



ecuador, peru & bolivia

The legacy of ancient civilisations, and the spectacular scenery and wildlife of these neighbouring countries straddling the mountainous spine of South America, offer the discerning traveller an unrivalled wealth of attractions. Here, in little more than two weeks, you can wonder at the artistry which created the 'lost city' of the Incas, encounter the sea lions and giant tortoises of Darwin's enchanted isles, and cross the sacred waters of the world's highest navigable lake to explore the world's highest capital city.

Ecuador is small, peaceful and astonishingly beautiful, with the majestic peaks of the Andean Cordillera dividing the tropical jungles of the Amazon Basin from the rich farmlands of the coastal plain, and enchanting colonial towns and bustling Indian markets unveiling its long and colourful history.

Lying some 600 miles off Ecuador's Pacific Coast, the Galapagos Islands remain one of the world's greatest natural spectacles. These inhospitable and largely uninhabited volcanic islands are remarkable for the many fascinating endemic species of fauna that have lived here in isolation for so long.

Peru is a land of rare physical beauty and cultural diversity. A journey through the country's stunning mountain scenery will uncover the extraordinary achievements of the Incas, most notably at the legendary citadel of Machu Picchu, and the subsequent influence of the Spanish Conquistadors.

Landlocked Bolivia remains largely unexplored by the western visitor but, with its magnificent and vastly differing Amazonian and Andean landscape, its legacy of mysterious ancient civilizations, its delightful Spanish colonial treasures and unique indigenous culture, is just as captivating as its neighbours.



TRAVEL GUIDE

VISA REQUIREMENTS

UK Passport holders currently do not require visas for Ecuador, Peru or Bolivia. Non British Passport holders should check requirements.

HEALTH ADVICE

No vaccinations are currently required for these countries, but the following are recommended: Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Polio and Tetanus. Proof of inoculation against Yellow Fever is required if travelling between South American countries or visiting the Amazon. Anti-malarial prophylactics should also be taken for the jungle.

FLYING TIME

Quito 14hrs 50mins
Lima 16hrs 10mins
La Paz 20hrs 50mins

LOCAL TIME

Ecuador GMT - 5hrs
Galapagos GMT - 6hrs
Peru GMT - 5hrs
Bolivia GMT - 4hrs

WHEN TO VISIT

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ecuador & Galapagos	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Peru	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Bolivia				✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓		

✓✓ indicates the optimum time to visit

galapagos cruises

It was Charles Darwin's voyage of discovery and the subsequent publication of his 'On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection' that first brought these islands to the world's attention. Still a living laboratory of evolution, a visit to the Galapagos is essential for anyone interested in natural history, wildlife and ecology.

A voyage through the islands of the archipelago aboard one of the many comfortable vessels operating there, allows you to gain a deep understanding of the Galapagos' remarkable natural history. The birds and animals show little fear, and such fascinating species as the giant tortoise, marine iguana, waved albatross and blue-footed booby, allow visitors to observe their extraordinary rituals at close quarters – a remarkable experience. You will also anchor in protected sites that are excellent for swimming and snorkelling. The marine life of the Galapagos is equally captivating, and to swim alongside sea lions, turtles, penguins, and shoals of multi-coloured tropical fish will be another highlight of any cruise.



Galapagos and The Beagle

Explore Darwin's 'enchanted isles' aboard The Beagle

Owned and operated by our partners in the Galapagos, Augusto and Georgina Cruz, The Beagle is a magnificent 105-foot steel-hulled schooner with teak decks. She has a beautifully designed fully air-conditioned interior with seven en-suite cabins, and a generous expanse of open and shaded deck, and the standard of guiding, cuisine and personal service are exceptional.

Once again, we have chartered this beautiful yacht for a select number of weeks throughout the year, and offer a choice of 7 and 14-night cruises. Although local conditions dictate the exact itinerary, cruises will explore the eastern and central islands of the archipelago, including Santa Cruz, home to the Darwin Research Station and the giant land tortoise, or visit the more distant western islands such as Isabela, perhaps the most beautiful island in the archipelago.

Sample itinerary:

- Day 1/2:** Fly London to Quito. City sightseeing. Overnights Patio Andaluz.
- 3/9 or 3/16:** Fly to Baltra and begin an 8 or 15-day cruise aboard The Beagle.
- 10/11 or 17/18:** End cruise at Baltra and fly to London via Guayaquil.

Dates: Monthly departures - please ask for our 'Galapagos Cruises' brochure.
Price: From £3,095 per person (1-week cruise) and From £4,895 per person (2-week cruise).



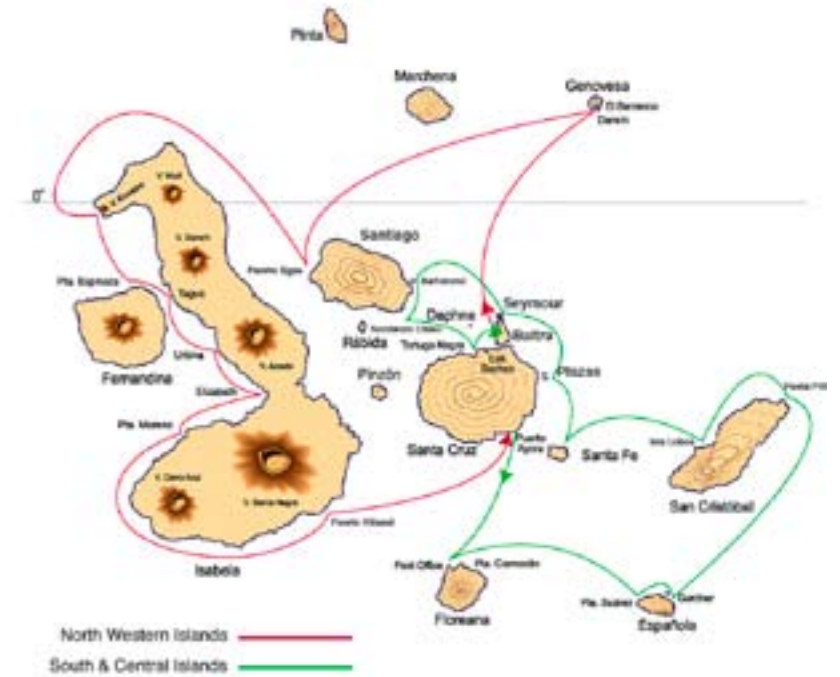
the beagle

Deck Plan



Specifications

- Length:** 105 feet
- Beam:** 22 feet
- Accommodations:** 6 twin cabins with double lower/single upper berth; 1 single cabin with lower/upper berths. All cabins have individually controlled air-conditioning and private bathrooms with showers.
- Propulsion:** Twin John Deere 235 HP
- Generators:** Twin 23 Kw
- Output:** 110V – 220V (A/C) and 12V – 24V (D/C)
- Equipment:** Radar, GPS, magnetic compass, satellite EPIRB, 2 dinghies with outboards, 2 twin kayaks, desalination plant, 1 inflatable life raft (20 persons), cellphone/fax, portable satellite phone.
- Crew:** Captain, helmsman, steward, cook, engineer and bi-lingual naturalist guide.
- Cruising speed:** 9 knots
- Range:** 3,000 miles
- Sails:** 7,000 square feet
- Water:** 3,500 gallons



Galapagos Cruises

Please ask for a copy of this comprehensive brochure containing detailed information on our cruises in the islands.

galapagos options

We can also arrange Galapagos charters on a wide range of vessels that include the renowned Quasar Nautica deluxe fleet and the carbon neutral Ecoventura expedition yachts. The selection featured on these pages are among the most comfortable operating in the islands - air conditioning, double berth cabins with private facilities and the latest electronic equipment are standard - and have been specifically designed for Galapagos cruising. Each vessel carries a naturalist guide, skipper, cook and full support crew to ensure the highest level of personal service, and offer a regular programme of 1-week cruises that can be joined by individuals and small groups, or chartered outright by a private party.



M/S Alta

Formerly a fishing trawler, M/S Alta has been transformed into a classic three-mast staysail schooner, and has become a very stylish yacht. With that special charm of a sailing vessel, she is one of the most beautiful in the Galapagos, and ideal for those seeking something unique and exclusive.

With interior fittings of mahogany and brass, there are eight remarkably spacious and tastefully decorated en-suite cabins, some with bunk beds and all with portholes. There is an elegant yet inviting salon, meals are taken in the dining salon or *al fresco* on the foredeck, and there is ample additional deck space to relax and enjoy the experience of being under sail. Sea kayaks are carried on board.



M/Y Grace

Built in 1928 by Camper & Nicholson, this elegant period vessel has an illustrious past, including being given to Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco as a wedding gift by Aristotle Onassis. Re-fitted in 2007/08 and renamed after her former owner, MY Grace now sails an 8-day itinerary around the Galapagos.

Grace carries a maximum of just 18 passengers in 9 spacious and beautifully appointed staterooms. There is a stylish salon and dining room, an outdoor area for *al fresco* meals and extensive decks with a bar and Jacuzzi. The vessel carries snorkelling equipment, wetsuits and sea kayaks, and two knowledgeable on-board naturalists accompany cruises and shore excursions throughout.



Ecoventura

Ecoventura's first-class fleet of three identical motor yachts - M/Y Eric, M/Y Flamingo I and M/Y Letty - have an enviable and well-established reputation for both their quality and environmental integrity - Ecoventura recently became South America's first Carbon Neutral travel company.

Air-conditioned throughout and finished in polished teak trimmed with brass fittings, the vessels have ten spacious and comfortable outside-facing cabins spread over three decks. Facilities include a dining room, a bar/lounge and a library, each with panoramic windows, and extensive sun/observation deck. Vessels also carry two naturalist guides from the Charles Darwin Institute.



M/V Eclipse

This extremely comfortable and attractive 210-foot expedition vessel offers the facilities of a larger ship whilst retaining the exclusivity of a smaller yacht. Carrying just 48 passengers, Eclipse accommodates half the number of passengers that other ships of her size do, ensuring that guests enjoy enviable service.

The twenty-seven beautifully decorated cabins and suites are among the largest of any vessel in the Galapagos. Facilities include a comfortable lounge, a well-stocked library and extensive sun/observation decks. Meals can be taken either indoors or *al fresco* around the Jacuzzi. Exceptionally, she carries a naturalist guide for every 12 passengers.



M/Y La Pinta

Named after one of the archipelago's islands, the 207-foot expedition yacht La Pinta has been built to luxurious standards. She combines the space and sophistication of a larger ship with the intimacy and personal service of a small vessel, providing discerning travellers the ultimate expedition adventure.

La Pinta carries 48 passengers in spacious deluxe outside-facing cabins, each with air-conditioning and en-suite facilities. Some cabins can be interconnected for the convenience of families. Facilities on board include a saloon/bar, well-stocked library, dining room, spacious deck areas and a balcony lookout area for watching whale and dolphin. She is a welcome addition to Galapagos cruising.



Galapagos Safari Camp, Santa Cruz Island

Galapagos Safari Camp is a 55-hectare farm in the highlands of Santa Cruz Island bordering the national park, some 30 minutes from the sea. It provides an authentic island experience by offering a luxury camp in an exclusive natural environment, both as an alternative or in addition to a cruise round the islands.

The camp has 8 spacious safari tents perched on a secluded hill, each attractively decorated with a private bathroom and a balcony providing views of the park and the ocean. The contemporary main building has a living area with fireplace and a dining room with panoramic windows. Activities include walks on the farm, which is rich in birdlife, cycling, riding or simply lazing by the attractive infinity pool.

select haciendas of ecuador



Hacienda Zuleta, Imbabura

Dating from the late 16th century, Hacienda Zuleta lies at the heart of a 4,500-acre private estate in the spectacular Ecuadorian Andes, only two hours north of Quito. This colonial working farm, developed by diplomat, president and bull fighter, Galo Plaza Lasso, has belonged to the family for over 100 years, and for the last ten years has offered travellers an intimate retreat in a magnificent setting. Each of the 15 en-suite guest rooms has views of the wonderful gardens or the mountains. They are individually decorated with unique architectural features, antiques and their own fireplace. Superb cuisine is prepared from home grown and fresh ingredients, and there are comfortable living and reading rooms in which to relax. Activities include hiking, cycling, bird watching in search of condor or riding one of the magnificent Zuleteño horses on the estate.



Hacienda Cusin, Otavalo

Situated some 8,500ft up in the high sierra, close to San Pablo de Lago and the famous market town of Otavalo, Hacienda Cusin is a delightful country retreat. Set in a beautiful seven-acre garden, this restored 17th-century Andean estate offers a relaxing ambience of old colonial elegance in magnificent surroundings.

Each of the rooms, suites and cottages, some in the hacienda itself and some in the 'monastery' are individually decorated, with unique architectural features, fireplaces, antiques and Andean handicrafts. The main house has a comfortable salon, dining room, bar and library. A variety of activities include walking in the hills and mountains, riding, mountain biking, and numerous local excursions.



Hacienda San Augustin de Callo, Cotopaxi

Located just over an hour from Quito in the shadow of the Cotopaxi volcano, stands the beautiful Hacienda of San Agustín de Callo. Originally a 15th century Inca palace, rebuilt in Spanish colonial style, today the Hacienda is a working farm and a charming hotel, providing exceptional hospitality in spectacular surroundings.

The eleven attractive rooms and suites are housed in three charming buildings, each very individually decorated and many with volcano views. The Inca dining room serves fine Ecuadorian cuisine and there are several cosy sitting rooms. A variety of excursions include trekking, cycling and fishing tours, and visits to local Indian villages and markets and wonderful national parks.

select hotels & lodges of peru



La Casona, Cusco

Hidden behind a discrete wooden door on the secluded Plaza Las Nazarenas, La Casona is Cusco's first luxury boutique hotel. Housed in a colonial manor house, a former conquistador residence now carefully restored by Inkaterra, the hotel is an exciting blend of colonial style, contemporary detail and unparalleled comfort.

Surrounding a magnificent 16th century courtyard, the 11 spacious and beautifully appointed suites are furnished with antiques and exquisitely decorated with original architectural features, including fireplaces. Amenities include an attractive lounge and an elegant dining room and terrace. The concierge and butler cater can arrange gourmet picnics and private guided excursions.



Sol y Luna Lodge, Urubamba

Located in the Urubamba Valley, or Sacred Valley of the Incas, Sol y Luna is enchanting. This attractive rustic resort, set in beautiful surroundings, has an understated elegance and, lying at a height of just 2,800 metres, is the ideal place to acclimatise to the higher altitude of Cusco and the Andes.

Set in delightful gardens, the 43 adobe bungalows and suites are well-appointed and attractively decorated with local touches. There is an informal restaurant, and a tennis court, small pool and well-equipped spa. Activities include mountain biking, rafting, trekking and excursions to local Inca sites and picturesque market towns. The lodge also has its own stables for short and longer riding tours (see page 149).



Titilaka, Lake Titicaca

Situated on a secluded private peninsula on the Peruvian shore of Lake Titicaca, the world's highest lake, Titilaka is a luxurious refuge surrounded by magnificent Andean landscape, the hotel offers understated comfort and hospitality, imbuing guests with the historical, cultural and natural spirit of the setting.

The 18 luxury suites are beautifully appointed, combining contemporary design and indigenous accents. Each has magnificent views over the lake – orientated to take advantage of the dawn or the dusk. Living areas include indoor/outdoor dining, wrap-around terraces, and a heated pool and spa are planned. Bird watching, trekking, riding and excursions to islands or local villages are offered.



Las Casitas Del Colca, Colca Canyon

Las Casitas del Colca is the latest addition to the Orient-Express portfolio in Peru. This luxurious lodge enjoys a magnificent position on a 24-hectare estate in the heart of the Colca Canyon, one of the deepest canyons in the world, north of Arequipa, offering exclusivity and privacy in the very heart of the Andes.

Dotted throughout the property, the twenty spacious and stylish individual casitas are built and decorated with an emphasis on natural materials. Each has its own private terrace and heated plunge pool. Amenities include an intimate restaurant, a terrace with stunning views for al fresco breakfast, a free form pool and a spa to help soothe aching bodies after a day exploring the canyon on foot, horse or bike.



Ultimate Ecuador

From the Amazon Basin to the Andes and the Galapagos Islands

This captivating journey encompasses the very best of Ecuador, from the country's colonial legacy to the lush rainforests of the Amazon Basin, the majestic peaks of the Andean Cordillera and the remarkable natural world of the Galapagos Islands.

The journey begins in Quito, a bustling city with beautiful colonial architecture, before moving east to the jungles of the Amazon Basin, a vast green carpet of rainforest crisscrossed with rivers and sanctuary to more than 400 species of exotic birds. Returning to Quito, you then drive north through breathtaking Andean scenery to Otavalo, famous for its indigenous Indian population, lovely brightly coloured textiles and famous market. The journey ends with a wonderful 8-day cruise through the Galapagos Islands, where the unspoiled natural setting and unique wildlife provide the perfect complement to your experiences in the Amazon and Andes.

Sample itinerary:

Day 1: Fly London to Quito. Overnight Patio Andaluz. **2/4:** Fly to Amazon Basin. Guided walks and canoe trips. Overnights Napo Wildlife Centre. **5/6:** Fly back to Quito and drive to Otavalo. Local exploration. Overnights Hacienda Cusin. **7:** Return by road to Quito. Overnight Patio Andaluz. **8/14:** Fly to Baltra and begin 8-day Galapagos cruise aboard The Beagle. **15/16:** End cruise at Baltra and fly to London via Guayaquil.

Dates: To tie in with The Beagle cruises.

Price: From £3,925 per person (based on 2 people travelling).



Peru and The Galapagos

From the lost cities of the Incas to Darwin's 'enchanted isles'

A journey of discovery, combining the ancient Inca strongholds of Cusco and Machu Picchu in the Peruvian Andes, with the extraordinary natural wonders of Darwin's 'enchanted isles' - the Galapagos.

You begin high in the Andes in the city of Cusco, one time capital of the Inca Empire and a living museum of Inca and Spanish colonial history. From here you travel by narrow gauge railway through the stunning scenery of the sacred Urubamba Valley to the legendary citadel of Machu Picchu, which lies on a narrow forested ridge framed by the snow-capped peaks of the Andes. Returning to Lima via Cusco, your journey ends across the border in Ecuador with an 8-day voyage through the Galapagos Islands - the ideal way to unlock the secrets of one of the natural world's last treasure houses.

Sample itinerary:

Day 1: Fly London to Lima. Overnight Casa Andina Private Collection. **2/3:** Fly to Cusco. City sightseeing. Overnights Libertador Hotel. **4:** Train to Machu Picchu to explore the ruins. Overnight Inkaterra Machu Picchu. **5:** Return by train to Cusco. Overnight Libertador Hotel. **6/7:** Fly to Quito via Lima. City tour. Overnights Patio Andaluz. **8/14:** Fly to Baltra and begin 8-day Galapagos cruise aboard The Beagle. **15/16:** End cruise at Baltra and fly to London via Guayaquil.

Dates: To tie in with The Beagle cruises.

Price: From £4,385 per person (based on 2 people travelling).



Chiva Express

The Chiva Express is, in essence, a colourful, old-fashioned bus running on rail tracks. It is perhaps one of the most eccentric yet delightful forms of transport in the world.

These unique vehicles operate on restored sections of the historic Trans-Andean railroad, and offer a number of journeys, including a descent of the magnificent 10,000-foot zigzag of Devil's Nose to Guayaquil or Cuenca.



Ultimate Peru

In the footsteps of the Incas

This fascinating tour, which combines some of Peru's most magnificent natural spectacles with its Inca and Spanish colonial legacy, has all the ingredients for one of South America's great adventures.

After exploring the sights of Lima, fly south east to spend a few days in the tropical rainforest of the Tambopata Reserve, sanctuary to a profusion of wildlife. Continue to Cusco, historic capital of the Inca Empire and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, from where you visit the 'Sacred Valley of the Incas', and travel by narrow gauge railway to the mountain-top citadel of Machu Picchu. Fly to the colonial city of Arequipa and visit the spectacular Colca Canyon, home to the soaring Andean condor. This extensive journey ends in the desert landscape of Paracas with a visit to the wildlife of the Ballestas Islands and a flight over the enigmatic Nasca Lines.

Sample itinerary:

Day 1/2: Fly London to Lima. City sightseeing. Overnight Sonesta El Olivar. **3/5:** Fly to Puerto Maldonado. Walking and canoeing in the Tambopata Reserve. Overnights Sandoval Lake Lodge. **6:** Fly to Cusco. Transfer to the Urubamba Valley. Overnight Sol y Luna Hotel. **11:** Train to Machu Picchu. Overnight Sumaq Machu Picchu. **8/9:** Train to Cusco. City sightseeing. Overnights Casa Andina Private Collection. **10:** Fly to Arequipa. Overnight Casa Andina Private Collection. **11/12:** Drive to Colca Canyon. Overnights Colca Lodge. **13:** Return to Arequipa. Overnight Casa Andina Private Collection. **14/15:** Fly to Lima. Transfer to Paracas. Ballestas Islands & Nasca Lines excursions. Overnights Libertador Paracas. **16/17:** Fly to London via Lima.

Dates: To suit individual requirements.

Price: From £3,545 per person based (based on 2 people travelling).

Peru and Bolivia

A journey through the High Andes

Despite sharing a rich Inca and Spanish colonial heritage, and stunning mountain scenery, with its neighbour Peru, Bolivia remains largely unexplored by visitors. This journey unlocks the secrets of this isolated country high in the Andes.

You begin in the picturesque grandeur of the Peruvian Andes and the legendary Inca strongholds of Cusco, Machu Picchu and Ollantaytambo, before travelling overland via Lake Titicaca to La Paz, the world's highest capital city and an enchanting mix of colonial architecture and lively Indian street markets. You then travel south to explore the stunning salt pans of the Salar de Uyuni, Potosi whose prosperity was founded on the vast Spanish silver mines of Cerro Rico, and the beautiful city of Sucre with its whitewashed buildings and fine museums, before ending your journey back in La Paz.

Sample itinerary:

Day 1: Fly London to Lima. Overnight Ramada Costa del Sol. **2/3:** Fly to Cusco. Overnights Casa Andina Private Collection. **4:** Train to Machu Picchu to explore the ruins. Overnight Inkaterra Machu Picchu. **5:** Return by train to Cusco. Overnight Casa Andina Private Collection. **6/7:** Train to Puno. Boat excursion on Lake Titicaca. Overnights Libertador Hotel. **8:** Drive into Bolivia. Boat excursion to Sun Island. Drive to La Paz. Overnight Europa Hotel. **9:** Bus & train to Uyuni. Overnight Los Jardines de Uyuni. **10:** Explore salt pans. Overnight Hotel Takya de Sal. **11/12:** Drive to Potosi. City sightseeing & mines excursion. Overnights Hotel Coloso. **13/14:** Drive to Sucre. City sightseeing. Overnights Parador Santa Maria. **15:** Fly to La Paz. Overnight Hotel Europa. **16/17:** Fly to London.

Dates: To suit individual requirements.

Price: From £2,330 per person (based on 2 people travelling).



Hiram Bingham

For many, a visit to Machu Picchu is a once in a lifetime experience, and Orient Express's Hiram Bingham train, named after the explorer who discovered the fascinating remains of the Inca citadel, is the most luxurious way to journey between Cusco and Machu Picchu.

Painted a distinctive blue and gold, the carriages are luxurious, warm and inviting with elegant decoration in the style of the 1920's Pullman trains. In the morning, en-route to Machu Picchu, a brunch will be served as you watch the stunning landscape unfold. After the day exploring the magnificent remains, cocktails and a 4-course gourmet dinner are served on the return to Cusco. A magical journey never to be forgotten.

Mountain Lodges of Peru

The Inca Trail to Machu Picchu may be one of the world's classic treks, but such is its popularity that permits have to be booked months in advance and the trail is always busy. You also have to camp!

A 'Mountain Lodges of Peru' (MLP) trek promises to be an altogether different experience...

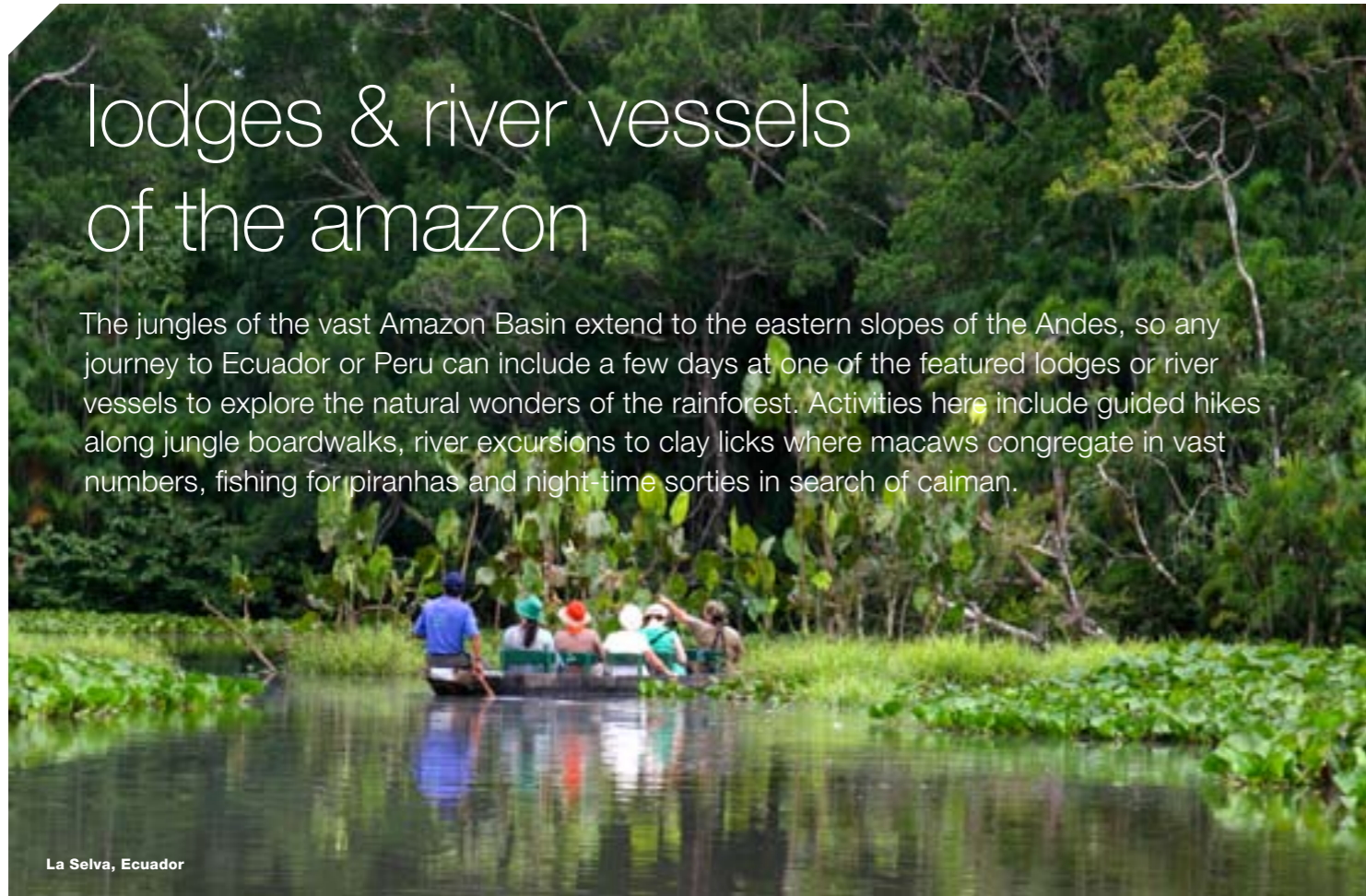
The 'lost city' may still be the goal, but this 6-day journey through the wilderness of the Vilcabamba range stays well away from the beaten track. The trail leads from the pastures of Soraypampa across a spectacular 15,000-foot pass directly beneath Mt Salkantay before turning north to follow the Salkantay Valley through isolated Andean villages towards Machu Picchu. And, at the end of each breathtaking day, the welcome indulgence of a warm shower and gourmet meal at one of MLP's enchanting lodges awaits you.

Located a day's walk apart in areas of outstanding natural beauty, the four lodges have been designed to offer a blend of simplicity and comfort with spacious en-suite guest rooms, locally crafted furnishings and heated outdoor Jacuzzis.

The environmental impact of such a project in this remote and underdeveloped corner of the country is of course a key issue, and MLP have fully embraced a wide range of initiatives that will maintain the natural integrity of the region.

lodges & river vessels of the amazon

The jungles of the vast Amazon Basin extend to the eastern slopes of the Andes, so any journey to Ecuador or Peru can include a few days at one of the featured lodges or river vessels to explore the natural wonders of the rainforest. Activities here include guided hikes along jungle boardwalks, river excursions to clay licks where macaws congregate in vast numbers, fishing for piranhas and night-time sorties in search of caiman.



La Selva, Ecuador



La Selva Jungle Lodge, Ecuador

Located on a tranquil ox-bow lake in pristine Amazon rainforest close to the Napo River, the rustic La Selva Jungle Lodge was one of the first eco lodges in the region. The friendly staff welcomes families of all ages and helps make the rainforest, with its wide variety of monkeys, tropical birds and unusual fauna, come alive.

There are 18 comfortable, thatch-roofed bungalows built entirely of secondary rainforest materials, each with private facilities and verandah. There is a spacious dining room, a cosy bar with a wrap-around view of the lake, a small spa and a canopy observation tower. Typical stays are 3 or 4 nights, and activities include day and night nature trails and boat trips with native guides, fishing and lake swimming.



Napo Wildlife Center, Ecuador

This exclusive lodge is possibly the most intimate in Amazonian Ecuador. Set in its own reserve of peaceful, pristine rainforest on the edge of Anangu Lake within the Yasuni National Park, it combines comfort with environmental responsibility making it one of Ecuador's finest examples of community-based eco-tourism.

Each of the 10 spacious cabañas is built in traditional style with thatch roof, and has a private porch with views of the lake and forest. A huge diversity of wildlife can be seen from the lodge itself and its observation tower over the forest canopy. There are also guided walks on forest trails in search of a profusion of animals and birds, a highlight being the parrot clay licks.



Huaorani Eco Lodge, Ecuador

For thousands of years the Huaorani warrior people have made their home in the lush forests of the Amazon. The Huaorani Eco Lodge provides a unique setting in which to experience life in the Amazon jungle in the company of these threatened and charming people. The lodge is a joint venture in the control of the Huaorani.

There are five traditionally built palm thatched cabins, each with private bathroom, a dining room and the Casa des Hamacas. The lodge offers a comfortable base from which to travel to the head waters of the Shiripuno River by canoe, explore the rainforest which is rich in flora and fauna and home to jaguar, anaconda and harpy eagle, or to learn the traditional hunting ways of the Huaorani tribesmen.



Manu Wildlife Center, Peru

Located in the wild and remote Manu wilderness of Peru on the banks of the Madre de Dios River, the Center is at the heart of a private 40,000-hectare reserve that forms part of the world-famous Manu Biosphere. The lodge lies in an area of pristine rainforest with more wildlife species than anywhere else in Manu.

The 22 comfortable, rustic raised bungalows are set in an Amazonian garden, and built in the indigenous style with local wood, bamboo and palm fronds. There are miles of trails through the rainforest where tapir can be seen, two canopy towers / platforms strategically located to attract monkeys and a panoply of brightly coloured birds, and visits to the Blanquillo macaw and parrot lick with its floating blinds.



M/V El Delfin, Peru

An alternative way of visiting the Amazon basin in Peru is by water, sailing aboard the riverboat M/V El Delfin. This classic wood-panelled vessel has just seven comfortable cabins with en-suite shower room, an open lounge / observation area and a cosy dining room creating an intimate and relaxed ambience.

Each journey begins in Iquitos and varies in length from three to seven nights according to the itinerary. This could be a short journey to the headwaters of the Amazon, or a longer one to the wetlands of Pacaya Samiria National Reserve and the waters of the Ucuyali River. During each there will be excursions by motorised canoe in search of the profuse wildlife and the indigenous tribes of the region.



Reserva Amazónica, Peru

Situated on a private ecological reserve adjacent to the Tambopata National Park on the banks of the Madre de Dios River, Reserva Amazónica is just a 2-hour journey from Cusco. Along with its beautiful rain forest setting, it offers some of the best accommodation in the Amazon together with a profusion of wildlife.

The 35 wooden thatch roof cabañas and suites are built on raised stilts in the local style, with elegant rustic furnishings and private terrace. Excellent facilities, including the unique ENA Spa, compliment a host of activities such as day and twilight walks in search of flora and fauna, excursions by canoe and, a highlight, the hanging walkways and observation platforms of the Inkaterra Canopy.

riding in south america

With a long tradition and expertise in all things equine, and a landscape eminently suitable for the horse - from the dizzying heights of the Andes to rolling grassland plains and swathes of pristine Atlantic beach - South America is a continent uniquely suited to great riding.



Riding in Ecuador

Most riding adventures in Ecuador take place in the highlands, following ancient Inca, Conquistador and Spanish colonial trails through breathtaking scenery. You can cross vast plains, ride through sleepy valleys, follow the spectacular 'Avenue of Volcanoes' skirting snow capped volcanic peaks, and climb through forests into the mountains.

Some rides include nights at historic 17th and 18th century working Hacienda hotels, hosted by charming local families. As well as marvellous scenery and unique accommodation, visits along the way could include the famous Otavalo market and fascinating traditional weaving centres. You will also have many encounters with local people, whose customs and rhythm of life has changed little over the centuries.



Estancia Los Potreros, Argentina

Straddling the Sierras Chicas between the pampas and the Andes, in the heart of the beautiful Córdoba region, Los Potreros is the quintessential Argentine estancia. This exclusive 6,000-acre working cattle farm, which has remained in the same Anglo-Argentine family for four generations, is steeped in history.

Accommodation is in comfortable en suite rooms, charmingly furnished with eclectic family pieces, whilst delicious meals are taken in the family dining room. The pleasures of life on an estancia cannot be overstated - riding is the main attraction be it 'stick and ball' polo or rides in the spectacular countryside, but there are also enjoyable walks, local excursions or you might relax by the pool.



Estancia Huechahue, Argentina

The estancia is a quintessential part of Argentine folklore, and nowhere is this better illustrated than at Huechahue, Jane Williams' 15,000-acre working cattle ranch in the Andean foothills of the lake district. Life here is always an adventure, and a stay in this unique and beautiful place is a delightful experience.

There are three comfortable guest lodges, housing a total of 8 attractive en suite rooms, just a short stroll from the main house. Each lodge has a communal sitting room whilst meals are taken in the main house. Riding is the main attraction here and ranges from gentle outings on the estancia to full treks. Guests can also swim or fish in the Alumine River, enjoy superb bird watching or take local excursions.



Riding in Peru

From the Sol y Luna ranch in the heart of Peru's Sacred Valley of the Incas, riding tours of varying lengths through a dramatic landscape of meadows, valleys and mountains provide a unique insight into Peru's ancient history and rural way of life. The Peruvian Paso horse offers the smoothest riding in the world.

Rides follow a route up through mountain pastures where smiling Quechua Indian children herd sheep and cattle, to highland terraces and charming mountain villages in the shadow of majestic Andean peaks, passing famous Inca and Pre-Inca sites. Nights are spent in comfortable lakeside camps with breathtaking views of snow-covered peaks, or in charming simple inns.



Riding in Uruguay

One of the best ways to explore this small and little known country is to join an 8-night riding adventure. In the company of entertaining and skilled gauchos, these rides combine the diverse landscape with special visits, magnificent wildlife and nights spent at authentic working estancias and comfortable beachside hotels.

The journey takes you across the rolling grassland pastures of large estancias and into the forests of National Parks, over shifting sand dunes and along spectacular deserted beaches on the Atlantic coast, through palm groves, and past wetlands teeming with wildfowl. The pace is fast but the grassy pastures and firm beaches allow this on the wonderful Criollo horses. A very special adventure.