



Ecuador

November 7-14, 2020



Set on the equator, Ecuador is one of the most beautiful countries on the planet and a perfect destination for Private Journeys' November 2020 Unleashed Women's Adventure. From the Andes to the Amazon, we'll discover her endless treasures and share the marvels of this South American gem.

Days 1 - 4: We meet up at a stunning colonial-era working farm dating from the late sixteenth century nestled atop the Andean highlands. The sprawling hacienda, set on over 4,000 private acres, has been “in the family” of our host since the 1800s -- and quite a family they are, counting two Ecuadorian presidents among them. Our days will find us exploring the vast estate on foot, bicycle and horseback. Today the farm still produces a wide range of products including milk, quinoa, potatoes and organic vegetables. We'll hike the surrounding valley where steep slopes and rain forest converge and pre-Incan earth mounds, beautiful gardens, an impressive endangered Condor rehabilitation project and cheese factory will be explored. Back at the ranch, local artisans will teach us the fine art of hand embroidery for which the region is known. Our cooking experience will unravel the secrets of traditional Ecuadorian cuisine paired of course with fine South American wines. Best of all will be time spent with our delightful hosts who will share personal stories of his legendary family, the hacienda, and the history of Ecuador including its massive rose export industry.

Days 5 - 8: From the Andes to the Amazon we go, for a four-day exploration of the Ecuadorian rainforest, home to indigenous tribes that make up about 200 distinct nations as well as a mind-boggling array of unique animal and plant species. Parque Nacional Yasuni, spanning nearly 2.5 million acres, is home to over 150 amphibian species (more than the U.S. and Canada combined), 121 species of reptiles, 200 species of mammals, 596 species of birds and no less than 382 species of fish. Insects? You betcha ... over 70,000 species can be found in only one acre of the Yasuni Biosphere Reserve. Our Amazonian home will be an impressive community eco-lodge project 100% owned by the native tribe who owns the land on which the lodge sits. Daily excursions on foot and by canoe under the brilliant guidance of professional naturalists will unveil the wealth of species, the unique Amazonian terrain, its Kichwa Anangu indigenous community and the challenges involved in protecting the Amazon ... aka the “Lungs of the Earth”.

Highlights:

- Sharing eight days with a group of like-minded adventurous women where great conversation, friendship and support reign
- To the Good Life! Experience life as guests of Ecuadorian “royalty” in one of the country’s most historical haciendas
- We’ll take time to smell Ecuador’s roses -- the world’s largest, longest lasting, and with the most color varieties
- From cow to cracker, an in-depth and intimate semi-aged, handmade cheese-making experience
- On the move ... eight days of active exploration on foot, in speedboats, dugout canoes, atop bicycles and robust noble steeds
- From the Andes to the Amazon, Ecuador is a “twitchers” paradise with over 1,600 spectacular bird species. Pack your bins!
- An epic South American Safari through the heart of the Ecuadorian Amazon – the most biodiverse place on Earth
- Climb above the Amazon canopy on a 125-foot observation tower for incredible 360 views of monkey troops and bird flocks
- Experience up close and personal the realities facing the world’s most important ecosystem and the impact of “the Oil Man”

Details: Eight-day Ecuadorian adventure includes accommodation, all activities, meals, professional guidance, ground transportation, roundtrip internal air from Quito to Coca. Exclusions include international roundtrip air to Ecuador and alcoholic beverages.

Price: Available Upon Request

To reserve one of the limited spaces available, contact us at Info@PrivateJourneys.net