Amazon Awakening—Ecuadorian Eco Adventure
Trip Highlights

Discover the Kapawi Ecolodge, a once in a lifetime experience where you can stay in the Amazon Rainforest in comfort and safety with one of the most remote cultures on Earth.

Meet the ultimate wildlife specialists, the Achuar tribe, as they guide you through their rainforest home to search for wild toucans, caimans, howler monkeys, elusive pink river dolphins and more.

Explore Ecuador’s countryside and hiking trails on horseback or on foot in Cotopaxi National Park, home to a massive active volcano.

Visit the “Devil’s Cauldron” at Baños, a powerful waterfall amid a labyrinth of twisting staircases, and soar above the canyons on the famous Swing at the End of the World.
## Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 Departures</th>
<th>2017 Departures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 11th-18th</td>
<td>January 8th-15th</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 3rd-10th</td>
<td>August 3rd-11th</td>
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<td>November 2nd-9th</td>
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◊ Custom Dates are available for individuals, families, and groups

## Prices

◊ $2795 Per Person  
◊ $410 Single Supplement  
◊ Limited to 14 Guests  
◊ 4 Guest Minimum
What’s Included

- 7 nights of cozy accommodations.
- All of your breakfasts, 4 lunches, & 3 dinners.
- An English-speaking Ecuadorian guide, Achuar guides, as well as a Gondwana trip leader for groups of more than 6.
- Waterfall tours, wildlife tours, hiking tours, kayaking, motorized canoe rides, night tours, national park entrance fees, a tour of baños & airport transfers.
- Secure transportation across Ecuador, including roundtrip flights to the Kapawi Ecolodge—your safety and comfort always come first!
Full Itinerary

How do I know which meals are included?

Great question! Refer to the legend below when viewing each day of the itinerary:
B=Breakfast
L=Lunch
D=Dinner

*Sample itinerary- specific order of activities will be sent out a few weeks before your departure
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**Day One**

Upon arrival in Quito, you’ll be greeted by your guide or Gondwana Trip Leader at the airport. After a short transfer, you’ll be able to relax and enjoy yourself at La Jimenita, a beautiful hacienda-style hotel nearby. For interested guests, the property has great hiking trails, an on-site archeological tunnel, or plenty of hammocks for napping.

**Day Two**

In the morning, we’ll depart and drive along a beautiful highway through the countryside before arriving in Shell, a small town on the outskirts of the jungle. We’ll be greeted by our Achuar guides and then depart for a 50 minute flight over unbroken, pristine rainforest. When we land, we’ll take a 30 minute motorized canoe ride through tranquil rainforest. When we arrive at the lodge, a great lunch awaits, then a chance to unpack, relax, and take in our surroundings. During sunset, our guides will give us an orientation to the rainforest and to local culture. After our first dinner together, we will explore the Kapawari River via motorized canoe, in search of nocturnal animals like monkeys, alligators and birds while underneath a starry sky.
Day Three

Rising early, we will be guided on a 30 minute boat ride to reach one of the most colorful parts of the rainforest: a claylick, a natural phenomenon that attracts huge numbers of birds. We’ll look for cobalt-winged parakeets, chestnut-fronted macaws, yellow-crowned amazons and others. Afterward, you can join a walk to learn about medicinal plants and rainforest ecology, then enjoy lunch. In the late afternoon, we’ll take kayaks or a motorized canoe on the Kapawari River to various lagoons, looking for wildlife like the pink river dolphin. Swimming here is safe and available too! After dinner, your Achuar guide and English-speaking naturalist can lead you on a night walk to see all the mysterious amphibians and insects that busy themselves under the moonlight.

Day Four

We’ll begin our morning with optional birding opportunities before breakfast, looking for the speckled chachalaca, the white-eared jacamar, and many other tropical birds. After breakfast, we’ll head deeper into the forest where we’ll learn about hunting techniques and local spiritual beliefs connected to the forest. After a charming and delicious picnic lunch, we’ll visit an Achuar village nearby. We’ll have a chance to engage with local villagers, learn about and purchase crafts, and learn about their lifestyle up-close. This is a truly unique experience and is incredibly rewarding and worthwhile. Our guests often tell us this ended up being one of their favorite activities on the whole trip. Once we return, we’ll have our final dinner in the rainforest and perhaps a drink at the small bar located at the lodge.
Day Five

After breakfast, we’ll have one final task: a blowgun competition to find out which guest is the greatest hunter. We’ll also have a chance to experience Achuar face-painting and learn how it relates to different parts of their culture. We’ll fly to Shell, where we’ll all be taken to Baños, the gateway to the Amazon. It is known for its waterfalls and natural beauty, and we’ll have time to relax, or to go zip-lining, bungee-jumping, or swinging at the “End of the World!” That night, we’ll have dinner at a local restaurant.

Day Six

After breakfast, we’ll head out along the waterfall route of Baños, which ends with “The Devil’s Cauldron” a massive waterfall among a labyrinth of twisting staircases. After lunch in town, we’ll head to Cotopaxi, one of South America’s most famous and active volcanos. That night, we’ll have dinner at a working ranch that is dedicated to sustainable farming where they produce their own milk, cheese, vegetables, and herbs. After our great dinner at Hacienda El Porvenir, we’ll stay the night.
Day Seven

After breakfast at the ranch, we’ll head out to Cotopaxi again for hiking in one of the most impressive national parks in Ecuador or a horseback ride with traditional Andean Cowboys. After one final lunch at the ranch, we’ll drive back to Quito with enough time to explore the city. Our final group dinner will be in the historic district of Quito, followed by a stay at the boutique Casa el Edén hotel.

Day Eight

This morning we’ll wake up and have a group breakfast before saying goodbye to all our new friends. We will provide you with transportation to the airport or say our goodbyes in Quito if you are spending more time in Ecuador.
Accommodations

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Hotel Casa de Hacienda la Jimenita  
Night 1

Featuring comfortable and luxurious suites, an on-site restaurant with cozy fireplaces and an extensive garden, free Wi-Fi, nature trails and an archaeological tunnel on-site, the Casa de Hacienda la Jimenita is the perfect beginning to great travels.

The Kapawi Ecolodge & Reserve  
Night 2-4

The founding vision of this ecolodge and reserve is to create a tasteful experience of understated luxury in one of the most remote environments in the world. Local craftsmen from the Achuar community came together to build a series of comfortable cabins in the vernacular style of the rainforest, using local materials upgraded in design. It also was rated as one of National Geographic’s Top 50 Lodges in South America!
La Casa Verde

The perfect place to enjoy Baños, in a sustainable and comfortable environment. Let the sounds of the river and singing birds help you relax and enjoy a wonderful night’s rest.

La Hacienda El Porvenir

Enjoy your stay in a comfortable and beautiful traditional Andean hacienda house. The living room and dining rooms welcome guests with their crackling fires. Enjoy the impressive backdrop of the dynamic Sincholagua Volcano.
Located at the heart of the most extensive and best-preserved historical center of Latin America, Casa El Edén is surrounded by Quito’s main attractions: the wonderful Plaza de la Independencia, the beautiful Compañía de Jesús and San Francisco churches, the Sucre theatre, as well as the authentic Ronda and San Blas neighborhoods. Casa El Edén is an ideal point to discover a city which has often been referred to as an “open air museum”.

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**What Our Past Guests Say!**

“Over my days in Ecuador I completely fell in love with the country! Roberto had a lot to do with my now obsession with Ecuador. He is so passionate and makes you want to be as excited as he is about everything. In addition, I am obsessed with Kapawi. I didn't want to leave. I loved it! Kapawi has my heart. Everything about it—the people, the animals, I loved everything!”

— Allie C., New Orleans, LA
Your Guides
Roberto Cedona has been guiding as a naturalist in Ecuador for 27 years. He is in love with his country because of the contrasts: the variety of cultures, people, and nature in a country so small makes it truly unique. Roberto is an expert birder and horseback guide. He finds guiding in the Amazon Basin especially rewarding because there is always something new to see, and he can consistently expect the unexpected. Roberto calls it "an unpredictable world that is filled with adventure and excitement."

What’s the difference between a Guide and Gondwana Trip Leader?
A Guide is your window into the destination. Always a local, your guide gives insight to the culture, region, and ecosystems. We bring a Gondwana trip leader in addition to a guide for groups of six or more to retain the personal attention that we are known for.

Meet Roberto

Breakfasts will be home-made and plentiful at the lodge while lunches and dinners will be at our favorite restaurants in and around Fairbanks. We have spared no expense at trying them all so we could bring our guests to carefully chosen eateries. Transportation to all of the meals will of course be provided. While the exact restaurant order and choices are constantly changing in pursuit of perfection, here is an example of the types of places we frequently feast:

Zach’s Restaurant boasts to be one of the nicest bars in Fairbanks. It has full food service and the atmosphere is wonderful. Located inside of Sophie Station, it is the perfect way to unwind after a long flight.
Meet Lorena

Lorena was born in the capital city Quito, Ecuador. She studied Ecotourism at the Universidad Catolica del Ecuador, where she expanded her knowledge of Ecuador’s vast biodiversity and the interaction between tourism and local communities in their natural environments. Lorena has ten years of guiding experience throughout Ecuador, primarily in the Amazon (the region she is most passionate about) and with the goal to preserve the integrity of both indigenous communities and ecosystems. Experienced in birding and very knowledgeable about reptiles and amphibians, Lorena loves educating visitors about Ecuador’s wildlife.
**Arrival and Departure**

**When should I arrive in Quito Ecuador?**
You can arrive any time at the Quito (Mariscal Sucre) International Airport on the start date of your tour, the afternoon is recommended. Make sure you travel with a valid passport. Your visa will be issued upon arrival in Ecuador.

**How do I get to the hotel on the first night?**
Send us your flight itinerary and we will organize an airport pick-up for you. Your guide or trip leader will be waiting for you at the airport with a company sign.

**What if I want to come and explore Ecuador before the trip begins?**
If you decide to come to Ecuador early, you will need to arrange transportation to our lodging the first night of the tour.

**How will I get back to the airport at the end of the trip?**
At the end of your journey, we will transport you to Quito (Mariscal Sucre) International Airport for any flight later than 9:00 AM and before 5:00 PM. For flights earlier than 9:00 AM, we can reserve a taxi to bring you to the airport. For flights later than 5:00 PM, you can either spend some extra time at the airport or we can drop you off in town to do some more exploring. We can help you reserve a taxi to the airport.

**What if I want to stay longer?**
For those of you who will be staying longer, feel free to ask us for help! An extension option to tour Peru and the ruins of Machu Picchu is available; if you are interested please ask us for more details.
Restaurants and More

- We can accommodate vegetarian and most other special dietary requests.
- All of your breakfasts will be included on the trip, as well as all meals at the Kapawi Ecolodge.
- A variety of international and traditional cuisines will be offered.
- You won't ever have to worry about transportation to a restaurant, checking reviews, or sanitation or safety concerns. We have you covered!
- Enjoy our favorite restaurants throughout the trip, where you can get a sampling of local favorites with organic ingredients and plenty of charm.
Physical Activity

Our Andes to the Amazon Rainforest Ecotour requires a moderate amount of physical fitness. Guests should feel comfortable riding a small chartered plane. Additionally, while hiking and walking is optional, it is highly recommended that guests feel comfortable with a few miles of hiking to get the most of their experience. Additionally, due to the remoteness of the Kapawi Ecolodge, it is important that guests feel a reasonable level of physical confidence and mobility. This trip is not recommended for guests with compromised immune systems. While not required, the ability to traverse several flights of stairs will also enhance guests’ experience.
Why Travel with Us

Our promise is to deliver handcrafted travel experiences that enrich your mind, body and soul. We strive to put our values into practice with every Ecotour that we create.

Wonder  Our adventures are filled with wonders that amaze, enlighten and deeply connect you to the region.

Flexibility  There are many opportunities throughout the tour for you to customize your vacation with a variety of day excursions.

Local Guides  Enjoy the unsurpassable experience of local guides who share their country, culture and customs.

Trip Leader  A Gondwana Trip Leader is always sent to take care of the details, leaving you to fully relax and enjoy the experience.

Donations  A portion of the proceeds goes to the Achuar Nation.

Carbon Offset  We carbon offset your airfare—good for your conscience and good for our planet.

Low-Impact  Our ecotours leave a small impression on the environment because of the small group size of 12 and the activities.

Unique Lodging  Feel the heart of the destination by staying at a boutique hotel that is whenever possible locally-owned and eco-friendly.
Thank You

Put down your $500 deposit & you will receive:

- A detailed packing list
- Additional reading materials about your destination
- Health and safety information

Our team at Gondwana appreciates your interest in our handcrafted travel experiences. If you would like to secure your spot by paying the deposit or have any other questions, please call us toll free:

1 (877) 587-8479

or contact us via email:

info@GondwanaEcotours.com

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to seeing you in Ecuador!