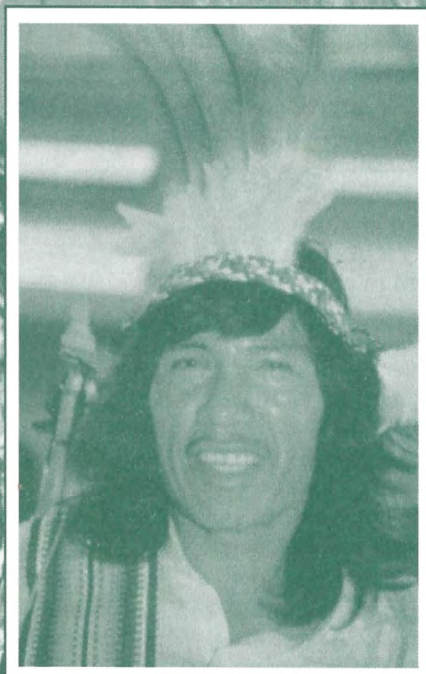


AMAZON & ANDES

with ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

QUITO to RIO (or vice versa)
9 weeks 5,500 miles
(9,000kms)

**ECUADOR, COLOMBIA,
 VENEZUELA, BRAZIL**



ITINERARY GUIDELINE

QUITO-RIO

Week 1: Across the equator, to Indian markets and colonial towns of the northern Andes. Colombia, San Agustín & 5,000 year old stonework in the Valley of the Statues.

Week 2: The Magdalena valley to Bogotá. Cucuta—forest & mountain resorts of the Cordillera, to Caribbean beaches at Cartagena.

Week 3: Venezuela—City of Caracas & beaches of the Caribbean. Motorised canoes to delta islands in the mouths of the Orinoco.

Week 4: The Orinoco, & Ciudad Bolívar on the Angostura narrows. (To Angel Falls).

Week 5: Tepuys and mesas of the Gran Sabana jungle. To Brazil, the equator again—and the Amazon at Manaus.

Week 6: Small boats & on foot along the banks and backwaters of the Amazon & Rio Negro. River barge & ferry on the Rio Madeira towards Porto Velho.

Week 7: Porto Velho, southern boom town of Amazonia's future or destruction. To Mato Grosso forests & the wildlife of the Pantanal marshes.

Week 8: From Pantanal to frontier farmlands of the Brazilian plateau.

Week 9: Capital Brasilia, the gold rush town of Ouro Preto, and the Siren call of Rio de Janeiro.

RIO-QUITO

Week 1: Rio to Petropolis, the gold rush town of Ouro Preto & the new capital of Brasilia.

Week 2: Frontier farmlands of the Brazilian plateau into the Pantanal marshes.

Week 3: Wildlife of the Pantanal marshes to forests of the Mato Grosso. Porto Velho—river boom town on fringes of the Amazon.

Week 4: River barge & ferry down the Rio Madeira to the Amazon and Manaus. Small boats & on foot along banks and backwaters of the Amazon & Rio Negro from Manaus.

Week 5: North across the equator to Venezuela, the Tepuys and mesas of the Gran Sabana jungle.

Week 6: Ciudad Bolívar on the Angostura narrows of the Orinoco. (To Angel Falls). Motorised canoe to delta islands in the mouths of the Orinoco.

Week 7: From the Orinoco to beaches of the Caribbean & the city of Caracas. To Colombia and Cartagena.

Week 8: To Cucuta—forest & mountain resorts of the Andean Cordillera, and Bogotá.



Week 9: The Magdalena valley to San Agustín & 5,000 year old stonework in the Valley of the Statues. Ecuador, to Indian markets and colonial towns of the northern Andes, the southern hemisphere again to Quito.





HIGHLIGHTS & ROUTE:

ECUADOR & COLOMBIA

Quito, most attractive of South American capitals lies within 16 miles/25 kms of the equator. But at an altitude of 9,400ft/2,900m it enjoys a year round Spring climate. North through Guayllabamba gorge & Ecuador's dairylands to Indian town of Otavalo & its weekly fair—shawls and ponchos, pottery & livestock, food & cock-fights. Volcanic heights of the northern Andes

to Popayan, old colonial town & precolumbian pyramid. San Agustin & Valley of the Statues—hundreds of rough hewn stone figures; of animals, gods and men—eerie relics of an ancient Indian culture from 3300BC, of which nothing more is known. The towns and warm tropical climates of the Magdalena valley; agave and bamboo, palm and sugar cane. Then upwards, to the high plateau of Colombia & Bogota at 8,600ft/2,600m. The Gold Museum holds thousands of priceless Inca artifacts that escaped the plundering Conquistadors and their quest for El Dorado. North to the Caribbean coast and Cartagena with its colonial fortress and beaches.

VENEZUELA

To Merida and hill resorts in the cool forested slopes of the Cordillera, last fingers of the long Andes. Caracas, perched in a rift of the coastal ranges is South America's most modern capital. Museums and cathedrals measure the country's past, the new city stays up late—with cafes, restaurants and a nightlife to match any taste. Drive the warm Caribbean shoreline to Cumana. Founded in 1520 this sea port is the continent's oldest Hispanic city. Beyond are quiet fishing villages and the best of Venezuela's beaches. Next inland to Caripe & the Guacharo caves. Discovered by Humboldt, the chain of underground caverns have been penetrated for 6 miles (10km) along a clear flowing stream. Some 30,000 blind, hawk-like guacharo birds

live in the first series of caves, streaming out at dusk to feed through the night on oil-palm fruit. To Barrancas where the Orinoco widens into its delta of marshland and islands. By motorised canoe (3 days) along the delta waterways, to Indian villages and hidden wildlife among the tidal canos inlets, camping at night on the islands. Drive to Ciudad Bolivar at the foot of the Guyana Highlands. Ocean vessels ply 240 miles/400 kms up the fast flowing Orinoco to dock here, its markets trade in gold from the highlands and beyond. (Optional flight to Angel Falls, approx US\$100. Streams gather on the table top of Auyan Tepui to leap its rim and drop 3,200 vertical feet (980m) into the jungle below. Highest falls in the world, unknown until 1937 when they were spotted from the air). To the interior, and tracks through the Gran Sabana—of jungle hung Tepuys and flat-topped mountains, high waterfalls and the distant view of Mt Roraima. To primeval forests and the Serra Pacaraima—Amazon divide where rivers must decide to flow north to the Orinoco or south into the Amazon.

BRAZIL

To Boa Vista and the Rio Branco, isolated ferry crossings and dirt tracks on loan from the pressing jungle. Then Manaus, great trading port in the heart of the river system where the oily black waters of the Rio Negro slowly fuse with the massive flow of the Amazon, 5 miles/8 kms across. Built on the wave of the 19th century rubber boom, Manaus declined until the advent of the Trans Amazon road. The famous opera house is restored, museums show the rise and fall of fortune, and a rubber factory demonstrates the process that started it all.

South from Manaus the road is lost to nature's brilliant regeneration. We travel by riverboat and its truck-carrying barge slowly up the Rio Madeira. Nights in hammocks on deck, days of measured tropical pace. To Porto Velho, roads to the outside world and all development's dilemmas. By river boat up the tributaries of the Rio Madera to untouched forest and foot trails into the exotic canopy of Amazonia. The Pantanal marshes & Mato Grosso—vast territory of legends, malaria, myth and adventure. A balancing act of the wild and the worldly. Ocelot, anteaters & wildcat rustle the grasses, river banks teem with alligators, cattle graze uneasily. Cuiaba and the redsoil uplands of the Brazilian plateau to Brasilia—new federal capital of sweeping avenues & futuristic buildings, architecture at odds with its remote surroundings. To Ouro Preto, built on dreams and sacks of fortune in the fierce labour of open gold pits. And then, in sudden descent from the highlands

and all of nature's hard reality, the embracing and seductive arms of Rio de Janeiro. Bays and islands, soft warmth and pleasures—in the most spectacular setting of all cities.

PLEASE NOTE

The above is intended as a guide only and to indicate a typical itinerary and its highlights. While our intention is to adhere to this, it should be understood that group interests and wishes together with the constraints of weather, road conditions and local restrictions can alter our exact route, its activities and timings.

DELAYS OR FORCED ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

The possibility of some delay en route is planned into this project and we usually arrive on time. But, by the very nature of the journey, it should be recognised that longer delays outside our control can still happen. Although these are rare in South America, it is still suggested that you do not make any firm commitments within 6 days of the scheduled end date of the expedition. If we are delayed en route, no additional payments to Encounter Overland will be asked of you.

Major forced changes to our expeditions are also rare in South America. When they do happen it is usually because of border closures, natural disasters or civil insurrection making it impossible or imprudent to enter an affected country or region. In the worst of cases this could involve an overflight or sea passage. If this were to happen, Encounter Overland would meet the first US\$300 per person of the fare. Should more than this be needed, a contribution from you of up to (but not exceeding) US\$300 would be required. Any further amount beyond this would again be met by Encounter Overland.

GROUP SIZE & STAFF

24 max including EO staff. Plus local guides in Orinoco delta & on the Rio Madera from Porto Velho.



PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The project has few significant physical demands other than those imposed by a travelling lifestyle in the hot and very humid conditions of the Amazon.

INCLUDED IN EXPEDITION COST

Transport, food (except as noted under Meals Cooking & Food below), camping equipment & supplies. Hotels in Caracas & Manaus. Local guides, entrance fees & activities as detailed from published starting date of expedition until arrival in Quito or Rio. There are no kitties or similar en route payment funds.

EXPEDITION COST DOES NOT COVER

Flights to/from Rio/Quito, transfers to/from airports & airport taxes, meals in Caracas & Manaus (see Meals, Cooking & Food below), vaccinations, visas, personal insurance, laundry, snacks, drinks, personal clothing/equipment & items of a personal nature. Some entry fees to museums and sights (minimal cost), and optional flight from Ciudad Bolivar over Angel Falls (approx US\$100).

EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED

Standard EO truck equipment including 2 person tents, campbeds, kitchen/dining tent, tables & stools, light, cooking equipment & utensils, mosquito nets, first aid kit etc. Lightweight tents/bivouacs & cooking equipment on Orinoco delta and on Amazon/Rio Madera river project.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING

Medium/lightweight sleeping bag; an easily portable soft bag or backpack and a daypack. Personal clothing and strong footwear. No specialised clothing or equipment is necessary. You probably already have most of what is needed. A complete suggested clothing list is included in our pre-departure information.

TRANSPORT

EO expedition truck, motorised longboats/canoes in Orinoco delta, river ferry boat and barge Manaus—Porto Velho, riverboat and on foot Rio Madera/Amazon jungle project from Porto Velho.

ACCOMMODATION

Traveller's hotels in Caracas & Manaus (3 nights each). Hammocks on sheltered deck on river ferry Manaus to Porto Velho (approx 4 nights). Otherwise camping throughout. Almost exclusively open or "bush" camping with no facilities other than standard EO truck equipment. Basic camping/bivouacs on Orinoco delta islands (2 nights) and on Amazon/Rio Madera jungle project from Porto Velho (3 nights).

MEALS, COOKING & FOOD

Camp cooked breakfast & evening meals, picnic lunches. Expedition members involved in daily fresh food shopping & cooking. (Fresh vegetables, fruit, meat, eggs, bread, cereals, cheese, preserves, canned & dried goods).

Meals in major centres—Caracas & Manaus (3 nights each)

Days spent in these cities relaxing or in individual sightseeing cannot easily revolve around group meals so meals here are at your own expense. We suggest you allow US\$15 per day in these cities, or a total of US\$90. (If we are delayed in any of these cities, Encounter Overland will arrange and meet meal costs extending beyond the initial three nights).

PASSPORTS & VISAS

You will need a passport that is valid for not less than 6 months after the end of the expedition, and which contains not less than 8 blank pages. Visa requirements and costs vary according to your nationality, and even then



are subject to sudden change. Some visas need to be obtained before departure, others en route. EO or your agent can advise you of all the up to date visa requirements applicable to you, and their costs. We can also help you in obtaining any visas you may require before departure. Visas en route are applied for as a group with the assistance of your leader/driver. When considering the overall financial cost to you of joining this expedition, we suggest you use the Other Costs/Expenses column at the end of this dossier to note your visa & other expenses.

INSURANCE & MEDICAL

Everyone must have individual personal travel insurance. Various policies are available, but they must include a minimum of £20,000 or US\$50,000 for medical, hospital and additional expenses including emergency repatriation. Insurance should also cover 'cancellation and curtailment', and personal effects.

You will need to obtain vaccination against Yellow Fever. Several other vaccinations are strongly recommended though not required by law for travel in South America. Their up to date details are given in our pre-departure information. Malaria pills are supplied on the expedition.

PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY

To cover personal day to day expenditure en route—drinks, snacks, laundry, souvenirs, optional activities, some museum entry fees etc. Interesting collectibles and ethnic crafts can be tempting in South America. Their cost and posting them home may not be. Apart from this, and your en route visas, EO has no hidden expenses, funds or kitties to surprise your spending money in South America.

(When you're in Quito it's a perfect opportunity to fly to the Galapagos Islands for a few days. But the cost of a week's trip including flights & a boat around the islands is going to be approx £800/US\$1200, purchasable locally in Quito. Most credit cards are accepted, but the bill might get home quicker than you).

ARRIVING AND LEAVING

We recommend that you arrive in Rio or Quito at least 3 days before the expedition departure date to allow yourself time to acclimatise and get over intercontinental flights. Rio & Quito are both fascinating cities, in very different ways. It is safe to say that even a week in each is

never time lost or wasted. Even though serious delays en route are unlikely, we would prefer that you not have any firm commitments for up to 6 days after scheduled expedition completion date.

COMBINATIONS & CONNECTING PROJECTS

“Amazon & Andes” connects with the “Conquistador” (From Quito to Lima, Santiago & Rio—or vice versa) exploring the Andes & Inca heartlands of Peru & Bolivia, the Atacama desert, Chile, the Patagonian lakes & alps, Argentine pampas, Paraguay & southern Brazil. Put together they form the “South American Circle”—you might therefore be travelling with some group members who are continuing their travels on the “South America Circle”. Or if you have less time, it connects with the “Trans Andean Explorer” from Quito to Santiago or vice versa. This is a 9 week expedition through the Andes and the Inca heartland.

INTERESTING READING

100 Years of Solitude (Gabriel Garcia Marquez), The Drunken Forest (Gerald Durrel), Into the Heart (Kenneth Good). A full list of recommended reading in history, guidebooks and fiction is given in our pre-departure information.



CLIMATE

Warm days/cool nights in highland Ecuador & Colombia.

Hot days/hot nights Venezuela & Brazil.

Heaviest rain March/April & Oct/Nov.

AGENT'S STAMP

OTHER COSTS/EXPENSES

Return flights
Visas
Vaccinations
Insurance
Personal Spending Money

TOTAL_____

Northern Andes in Ecuador & Colombia

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CELSIUS	High	19	20	19	19	19	18	18	18	19	19	19	19
	Low	9	9	10	11	11	11	10	10	9	10	10	9
FAHRENHEIT	High	67	68	67	67	66	65	64	65	66	66	66	66
	Low	48	49	50	51	51	51	50	50	49	50	50	49
Relative Humidity		51%	53%	54%	57%	58%	56%	56%	54%	54%	61%	64%	56%
Rainfall in mm		58	66	102	147	114	61	51	56	61	160	119	66

Table for Northern Andes at 9,00ft/2,800m. Colder at higher altitude

Amazon & Savannah in Venezuela & Brazil

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CELSIUS	High	31	31	31	31	31	31	32	33	33	33	33	32
	Low	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
FAHRENHEIT	High	88	88	88	87	88	88	89	91	92	92	91	90
	Low	75	75	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	76	76	75
Relative Humidity		70%	71%	72%	73%	72%	68%	64%	59%	57%	59%	63%	68%
Rainfall in mm		249	231	262	221	170	84	58	38	46	107	142	203