

3. THE AMAZON REGION

The Amazon region located in the east of Ecuador comprises 6 provinces which are named Sucumbíos, Orellana, Napo, Pastaza, Morona Santiago and Zamora Chinchipe. It covers approximately half of the country's total area with less than 5% of the population and just embraces tropical dense rainforest elevated over 400m (1.312ft) above sea level. The Amazonian area's main features are:

- * Most bio diverse area in the world – it is home to 40 000 species of plants and over 400 species of both mammals and reptiles.
- * A lot of jungle lodges are available which are very convenient for travellers as they offer packages including accommodation, food and guided day trip activities.
- * The actual Amazon River does not flow through Ecuador but all rivers in the east of Ecuador contribute to it – often Ecuador is called “Headwaters of the Amazon”.
- * The Ecuadorian Amazon region is less tropical and humid in comparison to other Amazon regions due to its closeness of the Andeans.
- * The animals that can mostly be observed include tapirs, monkeys, ocelots, bears, jaguars and lots of different species of birds.
- * Home to a number of indigenous communities such as the Quichua, Shuar, Achuar and Secoya who also serve as activists in the protection of economic, political and cultural interest.
- * Area with the largest reserves of petroleum in Ecuador.

We recommend a minimum of four days in the rainforest to get the most out of an Amazon experience. The Amazon region can be reached either by bus or by plane. Due to the proximity in Ecuador a flight to the Amazon region only takes 35min from the city of Quito - a unique advantage comparing to the Amazon regions of the other countries. You can also travel by bus to Lago Agrio (approx. 7h from Quito), Tena (approx. 6h from Quito) and Coca (approx. 7h from Quito).

Amazon Cruises

Travelling by cruise ships in the Amazon allow passengers to get to know more in little time and experience a more diverse flora and fauna.

Amazon - Cruise Ships

M/V ANAKONDA

Travel on board the **M/V Anakonda**, the only luxury ship in the Ecuadorian Amazon Rainforest and experience the Amazon in the most unique way! Visit the remote and pristine areas where few have had the opportunity to travel, and interact with the region's 15 local communities, while enjoying the comforts, facilities and services of a 5-star boutique hotel in the middle of the Ecuadorian Amazon.



The itineraries have been carefully customized, which is why the M/V Anakonda is able to offer perfectly-balanced itineraries including onboard activities, Amazon excursions during the day and night and recreational activities as well. Your own board concierge will be pleased to help you coordinate any special guest requirements.

The 40 guests aboard the 148 foot-long M/V Anakonda may enjoy a wide variety of wine and fine dining, complete with the all-inclusive comfort of a five-star boutique hotel. Enjoy a wide variety of national and international fusion cuisine. Traditional and well-known cuisine from all over the world is taken and adapted by using fresh, local products. It's not unusual to enjoy unique fare such as Quinoa Risotto or the famous "Encocado de Pescado" an exquisite fish prepared in coconut sauce.

The 20 suites, each with an area over 172 square feet, are equipped with air conditioning and 24-hour electricity, each with a private bathroom with hot water and all necessary amenities, allowing it's guests to enjoy the cruise with nothing to worry about. They moreover feature sitting areas, large and comfortable beds, and wall-to-wall panoramic windows. To accommodate families, Anakonda offers 2 sets of interconnected suites.

The observation deck with two outdoor Jacuzzis and an al fresco lounge are ideal places to enjoy a cocktail, relax with a good book or simply appreciate the spectacular view. There is also a small boutique where passengers can purchase souvenirs, or perhaps some vanity products that may have been left behind at home. You will be assisted by the 25-person crew, including a concierge, purser, paramedic, 4 skilled naturalist guides, and 4 local guides.

Official Category: **5* Motor Vessel**

SAT Category: **4* Motor Vessel**

M/V MANATEE AMAZON EXPLORER

The **M/V Manatee Amazon Explorer**, a Mississippi-style riverboat, has been specially designed for cruises in the Ecuadorian rainforest featuring the comforts and advantages of modern technology. This riverboat will be your home during the next days while exploring this unique area of the rainforest. The Manatee navigates through the Napo and Aguarico rivers located in the Yasuni National Park.



The boat offers 14 double cabins with twin or double bed, panoramic window, storage area, air conditioning and private bathroom with a massage shower. On board you will find a dining room, bar and lounge area, boutique and sun terrace. The food and service are among the best the Amazon rainforest has to offer.

Traveling around the Ecuadorian Amazon offers an unforgettable experience for anybody's sense. You may observe Red Howler Monkeys moving above the canopy, or spot a pair of brilliantly colored Scarlet Macaws darting through the treetops, or Black Caiman aboard a dugout canoe at night, or even the Amazon Pink River Dolphin.

Passengers also have the option to spend a night camping glamorously (glamping) in the jungle in luxury tents with charming rustic furniture, comfortable beds, hot showers and superior service.

Official Category: **4* Motor Vessel**

SAT Category: **3* Motor Vessel**