. The adventure lies "out there." We guarantee that, given the right conditions, every outing we have selected for our itinerary has been customized to offer unique and extraordinary experiences.
- If you have physical limitations or concerns, do not hesitate to ask our guides if particular trails or activities are right for you. Most of them don't require excessive physical effort, but please let us know if you are feeling any discomfort during an outing, and feel free to ask us for more information about what you may encounter once we have explained what it entails.
- Don't hesitate to share your interests and preferences with our staff! It is important to us that you make this adventure your own. We can offer a certain degree of flexibility in terms of alternatives to our daily activities. Although it is not always possible, we will do what we can to personalize your Amazon cruise experience.

## **OPERATIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### **Medical and Health:**

Good physical health is required to best enjoy an Amazon River Cruise. Visitor sites are accessible by small, motorized boats, and will possibly need wet landings. Uneven terrain may be present during hikes and daily nature excursions, and a degree of physical effort is occasionally required while embarking and disembarking. Travelers do not need vaccinations for malaria and yellow fever, although we recommend you consult your physician.

### **Dietary Needs:**

Manatee Amazon Explorer requires written notification 30 days before departures from travelers requesting specific nutritional needs. Every effort will be made to cater to the requested dietary needs, as long as the products are available in Ecuador.

### **Insurance:**

We strongly recommend that you plan to arrive in Quito an extra day before the cruise departure date, given that no refunds are applicable in the unlikely event that weather-related flight cancellations cause you to miss your embarkation. Flight cancellation is beyond our control, and as a cruise operator, we must adhere to strict operating standards which include our schedules. We advise travelers to purchase trip cancellation insurance, to reimburse the cost of air tickets and other non-refundable fees incurred during trip reservations in the event of unexpected cancellations. Standard international medical, baggage loss, and airline delay insurance are also recommended.

### **Vessel Replacement:**

Manatee Amazon Explorer reserves the right to replace the cruise vessel when required (i.e., force majeure or inclement weather). Should travelers not agree with the adjustment, Manatee Amazon Explorer reserves the right to cancel the trip, offering a pro-rata refund per cruise night not used or offer a credit toward a future cruise onboard the Manatee Amazon Explorer.

### **Visits to the Amazon Communities and Natural Reserves:**

A portion of our excursions take place within protected areas, and visitors are required to comply with these areas' rules and regulations. Naturalist guides will inform guests about these rules. Manatee Amazon Explorer, represented by its onboard guides, reserves the right to deny access to any guest who ignores, violates, or is unable to comply with these regulations. We appreciate your understanding.