

experience quest



ECUADOR ADVENTURE

FORESTS, VOLCANOES AND THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

"Quest has been working to conserve the threatened forests of Ecuador since 1998. During this time, we have been fortunate enough to meet some inspirational people and visit some mind blowing locations. This trip is a selection of the best of these. It combines the opportunity to spend some time living and working with a rural cloud forest community, but to also use up dozens of rolls of film on the spectacular landscapes we will be visiting. Welcome to the middle of the earth!"

Simon Tierney, Senior Expedition Leader

- ❖ Introduce yourself to South America in Quito, a world heritage site
- ❖ Stretch your legs in the cloud forest, while working at our conservation project in Santa Lucia
- ❖ Spend an unforgettable 5 days swimming, sunbathing and island hopping in the Galapagos
- ❖ Give yourself the ultimate finale, staying in a beautifully refurbished Inca construction at the base of the mighty volcano Cotopaxi!

Dates: **Saturday 12th – Saturday 26th November 2011** – Two weeks

Cost: **£3,350** – Includes all costs on the ground (except evening drinks, souvenirs and a few lunches), travel insurance and a £250 donation to our charity Quest4Change. International flights are separate.

Find out more or make a booking. Contact us on 01273 777206 or email info@experiencequest.com

Your Quest

If you're bored of hearing all those wonderful anecdotes from your friends, and green with envy after yet another set of mind blowing photos from their latest travels, here's your chance to surpass all their stories, and with that little extra bit of luxury. This is an active adventure, trekking through the forests and mountains of Ecuador, but always coming back to some pretty special accommodation at the end of each day. There is also the chance to spend a fantastic few days working at our cloud forest conservation project in Santa Lucia. Of course, let's not forget about the Galapagos Islands – pretty damn special!

What's Included?

Food & drink Included in the cost of the trip are meals in some fantastic restaurants, sampling some of the best food South America has to offer. While we will cover drinks during meals, we may ask you to chip in if it turns out to be a particularly thirsty night. Also, there will be a couple of occasions while in towns when the group will be free to explore and as such we will leave lunches to your own discretion. This will be only 2 or 3 occasions though.

Accommodation We have carefully picked some real characterful hotels whenever we are in towns and cities, with all the comforts you would normally expect, but not in the cold characterless style of a high rise hotel block. When out in the wilderness, the lodges and cabins awaiting you are something pretty special!

Weather November is the end of the dry season, so the weather should still be stable and dry on the whole. As we are travelling from jungles to mountains to islands though, you should be prepared for a whole range of temperatures.

Leaders You will be accompanied by only our best and most experienced staff. We have always said that our leaders bring the trip to life for you –you will not be disappointed here! Their knowledge, professionalism and enthusiasm are unparalleled.

Preparation Once you have booked onto the trip, we will be with you every step of the way in the build up for departure, helping to sort flights, insurance, providing recommendations on kit, anything you should need.

Travelling alone? Not a problem. Our price is based on two people sharing, and if you are joining this trip on your own, you will be sharing a room or a tent with someone of the same sex. If you would prefer to have your own room and tent, you can pay our single supplement of £200. Please note, this does not include having an individual cabin at the Galapagos, please contact us if you would like to ask about supplements for this.

What to do next? If you'd like to find out more, just give us a call and we can fill you in with some more information. To book a place on this trip, get in touch and we will send you a booking form together with a copy of our terms and conditions. Any questions, just give us a call on 01273 777206.

Giving Back

Located 3 hours outside of the UNESCO World Heritage site of Quito deep in the forest sitting proud above the clouds is the Santa Lucia eco-lodge. The people of Santa Lucia have been working hard to counter the effects of global warming by highlighting the need to preserve the forest. A community led project that looks to utilize the splendor of the canopy and protect all that reside there. As you embark on your journey deep into the jungle, you can be proud to know that your visit is helping to address education, conservation and sustainable development in a unique way in this environmentally sensitive region. Your time there will be spent reforesting areas of cattle pasture to help encourage natural growth. Hard work but extremely worthwhile.



Adventure Itinerary

Days 1–2: Quito, Ecuador

Arrive in Quito and transfer to the comfort of Café Cultura a beautifully decorated colonial building that provides surprises around every corner be that murals, furniture, or friendly ghosts. This afternoon take time to relax and enjoy your surroundings be sure to wake refreshed and ready for visiting some of Quito's must sees. The old town of Quito provides the best preserved and least altered historic center in the whole of Latin America like taking a step back in time the city is rife with Churches white colonial buildings and breathtaking plazas.

Days 3-6: Cloud Forest Project, Santa Lucia Lodge, Ecuador

As you embark by 4x4 on your journey deep into the cloud forest, you can be proud that your visit is helping to address education, conservation and sustainable development in a unique way in this environmentally sensitive region. We believe the future of the rainforest is inextricably linked to the well-being of its inhabitants; only those who call the forest their home can ensure its survival. You'll see the various projects that our volunteers have worked on in the past before given the chance to get your hands dirty on reforestation or trail building or bird surveys. Walk along nature trails maybe coming face to face with a spectacle bear or wake early in the morning to see the endangered Cock of the Rock as it tries to entice a female down to a nearby branch.

Whilst visiting the project you'll stay in the beautiful Santa Lucia Lodge, where not only will you contribute to the well-being of the rainforest and the local community, but also experience a life above the clouds a comfortable bed in your own private cabin, delectable meals, pristine nature and jungle adventure, all without sacrificing the comforts of home. Do you remember a life without the annoyance of mobile phones? This is real escapism, a chance to experience pure nature.

Days 7-11: Galapagos Islands

After breakfast, we will board a flight from Quito to the Galapagos archipelago, 600 miles out to sea. Spend 5 days exploring one of the world's most unusual wildlife habitats. Having never been attached to mainland South America, the islands are home to species of animals and plants indigenous to the area they can be found nowhere else in the world. Meet the crew aboard your yacht and lay claim to your piece of the deck! Travel from island to island, walking in the footsteps of Charles Darwin. Travelling to a different island each day, and taking time to swim, snorkel and sleep in between, our expert guides will bring this place to life for you and explain just why it was and continues to be such a defining habitat for the entire living world

Days 12-14 Quito to the foothills of Cotopaxi

Back on the mainland, we make our way to the base of one of the highest peaks in Ecuador. The San Agustin Hacienda will be our base for these days, a luxuriously renovated Inca construction, each room having its very own direct view of the majestic conical volcano nearby. Whilst sitting by the fireplace and sipping a warm hot chocolate or glass of wine will be a tempting option for some, there is plenty to keep us active as well. Horse riding through the national park and trekking to the climbers' refuge at 4,800m will literally take your breath away. The perfect end to an unforgettable holiday.

Day 15 Return home

Rested and revitalised.

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