



# Educational Tours



## ECO-CITIZENSHIP IN ECUADOR'S AMAZON BASIN

10-14 days

### MEANINGFUL. SUSTAINABLE. UNFORGETTABLE.

Venture into the heart of Ecuador's lush Amazonian rainforest, where you'll find one of the world's most diverse ecosystems. You'll discover an incredible variety of plants and animals unique to the forest, and witness the impact that deforestation is having there. Together with Free The Children, an award-winning international charity, you'll work with indigenous communities building sustainable solutions to the education, healthcare and agricultural challenges they face.

15

Estimated service hours

#### YOUR SERVICE PROJECT THEMES

We work with the award-winning charity Free The Children to better understand the needs of each community and then focus projects on those issues. Themes include:

- Education
- Health
- Clean Water and Sanitation
- Alternative Income and Livelihood
- Agriculture and Food Security

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10-14 days, estimated 15 service hours

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## What to expect on this Service Learning Tour

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### MEANINGFUL SERVICE

Working side by side with locals, you'll gain insight into the challenges they face and build lasting solutions to help empower the community.

#### Projects include:

- Building and restoring projects in school communities so local students have a safe place to learn
- Constructing public hand-washing stations and latrines to improve sanitation
- Planting medicinal gardens to support the health and wellness of the community

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### CULTURAL IMMERSION

Live near the communities you serve—celebrating customs and forming lasting connections with locals.

#### Activities include:

- Playing soccer games with local kids
- Discussing chocolate production at a nearby cacao plantation
- Learning Spanish and practicing with locals
- Visiting a shaman, a local healer who uses natural remedies to improve the health of community members

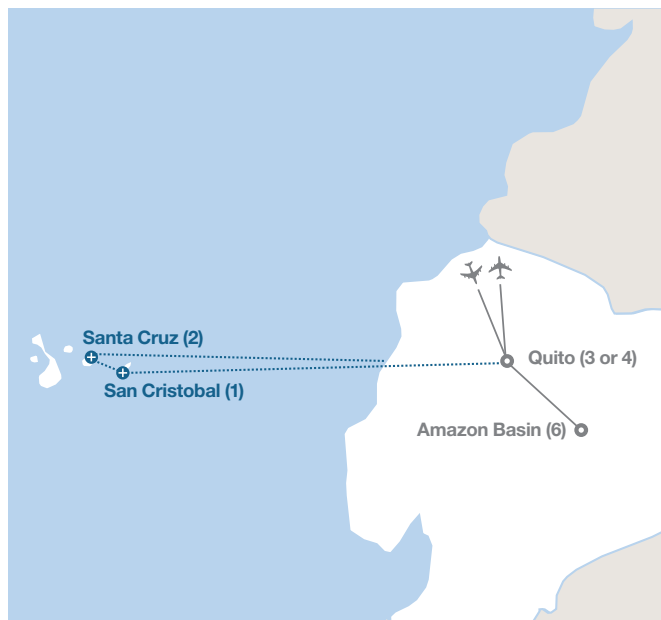
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### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Your Field Director takes your global service experience even further, developing and strengthening leadership skills through activities and workshops.

#### Exercises include:

- Investigating global issues, exploring social issues and building leadership skills in expert-led workshops
- Contextualizing the day's events through thoughtful discussion and group dialogue
- Reflective journaling to deepen the service experience





Students work together constructing the floor of a new classroom for local children



Students carry construction materials from the river canoes to their service project site

## 10-DAY ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrive in Quito

Meet your Field Director at the airport.

### Day 2: Quito

Take a guided tour of historic Quito, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site.

- Tour the Intiñan Solar Museum and witness the natural forces at work near the equator.

### Day 3: Transfer to the Amazon Basin

– After a scenic drive through the Amazon Basin, boat up Napo River to the Minga Lodge. Once you're settled in, you'll meet for an in-depth community orientation.

### Days 4-8: Service Project—Amazon Basin

As communities evolve so do their needs. That's why we work closely with Free The Children to better understand local challenges. Since projects are determined closer to your actual tour date, here's a glimpse at what a typical day might look like.

- Each morning, you'll begin your service projects in a nearby village.
- Spend afternoons immersed in cultural activities.
- Evenings are a chance for reflection, group discussions and global leadership workshops.

### Day 9: Return to Quito

### Day 10: Depart for home

### ➦ Add days 10-14: Galápagos Islands

#### Day 10: Fly to Baltra

– Fly to Baltra and continue to Santa Cruz island, the second largest of the Galápagos Islands.

- At the Charles Darwin Research Station, see the breeding center for the giant tortoises from which the islands took their name.

### Days 11-12: San Cristobal Island

- Enjoy a full-day boat excursion to another Galápagos Islands where you'll experience the nature and wildlife.
- Visit Rancho El Manzanillo to enjoy a turtle watching experience
- Participate in a snorkeling activity

### Day 13: Fly to Quito

### Day 14: Depart for home



## LOCAL INSIGHT AND SUPPORT

Your Field Director deepens your connection to the land, people and culture. With local perspective on community challenges and skilled training in service leadership, they'll provide insight and global context, as they:

- Lead skill-building workshops and meaningful group reflections
- Connect you with local non-profits and nearby villages
- Facilitate group orientation and safety training
- Handle all on-tour details, from meals to transportation



**Everything you get:** 9 overnight stays, 13 with extension; Round-trip flights on major carriers; Daily breakfast and dinner; Lunch on days 2-9, 11-12; Local ground transportation; Full-time Field Director; Sustainable service project with Free The Children; Service hours that count towards academic credit; Sightseeing tours led by expert guides; Entrance fees



A local cacao farmer demonstrates to students how chocolate is made



Students nail boards into place to finalize the flooring of the new school



Students transport rocks and materials to the project site in order to build a water latrine

## Your partners in global education

### EF EDUCATIONAL TOURS

For over 50 years, EF has worked with educators across the world to help millions of students become citizens of the world through one global mission: Opening the World Through Education. With more than 500 schools and offices in over 50 countries, our staff can respond in person wherever you are, 24 hours a day. We're also an accredited educational institution, offering students the option to earn high school and college credit.

### ME TO WE

ME to WE is an innovative social enterprise that provides people with better choices for a better world. It measures the bottom line—not by annual dollars earned, but by the number of lives changed and the positive social and environmental impact made. Half of ME to WE's annual net profit is donated to the Free The Children charity, and the remainder is reinvested to further the social mission of their enterprise.

### START PLANNING

To enroll on this tour, ask your teacher for the tour number and visit [eftours.com/enroll](http://eftours.com/enroll) or call 800-665-5364