

Ecuador & The Amazon

Private Tour | 12 Days | Physical Level 2

Quito - Otavalo - Cotopaxi - Mashpi - Amazon - Quito

A unique blend of natural wonders and cultural richness with the opportunity to explore diverse landscapes from the Andes mountains to pristine beaches, and visit vibrant cities like Quito, rich in history and architecture. The Amazon offers an unforgettable adventure with its dense rainforest, extraordinary wildlife, and indigenous cultures.

- Explore cultural Quito
- Visit the artisans of Peguche
- Gaze upon magnificent Cotopaxi
- Discover the cloud forest of Mashpi
- Navigate the Amazon by boat

TOUR MAP



ECUADOR & THE AMAZON PRIVATE TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- All accommodation
- Meals as stated
- All sightseeing and activities with entrance fees
- Domestic flights economy class
- All shared transportation and transfers
- English speaking local guides

Not included in the tour: international flights, visas, drinks, optional excursions, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, meals not included, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

PRIVATE TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who want some independence and flexibility. They offer the choice to explore local cuisine, leisure time for optional activities or excursions, and travel when it suits you. Our Private Tours offer excellent value holidays alongside the assurance that most of your arrangements are taken care of. You will also be accompanied by a dedicated and professional guide whose knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Ecuador & The Amazon' is rated as a physical level 2 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time.
- Guests are expected to climb on and off canoes/boats unassisted.

Of course, the local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive Quito

Meals:

Fly to Ecuador's capital, Quito, where on arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel where you will have the rest of the day at leisure.



Destination Information

Quito – Ecuador's enchanting capital city proudly possesses one of the most extensive and best preserved historic centres and is a UNESCO World Heritage Centre. Spend time exploring this beautiful city that sits at a height of 2850 metres above sea level.

Day 2: Quito City Tour

Meals: B, L

Experience this UNESCO World Heritage city with a full day exploration.

Begin at the Panecillo, a hill on the city's southern limits, and explore the vibrant San Roque neighbourhood to catch a glimpse of life in a traditional barrio. Stroll through Independence Square, where you can see the buildings that are at the heart of Quito's society – the Presidential Palace, the Archbishop's Palace, the Cathedral of Quito and the Municipal Place. Afterwards, visit the gold leaf covered La Compania Church before heading to San Francisco Church and Monastery with its extensive museum of Colonial religious art. Wander a La Ronda, a street of artisanal shops before ending with a delightful chocolate tasting at Chez Tiff.



Touring today lasts between 8 to 9 hours.

Destination Information

Independence Square - The central square of the city, also referred to as the Plaza Grande. A symbol of one of the executive powers of the country, it is surrounded by four other buildings which are The Presidential Palace, the Cathedral of Quito, the Municipal Palace and the Archbishops Palace. The monument recognises the heroes of the First Cry of Independence which took place on the 10th August, 1809.

La Compañía Church - One of Quito's most well-known Jesuit churches that was built in 1605 and a magnificent example of the extraordinary artistic ability of Ecuadorian artisans. The large central nave is decorated almost completely with gold leaf, gilded plaster, and wooden carvings, above which are two green and gold domes in the vaulted ceiling.

San Francisco Church & Convent - Construction commenced in 1535 over an Inca Empire and was the first built in Quito. It forms part of the city of Quito World Heritage Site.

Day 3: Explore Otavalo

Meals: B, L

Today's adventure begins with a two-hour trip to Hacienda La Compañía near Cayambe, where you'll stroll through vibrant rose fields and learn about the cultivation of Ecuador's iconic flowers. As you approach Otavalo, the majestic Imbabura volcano comes into view, framed by the peaceful waters of Lake Pablo. Savour fresh produce at the Copacabana vegetable market and wander through the famous Plaza de los Ponchos, bursting with colourful ponchos, blankets, tapestries, and more.



Next, visit the artisan village of Peguche, a hub for Andean crafts and music. Explore the workshop of either Miguel Andrango or José Cotacachi, where traditional weaving techniques celebrate Andean culture. Meet the Lema family, masters of bamboo instrument-making, and listen to the natural sounds their creations produce, echoing the origins of Andean music.

Today's touring is approximately 8 to 9 hours.

Destination Information

Hacienda La Compañía de Jesús – Visit the neo-classically styled main house, enjoy a delicious snack and explore an impressive showroom with over 70 varieties of roses grown at the hacienda's own plantation, which opens its doors for you to see first-hand how the flowers are produced.

Vegetable Market - The city of Otavalo is known for its myriad markets that fill it with life and movement. Here you can get up close and personal with the hundreds of ingredients and products that form the basis for some of the most traditional dishes. Take a shot at bartering with the vendors to get the best price on some of Ecuador's top fruits and favourite vegetables.

Tayta Gundo Kaya Wasi (Andean House of Music) - The house showcases a traditional architectural style. Visitors are shown the different varieties of equatorial bamboo used to make Andean wind instruments and the hosts will present the history of indigenous communities through instruments like the *rondador*, *pakla*, *ruku*, *dulzinas*, *zampoña*, *quena*, *charango*, *bandolín*, *arpa*, etc.

Day 4: Cotopaxi

Meals: B, L

Explore Cotopaxi National Park, starting at the Interpretation Centre to gain an understanding of the park's flora and fauna before strolling through a mystical pine forest. Next, marvel at the snowcapped Volcano Cotopaxi and its reflection in the glassy waters of Limpiopungo Lake.



Afterwards, head to Hacienda San Agustin de Callo, a historic Incan fortress. Here you'll have a meal amidst the remaining masonry of an Incan palace – you can try locro de papa, a hearty potato soup emblematic of the Andes. Next, visit Vunka Vodka factory, a family-owned distillery offering a unique vodka tasting experience. Sample a variety of flavoured Ecuadorian vodkas, including blackberry, coca leaf and Andean Potato Vodka, crafted from organic Andean potatoes.

Today's touring is approximately 8 to 9 hours.

Destination Information

Cotopaxi National Park - Established in 1975 as a protected area and situated about 50km southeast of the capital Quito. This park offers an impressive variety of animals and birds, including the majestic Andean condor, as well as magnificent photographic opportunities in the form of spectacular valleys, lakes and a number of volcanoes.

Limpiopungo Lake - Situated on the plateau between Cotopaxi and Rumiñahui volcanoes in Cotopaxi National Park, Limpio Pungo presents a captivating spot to absorb the panoramic beauty of the reserve and observe the colourful flora and fauna of the páramo (treeless, high-altitude plains), including wild horses, llamas, deer and rabbits.

Day 5: Mashpi Biodiversity Reserve

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast travel approximately three and a half hours northwest to Mashpi. On arrival you will be met by a representative of the lodge, giving you the opportunity to discuss and choose the activities you want to participate in over the next two days. After lunch relax before beginning with your first activity.



The activities mentioned during your stay are just suggestions. You can select from a range of options such as walking trails, life centre visit, observation tower, night walks, hummingbird viewpoint, waterfalls and leks. Please see information below for more details. Activities are subject to availability, allowing you to tailor each day to suit your interests. Please note that all activities will be on a shared basis.

Destination Information

Mashpi Biodiversity Reserve - This Reserve stands out as a unique and extraordinary destination. Encompassing an expansive area of 2800 hectares and encompasses both cloud forest and rainforest, contributing to the globally-significant Choco biodiversity hotspot. Mashpi serves as the habitat for various wildlife, including pumas, kinkajous, hundreds of amphibian and reptile species, thousands of insect and arachnid species, and over 500 species of birds.

Day 6: Mashpi Biodiversity Reserve

Meals: B, L, D

Your choice of activities for today, allows you fully experience the wonders of the Ecuadorian cloud forest. You can explore the forest on guided nature trails, where expert naturalists help you discover unique plants and wildlife up close, or for a breathtaking aerial view, glide through the treetops on the Dragonfly canopy gondola, perfect for spotting wildlife from above.



For the wildlife enthusiasts, you can enjoy birdwatching, with opportunities to see rare species, as well as night walks that reveal nocturnal creatures like frogs and owls. Scenic hikes to hidden waterfalls provide moments of tranquillity, while at the Life Centre you can learn about Mashpi's conservation efforts and see native species, including butterflies and frogs, up close. Every activity is designed to connect you with the rich biodiversity of this unique cloud forest.

The activities mentioned during your stay are just suggestions. You can select from a range of options such as walking trails, life centre visit, observation tower, night walks, hummingbird viewpoint, waterfalls and leks. Please see information below for more details. Activities are subject to availability, allowing you to tailor each day to suit your interests. Please note that all activities will be on a shared basis.

Day 7: Middle of the World

Meals: B, L

After breakfast you will depart Mashpi, descending from the lush cloud forest to more open landscapes dotted with small villages and rolling hills. After approximately two and a half hours on the road, you'll arrive at the Middle of the World Monument, located on the equator. Here, you'll stand with one foot in each hemisphere and explore the fascinating museum that dives into Ecuador's indigenous cultures, geography, and the scientific significance of the equator line. Take the opportunity to perform fun experiments that show the unique gravitational effects at the equator.



Afterwards, you will continue to Quito where you will overnight.

Destination Information

Middle of the World Monument – This monument highlights the exact location of the Equator and commemorates the eighteenth-century Franco-Spanish Geodesic Mission which fixed its exact location. This 30-metre-tall monument was constructed between 1979 and 1982 and is made of Iron and concrete, covered with cut and polished andesite stone.

Day 8: Napo Wildlife Centre

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast take the hotel shuttle, departing every 30 minutes, to the airport. After a short 30-minute flight over the eastern Andes to Coca, you will transfer to "La Mision" Port, boarding a comfortable, covered motorboat for a two-hour canoe ride down the Napo River. As you enjoy a box lunch and coffee, keep an eye out for birds like herons and kingfishers along the riverbanks.



After reaching Napo Wildlife Centre's entry dock, take a break before embarking on a peaceful two-hour paddle canoe ride through a narrow creek, surrounded by dense forest. Along the way, there's a good chance to spot monkeys, toucans, parrots, or even macaws.

You'll arrive at the lodge in the late afternoon, greeted by a stunning view of Añangu Lake, a welcome drink, and a briefing from the local manager.

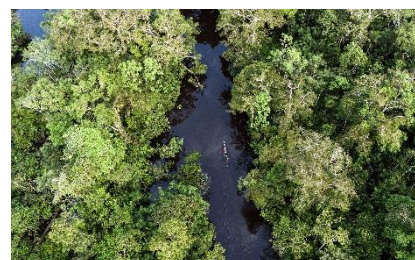
Destination Information

Napo Wildlife Centre – Carefully built and designed by the Añangu indigenous community to offer tourists maximum privacy and comfort in Amazon Wildlife Tours. Luxury rooms and commodities, first class attention, beautiful views of the jungle and the lake, nature within your reach. It is a real paradise for nature lovers, eco-travellers, and adventure seekers.

Day 9: The Amazon

Meals: B, L, D

Begin your day with an early wake-up to visit one of Ecuador's most accessible parrot clay licks, just an hour from the lodge. Arriving before the parrots begin their activity, you'll witness the spectacle of up to 11 species of parrots, parakeets, and macaws at the clay lick between 7:30 and 8:30 AM.



Afterward, take a forest hike to the Kichwa Community of Añangu, where you'll spend time with a local family, learning about their daily activities. Next, hike through the Terra Firme Forest for about 30 minutes to reach a second parrot clay lick. If weather permits, you'll see more parrot species, parakeets, and even macaws. Enjoy lunch at the Napo Cultural Centre, where you'll engage with members of the Kichwa community.

Note: This is a sample itinerary and may change due to weather, safety, or group preferences. Adjustments are made to enhance wildlife sightings and cultural experiences in Yasuní National Park. Activities range from walks, cultural experience, Parrot Clay licks, observation towers, canoe paddling. Please note that all activities will be on a shared basis.

Day 10: Explore The Amazon

Meals: B, L, D

After an early breakfast, you'll set out to explore the rainforest from a breathtaking vantage point—Napo Wildlife Centre's 36-meter canopy tower. This tower offers a unique opportunity to observe the rich life above the forest floor. Located about 30 minutes from the lodge in the heart of the terra firme forest, the 12-floor tower takes you through different layers of the forest as you climb, eventually emerging atop a massive Ceiba tree.



At the top, you'll step onto a wooden platform built directly into the tree, giving you a bird's-eye view once reserved only for the wildlife. The tower is designed with safety as the top priority. From this incredible height, you'll witness vibrant flocks of tanagers, watch Blue-and-yellow Macaws soar by, and spot Spider Monkeys foraging in nearby trees. Large toucans call in the mornings and afternoons, while countless other creatures of the canopy come into view. Birds that are impossible to spot from the forest floor now fly right beside you, undisturbed by your presence.

Note: This is a sample itinerary and may change due to weather, safety, or group preferences. Adjustments are made to enhance wildlife sightings and cultural experiences in Yasuní National Park. Activities range from walks, cultural experience, Parrot Clay licks, observation towers, canoe paddling. Please note that all activities will be on a shared basis.

Day 11: Depart The Amazon

Meals: B

An early departure with a final canoe excursion down the creek, where you may spot new wildlife like Giant Otters, Monk Saki Monkeys, or rare bird species.

Afterward, you'll transfer the way you came, by canoe to the motorized boat for a two-hour ride back to Coca. Upon arrival, you'll check in for your Coca to Quito flight. Upon arrival in Quito you will be transferred to your hotel for the night.

**Day 12: Depart Quito**

Meals: B

After breakfast and check-out of your hotel, transfer to the airport for your onward travel arrangements.



ECUADOR & THE AMAZON TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

Australian nationals can enter Ecuador for up to 90 days as a visitor without a visa. You need a minimum of 6 months validity from your return date on your passport to travel.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

ALTITUDE:

On this tour you will be spending several nights at altitude in Quito at 2850m and visit Cotopaxi National Park at 3800m. At these sort of altitudes, Altitude Sickness is a risk. Symptoms may include dizziness, fatigue, nausea and shortness of breath. It is recommended that travellers utilize their first day in high altitude destinations to acclimatise. To help you acclimatise we have designed our tours to be at a slower pace with more convenience stops and more free time, during the first few days. Staying hydrated, eating light meals and following a very light schedule will all help. We recommend that any symptoms that are unusual should be brought to the attention of your National Escort. Your National Escort will be extremely well-trained in dealing with its effects – taking it easy and taking some time to acclimatise are the best ways to prevent and combat it. Serious cases, meaning that you must descend immediately, are rare. We have adapted the itinerary to make sure that your time at these heights is as relaxed and easy as possible.

There are no specific factors, such as age or fitness, that can cause you to suffer from altitude sickness. This can affect anyone at any time and symptoms may vary. There is medication that can help treat and prevent symptoms. Consult a doctor before taking any of these medications, before engaging in strenuous activity at high altitude and regarding any necessary vaccinations in plenty of time before travelling.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation on Ecuador mainland has been selected for convenience of location and comfort. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality may exist between Australia and South America. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

EATING IN ECUADOR:

Ecuadorian cuisine is a variety of flavours, deeply rooted in its diverse geography and cultural heritage. Along the coast, the air is filled with the tang of freshly caught seafood, with dishes like **ceviche**—a zesty mix of shrimp or fish marinated in lime—served alongside crispy plantain chips. In the Andean highlands, hearty meals warm the cool mountain air, with dishes like **hornado**, succulent roasted pork served with **mote** (hominy) and **llapingachos**, cheesy potato pancakes. The Amazon offers exotic tastes with dishes like **maito**, fish wrapped in banana leaves and grilled to perfection, or the daring chontacuro, skewered and grilled grubs. Even in the Galápagos, where the sea reigns supreme, fresh **langostinos** and seafood stews like **cazuela** are brimming with tropical richness. Each meal is often accompanied by a spicy kick of **ají** sauce, and locals cherish **almuerzo** (lunch) as the heartiest meal of the day. Ecuadorian cuisine is a flavourful blend of indigenous traditions, Spanish influences, and the use of local, fresh ingredients from the land and sea.

Dining Customs:

Almuerzo (Lunch): The largest and most important meal of the day, often consisting of a soup starter, followed by a main course of meat or fish with rice, potatoes, and salad, and a dessert.

Merienda (Dinner): Dinner is lighter compared to lunch, usually consisting of a smaller portion of rice or bread with a protein.

Street Food: Ecuador has a vibrant street food culture, with vendors selling empanadas, tamales, and other snacks like **chifles** (fried plantain chips) and **humitas** (steamed corn cakes).

With its rich variety of local ingredients and traditional methods, Ecuadorian food tells a story of the land and its people, offering a feast for the senses.

Those with dietary requirements will be well catered for - just make sure to inform your booking agent of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Travel between major cities is easily accessible, faster, and safe, while road conditions in rural and mountainous areas are impacted by rainy conditions.

There are various types of boats used on the rivers of the Amazon, ranging from small, motorized canoes to larger passenger boats. The most common modes of river transport include:

Canoes: These are small, traditional canoes, often carved out of a single tree trunk, and are used by local indigenous communities. While many are still paddled manually, modern canoes are often fitted with small outboard motors, allowing for faster travel.

Lanchas: These serve as the main transportation method for people traveling between towns and villages along the riverbanks. These boats are relatively fast and can navigate through the complex river system.

APPROPRIATE DRESS:

When visiting Ecuador, it's important to consider both the local climate and cultural norms when choosing your clothing. Dress codes vary depending on the region (coastal areas, highlands, Amazon, or Galápagos) and the type of activities planned. Generally, Ecuador is a modest country, especially in rural and indigenous areas, but casual dress is common in touristy and urban areas.

Andean Highlands (Quito, Otavalo)

Weather: The Andean highlands, including cities like Quito and Otavalo, have cooler temperatures year-round due to the high altitude. Temperatures can range from chilly mornings to warm afternoons, followed by cooler evenings.

Layered Clothing: Pack layers such as t-shirts, light sweaters, and jackets to handle the temperature changes throughout the day.

Pants or Long Skirts: Comfortable pants or long skirts are suitable for both men and women, especially when visiting rural areas or indigenous markets.

Light Jackets: A windbreaker or lightweight jacket is useful for chilly mornings and evenings.

Comfortable Walking Shoes: The streets in historic cities like Quito and Cuenca often have cobblestones, so sturdy walking shoes are essential.

Cultural Considerations: In more traditional towns and rural areas, tourists should avoid wearing overly revealing clothes like short shorts, tank tops, or crop tops, particularly when visiting markets or churches. When visiting churches, more modest clothing (covered shoulders, longer skirts or pants) is preferred.

Amazon Rainforest (Coca)

Weather: The Amazon is hot and humid, with frequent rain, so tourists should prepare for high humidity and the possibility of rain showers.

Lightweight, Long-Sleeved Clothing: Long-sleeved shirts and pants made from breathable, quick-drying fabrics are recommended to protect against insects and sun exposure.

Insect Repellent Clothing: Wearing clothing treated with insect repellent or using repellent sprays is essential to avoid mosquito bites.

Waterproof Gear: A lightweight rain jacket or poncho is a must, given the frequent rain in the Amazon.

Sturdy Hiking Shoes or Boots: Waterproof hiking boots with good grip are ideal for jungle hikes, as the terrain can be muddy.

Hat and Sunglasses: A wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses will protect you from the intense sun.

Cultural Considerations: In the Amazon, modest clothing is appreciated, particularly when visiting indigenous communities. Avoid tight or revealing outfits when interacting with locals.

Special Occasions and Religious Sites

Church Visits: When visiting churches or religious sites, such as the beautiful La Compañía de Jesús church in Quito, tourists should dress modestly. It's best to wear long pants or skirts and cover your shoulders out of respect.

Festivals or Traditional Events: During local festivals or visiting indigenous markets, such as the famous Otavalo Market, modest clothing is recommended. Traditional communities, especially in the Andean and Amazon regions, may have more conservative expectations for dress.

Practical Considerations

Sun Protection: Regardless of the region, Ecuador is located on the equator, meaning the sun is very strong. Always wear sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat to protect from UV rays.

Comfortable Footwear: Ecuador's diverse geography means that tourists will often encounter different terrains, from cobblestone streets to jungle trails. Comfortable, sturdy shoes are essential for walking, hiking, and exploring.

Rain Protection: Whether you're in the Amazon or the highlands, rain can occur unexpectedly, especially during the rainy season (October to May). A compact rain jacket or poncho is useful for staying dry.

ACTIVITIES:

MASHPI:

Trails

The two main trails are the Howler Monkey and Cucharillo (named after an oak). Both link up with the Tower #5 of the canopy gondola system. Along the trails, guests will learn more from both their Naturalist Guide and Local Guide about the myriad plants, insects and animals that inhabit this biodiverse universe. The guides will enthusiastically share their knowledge of their characteristics, behaviour and uses.

Due to Mashpi's mountainous topography, trails are rarely flat. The Howler Monkey (mainly primary forest) and Cucharillo (mainly secondary), although short – 2 km and 700 m, respectively – are steep. The trails' steepness is an advantage since the hillsides enable more light to penetrate the forest, thereby increasing the diversity of plants and animals that one can observe at each stratum. Both trails have been specially adapted to make walking easier, using embedded recycled plastic crates to create steps and firm paths.

The way back uphill on both these trails can be aboard the gondola, reached by wading through the shallow river in rubber boots, and walking the connecting trail to the Cotinga Tower.

Life Centre

Close to the lodge, the centre is conceived as a place for learning and discovery, but also where guests can disconnect, where they can contemplate the views, sit in comfortable chairs, read a book, and enjoy a fresh cane juice. Guests will learn more about the butterflies, species of orchids, bromeliads and passion flowers.

Observation Tower

There are few easier or better ways to appreciate the beauty of the Mashpi Reserve's forest and hills than climbing the Observation Tower. Here, guests are able to enjoy an exciting bird's-eye view and the dramatic panoramas that surround the lodge from the observation tower. This is a metallic structure, with a staircase that climbs to about eight-stories high (26 m or 85 ft.), ideal for wildlife observation, particularly at dawn or dusk. Species that can be spotted here include toucans, woodpeckers, barbets, tanagers and parrots as well as raptors. The tower lies a 10-minute walk from the lodge.

Night walks

The Mashpi forest is transformed at night, with far more activity than during the day. Optional night walks will head out from the hotel after dinner to discover its nocturnal creatures and their behaviours, ranging from moths as big as your hand, to miniature glass and tree frogs, croaking toads, birds, owls, rodents and mammals, and even fox fire, an Avatar-like luminous fungus.

Sky Bike

Located close to the hotel, the sky bike makes for an original and exciting way to explore the forest canopy up close. Designed for two people to use at once, one person pedals the bike along a cable stretched between two points in the forest, around 200 m (655 feet) apart, crossing a gorge above a river flowing between rocks and trees below. Silent, easy-to-use and fun, it's an activity for children over 8 years-old accompanied by an adult, providing guests with another chance to observe the natural world close to the lodge and even spot its denizens.

Hummingbird Viewpoint

The forests of Mashpi boast 22 hummingbird species identified to date, inhabiting different specific altitudes, with around 16 species alone observable by guests. In order to make it easier to see these amazing creatures, a shelter with seating provides the ideal setting, feeders for the birds strung from its roof. The site is located at a natural viewpoint, which, on clear days, provides breathtaking views of the Reserve's forested hills.

Refreshing waterfalls

Water is key to life in Mashpi, and there's nothing like a refreshing dip at the end of a walk. Several rivers cross the Mashpi Reserve close to the hotel, many forming beautiful small waterfalls, cascades and pools. The water temperature is between 18 and 20°C (64 and 68 F).

Leks

Leks are places where certain bird species gather to take part in fascinating and often elaborate displays to seduce females. Males, often brightly coloured, engage in vocal, mechanic and choreographic "performances". There are four leks to date: two of the Long-Wattled Umbrellabird, (*Cephalopterus Penduliger*), one of the Andean Cock-of-the-Rock (*Rupicola peruviana*) and one of the Club-Winged Manakin (*Machaeropterus deliciosus*). These leks can be visited but require very early starts in some cases and long strenuous walks in others.

THE AMAZON

Walks

A unique hiking experience along the trails of the Amazon in our Eco Lodge. Immerse yourself in the vastness and biodiversity of the world's largest rainforest as you adventure along the carefully designed trails. Enjoy amazing landscapes, discover the flora and fauna's wealth, learn about the importance of these ecosystems and experience nature's nightlife.

Cultural Experience

Welcome to a unique experience at the Napo Wildlife Center, a fascinating cultural exchange with the Kichwa Añangu community. Experience traditional rituals, view ancestral handicrafts, learn about traditional musical instruments and discover the areas stories and legends

Parrot Clay Licks

Welcome to an exceptional experience in our saladeros, where the wonder of the Amazon comes to life on a journey that combines captivating trails, enriching species sightings, and the natural symphony of parrots in their habitat. Enjoy the interpretive trails, witness the parrots and parakeets' natural behaviour and discover unique and educational experiences.

Observation Towers

Live an elevated experience in the heart of the Amazon, where the observation towers invite you to immerse yourself in the majesty of the rainforest from a unique perspective! Discover the exciting trail walks, learn information on flora and fauna and encounter nature.

Canoe paddling

Enjoy a unique experience that will immerse you in the serenity of the Amazon waters. The canoe trip invites you to discover the Amazon from a unique and peaceful perspective, offering you close encounters with nature in its purest state. Enjoy river exploration and observing the aquatic fauna with expert local guides.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone so we aim to take you to places that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and South America is no exception. We will provide suggested tipping amounts with your final documents for your convenience, however tipping is entirely at your own discretion.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that portorage is not included on our tours in Ecuador. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like boats and coaches.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smarttraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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