



Sunday · August 20th, 2023 - Thursday · August 31st, 2023

Amazon & Galapagos Cruise

Sample Itinerary

Sunday · August 20th	Private Transfer in from Airport to J,W. Marriott Hotel JW Marriott Quito (2 days)
Monday · August 21st	Private transfer out from Hotel to Mariscal Sucre Airport -Quito Flight from Quito to Coca Manatee Amazon Explorer (4 nights) DAY 1: Quito - Coca / Arrival to Manatee Amazon Explorer
Tuesday · August 22nd	DAY 2: Manatee Amazon Explorer Cruise
Wednesday · August 23rd	DAY 3: Manatee Amazon Explorer Cruise
Thursday · August 24th	DAY 4: Manatee Explorer Amazon Cruise
Friday · August 25th	DAY 5: Manatee Explorer Amazon Cruise/ Quito Wyndham Quito Airport - Quito, Ecuador (1 night)
Saturday · August 26th	Flight from Quito to Guayaquil Flight from Guayaquil to San Cristobal M/C Ocean Spray (3 nights) Embark from San Cristobal PM: San Cristobal Island - Isla Lobos/ Kicker Rock
Sunday · August 27th	AM: San Cristobal Island - Punta Pitt PM: San Cristobal Island - Cerro Brujo

Monday · August 28th

AM: Floreana Island: Post Office Bay
PM: Floreana Island: Cormorant Point / Devil's Crown

Tuesday · August 29th

AM: Santa Cruz Island: Black Turtle Cove
Disembark in Baltra
Flight from Galapagos Islands to Guayaquil
Transfer in from Guayaquil airport to your hotel
Hotel del Parque - Guayaquil, Ecuador (2 nights)

Wednesday · August 30th

Full Day Hacienda La Danesa

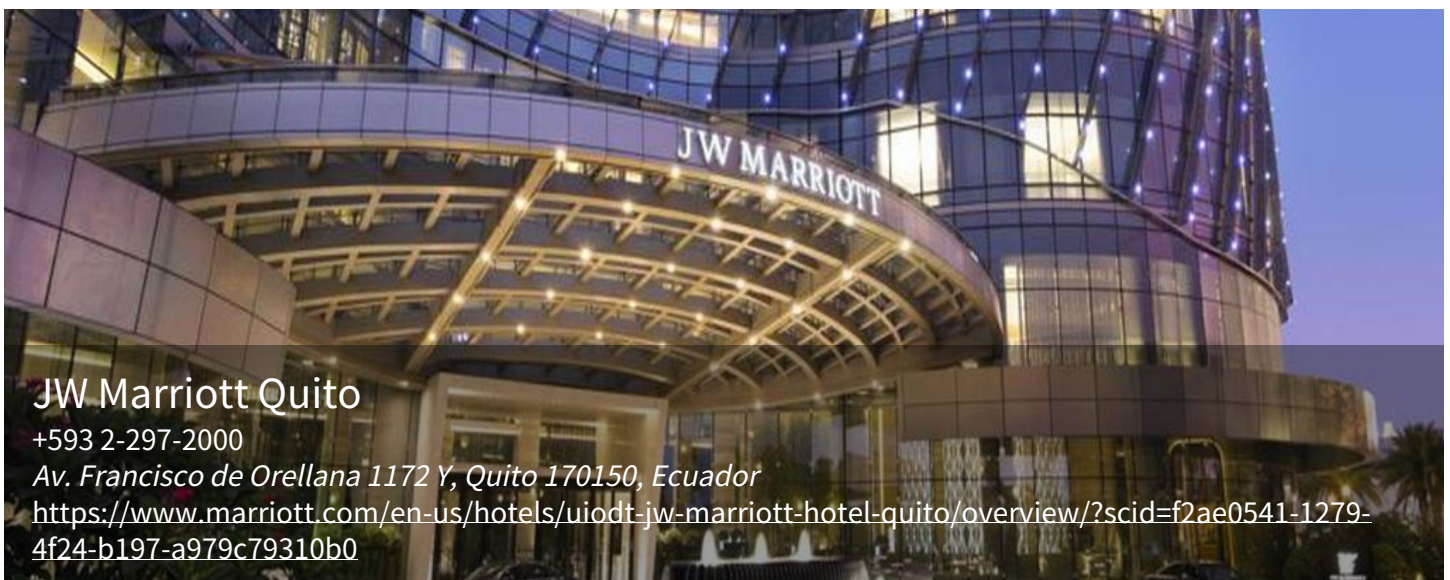
Thursday · August 31st

Private transfer out from Hotel del Parque to Jose Joaquin de Olmedo airport

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ECUADOR (updated February 17th, 2023)

Sunday · August 20th

Private Transfer in from Airport to J,W. Marriott Hotel



JW Marriott Quito

+593 2-297-2000

Av. Francisco de Orellana 1172 Y, Quito 170150, Ecuador

<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/uiodt-jw-marriott-hotel-quito/overview/?scid=f2ae0541-1279-4f24-b197-a979c79310b0>

Duration

2 days

Set in an impressive building only 4.5 km from Quito's historic centre, JW Marriott Quito features a spa, a swimming pool and a fitness centre.

Boasting stylish décor and modern facilities, air conditioned rooms at JW Marriott are bright and spacious. All of them have minibars and plasma TVs. Breakfast can be ordered at Bistro Latino, which serves international food for breakfast and lunch. La Hacienda Grill offers different steak and seafood options. Drinks and coffee service can be enjoyed at the Café Gourmet and at the Exchange Bar; enjoy the Chef's suggestions hors d'oeuvres with your preference of beer or sangria.

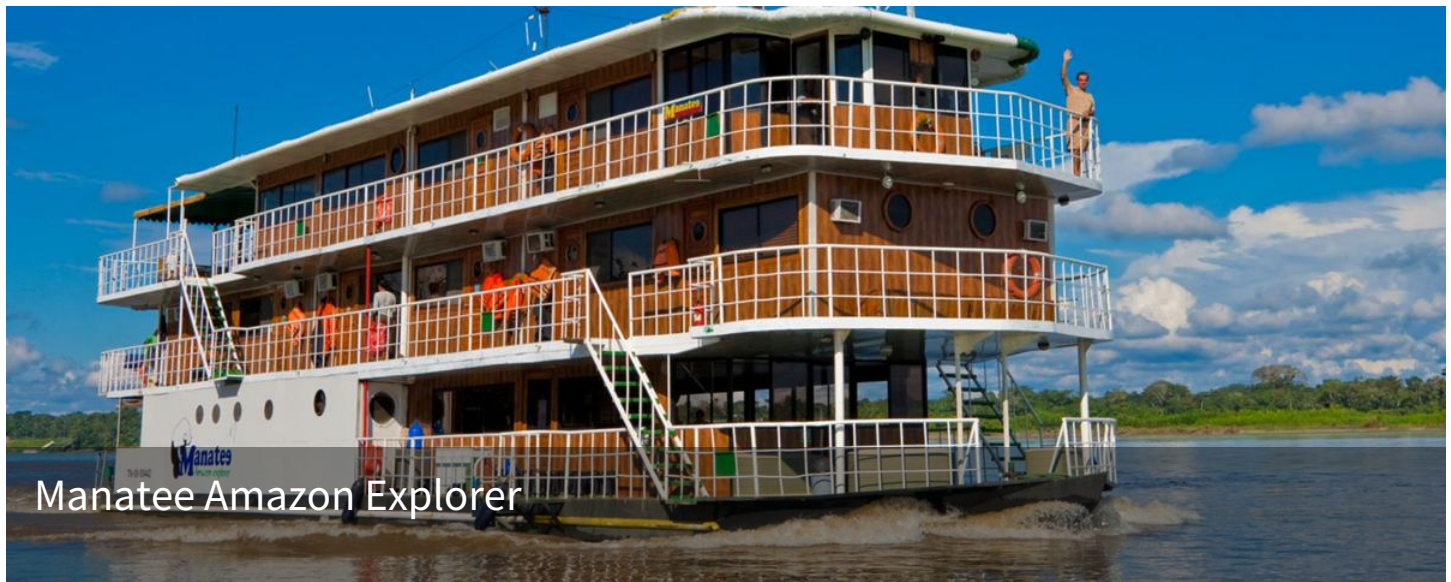
Monday · August 21st

Private transfer out from Hotel to Mariscal Sucre Airport -Quito

Quito, Mariscal Sucre International Airport to Coca, Coca Airport

SA AVIANCA (AV)

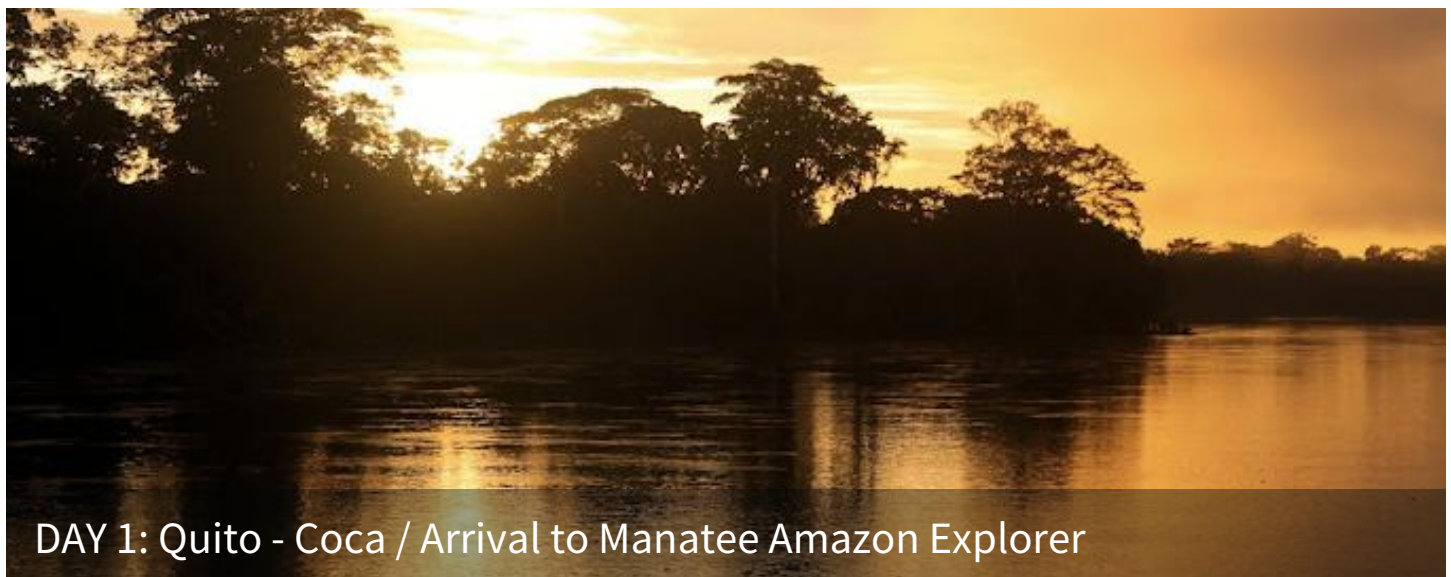
AV Carrier / Flight	Depart UIO •	Arrive OCC •
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4 nights

Notes

With over 20 years of sailing in Ecuador's Oriente region, the Manatee Amazon Explorer was and continues to be, the pioneer in Ecuadorian Amazon cruising. At 121-feet in length and with a capacity for 30 adventurous guests, the Manatee may be smaller than her luxury sister ship the Anakonda, but remains a superior and spacious option for comfortably cruising to one of the most biodiverse places on earth, the remote and remarkable Yasuní National Park.



Arrival in Coca and transfer to the dock to board a motorized canoe to begin your 90-minute journey down the river, taking in the first sights and sounds of the Amazon. Soon, we will reach the **Manatee Amazon Explorer** and receive our welcome aboard. Once we have settled into the Manatee Amazon Explorer, we will be joined by expert local naturalist guides who will provide us with a brief and informative introduction to the Ecuadorian Amazon. After, you will have your first opportunity to discover the exciting features of the cruise ship: spacious social areas, comfortable suites, and the observation deck that allows us to admire the changing rainforest landscape as we glide down the Napo River. After dinner, we will plunge straight into the Amazon rainforest by going for a nighttime forest walk (optional excursion) to observe the forest's nocturnal activity and experience the thrill of the vivid noises and aromas that come from so much biodiversity.

Tuesday · August 22nd



DAY 2: Manatee Amazon Explorer Cruise

After a delicious breakfast, we will go on a motorized canoe to spend some time exploring one of the large islands where we could see eagles, oropendolas, woodpeckers, and many other birds. We will then board the Manatee Amazon Explorer for lunch and enjoy the onboard experiences such as a spectacular ever-changing scenery view from the Amazon hut tub, a delicious cocktail at the bar and lounge, or admire the breathtaking landscapes from the observation deck.

Later in the afternoon, we will visit Yasuní National Park, a pristine and relatively undisturbed region of the Ecuadorian Amazon. You will be pleased to learn that this is the home of the legendary pink river dolphin! In this area, we can also find anacondas, river turtles and various primate species, as well as the colorful hoatzin, a unique bird that is known locally as the stinky turkey. Near Yasuní live the Secoyas, a minority community that you will have the opportunity to visit and share their traditions and lifestyle.

Wednesday · August 23rd



DAY 3: Manatee Amazon Explorer Cruise

We will start the day off by visiting an authentic Kichwa family located on the banks of the Napo River, where we will have the opportunity to learn directly from members of the local community. We will then board the Manatee Amazon Explorer for some leisure time as we continue our navigation upstream. At this time, our guests will be delighted with our life onboard activities and participate in a cooking lesson with our expert chef who will share recipes and techniques using fresh and organic ingredients to prepare exquisite traditional Ecuadorian food that you can replicate at home.

After lunch, guests are also invited to try their hand at making traditional handicrafts and attend an ancestral cultures lecture with one of our local guides. For our more active guests, a kayaking activity is the best choice to explore the surrounding nature. There is an option for everyone!

Thursday · August 24th



DAY 4: Manatee Explorer Amazon Cruise

You can relax and enjoy the Manatee Amazon Explorer during the morning. After, you will disembark to visit an observation tower in the rainforest canopy, which offers astonishing 360-degree vistas. The perspective at the top of this observation tower is truly glorious, looming above the lush treetops and providing a view of the sheer vastness of the Amazon Basin. This is the perfect photo opportunity! Birdwatchers and bird-lovers alike will especially enjoy this outing. In the afternoon, we will explore the nearby forest for a walk to discover a myriad of different animals and plant species that can only be found in the Amazon

basin. A kayak activity is also available to explore this area. Back on board the Manatee Amazon Explorer, we will be delighted with an exquisite farewell dinner.

Friday · August 25th



DAY 5: Manatee Explorer Amazon Cruise/ Quito

This is where your adventure ends! Enjoy the last part of your return journey onboard and then disembark the Manatee Amazon Explorer to take the motorized canoe back to Coca (90 minutes ride approximately).

Fly back to Quito.

ARRIVAL TO QUITO. Shuttle transfer from Quito airport to your hotel



Wyndham Quito Airport - Quito, Ecuador

593 2-395-8000

Parroquia Tababela SN - via Yaruqui Via Yaruqui Aeropuerto Mariscal Sucre,,
Quito, Ecuador 170183

Aug 25 · 2:00 PM

Check-in

Aug 26 · 12:00 PM

Check-out

1 night

Duration

Contemporary airport hotel near mountains is 1 km from Airport, 22 km from Quito Zoo and 25 km from Maria Augusta Urrutia Museum.

Saturday · August 26th

Quito, Mariscal Sucre International Airport to Guayaquil, Jose Joaquin de Olmedo Airport

LATAM Airlines (LA)

LA Carrier / Flight	Depart UIO •	Arrive GYE •
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Guayaquil, Jose Joaquin de Olmedo Airport to San Cristobal, San Cristobal Airport

LATAM Airlines (LA)

LA Carrier / Flight	Depart GYE •	Arrive SCY •
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M/C Ocean Spray
Golden Galapagos

3 nights

Notes

The M/C Ocean Spray has a sleek, fully redesigned interior, and is one of the best options for enjoying the Galapagos Islands in style.

The 16-passenger Ocean Spray was conceived for comfort and stability, offering plenty of space per guest onboard with high-end facilities and amenities.

It has a bright, welcoming briefing area for enriching lectures and talks given by dedicated, top-ranked Naturalist Guides.

The Ocean Spray offers sweeping ocean views from all suites, which are convertible (a king-size bed vs. two twin-size beds) and have luxurious private balconies where our guests can unwind and enjoy the islands while navigating. All of our staterooms feature premium biodegradable amenities, deluxe bed linens, and natural lighting.

Embark from San Cristobal



PM: San Cristobal Island - Isla Lobos/ Kicker Rock

Isla Lobos (Sea Lion Island)

The name of this island means "Sea Lion Island." This appropriately named island is ripe with noisy, frolicking, jolly sea lions who will welcome you to their home with open, well, fins. This island also offers great snorkeling opportunities as well as the chance to see blue-footed and Nazca boobies.

Kicker Rock is one of the most extraordinary sites in the Galapagos Islands, made of two eroded volcanic cones that tower over the sea at about 104 meters in the middle of the open water. It is a nesting place of sea birds and a nice spot to take pictures while the vessels circumnavigate around the rock.

Highlights: Snorkeling with sea lions, frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies

Possible Activities: Short hike (less than 0.6 miles/1 km), dinghy ride and / or snorkeling.

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Difficulty: Easy / moderate

Sunday · August 27th



AM: San Cristobal Island - Punta Pitt

We land at the eastern tip of San Cristobal Island this morning. The trail that ascends from the beach provides spectacular views of the shoreline; we can observe frigates, plus a colony of bachelor sea lions. Look around and try to spot here all the species of boobies! After the walk, if conditions are favourable, there is time for a panga ride or do some snorkelling.

Highlights: Sea lions, various shorebirds, sally lightfoot crabs, Nazca boobies, blue-footed boobies, redfooted boobies.

Possible Activities: Hiking and kayaking.

Type of Landing: Wet landing

Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult



PM: San Cristobal Island - Cerro Brujo

In the afternoon following lunch on board, a dinghy ride along the shores of tuff-stone layers takes us to Cerro Brujo's expansive, white coral beach, great for walking, with rewarding birdwatching featuring seabirds and shore birds. Also, look out for Galapagos sea lions. These are the same shores that Charles Darwin walked upon, back in September 1835. You will love this white-coral beach.

Highlights: sea lions, various shore birds, finches, mockingbirds, tropical fish, and different crabs from the Sally lightfoot.

Possible Activities: Panga ride, swimming, snorkel

Type of Landing: Wet landing

Difficulty: Easy

Monday · August 28th



AM: Floreana Island: Post Office Bay

After breakfast, we will disembark at Post Office Bay (Floreana Island) to visit the historic “Post Office Barrel” that has functioned as a post office in the archipelago for over two centuries! Dinghy rides along the maze of channels over on Floreana’s north shore can also be enjoyed. Views from *La Lobería* and the Baroness Viewpoint are quite rewarding, too. There’s great kayaking and swimming from the beach here as well.

Highlights: Post office barrel, nice sandy beach

Possible Activities: Short hike (less than 0.6 miles/1 km) & snorkeling

Type of Landing: Wet landing

Difficulty: Easy



PM: Floreana Island: Cormorant Point / Devil's Crown

Cormorant Point - This site hosts a large flamingo lagoon where other birds such as common stilts and white-cheeked pintails can also be seen. The beaches on this island are distinct: The “Green Beach” named so due to its green color, which comes from a high percentage of olivine crystals in the sand, and the “Four Sand Beach” composed of white coral.

Devil’s Crown boasts one of the finest snorkeling opportunities. Below the surface are amazing volcanic structures that have submerged over time. Hundreds of colorful fish species can be seen along the reef, along with sharks, rays, sea turtles, sea lions, and rays. It’s a beautiful underwater spectacle that cannot be missed.

Highlights: Flamingos, green-colored beach
Possible Activities: Dinghy ride & hike (1.2 miles /2 km)
Type of Landing: Wet landing
Difficulty: Easy

Tuesday · August 29th



AM: Santa Cruz Island: Black Turtle Cove

Black Turtle Cove is located on the north side of the island and is only accessible by boat and with a guide. This shallow inlet is surrounded by mangroves and provides natural protection for a variety of marine life, attracting the vulnerable juveniles of many species. Below the surface of the water, you can see both blacktip and whitetip reef sharks, sea turtles, golden cownose rays, spotted eagle rays, and an occasional hammerhead shark. Pelicans and Boobies hunt here, diving gracefully into the water.

Highlights: Hammerhead sharks babies, rays, sea turtles, sea birds
Possible Activities: 2 hour panga ride
Type of Landing: no landing
Difficulty: Easy

After this last visit, transfer to Baltra airport for your flight to Guayaquil.

Disembark in Baltra

Galapagos Islands, Baltra Airport to Guayaquil, Jose Joaquin de Olmedo Airport

LATAM Airlines (LA)

LA Carrier / Flight	Depart GPS •	Arrive GYE •
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Transfer in from Guayaquil airport to your hotel



Hotel del Parque - Guayaquil, Ecuador

593 4-500-0111

Av Rio Esmeraldas, Guayaquil, Ecuador 092301

Image credits: Hotel Del Parque on <https://maps.google.com/maps/contrib/107918869639077100224>

Aug 29

Check-in

Aug 31

Check-out

2 nights

Duration

Wednesday · August 30th



Full Day Hacienda La Danesa

Notes

Today, you will enjoy a full day at a Cocoa Farm. Hacienda La Danesa is a private ranch located in Ecuador's green coastal region, east of the Guayaquil and near the Andean foothills.

It has been owned by the Olsen Peet family for more than 50 years and its 1,200 acres produce fine cacao, teak, 2,000 liters of milk per day, fresh cheese and pinto quarter horses. Food is a highlight at Hacienda La Danesa — fresh cheese, vegetables, and fruits are served in the al fresco restaurant, and picnics can be arranged.

After this day full of adventures end you will return to Guayaquil to overnight and rest in your hotel

Private transfer out from Hotel del Parque to Jose Joaquin de Olmedo airport

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ECUADOR (updated February 17th, 2023)

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

Galagents / Cruise: + 593 98 8404081

Maite Paz / Contact for any emergency you might have: + 593 99 992 5147

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ECUADOR & GALAPAGOS:

As of February 17th, 2023

We would like to let you know the good news that the Ecuadorian authorities have relaxed the rules and paperwork for passengers arriving in the country from today. The rules are now:

- Passengers **do not** have to fill out the Health Declaration form before or on arrival.
- Only passengers with the following symptoms need do so: high temperature, cough, general malaise, loss of smell or taste, or cutaneous eruptions. The form can be filled in online (<https://declaracionsalud-viajero.msp.gob.ec/>) or on arrival on paper.

As a reminder, it is **not necessary** to present proof of vaccinations, or any COVID-19 test certificates, to enter Ecuador.

Furthermore, **mask wearing is no longer mandatory anywhere in Ecuador**, except in hospitals and medical centers. We recommended guests wear masks when using transport services such as vehicles or airplanes.

Notes for Galapagos entry:

- A Galapagos Transit Control Card will need to be completed online (or at the airport) before the flight (we have already taken care of this for you)
- A travel insurance certificate is required.

PACKING LIST:

Long pants trousers that are suitable for trekking. Ideally, they should be of lightweight and quick-dry material. Pants with zip-legs that convert to shorts are especially handy in all weather.

Shorts for everyday use when the sun is shining in Galápagos.

T-shirts quick-dry sports t-shirts are ideal, otherwise cotton is fine too.

Long sleeve light shirt something light to protect from the sun and/or mosquitos or cover you up at night.

Light sweater and fleece for the chilly evening, Nights can get a bit colder.

Underwear & Socks no explanation needed, I hope

Waterproof Jacket protection from Galapagos and Amazon showers

Swimsuit suitable for swimming / snorkeling and sun-bathing. It's worth bringing along a spare too as you'll be in the water every day while in Galapagos.

Sun hat nothing spoils a vacation more than red sunburn. The Andean and Galapagos sun burns skin quickly, even on cloudy days, so wide-rim hats offer the best protection.

Smart evening wear this one's optional.

Shoes – a pair of either hiking or tennis shoes are fine. They should be comfortable for trekking, and in sturdy condition to tackle rough terrain. Walking Sandals for me these are indispensable! Flexible and comfy for both trekking and the beach. They also keep air flowing to keep your feet nice and cool.

Extra Cash: There may be costs that you will have to pay in cash. You will also need cash for tipping your guides and crew and for buying souvenirs. You will have access to ATM machines but as a backup we also recommend bringing a debit card, some extra cash and a credit card.

Others – Sunglasses, camera, sun protection cream (very important), insect repelent, toiletries, passport, any medicine you might be taking. Small water-resistant daypack to carry camera gear and other equipment during Amazon and island walks.