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WanderTours
P.O. Box 16102
Seattle WA 98116

Ecuador Amazon Rainforest Adventure

Dates: October 11 – 17, 2025

Trip Leader: Beth Whitman

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Taking **daily excursions** into the Amazon rainforest
- Opportunities to see some of the thousands of species that dwell in the **most biodiverse location on the planet** including monkeys (such as howler and spider), birds (such as toucans and macaws), reptiles (such as caimans and turtles) and much more
- Traveling via **dugout canoe** through swamps and rivers with nothing more than the slap of the paddle on the water and the birds in the trees to keep us company
- Being led by **expert local guides** who'll impart their knowledge about the flora, fauna and local customs
- Overnighting in **beautiful accommodations** that are 100% owned and managed by the local Kichwa Añangu community
- Taking a day trip to the equator and the **predominately Kichwa town of Otavalo**

This unique adventure starts on **October 11, 2025**. If you are joining our [Galapagos tour](#), you'll be arriving with the group in Quito, Ecuador, on October 11.

If you are **ONLY** joining us for the Amazon Rainforest trip, consider arriving a day or two early in Quito in case of flight delays and to shake off jet lag. We can book additional nights at the hotel for you if you like.

**** The activities in the itinerary are subject to change and will be based on the weather and where the best wildlife viewing will be when we are there. Please be flexible and expect that we may not follow these activities exactly as outlined.**



ITINERARY

Day 1

Saturday, October 11, 2025 – Quito

Meals: N/A

Upon arrival at the Quito airport, you'll be met by our driver and taken to our hotel.

No meals are included on this day as some flights might arrive too late for us to have a meal together. This will give you the chance to relax before our activities start tomorrow.

Overnight at [Hotel Patio Andaluz](#) or similar in Quito.

Day 2

Sunday, October 12, 2025 – Quito – Otavalo – Quito

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today after breakfast, we'll first make our way about an hour and a half north to the **Quitsato Sundial**. This 52-meter mosaic **marks the equator** and, not only can it be used as a calendar, it is so large it can be seen from space. Visiting here will give us a better understanding of how **pre-Hispanic cultures read the stars**.

We will then head further north to one of the most interesting towns in Ecuador – Otavalo, **home to the local Kichwa people**. They have used this region as an economic and social center for more than 4,000 years and, thankfully, their numbers are on the rise.

We'll have time to meander and shop at the area's **famous market**. Although the town is small, the market is the largest in South America and is brimming with **colorful textiles, handicrafts and jewelry**.



We'll have lunch at a local restaurant and then head to the nearby town of Agato where we'll visit the workshop of **master weaver, Miguel Andrango**. His art has taken him to exhibitions and fairs abroad, including the United States, where the quality of his work is widely recognized.

We'll then drive to the **Cotacachi-Cayapas Ecological Reserve**. Depending on our timing, we'll take a short (or long) hike around this area, where the **Cuicocha lagoon** is located. This deep-blue crater lake is at the foot of **Cotacachi Volcano**. After our hike, we will stop at the picturesque colonial town of **Cotacachi**, famous for its leatherwork.



We'll return to the hotel in Quito in the late afternoon and have a bit of time to relax before we enjoy a welcome dinner together.

Day 3

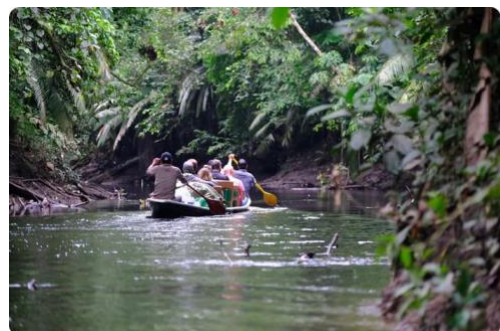
Monday, October 13, 2025 – Quito – Coca – Rainforest
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast, the group will transfer to the airport in Quito for our flight to **Coca**, located about 30 minutes

away over the eastern Andes Mountains.

We'll meet our local guide and be driven to the nearby port that's located on the **Napo River**. Here, we'll board a covered motorboat and begin the second leg of our journey, which will last for about two hours as we make our way to **Yasuni National Park** in Ecuador's Amazon. Along the way, we'll be able to spot birdlife such as **herons and kingfishers**.

We'll reach a small **welcome center** located at the mouth of Añangu Creek. This waterway flows into the lake where our accommodations are located. At the welcome center, we'll board **dugout canoes** and then slowly travel for about two hours as our guides paddle us on the waterway and through the rainforest. Immediately, we'll be able to see **monkeys, toucans, parrots, macaws** and other wildlife.



We'll arrive at our lodge in the late afternoon. After getting settled in, we may have time before or after dinner for a short introductory walk and then a canoe trip to observe caiman.

Dinner and overnight at [Napo Wildlife Center](#).

Day 4

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 – Amazon Rainforest

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After a wonderful breakfast, we'll head out for some amazing sightseeing. First, we'll travel by dugout canoe to a spot where we can disembark. Then, we'll walk 20 – 30 minutes through the rainforest. We'll arrive at a canopy tower that's about **120 feet above the forest floor**. This tower is made of galvanized steel and is perfectly safe (it's considered the best in all of eastern Ecuador).



Climbing up, we'll be above the treetops and can see **spider and howler monkeys** freely swinging from tree to tree in search of food. Flocks of **macaws** and **tanagers** pass through the canopy while **toucans** perch at the top and call out.

After a morning of wildlife viewing, we'll head back to the lodge for lunch and have an early afternoon siesta. (Alternatively, you can **take a swim in the lake**, head to the lodge's **treetower** for more wildlife spotting or kick back and **relax in a hammock**.)

In the late afternoon, we'll head out again with our guide for a hike through the rainforest. We'll spot more wildlife, including **insects, reptiles** and **amphibians**. We'll also learn about the **flora** in the area, including the **vines, ancient trees, bromeliads** and **orchids**.

We'll return for dinner and overnight at [Napo Wildlife Center](#).

Day 5

Wednesday, October 15, 2025 – Amazon Rainforest

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning after breakfast, we'll visit what are considered the **best clay and salt licks in all of Ecuador!**

We'll start early in the morning by paddling downstream on Añangu Creek back toward the welcome center on the Napo River. From here, we'll take a motorboat for about 10 minutes to a wonderful viewing area on the **banks of the river**. It's here where **thousands of parrots** feast on a clay lick located on the side of a cliff.



The birds instinctively consume the earth here because of its **high mineral content**, which neutralizes the toxins found in the nuts and seeds they consume. Typical species seen here are the **mealy parrot, the blue-headed parrot, the yellow-crowned Amazon parrot** and the **oranged-cheek parrot**.

Afterward, we'll disembark and take a hike to a clay lick located deeper into the forest. Here, **birds descend from the treetops** down to the rainforest floor. There will likely be **hundreds of birds** including **11 different species of parrots** and **parakeets** as well as **macaws** and **parrotlets**.

We'll take a break from bird-watching and have lunch at the welcome center on the river.

In the afternoon, we'll travel by boat and then disembark to walk to the **Kichwa community's interpretation center**. Here, we'll learn about the traditions of the **Añangu people** and we'll take part in a **traditional ceremony with the local shaman**. This will be a wonderful afternoon where we'll get to learn about the local people and how they are able to survive in the rainforest.

We'll head back to the lodge in the late afternoon for a rest and then have dinner and overnight at [Napo Wildlife Center](#).

Day 6

Thursday, October 16, 2025 – Amazon Rainforest

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast this morning, we'll take a hike on the Tiputini Trail through the upland forest, often known as terra firme (firm earth). We'll be seeking out more wildlife, including **golden-mantled tamarins, white-faced capuchin monkeys, two-toed and three-toed sloths, dwarf squirrels** and more.



After a morning of wildlife viewing, we'll head back to the lodge for lunch and an early afternoon siesta. (Alternatively, you can **take a swim in the lake**, head to the lodge's **treetower** for more wildlife spotting or kick back and **relax in a hammock**.)

In the mid-to-late afternoon, we'll reconvene to take **canoes deeper into the rainforest** for even more bird and wildlife viewing as there will still be so much to see!

We'll return to the lodge where we'll have dinner and overnight at [Napo Wildlife Center](#).

Day 7

Friday, October 17, 2025 – Amazon Rainforest – Coca – Quito

Meals: Breakfast

Sadly, today we'll be leaving the rainforest. After breakfast, we'll make the reverse trip back to Quito.

Starting in dugout canoes, we'll head back to the Napo River. We'll meet up with a motorized boat that will then take us two hours back to the port in Coca. From here, we'll board our return flight to Quito.

We arrive back in Quito around noon.

You may either take a flight home later this day/night or you can stay in Quito. We can help book additional nights if you need them.



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