



EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATIONAL JOURNEYS

# ECUADOR

## destination **FACTSHEET**

SERVICE LEARNING: ANIMAL RESCUE

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## TOP 5 THINGS TO KNOW

1

The cost of checked luggage is not included in this program. We suggest carrying-on your suitcase.

2

Visit a local travel doctor or your primary care physician with your itinerary to get the best personalized medical advice on any vaccinations or special medication needed for the program

3

Avoid unfiltered ice and drink only bottled/filtered water.

4

Amazon Animal Rescue Center will determine the current needs of each project.

5

Triple rooms might not always have three proper beds.



## ACIS TRIP SERVICES

### Rooming

Students are placed in double and triple rooms. Triple rooms may not always have 3 proper beds.

### Meals

Continental or buffet breakfasts and dinners are included daily. Lunches are included every day during the service project.

Due to flight schedules groups often arrive in Quito after the dinner hour.

Be careful of food from street side vendors and open markets and unpurified water. Avoid unpurified ice and uncooked vegetables in non-ACIS sponsored restaurants.

All meals included in the itinerary also include gratuity so it is NOT necessary to leave an additional tip at meals.

### Tour Manager





A Tour Manager will accompany the group throughout the land portion of the trip. He or she will be available 24 hours during the program and acts as guide in Quito.

## Airport Tax

All airport taxes **are** included in the cost of your ACIS trip. This includes international and domestic departure taxes normally paid in cash at the airport. The Tour Manager will pay for these on your behalf.



## GENERAL INFORMATION AND TRAVEL TIPS

<p><b>Flights</b></p> 	<p>Most flights will be daytime flights</p>
<p><b>Passport Requirements</b></p> 	<p>A visa is not required for a United States citizen traveling to Ecuador on business, tourism or studies unless they expect to stay in Ecuador for more than 90 days. Travel requirements are a Valid US Passport (passport must be valid for 6 months after travel is completed) and a return ticket. If the traveler is not a U.S. citizen, the Ecuadorian consulate must be contacted for Visa information. On arrival you will receive an entry form that you must keep with you until you depart the country. (subject to change, see <a href="http://www.state.gov">www.state.gov</a> for up to date information)</p>
<p><b>Time Difference</b></p> 	<p>Ecuador is one or two hours behind Eastern Standard Time dependent upon the time of year. They do not change their clocks for Daylight Savings Time.</p>
<p><b>Tipping</b></p> 	<p>Pre-paid tips of \$13 per person per day will be listed on your account to cover tour manager, local bus and guide.</p>



## WHAT TO PACK

We advise you to bring comfortable, casual, breathable clothes to Ecuador and pack lightly.

- ✓ **Basic Medical Supplies** such as anti-diarrhea medicine, aspirins, band-aids, tissues
- ✓ **Bathing Suit**
- ✓ **Binoculars**
- ✓ **Flashlight**
- ✓ **Games.** It's a good idea to have games like chess, checkers, backgammon or playing cards.
- ✓ **Hat** to block the sun.
- ✓ **Insect Repellent** with DEET (diethyl-metatoluamide). The climate tends to result in more insects than you may be accustomed to.
- ✓ **Jacket/Lightweight Raincoat.** Light, water-resistant jacket that will keep you warm on a cool evening or during a sudden downpour, yet can be stuffed away or worn loosely on a warm day
- ✓ **Warm Jacket/Sweater** It's advisable to bring a polar-fleece jacket or warm layers. It can be very cold and windy at Cotapaxi. Hat and gloves may also be needed.
- ✓ **Long Pants.**
- ✓ **Plastic Bags** for wet bathing suits/clothes.
- ✓ **Shorts/T-Shirts.** Often times with the hot weather, you will need a change of clothing.
- ✓ **Small Suitcase & Carry-On.**
- ✓ **Sunscreen,** the sun is very strong and protection should be worn when necessary.
- ✓ **Two Pairs Of Walking Shoes/Sneakers** for your touring and in case one pair is wet. Also, be sure they have good grip for walking over the lava rock paths. Waterproof shoes, such as Tevas or Reefs can be very useful while on the cruise.
- ✓ **Umbrella/Raingear.** It can rain in Ecuador, even if only for brief periods.





## HEALTHCARE

We suggest you visit a local travel doctor or primary care physician to get the best medical advice based on your personal medical history to see if any updated immunizations are needed. In Ecuador, the most serious threat you'll face is sunburn -- **do not underestimate the intensity of the equatorial sun.**

Please check with the Department of Health and Human Services for specific health concerns when traveling:

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>

Soroche, or altitude sickness -- which causes shortness of breath, nausea, and splitting headaches -- may be a problem when you visit Andean countries. Over-the-counter analgesics and napping may help. If symptoms persist, return to lower elevations. If you have high blood pressure and/or a history of heart trouble, check with your doctor before traveling to Quito (above 9,000 feet).

Cholera and dysentery are not serious problems in Ecuador. Nevertheless, **drink only bottled water** to reduce the risk of contracting intestinal parasites. Try to avoid drinks with ice. You should always brush your teeth with bottled water. Eat only thoroughly cooked food or fruits and vegetables you have peeled yourself. **Remember: boil it, cook it, peel it, or forget it.**

To prevent fungal and parasitic infections, keep feet clean and dry, and do not go barefoot.



## SAFETY AND SECURITY

**Should you have any issues at all during your trip, please call ACIS and we will rectify the problem immediately.** It is vital that you notify us as soon as you experience a problem as we can resolve issues very quickly on the spot before it adversely affects your trip.

ACIS Boston Office 617-236-2051 (10am – 6pm Eastern Standard Time). If you call this number after hours, it will automatically be forwarded to our answering service/duty officer.

ACIS Emergency number 617-450-5678







## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Medical situations:

In the event of a medical emergency where medical expenses and/or insurance is involved in Ecuador, the passenger must pay the expenses directly and mail receipts to our Boston office for reimbursement. Deductible amounts according to the type of insurance purchased will apply.



## SERVICE PROJECT

### Project: Amazon Rescue Center/ YanaCocha-Tamandua

**Accommodation and transfers:** During the service project groups will overnight in Puyo at a basic 3-star hotel.

**Meals:** Meals during the project will include lunch and will be prepared and served at the project. Food will consist of local cuisine and will be fairly basic.



**Service work:** At both projects the actual activities will be same. You will have the opportunity to get up close with many different species of animals

Volunteers are needed to help in the following activities:

- Day to day care of the animals
- Cutting up fruit, preparation of diets, feeding the animals
- Helping new arrivals adjust to the center
- General maintenance and cleaning
- Construction work; repairing and building new enclosures
- Daily hikes to pick fruits and catch insects for the animals and also to harvest yucca, corn, sugar cane or cocoa.





**Additional activities:** These centers are dedicated to finding ways to provide the chance of a good life to the animals in their care (this includes basic things such as providing them with a suitable diet which in so many cases they never had during their time in captivity) and where possible run effective, science based rehabilitation programs to help in the process of returning them to their natural environment. As a volunteer, you will also be able to help with these observation and enrichment projects. For example, as most animals living in the wild spend a big part of their day searching in order to find food or refuge, these are the types of behaviors that have to be encouraged so that animals at the centers do not lose these skills. Volunteers can help by using their imagination to build a toy or game for the animal and then observe how it uses it and in what way it benefits the animal. This work is invaluable to the animals to relieve the boredom of their captivity and to maintain their natural predatory instincts.

#### **Work schedule:**

- Animal Rescue Centre- 8AM-12:00pm and 2:30-5:00pm,

#### **Amazon Animal Rescue Centre/Yana Cocha:**

The center was founded in 2006 with the aim of protecting the wildlife of the Amazon region.

The animals at the center have all been abused, neglected or abandoned. Some of the animals were orphaned when their parents were killed by hunters, others were rescued from animal dealers who were trying to traffic the animals out of the country and others have been removed from families who kept them as pets in captivity. Unfortunately the majority have suffered some sort of physical or psychological abuse. Some of the animals have been handed over to the care of the center by the government authorities who have rescued or taken custody of the animals; others have arrived at the center by voluntary means from families who have realized that wild animals are not to be kept as pets. There are currently over 35 species of animals at the center including; oncilla, tayra, capybara, parrots, monkeys, tortoises, caimans, amongst others.

The center is also open for tourists to visit charging a small fee that is the center's main source of income. As animal welfare is not a high priority for many Ecuadorians, the background and mistreatment of each animal is explained to visitors with the hope to educate the local and foreign visitors about animal protection issues.