

JoLT - Peru, Ecuador & Galapagos 2018

True Adventure Expedition Itinerary

Please find below your team's itinerary. As with any expedition, especially to the developing world, local circumstances may require adjustments or compromises having to be made. It will be down to the team to make the expedition work and adapt to any unforeseen changes when you are on the ground.

	Date	Day	From	To	Comments
1	14-Jul-18	Sat	UK	In transit	Meet at the airport at least 4 hours before our scheduled departure time.
2	15-Jul-18	Sun	In transit	Iquitos	We will arrive late into Iquitos. After a long journey we will head straight to our hostel to get some rest. Iquitos is in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon. There are no roads in, the only access is by air or boat. Most of the buses in Iquitos are made from wood, and there is very little traffic on the roads!
3	16-Jul-18	Mon	Iquitos	Iquitos	Today we will spend a day exploring Iquitos. There is a swimming pool where the team can spend the day refreshing themselves after a long journey. We might organise a game of football or basketball at the pitches next to the pool. We can also visit to one of the many museums in Iquitos in the afternoon, where many guides speak English and can teach us about this unique town. In the evening, the team can explore the central market on foot and we can chose our own dinner.
4	17-Jul-18	Tue	Iquitos	St Clotilde	Today we begin our journey up the Amazon River to St Clotilde, a small community in northern Peru on the shores of the river. St Clotilde is a hub for 17 local river communities that spread along the shores of this part of the river. Our hotel is right next to the dock in this small riverside community and we will have dinner here when we arrive.
5	18-Jul-18	Wed	St Clotilde	Yasuni National Park	Leaving at first light we will continue on our journey to Nuevo Rocafuerte in Ecuador. We will have to disembark at the border, and walk across the border to immigration where we will need to get our passports stamped. As we cross the border our new guide from Sacha Nampi will meet us and take us to our boat to go to our accommodation in Ecuador's Yasuni National Park. We will have dinner at our lodge when we arrive and a well earned rest this evening!
6	19-Jul-18	Thu	Yasuni National Park	Yasuni National Park	Rising early this morning, we will need to go and get our passports stamped into Ecuador at the immigration desk! Yasuni National Park is a truly remarkable place, packed full of fascinating wildlife. Whilst we are here we will have our first team challenge, taking a trek into the jungle where we'll be taught about the native birds and animals who live here.
7	20-Jul-18	Fri	Yasuni National Park	Yasuni National Park	Other activities we might do in the jungle are, a lesson in traditional chocolate making, using locally grown coco beans; going piranha fishing and cooking these fish for dinner; exploring the forest canopy on a high walkway; having a local shaman coming to complete a ritual cleansing and demonstrate local dancing; and taking a boat trip down narrow tributaries through the Amazon.
8	21-Jul-18	Sat	Yasuni National Park	Archidona	The lodge boat will take us from our accommodation in Yasuni to Coco. When we arrive in Coco a bus will meet us for our journey to Archidona, where we will spend the night.
9	22-Jul-18	Sun	Archidona	La Libertad Kichua Community	This part of the journey will take us into the Llanganates National Park. We will go on a trek through the jungle into the Gran Canyon, where we can stop for lunch and a swim in the pool at the end, before being picked up and driven to the community where we will spend the night. This evening we will share a meal with a traditional Amazonian Kichua Community. Look out for the impact of the oil industry as we walk the short distance over the bridge into the community!
10	23-Jul-18	Mon	La Libertad Kichua Community	Quito (2850m)	After breakfast, pack up our kit, say goodbye to the rainforest and go by bus to Quito, Ecuador's high altitude capital! At 2850m Quito is one of the highest capital's in the world, and a heady mix of picturesque plazas, architectural treasures and magnificent markets. The old town in the city centre is officially a UNESCO World Heritage site. After we arrive, we will have a late lunch at our hostel and spend the afternoon having 'JOLT time', including washing our clothes, writing postcards to send home and updating our online diary!
11	24-Jul-18	Tue	Quito (2850m)	Quito (2850m)	This morning we will ride up the Teleferiqo aerial tram up Volcan Pichincha, from which amazing views over all of Quito can be seen (up to 4050m). At the top we will go for a short walk to aid our acclimatisation to the altitude and have a picnic lunch. We will return to our hostel and refresh ourselves before meeting with British Embassy staff. This will be a great chance to meet people who live and work in the city and swap stories of your journey so far.
12	25-Jul-18	Wed	Quito (2850m)	Project Cordtuch (3200m)	We will drive by bus to the Cordtuch community, located in the foothills of Chimborazo. This remote Andean community of Kichwa Puruwa people come together to work on local economy boosting goals, such as teaching in the community centre, growing medicinal plants to sell at the markets, developing a cultural museum that shows the history of these people.
13	26-Jul-18	Thu	Project Cordtuch (3200m)	Project Cordtuch (3200m)	When we are here, we will meet children from the local communities, and have a go at swapping stories about our different cultures as well as spending an afternoon helping out on the farms with digging, planting and pulling of crops. Potential activities include planting seeds, helping with composting, painting a school or community building, learning artisanal crafts such as making llama wool. In the evening we will be able to have a campfire in the courtyard. It would be great to practice our singing for this!
14	27-Jul-18	Fri	Project Cordtuch (3200m)	Condor Machay Trail Start Camp (3200m)	We will continue with our activities here in the morning, until lunch time. After lunch we will say goodbye to our hosts in this small Andean community and drive in a bus to our first night's camp in Cotopaxi National Park. Covered in a draping glaciated skirt that gives way to slopes of gold and green paramo, the flanks of Cotopaxi are home to wild horses, llamas, fox, deer, Andean condor and the very rare spectacled bear.
15	28-Jul-18	Sat	Condor Machay Trail Start Camp (3200m)	Condor Machay Trail Start Camp (3200m)	Our first day's trek will be the Pasachoa route, leaving early after breakfast. We will gradually follow the trail to an amazing viewpoint over the park where we can stop for a picnic lunch at 4100m .
16	29-Jul-18	Sun	Condor Machay Trail Start Camp (3200m)	Condor Machay Trail Start Camp (3200m)	Today we will follow the Condor Machay trail (approx. 6 miles). This stunning route follows the edge of the river to a beautiful waterfall where we can stop to have a picnic lunch and a paddle before trekking back to our camp. We will need to work together today to ensure the whole team completes the route.
17	30-Jul-18	Mon	Condor Machay Trail Start Camp (3200m)	Tambopaxi Lodge (3700m)	This morning we'll leave our camp behind and drive to the parking spot at 4600m. Today we have the challenge to snake our way to the Cotopaxi refuge at 4800m where we can refuel ourselves with hot drinks.
18	31-Jul-18	Tue	Tambopaxi Lodge (3700m)	Puerto Lopez	Say goodbye to the mountains and drive by bus to the coastal town of Puerto Lopez. The temperature will increase significantly as we drop down in altitude. The drive is a long one, so we will stop for lunch on the way We will be staying in a hostel in the town, where we will have dinner. We will need to do some laundry when we arrive!
19	01-Aug-18	Wed	Puerto Lopez	Puerto Lopez	Today we will be taking a boat off the coast of Puerto Lopez to Isla la Plata, to try and spot some of the 1000 plus humpback whales that migrate to this part of the coast during June to September. We may also be able to spot dolphins, and killer, pilot and beak-nosed whales. The journey to Isla la Plata is 2 hours, and we stop to spot whales on route. When we land, we will complete a short walk around the island, quietly observing the fabulous wildlife, in particular the nesting birds There will be time for a snorkel on the beach and lunch back on the boat, before a quicker boat journey back to Puerto Lopez.
20	02-Aug-18	Thu	Puerto Lopez	Puerto Lopez	Project Equilibrio Azul is just a short distance from the centre of Puerto Lopez. The organisation is a marine conservation project, working to research, monitor and conserve the fragile marine eco-systems off the Ecuadorian coast. You will work on the shark and turtle projects (census, measuring, tagging etc). You will be divided into sub groups to maximise the outcomes of the groups 2 days helping with research at the station.

21	03-Aug-18	Fri	Puerto Lopez	Puerto Lopez	The specific activities you will undertake are, a snorkel survey along a sheltered reef near the project in groups of 4; catching, measuring & tagging turtles from moored boats; a beach sweep; going to the local market to research which fish are being sold, including sharks, having a talk from the researchers on why they are carrying out this work.
22	04-Aug-18	Sat	Puerto Lopez	Guayaquil	In the morning we will have JoLT time. We will leave Puerto Lopez in the afternoon and drive to Guayaquil where we will stay overnight in a hostel, so we can catch an early flight in the morning.
23	05-Aug-18	Sun	Guayaquil	Isla Santa Cruz	<p>Breakfast will be early this morning as we need to be at the airport early to fly to Baltra on the Galapagos Islands. These volcanic archipelago in the Pacific Ocean are considered one of the world's foremost destinations for wildlife viewing and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where Charles Darwin visited in 1835. Today we will arrive onto Santa Cruz Island.</p> <p>When we arrive we get the airport bus to the ferry terminal, where we take a ferry to Puerto Ayora. From here we will drive directly to the highlands farm for a tour, where we will walk around the farm which is home to many giant tortoises, including seeing the breeding centre and the exhibition hall! We will have lunch here.</p> <p>In the afternoon we will go by bus to our hostel in Puerto Ayora. The afternoon will be spent visiting the fascinating Charles Darwin Centre, which is a short walk from our hostel. We will also need to go and get fitted for our wetsuits for tomorrow!</p>
24	06-Aug-18	Mon	Isla Santa Cruz	Isla Santa Cruz	<p>After breakfast we will go on a boat trip to Santa Fe Island. Prepare for wet feet as we disembark on a sandy beach! We will explore this little cove, home to many iguanas.</p> <p>Back on board the boat, there will be 2 stops in different coves where we have a chance to go snorkelling, before lunch on the boat, spotting as many fish as we can! These coves are also home to turtles, rays and baby sealions. It's also possible to spot whales on the journey back to Puerto Ayora.</p> <p>We will have couple of hours free to relax together, before having dinner in our hostel.</p>
25	07-Aug-18	Tue	Isla Santa Cruz	Isla Isabela	<p>Today we will go on another boat tour to Laberia Islet where we will be able to see many colourful birds and sealions on the rocky shore.</p> <p>When we reach Playa los Perros we will disembark and go on a short walk to see the iguanas who live on the beach here and the white-tipped sharks who live in the nearby pools below the paths. We'll have a chance to go snorkelling with turtles in a bay nearby, and finish with a short walk to see Las Gietas (canyons), before returning to Puerto Ayora. All this before lunch!</p> <p>We'll walk direct to Tortuga Bay from the port, along a road and finishing with a lovely sandy beach. We will have a picnic lunch here and spend our final afternoon in the Galapagos islands relaxing and playing games on this beautiful beach.</p> <p>This evening we will have dinner at a local restaurant in Kiosk Street.</p>
26	08-Aug-18	Wed	Isla Isabela	Quito	<p>We will need to catch the airport ferry and bus back to the airport after breakfast this morning. Upon arrival at Quito airport we will head straight to our hostel to refresh for our last evening in Ecuador!</p> <p>This evening we will have dinner at the Pims restaurant at the Panecillo. This restaurant has amazing views over the city and a great outdoor space where we will celebrate our journey together!</p>
27	09-Aug-18	Thu	Quito	In transit	We can have a leisurely morning together exploring the local area. After lunch at our hostel, a bus will take us to the airport for our flight home.
28	10-Aug-18	Fri	In transit	UK	A member of TA Expedition staff will meet you at the airport to welcome you home and collect any team equipment.