

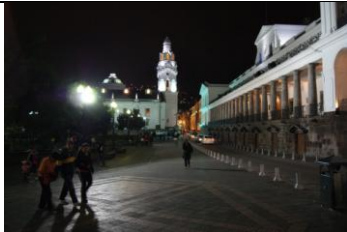




Oundle School





Biology Expedition Ecuador & the Galapagos 1st July – 23rd July 2012



Itinerary

Nowhere else on earth will you find so much natural diversity in so tiny a place. Ecuador is the second-smallest country in South America, but its range of offerings is no less than astounding. In one day's drive you can journey from the Amazon Basin across glaciated Andean volcanoes, down through tropical cloud forest and into the sunset for dinner on the balmy Pacific coast.

<p>1st - 3rd July 2012</p>	<p>Fly UK to Quito</p> <p>Fly to Mariscal Sucre International airport where you will be met by your Expedition Leader and transferred to your hostel in Quito.</p> <p>Spend the next couple of days acclimatising to the altitude, while exploring this stunning UNESCO world heritage site. You'll visit the national parks and monuments including the huge Basilica church whose spire has views upon the whole city.</p>   <p>You'll also get a chance to visit the middle of the world! The Mitad del Mundo tour enables you to stand slap bang on the equator. The guide will play various tricks on your mind and senses as everything in the middle of the world is just a little different from the norm.</p> <p>We will also visit the many traditional markets where you can purchase beautiful gifts and souvenirs.</p> <p>Overnight in hostel</p>
<p>4th - 11th July 2012</p>	<p>The Amazon</p> <p>Based in our stunning jungle lodge, you will work on vital conservation projects to help save the Amazon rainforest.</p>   <p>Previous work has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree planting • Seed collection from the rainforest • Constructing nursery beds • Improving paths and trails • Biodiversity surveys <p>During your time in the Amazon you will visit the El Arca Animal Rescue Centre with its variety of birds and animals, rescued by the centre. You will also have the opportunity during days off to visit a local shaman</p> 

	<p>and tribe to see the local indigenous way of life. Or to organize a game of volleyball in one of the communities (avoid the school kids in Cotundu – they are really good!!!)</p> <p>There are also opportunities to visit some of the beautiful caves of the region, go kayaking and hikes to waterfalls nearby.</p> <p>Overnight at Amazon Lodge</p>
<p>12th – 14th July 2012</p>	<p>Jungle Trek</p> <p>Next we enjoy a 3 day trek into the primary rainforest. High up on the Cordillera Andes, there will be two days of hiking through pristine rainforest. A stunning opportunity to identify and study the local flora and fauna while exploring this beautiful region.</p>   <p>One night will be spent in Cabanas and the other in a remote jungle hut. The third day will include a relaxing boat trip along the river, spotting wildlife along the way.</p> <p>We will then return to Quito via Papallacta. There will be an opportunity to go to a local artisan market to buy a few gifts to take home.</p> <p>Overnight in hostel</p>
<p>15th July 2012</p>	<p>Return to Quito in preparation for flights to the Galapagos Islands</p>
<p>16th July – 21st July 2012</p>	<p>The Galapagos Islands</p>  <p>The legendary marine and land iguanas, the giant tortoises, and sea lions of the Galapagos are among nature's most fantastic beings. Nowhere else can you engage in a staring contest with wild animals and lose.</p> <p>Take an early flight into Santa Cruz in the morning, giving you the opportunity to spend the afternoon exploring the island and visiting the Charles Darwin research station and Lonesome George.</p> <p>You'll experience two of the islands during your time on the Galapagos and through nature hikes, boat trips and snorkelling opportunities you'll see all the wildlife The Galapagos Islands have to offer. For anyone who is brave enough, there are some stunning diving opportunities too – and the chance to swim with hammerhead sharks!</p>  <p>There are also lots of opportunities to relax on the beautiful beaches, go swimming with the sea lions and chill out with the marine iguanas basking in the sunshine.</p> <p>Accommodation in hostels throughout.</p> <p>Take an afternoon flight back to Quito before your farewell dinner in Quito. Your one last chance to watch the sun set over the Andes before heading home.</p>
<p>22nd July 2012, arrive 23rd July 2012</p>	<p>Return flights to the UK</p>

Credentials

Gapforce has one of the leading records for health and safety. Our membership of the following organisations demonstrates our commitment to each of their governing guidelines and strong codes of practice for overseas expeditions.



This group occupies a middle ground between the YET/EPA and BETA providing a forum for members to discuss issues and allows for an independent complaints procedure to be undertaken against its member organisations. As an executive committee member Gapforce is responsible for new membership and safety.



The EPA is one of several industry regulating bodies. They look at our financial creditability (like BETA) and also look at our operating procedures and risk assessments. They have authored their own guidelines based on the BS8848



A member of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office "Know Before You Go" campaign. We receive security information directly from the FCO and have links with embassies in country



Member of the YET - a national charity dedicated to promoting safe and responsible expeditions for young people. They also allow some conformity to between all companies involved.



BETA is an independent group who represent the UK travel industry. They lobby on behalf of the government for educational travel. BETA reviews our corporate creditability and make sure we are a financially stable company.

Contact Details

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