ECUADOR: UNIQUE & LUXURIOUS
Hosted by Miriam Lyon

Enjoy the breathtaking beauty of Ecuador, from the Andes to the Amazon Jungle to the Pacific Coast. Travel in style on this unique adventure, taking in the many magnificent treasures Ecuador has to offer. Enjoy exclusive culinary experiences and meet the friendly people and artisans of this historically rich country. Let the lush green vegetation, wide open ocean, bird calls and sounds of the jungle overwhelm your senses. Overnight in outstanding luxury hotels, haciendas and ecolodges, creating lifelong memories.

Call your local expert for more information and to start planning!

$6,575* p.p.
Departure dates: May. 18-Jun. 2, 2019

Visits to:
Quito - Indigenous Market - Cloud Forest - Cotopaxi National Park (volcanoes) - Road of Waterfalls - Luxurious Jungle Lodge - Los Frailes Beach - La Plata Island - Hot springs

What’s Included:
• Round trip airfare
• Round trip airport transfers from Kingston
• Internal flights, all transportation between destinations and to/from included activities
• Elegant Hotels (six nights), haciendas (two nights) & Eco-Lodges (seven nights)
• Meals: 15 breakfasts, five lunches, five dinners
• Expert local guide throughout tour
• All taxes and gratuities

*CDN$ p.p. dbl. occ., taxes Included. Single supplement: $1,500 p.p. Not included: entrance fees not listed, applicable tourist visas, incidentals, mandatory Travel Insurance, beverages and meals not mentioned, optional tours and activities. Allow $280 USD for meals not included. © Merit Travel is a registered trademark of Merit Travel Group Inc. All rights reserved.

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Your Itinerary | Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner = (B, L, D)

Note: tour highlights are marked in **bold** throughout itinerary.

**DAY 1 | May 18, 2019 | Kingston - Quito**

Arrive at any time, transfer to your hotel.

*Accommodation: Mercure (3 nights)*

**DAY 2 | May 19, 2019 | Quito (B, D)**

Today we enjoy a “local living” city tour of the capital of Ecuador. Quito is dramatically situated between Andean mountain peaks, with picturesque plazas, overflowing market stands, and homes creeping up the slopes. Welcome dinner 6:00 p.m.

**DAY 3 | May 20, 2019 | Quito - Otavalo day tour (B)**

After breakfast, we will travel north by bus along the Pan-American highway. Our first stop is the Puerto Lago Look-Out, with fantastic views of The Imbabura Volcano and San Pablo Lake. We indulge in caramel-covered biscotti famous to the region, before making our way to the **Indigenous Market of Otavalo**. The largest market in South America, known for the intricate weaving techniques of the native Otavaleño people who work and sell a huge variety of handicrafts made with alpaca and llama wool.

In the afternoon we visit the **workshop of Miguel Andrango** to see ancestral weaving techniques first hand and experience authentic local living. Late afternoon departure for Quito.

**DAY 4 | May 21, 2019 | Quito - Mindo (B, L)**

Be prepared for stunning scenery as we drive from Quito to the Tropical Cloud Forest. As we descend we will see how the ecosystem changes, passing waterfalls and dense vegetation including orchids and bromeliads. We visit a **butterfly farm** to see the colourful species that live in this zone.

For lunch, we experience traditional cuisine of the area, and in the afternoon, we visit a **local chocolate factory**. We then arrive at our splendid Ecolodge. Opt to take a walk in the woods or drink a rich local coffee while watching the colourful hummingbirds flit about in their **hummingbird sanctuary**.

*Accommodation: Septimo Paraiso or similar*

**DAY 5 | May 22, 2019 | Mindo - Lasso (Cotopaxi national park) (B)**

We travel southeast and take the Pan-American highway again, this time following the Avenue of Volcanoes, continuing to see the incredible Andes mountain chain, the longest chain on earth. When we arrive at **Cotopaxi National Park**, we witness the impressive Cotopaxi volcano, the highest active volcano in the world—one of Ecuador’s 67 volcanoes. We take a short walk around Limpiopungo lagoon, and then on the foothills of Rumiñahui, the second volcano in the park. After exploring this gem of a park, we check in at a luxurious hacienda (former plantation) and enjoy a welcome drink together.

*Accommodation: Hacienda La Cienega or similar*

**DAY 6 | May 23, 2019 | Lasso - Baños (B, D)**

Travelling southeast, we arrive at a rose farm. Fragrant roses are one of the most important exports of Ecuador, and we discover how the entire process works, from plantation at the farm to delivery to North America and Europe.

In the town of Baños, located on the foothills of the Tugurahua volcano, we experience the famous **road of the waterfalls**. We ride a cable car ride across the Pastaza river canyon and take a short hike to the breathtaking Pailon del Diablo waterfall. At the end of the day we check in to our exquisite spa resort hotel.

*Accommodation: Luna Runtun or Samari (2 nights)*

**DAY 7 | May 24, 2019 | Baños (B, D)**

Take the day to relax and rejuvenate. Opt to go to the quaint town of Baños and visit the impressive Neo-Gothic Church of the Virgin of the Holy Water, with its ornate décor, or visit the swing at the end of the world, or stay at the resort to relax by the pool or at the spa.
DAY 8 | May 25, 2019 | Baños - Yasuni Park - La Selva Eco Lodge & Spa (B, L, D)

An early morning start takes us through beautiful landscapes of vast thick jungles, passing through national parks and protected areas on the way to Coca City. We are joined by the friendly staff of La Selva Eco-Lodge & Spa, and board a comfortable motorized canoe to travel on the Napo River—a tributary of the Amazon River. After two hours we arrive at a beautiful lake, famous for deep black water, where dug-out canoes transport us to the world-famous La Selva Eco-Lodge & Spa. Enjoy a refreshing welcome drink, attend welcome meeting.

Accommodation: La Selva Eco-lodge & Spa (3 nights)

DAY 9 | May 26, 2019 | Yasuni Park - La Selva Eco-Lodge & Spa (B, L, D)

Today is up to you! There are a variety of activities on offer or you can relax and enjoy the surrounding rainforest.

You may opt to see and experience the parrot clay lick, the rainforest observation tower or walking in the jungle. Alternatively you might like go on canoe rides or meet the local community.

DAY 10 | May 27, 2019 | Yasuni Park - La Selva Eco-Lodge & Spa (B, L, D)

Day at leisure. Enjoy on-site and nearby activities similar to the previous day or relax and enjoy the Lodge and its spa treatments.

DAY 11 | May 28, 2019 | Yasuni - Quito (B)

We depart in the morning, spending two hours in a motorized canoe, immersed in the sights and sounds of this lush area. We then fly to Quito airport. Around mid-day we check in to our elegant hacienda-style hotel. Relax and recharge your batteries and enjoy free time for the rest of the day.

Accommodation: La Jimenita or Rincon de Puembo

DAY 12 | May 29, 2019 | Quito - Manta - Puerto Lopez (B)

In the morning we fly to Mata City, an important import/export city supporting the economy of Ecuador. We continue on to the coastal region of Ecuador, with its beautiful crystal-clear turquoise waters and white sand beaches. The highlight of the day will be visiting Los Frailes Beach in Machalilla National Park. This crescent shaped beach is exclusive to the park, rarely crowded and has beautiful cliffs lining each side of the crystal-clear waters.

Accommodation: Mandala Eco-lodge or Mantarraya (3 nights)

DAY 13 | May 30, 2019 | Puerto Lopez & Machalilla National Park (B, L)

Today we delve deeper into Machalilla National Park. This iconic park in Ecuador has an abundance of diversity through tropical rainforest, tropical dry forest and a marine reserve, as well as numerous little islands and islets. The highlight of the day is a sailing tour to La Plata Island, which is the main attraction in the park, often compared to the Galapagos Islands. We hope to see Blue-Footed Bobbies, Red-Footed Boobies, Nasca Boobies, Frigate Birds and many species of marine life.

DAY 14 | May 31, 2019 | Puerto Lopez (B, D)

Day at leisure to relax by the white sands of the Pacific or join optional activities such as horseback riding in the rainforest, monkey spotting, meeting locals, visiting the Agua Blanca Archeological Museum or bathing in the hot spring sulfur pools! We will end the day with our special farewell dinner.

DAY 15 | Jun. 1, 2019 | Guayaquil (B)

In the morning we travel to Guayaquil City, the largest city in Ecuador, located on the River Guayaquil. The seaport has made Guayaquil the largest revenue generator for the country. Free time in the afternoon to explore this thriving metropolis and walk by the famous Malecón 2000—a beautiful boulevard beside the river.

Accommodation: Hotel Oro Verde or Unipark

DAY 16 | Jun. 2, 2019 | Guayaquil - Kingston (B)

Depart at any time.
RESPONSIBILITY

Merit Travel Group Inc. doing business as Merit Travel, acts solely as agents for the Travel Service Suppliers such as hotels, airlines, ground service operators, bus operators, etc. who are providing their facilities as described in this brochure. We do our best to select such suppliers but exercise no control over them and cannot be held responsible for the failure of these suppliers to carry out any obligations. Any and all bookings made with these suppliers by us, for you, are subject to the terms and conditions of each and every such supplier. Supplier liability may also be limited by law, tariffs, or conditions set forth in their documentation, tickets, etc.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Merit and its directors, officers, employees, affiliates, successors, assigns, agents and other representatives are not responsible for any and all claims for losses, damages (whether direct, indirect, special, punitive, or other consequential damages, lost profits or opportunities) delays, illness, injuries, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, or anxiety (whether based in contract, tort, negligence, strict liability or otherwise, and even if Merit and the Travel Service Suppliers have been advised of the possibility of damages to such party or any other party) arising from:

a. Fault or negligence or omissions on the part of the said travel service suppliers;

b. Illness, theft, strikes, mechanical problems, quarantine, governmental intervention, weather conditions, acts of hostility or violence, and any other grounds beyond our control;

c. Your failure to obtain passport, visas, other travel documents or inoculations

d. Your failure to advise us the name of the traveller exactly as it appears on the passport;

e. Your failure to report on time at an airport or ground transfer facility;

f. Material damages, theft or other mysterious disappearances of your goods;

g. Personal injuries or death;

h. Force Majeure - an event(s) beyond our, or our supplier(s), reasonable control including, but not limited to, acts of God, strikes, lockout or other labour disputes or disruptions, wars, blockades, insurrections, riots, earthquakes, weather conditions, floods or acts of restraints imposed by governmental authorities.

PRICING

All prices are per person in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted. GST, HST and provincial taxes are applicable on tours as noted.

INCREASE IN TOUR COSTS

Merit reserves the right to increase tour prices in the event of an increase in government and airport authority imposed taxes and fees, fuel and currency surcharges, supplier price increases, or any other cost increase. If the increase is greater than 7% of the tour cost, the client may cancel the booking within seven days of notification and obtain a full refund.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A deposit of $1,500 per person is required at the time of booking. Full and final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

LIABILITY

Merit cannot assume responsibility for any costs incurred for any travel arrangements purchased separately from the Merit tour. Merit’s responsibility shall extend only to the provisions of advice as to industry-standard or supplier recommended connections and check-in times. Provided Merit supplies such advice, they shall not be responsible for missed connections or departures, regardless of the cause.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN (INSURANCE)

Trip cancellation and interruption insurance, medical and hospital insurance, baggage insurance, and various additional insurances are available and HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. If you choose not to purchase insurance, you are required to sign an Insurance Waiver Form. Note that if you choose not to purchase insurance, you are fully liable for any and all penalties imposed as stated under Cancellation Policy on this page. Please speak to your representative at the time of making reservations about insurance.

REFUNDS

The nature of travel involves risks and unpredictable weather and thus Merit cannot assure any departure or arrival times at any point of an itinerary. Your right to receive a refund is limited. There will be no discounts or monies refunded for any missed or unused services. Merit reserves the right to cancel the tour for any reason. Should this occur, a full refund will be made to the traveller.

CANCELLATION POLICY

While Merit will do its utmost to minimize any penalties charged, there are irrecoverable costs associated with your tour. The following penalties will be considered the costs incurred with cancellation:

Deposit $1500CAD p.p., due at time of booking. Final Payment due 90 days prior to departure. Both are non-refundable.

Cancellation penalties for some tours will vary and there may be additional penalties associated with the airfare. If so, these policies will be noted separately at time of booking and will prevail.

TOUR CHANGES

We reserve the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines or vessels due to conditions beyond our control. In such cases we will do everything possible to ensure the locations visited, the excursions taken and the hotels offered are similar to the ones originally planned. Any change to itineraries will not result in eligibility for a refund.

REVISION FEE

Changes to your tour reservation might not be possible. Should you request a change and we are able to accommodate it, you will be subject to any charges imposed by the airline or tour suppliers. In addition, we reserve the right to charge a $50 revision fee for any change made after the deposit is paid. A change in name or departure date may constitute a cancellation, and the corresponding penalties may apply.

PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION

All passengers travelling internationally must travel with a passport. Many countries require the passport to be valid for 6 months beyond the traveller’s return date. Visas may be required for some destinations. It is the passenger’s responsibility to obtain at the passenger’s expense, all documentation required by all relevant authorities. In the event that the passenger does not possess the correct documentation, the air carrier has the right to refuse passage.

DESCRIPTION

Every effort has been made to describe and produce the travel services and photographs as accurately as possible in the printed tour description. However we reserve the right to correct errors and we will make all reasonable efforts to inform you should any significant changes occur.

Please note that the living standards and local conditions during your tour may be different from what you are accustomed to at home.

CONSENT

Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute your consent to the above terms. If you encounter any concerns during your tour, please inform your local travel service provider. If the matter cannot be resolved, please inform Merit Travel in writing upon your return.