

WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST

Travel Solo Together

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ECUADOR & GALAPAGOS

Amazon Rainforest Extension

with Women of the Midwest!

April 15-25 / April 15-30, 2024



Dear Women of the Midwest,

Have you ever dreamt of a Galapagos Islands cruise, exploring some of the world's most remote islands, where you get a chance to see some of the 9,000 fascinating species that inhabit this remarkable island oasis? Species such as the blue-footed booby, giant tortoises and Galapagos sea lions ...or breathing the cleanest Andean mountain air taking in the spectacular scenery and landscapes, staying overnight in unforgettable haciendas, and walking the cobblestone streets of Quito (the first city in the world to be declared a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO)?

If you can answer yes to these questions, then this journey is for you!

I am beyond excited to host a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Ecuador and Galapagos. Our 3-night cruise around the Galapagos Islands is a one-of-a-kind experience and limited to a maximum of 20-36 guests onboard, ensuring a closeup introduction and impression of everything you come to expect with a Women of the Midwest tour.

Has exploring the Amazon rainforest been on your bucket list?

Jump on our extension into the endless heart of biodiversity, the Amazon Basin. Given the jungle's remote and pristine nature, the very best way to explore it is by navigating down the Napo River on an exclusively-designed vessel set to explore the Amazon in style!

This journey is custom-tailored to Women of the Midwest by our local experts. We will enjoy the most experienced tour directors by our side and be introduced to and interact with the inhabitants of an in-so-many-ways unique country, learning about the culture, cuisine, fauna, and flora.

I invite you to join me on a journey to the world's foremost destinations to experience nature in all its glory displayed for you to behold! An experience like no other!

Yours in travel and adventure,
Rhonda Wagner, Ambassador
Women of the Midwest



Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.

Guapulo Neighborhood, Quito



April 15, 2024 - Monday Traveling to Quito, Ecuador

Our adventures begin as we take a flight to Quito, Ecuador. Upon arrival and clearing customs, we meet with our local English-speaking tour guide outside the baggage terminal. We will transfer to Puembo, fifteen minutes from the airport, to our beautiful colonial hacienda, a seventeenth-century house located within a vast garden, 8,000 feet above sea level (1,360 feet below Quito city, allowing us to sleep better due to the lower altitude). Check-in, relax, and unwind. Inflight meals | D (dinner depends on our time of arrival in Quito)

April 16, 2024 - Tuesday Quito City Tour & Art School

Quito's old city (a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Center since 1978) consists of forty churches, seventeen plazas, and sixteen convents and monasteries. It's been called the "Reliquary of the Americas" for the richness of colonial- and independence-era architecture and heritage. During our private walking tour, we will visit La Compania church, well-known for the beauty of its alters covered with gold leaves and for being the best example of Baroque-style architecture in the country. We will also pass from Independence Square, the political center of Ecuador. Lunch is served at a traditional Fonda Quitena with delicious local gastronomy and a great ambiance setting us back to the colonial time. Next, we will visit the Escuela Quitena (Quito School Gallery). This place is, without any doubt, an unmissable place for everyone who loves culture. "Incarnated" is the name of the technique that brings naturalness and humanism to pictorial and sculptural works by achieving the exact color of the skin of the characters presented. This exceptional carving technique, including the Andean landscapes and fauna, will captivate and amaze you.

Rose Plantation



We are back at our hotel in the afternoon to relax. B | L

April 17, 2024 - Wednesday Rose Plantation & Cotopaxi National Park

Following an early breakfast this morning, we will drive to the south along the Pan-American Highway - also named the Avenue of the Volcanoes by Alexander von Humboldt. The highlight of today is the magnificent Cotopaxi volcano (19,460 ft above sea level), considered the highest active volcano in the world. We will enjoy a view of the volcano from the ideal distance for the perfect picture. Our next stop is at a local rose plantation, where we will learn about this industry, dedication, and export industry. Did you know that Ecuador is the world's second-largest exporting country of roses (only the Netherlands exports more)? Growing roses at high altitudes allows them to receive intense natural sunlight year-round producing high-quality roses. The fragrance today will stay in your memory forever. Our last stop is to explore parts of the Cotopaxi National Park. We will walk along the Limpio Pungo Lagoon, full of flora and fauna. There are high chances to see condors flying, foxes, and deer. Lunch is enjoyed in a unique restaurant inside the park. We head back to Quito in the afternoon to enjoy an evening at leisure. B | L

April 18, 2024 - Thursday Equator Line & Cooking Class

Today we will dedicate our day to the northern part of Quito. We will spend time at an ancestries knowledge center where an indigenous family will explain the cosmovision in the Andes and share their local traditions and beliefs of their culture. We will also attend and participate in a cleansing ceremony; this will be a memorable event. We will continue to a local brewery to

Plaiting Hats



attend a hands-on cooking lesson and preparation of delicious local dishes, which, once finished, will be paired with great beer; cheers to us! The last stop on today's route is at the Middle of the World Monument. This commemorates the site where the 18th-century explorer Charles Marie de la Condamine once calculated the globe's equatorial line. We will also spend time at the interactive Intinan Museum to learn a lot of facts about the equator. Return to our peaceful hotel for a relaxed evening. B | L | T

April 19, 2024 - Friday Zuleta Embroidery & San Clemente

We will enjoy breakfast, pack a small bag for an overnight in San Clemente, and then head out to visit the small community of Zuleta. What's special about Zuleta? The beautiful embroideries carried out by the women of the community! We will learn about the traditional craft and how the women have used landscapes, flowers, and birds in their hand embroidery with hair-thin threads for almost 100 years - a source of income and economic survival. Lunch is served in San Clemente. You will experience the traditional "pamba mesa," a communal meal where the food is laid directly on a cloth spread on the ground. This special meal is seen as an act of social solidarity and has mythological significance. Our hotel tonight is a beautiful 400-year-old Spanish colonial estate at 8,000 ft, among the finest haciendas in Ecuador. B | L

April 20, 2024 - Saturday Condor Park & Otavalo Market

We will enjoy breakfast at our special estate at a slow pace. Then, head out to visit Condor Park. Many species housed in the park are rescued from illegal captivity or unsuitable environments. The birds find a refuge where they can remain calm and recover before being released. A highlight of our visit is a raptor

Blue-footed Booby



show, where various birds of prey fly about and catch food. In Otavalo, you will experience the most famous handicrafts market in Latin America; this is an amazing chance to shop for unique handmade-by-the-locals souvenirs. A late lunch is served in a special place! We arrive at our hotel in Puembo for a wonderful evening at leisure. B | L

April 21, 2024 - Sunday

Galapagos Islands

Following breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our flight to Galapagos. Our route will take us from Quito via Guayaquil to Galapagos Ecological Airport (approximately a 2 1/2 hour flight). Arriving in Galapagos, our naturalist guides will meet us, and our unforgettable experiences are about to begin! Our cruise includes full board, two daily guided excursions with optional activities such as snorkeling, kayaking, and dinghy rides. The daily choices are yours; one thing we guarantee is that you will be blown away by the islands, the flora, and the fauna. Today, we will take a dinghy ride at the entry of the Itabaca Channel in a lagoon with turquoise water, where we can observe sharks, blue-footed boobies, and different kinds of fish. Dinner and briefing about tomorrow's adventures. Overnight onboard our cruise ship. B | L | D

April 22, 2024 - Monday

Prince Philips Steps & Darwin Bay

Be marveled by the variety of sea life that uses the crevices of the lava cliffs for shelter. Red-billed tropicbirds fly overhead, switching between their nests and the bay, and a small colony of fur seals may be found near our landing site. We will be dropped off at a steep stairway that begins on rocks at the foot of a path that leads through a seabird colony full of Nazca and red-footed boobies. At the plateau, the trail continues inland, allowing you to see more nesting booby colonies in the thin Palo Santo forest. If you are lucky, you may catch a glimpse of a short-eared

Giant Tortoise



owl and wedge-rumped storm petrels flying in all directions. In the afternoon, we will disembark on a small sand and coral beach. A short trail heads west along a tidal lagoon and then up a rocky hill that leads to a point overlooking the cliffs and Darwin Bay. You will see pairs of swallow-tailed gulls, lava gulls, and yellow-crowned lava herons. Oh, and red-footed boobies! We will walk through Palo Santo trees, opuntia cacti, and saltbushes ...it is estimated that more than 200,000 red-footed boobies live in the trees and bushes of Genovesa. What a day! B | L | D

April 23, 2024 - Tuesday

Rabida Island & Bartolomew Island

Dark-red sand covers the unique beaches of Rabida Island, home of sea lion colonies and considered the epicenter of the Galapagos Islands due to the diversity of its volcanic geology. We will take a dinghy ride along marine cliffs to observe nesting seabirds. Snorkeling off the coast is a perfect opportunity to explore the marine life in this alluring paradise. We will discover a fascinating landscape formed by different volcanic parasitic cones - lava bombs, spatter, cinder cones - that resemble the moon. Walking up to the summit, there will be an impressive view of the surrounding islands, including the eroded tuff cone Pinnacle Rock. You will also encounter marine iguanas, lava lizards, and (again) the charming blue-footed boobies. More beach time is available. Snorkeling in crystal-clear water is considered one of the best snorkeling experiences in the world, and you get to see the famous Galapagos penguins, sea turtles, and white-tipped reef sharks, among a great variety of colorful fish. We are returning to our ship for an evening with great food and the best company! B | L | D

April 24, 2024 - Wednesday

Tortoise Reserve - Santa Cruz Island

The journey to Santa Cruz Island and reserve offers a wonderful opportunity to see the contrasts that the island offers in

Galapagos Beach Scenery



reference to the variety of ecosystems. We will travel the road from the coast through the agricultural zone and straight up to the dense humid forests. Galapagos' giant tortoises are often seen on the way, wandering through pastures in the paddocks. This is a birdwatchers' haven since almost every land bird present on the island lives or migrates here. We will transfer to Galapagos Ecological Airport in the early afternoon for our domestic flight to Quito. Once we arrive at our hotel, dinner is served, and you will have time to relax and unwind. B | D

April 25, 2024 - Thursday

Traveling Home

All too soon, the Ecuador and Galapagos Islands adventure has ended. Depart from Quito airport with plenty of time to check in for our flight and clear security. B

Itinerary subject to change.

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch,

T = Tasting, D = Dinner

April 25-30, 2024

Five-day Amazon Extension

We refer to our separate page with the detailed itinerary of our once-in-a-lifetime Amazon adventure!



Local Delicacies



To register contact:



1212 O Street • Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: 402-435-8888 (ask for Group Department)

Fax: 402-435-2735

GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com

www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://womenofthemidwest.com/journeys/>

Package Price:

Per person in a shared double room: \$7,595
 Per person in a double-for-single use room: \$10,195

Triple rooms are not available on this trip.

We offer "Pair & Share" service for solo travelers. Ask us to assist with finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$1,500 per person is required upon signing up. The deposit can be paid by cash, check, or credit card.

A second non-refundable deposit of \$2,500 per person is due on September 1, 2023, and can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payments (any payment made after the first deposit) will access a 3.5% processing fee.

The balance is due on December 1, 2023, and can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payments (any payment made after the first deposit) will access a 3.5% processing fee.

This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 21 travelers. Should the number fall below 15, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded.

EARLY BIRD BONUS - ZERO CREDIT CARD FEES:

Pay for your tour in full upon registration and minimum six months prior to departure using your credit card!

SAVE 3.5%!

Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3+ 4

Level 3+: This tour involves a considerable amount of walking (three to five miles over the course of a day), longer periods of standing, outdoor activities, and some steep areas within the places visited. This trip is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties.

Group airfare:

Group airfare will be available by the beginning of June, 2023.

Travel Insurance:

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. We offer a plan provided by Travel Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask US. *Travel Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.*

Included

- 7 nights accommodation at local 4-star haciendas
- 3 nights accommodation onboard our Galapagos cruise ship
- 10 x breakfast
- 8 x lunch
- 5 x dinner
- All tastings as per itinerary
- Purified water and soft drinks during cruise
- Private motor coach transportation as per itinerary
- Sightseeing program as per itinerary
- All admissions as per itinerary
- Professional English-speaking tour guide during the entire program in Ecuador and Galapagos
- Roundtrip domestic airfare Quito-Galapagos-Quito (economy class, incl. taxes and fees)
- Porterage at hotels (one bag per person)
- All local taxes and fees as of May 1, 2023
- Women of the Midwest Ambassador, April 15-25, 2024

Accommodations (final accommodations 90 days before departure):

Quito: Hotel San Jose de Puenbo or similar.

San Clemente: Hacienda Cusin or similar.

Galapagos: Cruise Ship MV Coral or similar.

Not Included:

- Airfare, estimate \$1,000 per person, roundtrip, including taxes and fees. Airfare becomes available by Mid-June 2023
- Additional baggage fees (first checked bag is FREE, up to 50 lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities for local tour manager and driver (estimate \$12-\$15 in total per day)
- Personal expenses
- Meals other than mentioned in the tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than mentioned
- Professional fee, \$75 per person, due at the time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions



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Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions found at executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours

Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.

5/5/2023

JOIN OUR GROUP AIRFARE!

We offer group airfare with Delta Airlines:

April 15, 2024	Omaha* - Atlanta	5:40 AM - 8:54 AM
April 15, 2024	Atlanta - Quito	3:51 PM - 8:11 PM
April 25, 2024	Quito - Atlanta	11:10 PM - 5:24 AM (April 26, 2024)
April 26, 2024	Atlanta - Omaha*	8:34 AM - 10:03 AM

\$975 per person including taxes and fees, economy class.

*We are happy to assist with airfare from a different airport than Omaha. Please reach out to us to assist you. A small supplement may occur. If you travel from a different airport, we aim to have you meet your fellow travelers in Atlanta on April 15 and return from Quito around the same time as the rest of the group on April 25.

Important notes about seat assignments and upgrades:

Group airfare comes with **seat assignments 30 days prior to departure**. Executive Travel/Women of the Midwest cannot confirm precise seat numbers earlier than 30 days prior to your departure and therefore cannot guarantee the availability of specific seating on the aircraft. We do our best to honor your preferences (window, aisle seat).

Premium seating upgrades are not available when traveling on a group air contract. If you have frequent flyer miles (SkyMiles), please note those cannot be used to upgrade to Delta Comfort Plus but only be used for upgrades to business or first class when traveling on a group air contract. Contact us if you have any questions about this and kindly note that certain exceptions may exist.

Mileage credit for individuals on group air contracts is not guaranteed and is subject to the rules of the airline under contract.

All taxes, fuel charges and security fees are subject to change.

Air schedules may be subject to change at the discretion of the airline.

SECURE YOUR AIRFARE WHEN SIGNING UP!



Local Community Along the River



Parrot Clay Licks



The Amazon by Night



Extension: Exploring the Amazon!

Our Amazon extension takes you into the endless heart of biodiversity, the Amazon Basin. Given this jungle's remote and pristine nature, the very best way to explore it is by navigating down the Napo River on an exclusively-designed vessel set to explore the Amazon in style!

This tour allows you to experience unparalleled adventures in total comfort onboard the Manatee. Journey down freshwater rivers, both whitewater and blackwater, and encounter different Amazonian ecosystems, including the possibility to observe fascinating animals such as pink river dolphins, manatees, caimans, and piranhas, as well as hundreds of native birds and primate species.

Make yourself at home with the complete range of onboard amenities, including a comfortable bar and lounge, a cozy reading room, an Explorer's boutique, an Al Fresco Lounge, a beautiful dining room that provides exceptional culinary offerings, and an outdoor hot tub on the observation deck! What's not to love?

This is the perfect rainforest journey in full comfort, navigating deep into the heart of one of the most biodiverse places on the planet. The commitment to caring for natural resources and conserving local cultures by applying responsible and sustainable tourism practices and community involvement in all operations is eye-opening and mind-blowing.

Welcome to the Amazon!

April 25, 2024 - Thursday Quito - Wine Tasting

A day to relax and unwind before tomorrow's adventures begin. After a laidback breakfast, we will visit a local winery. Having a vineyard in Ecuador was believed impossible, as well as having wines of the quality the country managed to achieve. We will meet with a local enologist who will show us his vineyard, and we will have the opportunity to taste five different wines accompanied by local appetizers. Tonight, relax in our beautiful hotel. B | T

April 26, 2024 - Friday Embarkation - Coca - Napo River

After breakfast, we will transfer to Quito airport for a short 30-minute flight to the Amazon city of Coca, in the Orellana province. Arriving at the dock, we will board our motorized canoe to begin our 90-minute journey down the river, taking in the first sights and sounds of the Amazon. Soon, we will reach our ship, embark, and settle in. Local expert naturalist guides will provide a brief and informative introduction to the Ecuadorian Amazon, followed by your first opportunity to discover the exciting features of the ship: spacious social areas, comfortable suites, and the observation deck lets you admire the changing rainforest landscape as you glide down the river. After dinner, we will plunge straight into the Amazon rainforest by going for a nighttime forest walk to observe the forest's nocturnal activity and experience the thrill of the vivid noises and aromas that come from so much biodiversity. This is one of the absolute highlights of the trip. B | D

April 27, 2024 - Saturday Panacocha Biological Corridor

We continue to travel downstream to the Panayacu River Delta, where we will take a canoe trip to experience the sights of the fascinating water reserve. Panacocha Lake is an ecosystem flooded by black-waters. Panacocha means "Piranha Lake" in the native Kichwa language. The surrounding protected rainforest is home to 9 species of primates, 500 species of birds, and more than 100 fish species. This is the perfect habitat for piranhas, paiches (one of the largest freshwater fish in the world), and the white caiman. In this little piece of paradise, we will participate in nature walks led by our local naturalist guides and relax at a nearby campsite where we will enjoy a delicious Amazon-style BBQ with refreshing beverages. After lunch, we will do some kayaking, and the bravest among us can enjoy a nice refreshing swim in the Piranha Lake. We promise it's not as dangerous as it sounds! Back on board, enjoy a lecture given by the concierge, and watch a documentary about the region. B | L | D

April 28, 2024 - Sunday

Parrot Clay Licks - Amazonian Communities

This morning, we will set out on canoes to observe one of the most incredible sights on this side of the Western Amazon - the parrot clay licks. This unique place is rich in minerals and attracts hundreds of colorful parrots, parakeets, and Amazon birds every day. Later in the afternoon, we will visit Kichwa Cultural Center, to learn about Amazon communities and their ancestral culture, traditions, and cuisine. Members of the local community will teach us about indigenous lifestyles along the Napo River. You will have the opportunity to support the local community by purchasing handicrafts, local products, and souvenirs. Back on board, an exquisite farewell dinner is served. B | L | D

April 29, 2024 - Monday Quito

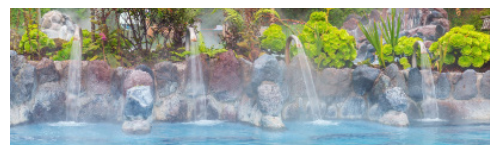
This is where our Amazon adventures end! Enjoy the last part of our return journey onboard and then disembark the ship to take a motorized canoe back to Coca. We will take a short flight to Quito for a relaxing night. B

April 30, 2024 - Tuesday Papallacta Spa Day - Traveling Home

A day of relaxation awaits at the Papallacta Thermal Springs, only a 90-minute drive from our hotel. Slip into the steamy waters at the only place in Ecuador that offers mineral thermal water hydrotherapy. The waters originate from neighboring volcanoes. Return to our hotel (late check-out), then off to Quito airport with plenty of time to check in for our flight and clear security. B

Itinerary subject to change.

*B = Breakfast, L = Lunch,
T = Tasting, D = Dinner*



Papallacta Thermal Springs



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 Fax: 402-435-2735
 GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com
 www.executivetravel.com

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Amazon Extension Price:

Per person in a shared double room: \$2,995*
 Per person in a single room: \$3,995*

A limited number of single rooms available.
 Triple rooms are not available on this trip.

We offer "Pair & Share" service for solo travelers. Ask us to assist with finding your roommate!

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*These values are in addition to the Ecuador & Galapagos program.

Please note: The Amazon extension does not include our Women of the Midwest ambassador, but is fully escorted by our local expert tour guide.

EARLY BIRD BONUS - ZERO CREDIT CARD FEES:

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SAVE 3.5%!

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- 3 nights accommodation onboard our Amazon cruise ship
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- 2 x lunch
- 3 x dinner
- 1 x wine tasting as per itinerary
- Purified water and soft drinks during cruise
- Private motor coach transportation as per itinerary
- Sightseeing program as per itinerary
- All admissions as per itinerary
- Professional English-speaking tour guide April 25-30, 2024
- Roundtrip domestic airfare Quito-Coca-Quito (economy class, incl. taxes and fees)
- Porterage at hotels and onboard (one bag per person)
- All local taxes and fees as of May 5, 2023

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 Amazon: River Cruise Ship Manatee

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