

2018 Save the Rainforest Course at the Rio Canandae Coastal Rainforest Reserve and the Galapagos Islands in collaboration with the Jocotoco Foundation. The Jocotoco Foundation contributes to the conservation of Ecuador's more important and endangered ecosystems by establishing private reserve, which provide the last best refuge for endangered birds and other important rainforest species. The Rio Canandae Reserve in particular provides protection for the vulnerable Long Wattled Umbrella Bird, the rare Coastal Spider Monkey and new species of frogs for science among others.

Day 1: Travel from U.S. and arrival at the Quito, Ecuador airport, and transfer to hotel in Quito, Ecuador.

Day 2: Travel from Quito, Ecuador up and over the western flank of the Andes Mountains—with a stop at the Middle of the World Monument and down to the coastal Rio Canandae Reserve, owned and managed by the Jocotoco Foundation, which supports conservation of the last major coastal tropical rainforests remaining in Ecuador. Settle into cabins, dinner and night time orientation to course and this reserve. We will see a great variety of different ecosystems, mountain towns and coastal farms on this trip.

Day 3: Introductory morning walk in the rainforest for a short collection activity, and observation of the forest.

Afternoon: Our study group will contribute to Jocotoco's ongoing ecosystem restoration work with an afternoon reforestation activity.

Day 4: All day walk in the rainforest to visit mature phase forest—here there will be opportunities to view some rare birds, coastal howler monkeys among other interesting species. Here you will get a chance to really stretch your legs.

Day 5 Morning: Contribute to ongoing seed trap research in the reserve.

Afternoon: humming bird observation and photography. Orientation and preparation for trip to Chachi Community. A swim in a nearby river.

Day 6: Trip to Chachi community—Cultural presentation

Afternoon walk to visit Chachi farms and forest. Swim in the river.

Day 7: Return to Canandae Reserve and return travel to Quito. Scenic stops along the way for photography of the Andes mountains and forests.

Galapagos Portion of trip

Day 8: Early morning trip to Quito airport for flight to Galapagos. Settle into hotel on Galapagos and lunch.

Afternoon—introductory snorkel trip at the Loberia “Sea Lion Bay.”

Day 9: Trip over to opposite side of the island for snorkeling, coastal marine bird observation and short walks at Puerto Chino. On the way we will visit the El Junco Volcano—highest point on the island and only fresh water lake and have guided tour of the San Cristobol Galapagos Tortoise Reproduction Facility.

Day 10: Day snorkeling trip to visit the spectacular Cerro Brujo Beach, Sleeping Lion Rock (for snorkeling with four species of sharks), and sea lion island.

Day 11: Trip to the highlands to visit a local farm and to participate in some possible reforestation work.

Day 12: Trip to San Cristobol Interpretive center and to Tijaretta Bay-the first site where Charles Darwins ship 'The Beagle' set anchor. Return walk along Cliff trail to Carol's point and Love Beach—both good for snorkeling and for observing Marin Iguanas.

Day 13: Return to Quito Ecuador and final dinner the the historic colonial district.

Day 14: Return to the United States.

What to Bring:

Recommendations:

Bring clothing for fairly warm weather-shorts, t-shirts and light long pants or light long sleeve shirts, and a médium jacket or sweater for Quito, Ecuador which can have night temperatures around 50 degrees.

Bring a couple sets of swimming suits for Galapagos as we will be in the ocean nearly every day.

Bring lots of sun screen!!!

Insect Repellent!

Digital Cameras

Optional

Binoculars-for better views of distant wildlife at the Canandae Reserve, on the Galapagos you can have very close views of all types of animals.

(We can rent snorkels and fins on Galapagos, and life jackets are provided on the boat trip-if you have your own shorkel bring it along.)'

Optional- If you have a light wet-suit bring it along, otherwise can be rented on San Cristobol.

