

HAKUNA EXPLORER

4 days-3 nights



Itinerary Specially designed for TMLA 2019

4 Days-3Nights

QUITO-HAKUNA MATATA QUITO

Experience unforgettable days of adventures off the beaten track. Explore culture, animals and plants of the rainforest and engage yourself in an undiscovered world of a rainforest community. All of that you find less than 125 miles away from Quito in our comfortable Lodge on a spacious terrain including a tropical garden and a private protected forest and beach on the river. The short distance to Ecuador's capital is one of the reasons you can enjoy the complete jungle experience in a relaxed way including some advantages – due to the location at about 2,000 feet above sea level there are no tropical diseases and no mosquitoes – ideal terms for a stay in the jungle. This program offers you a remarkable experience of ancestral cultures and the highlights of the Amazon jungle.

Day 1: Arrival – Journey to the Amazon Rainforest – Leisure or optional activities (D)



Within 3 hours from Quito you will arrive in our exclusive Lodge. During your drive you will notice how the vegetation changes from the landscape of the Andes into the rainforest. After passing the gate to the Amazon Rainforest you will be in a mountain jungle paradise – Hakuna Matata is your private hideaway in the tropical forest. During your trip you came closer to sea level by about 7,200 feet and are located on about 2,000 feet now.

By an early arrival in our jungle paradise you can add a tour by foot or by horse in the afternoon to your free day. If you decide on horseback riding you will choose one of the hotel owned horses and take a tour through the forest and rivers. If you rather take a walk you can explore the area on different hiking paths. Your guide will explain the flora and fauna and share ancestral information about plants that are used for medical reasons. However, you can also participate in our chocolate tour (all tours are optional, please let us know if you want to add this tour to your program when booking).



If you arrive in the afternoon at the lodge or just want to spend the day without program, enjoying our lodge, go right ahead – the adventure can start now! You can begin exploring our 300 acre private reserve where you will find a private white sand beach by the Inchillaqui River, a tropical garden, a protected forest which belongs to the Lodge and a palm shaped pool which has a length of 88 feet and is 72 feet wide – only mosquitoes will be hard to spot!

In the evening you will enjoy a delicious 3 course gourmet meal in an exclusive atmosphere surrounded by the sounds of the jungle.

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Day 2: Canoe Tour – Parrot Clay Lick – Breakfast in an indigenous Community – Jungle Walk – Monkeys at Misahualli (B/L/D)

After an early wake up you will leave the Lodge with your guide at 5.30 am to enjoy a day filled with adventures and experiences. You will drive to the calm and small Arajuno River which is a branch of the huge Napo River, here you will board your canoe. The Arajuno River winds its way through the forest, passing high shores abundantly covered with vegetation. While watching birds you will realize how calm and little sailed the river is. The magnificence of birds will stun you – you will discover egrets, red-rumped cacique, tangaras and more species.



After landing with your canoe there will be a short walk to the salt lick which attracts birds. It is recommended to bring binoculars to better observe the landing of the birds on the trees and afterwards their way to the salt lick. There are a lot of parrots and parakeets, mostly the dusky-headed parakeet. You might be lucky and also see free living monkeys, but don't wonder about their noises that might fright away the birds. In case of rain your guide will decide how to change the program and might switch around some points of the program.

Once you've had your fill of bird watching, your guide will lead you to the next station, the indigenous community Santa Barbara with 23 families who are adding up to 120 inhabitants. The leader of the community will greet you and introduce you to some traditions and customs, including the production of "chicha", a traditional drink that is up for tasting when it is done. Surely you are hungry by now and for that reason there will be a rarity for you – you will join an original buffet of the rainforest with the community.



There will be carachama and bagre – both from the family of the catfish, bocachico – a fish from the salmon family, barbequed chontacuro-worms (optional) – a specialty in the region, yucca, maduro-bananas, salad from hearts of palm, tea from the guayusa leaves which is known for its ability to constrain hunger, fruits and cocoa. All of the above is harvested or caught freshly and prepared for you on the spot – enjoy this once in a lifetime experience! In case you do not feel filled up already the guide carries some sandwiches and fruits – also for the case if you feel a little bit hungry early in the

morning.

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Strengthened by this wholesome and organic meal, you will be able to immerse deeper into the culture of the community, typical dances will be performed by kids for you and you can test your skills at the blow gun as well as the javelin. During a short walk afterwards you will see the ceiba which is the giant of jungle trees and has impressive buttress roots before you have the opportunity to buy some handicrafts made by the community. The sales revenue will go all into the community cash point which is used to buy canoe parts, pens, cloth or other objects for the community.



After a short farewell by the mayor of the community you will head to the 6,200 acre big Jatun Sacha Reserve. This amazing protected area consists of tropical rain forest in which again you will discover new flora and fauna, like bamboo, the walking palm which moves up to 4 inches a year and the pampil palm which you already held in your hands today, in form of the 3.2 feet long blow gun.

About 1.5 hours later you will be back in your canoe to get to the car which drives you to the little town Misahualli where you will eat a typical “almuerzo” – lunch – before you can take a walk to the beach to be greeted by many capuchin monkeys. At around 3 pm you will be back at the Lodge to take pleasure in relaxing at the pool or in a hammock with a cocktail or keep on exploring the area. In the evening another 3 course meal is waiting for you which you can enjoy in the special atmosphere of the jungle.



Day 3 : Rafting Tour through the Jungle (B/L/D)



After taking pleasure in a rich and flavorful breakfast again you will have the strength you need for this day full of adrenalin. You will enjoy wild water rafting on the Jatunyacu River. On this 15.5 miles route with a level of 3 / 3+ you, as a beginner or advanced rafter, will enjoy the ride. Given that you will be introduced to paddling, behavior on board and safety instructions by a professional team, there is no previous knowledge needed. In the language of the Quichuas the name of the river means “big water” which indicates the waves and rapids that will bring us a jubilant day! But don't worry, there will be time for recovery in the natural pools and

throughout your journey you can enjoy the landscape of the jungle – on clear days you might even see the mountainous landscape of the Andes.

If you desire a little bit more tranquility it is possible to ride on the Anzu River which offers a level 2 / 3 of rafting

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– ideal for families with kids. On both tours you will have a break to enjoy your lunch on the waterfront in form of a picnic. Afterwards you will hit the water again and drive to your ultimate destination Puerto Napo.

After being back in the lodge you will enjoy a 3 course meal in a special atmosphere again.

Day 4 : Leisure – Optional activities at the lodge – Departure (B)

Today your time in Hakuna Matata Lodge comes to an end. After enjoying breakfast you still have time to take part in a Chocolate Tour (optional, not included). You will learn to produce chocolate from the bean to the bar, starting with the pure fruit, the cocoa beans and ending up with the brown gold. You could also use your time differently and relax at the pool, in a hammock or just keep exploring the area. When you head out of the Lodge you have two options, either you go back on the same road to Quito or you drive back to the Andes on an alternative route to the quaint town of Baños to keep on traveling from there.



End of the services

4D/3N PROGRAM POST OR PRE TOUR -QUITO-HAKUNA MATATA	1 PAX	2 PAX	4 PAX	6PAX
LAND PROGRAM-EXPLORER HAKUNA MATATA *	\$ 978.00	\$ 570.00	\$ 391.00	\$ 373.00

**Including Transfer in/out from Quito*

The price includes:

- Transport from from/ to Quito
- Accommodation in chosen room category (Supreme)
- Local, Spanish speaking field guide
- All activities mentioned in the program
- All entrance fees for activities mentioned in the itinerary
- All meals (starting with dinner on the day of arrival until breakfast on the day of departure)
- Use of all lodge facilities, including swimming pool, beach area, hiking trails
- Rubber boots up to size 12 (UK) / 14 (US – men)
- Taxes
- **Rafting:**
 - ✓ ▪ Internationally certified rafting guide, bilingual (Spanish and English)
 - ✓ ▪ Quality equipment (paddles, helmets, life jackets, spray jackets)
 - ✓ ▪ Transportation between starting /end point of the rafting and the Lodge with a vehicle
 - ✓ ▪ Lunch (picnic), including water and soft drinks
 - ✓ ▪ SPOT Satellite Messenger for emergencies
 - ✓ ▪ Kayak for safety
 - ✓ ▪ First aid kit

The price does not include:

- Lunch on the day of arrival and day of departure in the Lodge (approx. 19 US\$ per person)
- All activities which are not mentioned or are optional

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- Entrance fee hot spring of Papallacta
- Guided walk through the private Rainforest Reserve
- Horseback riding through the Jungle
- Chocolate Tour Pacari
- Drinks and meals that are not mentioned
- Personal spending and tip

Important Note:

All 4D /3N Programs includes Rafting.

Packing List:

- Passport and copies
- Personal medications
- Sunscreen
- Sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Camera equipment (including memory card, cables and batteries)
- Fast drying clothes (Shirts and shorts; for the evenings and mornings you need light colored long-sleeved clothing)
- Swimwear
- Lightweight raincoat
- Rubber boots (up to size 12 (UK) / 14 (US – men) are in the lodge available)
- Fitting socks for rubber boots
- Sturdy footgear
- Sandals / flip-flops / crocs

In addition, for the excursions

- Daypack
- Swimsuit and possibly a change of clothes
- Good headlamp and spare batteries
- Head protection / helmet (in the lodge available)
- Dry clothes bag – waterproof bag – to keep the items inside dry and safe
- Waterproof digital camera
- Water bottle
- Insect repellent
- Some plastic bags (for dirty and / or wet clothes)
- Loose change (in small shops it's only possible to pay with up to 5 dollar bills)

CONTACT PERSON

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