

EXTENSION

# ECUADOR

Amazon



*Classic*  
JOURNEYS



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

## Ecuador's Yasuni National Park

Extend your time in Ecuador with a stay at Napo Wildlife Center. This four-day extension in the Ecuadorian Amazon includes canoe trips along lakes and rivers, forest excursions and fantastic birding opportunities. Paddle a canoe and walk through rainforests teeming with life. Get a close-up view of the Amazon wildlife in the Yasuni National Park, a sacred land considered one of the most diverse areas on the planet.

## DAY 1

### COCA

- Observe local communities and indigenous people along the Rio Napo
- Arrive to your eco lodge by dugout-canoe

A scenic 30-minute flight from Quito to Coca over the eastern Andes mountain range begins your journey to the Amazon. From the port of Rio Napo, you board our motor boat and travel down the river for approximately two hours. Along the way, you can spot wildlife and will pass many indigenous communities.

After arriving at Napo Wildlife Center, you take a magical and peaceful two-hour dugout canoe ride along a narrow creek that connects to the lake where the lodge is located. On this leg of your journey, you'll have great opportunities to spot wildlife, including various species of monkeys as well as large birds such as toucans, parrots or even macaws. In the late afternoon, you arrive at the lodge.

**OVERNIGHT: YASUNI NATIONAL PARK**  
**MEALS: L, D**

## DAY 2

### AÑANGU

- See thousands of parakeets descending upon a clay lick
- Participate in a traditional dance at the Añangu Kichwa community

Your morning begins with a scenic paddle downstream to the parakeets' clay lick. Here, thousands of cobalt-winged parakeets perch on branches above and descend to the clay licks below. The salt and minerals found in the clay are essential for their digestion, therefore the birds make this a daily practice.

In the afternoon, you visit the interpretation area to see the traditions of the ancestral Kichwa community of Añangu and learn about their daily life. You have a chance to taste chicha and learn a traditional dance.

**OVERNIGHT: YASUNI NATIONAL PARK**  
**MEALS: B, L, D**

## DAY 3

### CANOPY TOWER / TERRA-FIRME FOREST

- Observe hundreds of species of birds from above the forest canopy
- Walk through the terra-firme forest for an education on the jungle's plants

After a buffet breakfast, experience the life above the forest floor by visiting the 36meter canopy tower. This tower is located about 30 minutes from the lodge and deep within the forest. Here, you get a very good sample of the 567 species recorded so far, with a close look at colorful tanagers, macaws, toucans, flycatchers and even spider or howler monkeys feeding in the nearby trees.

After lunch at the lodge, enjoy some free time or perhaps rest in a hammock. Late afternoon, you regroup for a hike through a marvelous terra-firme forest to discover the ecology and the role of plants in the complex world of the tropical rainforest: vines, ancient trees, bromeliads, orchids stand out in this impressive natural garden.

**OVERNIGHT: YASUNI NATIONAL PARK**  
**MEALS: B, L, D**

## DAY 4

### RETURN TO QUITO

- Canoe the Napo River
- Afternoon flight arrival in Quito

After an early breakfast, the last excursion canoeing back to the Napo River reveals new sights of giant otters, Monk Saki monkeys, hoatzins, black-capped donacobius, or other birds. Your motorized boat will return you to Coca, for your return flight to Quito. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon and evening in Quito at your leisure.

**OVERNIGHT: QUITO**  
**MEALS: B**

## DAY 5

### QUITO / GALÁPAGOS

- Transfer seamlessly to the Galápagos

With incredible memories of the Ecuadorian Amazon, you transfer to the airport for your flight to the Galápagos.

**MEALS: B**



## Tour Hotels



### Napo Wildlife Center

The most luxurious lodge in Ecuador's Amazon, the Napo Wildlife Center is composed of 16 private cabanas overlooking Añangu Lake. Keep an eye out for wildlife atop the lodge's main tower or spend an afternoon relaxing in a hammock on your cabana's porch.

**OVERNIGHT: YASUNI NATIONAL PARK | NIGHTS: 3**



### Wyndham Quito Airport

Surrounded by mountains, this hotel is adjacent to Quito airport and is furnished with a minimalist contemporary style.

**OVERNIGHT: QUITO | NIGHTS: 1**

## Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
March 11-15, 2020	\$2,995	\$3,990
April 1-5, 2020	\$2,995	\$3,990
May 13-17, 2020	\$2,995	\$3,990
July 1-5, 2020	\$2,995	\$3,990
September 2-6, 2020	\$2,995	\$3,990
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2020	\$2,995	\$3,990
November 4-8, 2020	\$2,995	\$3,990
December 26-30, 2020	\$2,995	\$3,990
February 10-14, 2021	\$2,995	\$3,990
March 17-21, 2021	\$2,995	\$3,990
June 16-20, 2021	\$2,995	\$3,990
July 14-18, 2021	\$2,995	\$3,990
November 17-21, 2021	\$2,995	\$3,990

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about private journeys.

## Trip Essentials

**TRIP LENGTH:** 5 Days, 4 Nights

**START:** Coca Airport, Coca, Ecuador

**END:** Lobby of Wyndham Quito Hotel, Quito, Ecuador

**TERRAIN:** Easy to moderate on good trails and jungle paths.

## What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 4 nights
- All breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners
- Guided activities on a sharing basis
- Admissions to historic sites and scheduled events as detailed in the daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

## Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Privileged Access Events**

READY TO BOOK?  
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-833-387-1210

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

[moreinfo@classicjourneys.com](mailto:moreinfo@classicjourneys.com)



### TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

### AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to a [whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

### ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

\*\*Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

# “Enthusiasm is Contagious”

AS TRAVEL + LEISURE NAMES CLASSIC JOURNEYS THE WORLD'S BEST TOUR OPERATOR FOR 2019, FOUNDER EDWARD PIEGZA REVEALS HOW IT FEELS. ENTHUSIASTICALLY.



*EDITOR'S NOTE: Just before publication of this issue, Travel + Leisure magazine announced that its readers have voted Classic Journeys the World's Best Tour Operator for 2019. It's the second time Classic Journeys has won that recognition and the 14th consecutive year the company has been in the Top 10.*

### **Congratulations! How did you get the news?**

I received a top-secret email and phone call from the editor of *Travel + Leisure* a few weeks ago with orders not to tell ANYONE. Friends and neighbors must have wondered why my smile has been so extra big lately. Now they know.

### **And how does it feel to be the World's Best Tour Operator again?**

Awesome. Humbling. So, so satisfying. Deeply gratifying to learn that we have achieved what we set out to do which is to handcraft trips of a lifetime for every guest who travels with us. I'm known as long-winded, so I could probably come up with 10 or 15 more ways to describe it if you want me to keep going.

### **Why do you think *Travel + Leisure* gave you this recognition?**

Actually, it isn't the *T+L* editors who make the decision. That's the best part. Their readers cast the votes. So the people who do the traveling, the guests who explore the world with us and our competitors — they are the ones who raised their hands to tell *T+L* that Classic Journeys is the World's Best Tour Operator based on their own experiences. Let me say it right here: "To all of you who voted for us, you are the World's Best Guests!"

### **What do you think makes your guests the World's Best Guests?**

That's easy. They are curious. They care about connecting with people of different cultures and immersing themselves in the world. They treasure experiences more than things. Like the old ad slogan went, they go for the gusto and crave the chance to have one-of-a-kind moments. They are incredibly interesting and interested people, and all of us at Classic Journeys count it as a real privilege to share in their passion for travel. And we feel that way on the

other 364 days of the year when we're not celebrating recognition like this.

### **I guess this is what you meant when you told me that "Enthusiasm is contagious."**

Absolutely. That's not our official motto, but it could be. We love what we do. We enjoy helping guests figure out how to invest their precious time and budget. I can honestly say that all of us feel that way — the Guest Services folks who interact with you while you're planning your trip, the Tour Operations team members who plan all of the logistics, the local guides who lead each one of our trips full time. There's just a huge amount of positive energy in what we do, and I think it truly is hard to resist. We'd climb into every one of our guest's suitcases and go along with them if we could. Because we can't, we call each guest while they're on tour just to be sure they are having a trip of a lifetime.

### **Has anyone ever called Classic Journeys obsessive?**

I hope so, because we are. Everything is in the details. For instance, we've created a special tour for the total eclipse of the sun which is going to pass over parts of South America in 2020. We've already analyzed likely traffic patterns in the most remote areas and figured out how to structure our itinerary so that our guests will be in place in the path of totality while the people who don't plan ahead will be stuck in jams on remote dirt roads. We enjoy obsessing about details like that so that our guests never have to.



### **How can you top this?**

Oh, we never let ourselves think of it that way. We just continue to approach every single guest on each and every departure like the most important guest we've ever had. It seems to be working! Of course, we keep looking for new ways to win more converts. For 2019, we've launched a new series of Classic Journeys that are based from

## **"I voted for you!"**

We've heard that expression so many times lately from guests who registered their votes with *Travel + Leisure*. Given the results, we know it's true ... and you know that your votes really count!

### **STAFF AND GUIDES**

"I always feel like I'm traveling with a best friend. I prefer your local guides to the ones that other companies fly in."

### **ITINERARIES AND DESTINATIONS**

"If it's on my bucket list, you always seem to go there. Of course, with so many options you always seem to make my list longer and longer!"

### **ACTIVITIES**

"On your trips, I've cooked with Michelin chefs, sung songs with Quechua schoolchildren, and walked on glaciers with the descendants of Vikings. Fun doesn't begin to describe it."

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

"How you manage so many 5-star properties on these trips shocks me. But please, please, please keep it up!"

### **FOOD**

"I have never eaten so well so often so happily. When you people claim that you are foodies, you aren't kidding."

### **OVERALL VALUE**

"We have never had a better vacation at any price."

river cruise boats. On a different note, seeing how many travelers can't always find as much vacation time as they really want, we have developed a series of 6-day or shorter quick trips that go as far afield as Iceland, the Galápagos and Morocco.

### **Final thoughts?**

It's always an honor to win recognition. But, for all of us at Classic Journeys, the biggest privilege is to share the dreams of our guests and make those dreams come true. That connection is the best feeling of all.