

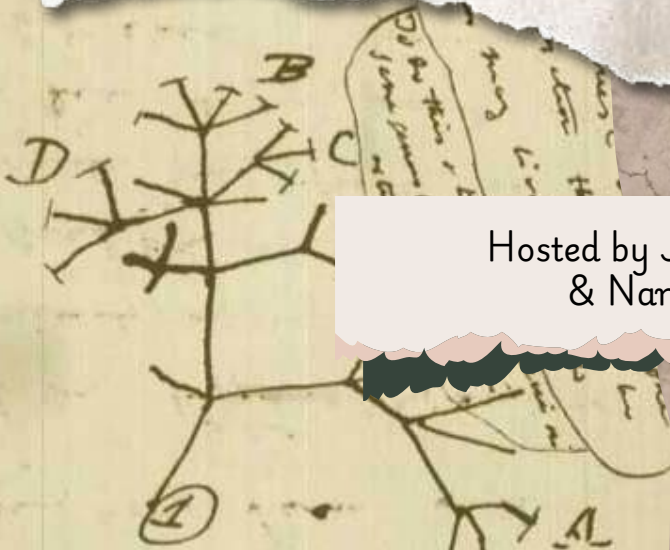
DEC 27, 2025 - JAN 4, 2026

2025



The graphic features a dark blue background with a gold border. On the left is a stylized illustration of Charles Darwin's head and shoulders, with a white beard and a brown suit. To the right of the portrait, the words "EVOLUTION TOUR" are written in a large, white, serif font with a gold outline, slanted upwards. Below this, the words "AMAZON JUNGLE" are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The text and portrait are surrounded by decorative gold floral and leaf patterns. A piece of yellow paper is taped over the top right corner of the graphic.

Hosted by Jon Perry ([Stated Clearly](#))  
& Nancy Miorelli ([SciBugs](#))



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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<i>About this trip</i>	1
<i>Quick Overview</i>	2
<i>Map</i>	3
<i>Important info</i>	4
<i>Your Hosts</i>	5-7
<i>Package Details</i>	8
<i>Summary of Places</i>	9-10
<i>Itinerary</i>	11-13
<i>What to Expect</i>	14-15
<i>General Advice about Ecuador</i>	16-19
<i>Don't Just Take Our Word</i>	20-21



## ABOUT THIS TRIP

It's no coincidence that **Charles Darwin**, **Alexander Humboldt** & **Alfred Russel Wallace** first began to understand evolution while exploring the rich tangle of life found in the tropics.

Explore the rainforest with an intimate and small group of like minded nature and science enthusiasts who just want to learn about Ecuador's ecosystems and peoples. We'll get in the thick of it; surrounded by incredible wildlife, expansive ecosystems, and enthusiastic locals.

You will meet hundreds of species including birds, mammals, insects and fish. You will witness as they play out their lives the spectacular drama that Darwin called *"The struggle for existence."*

Join **Nancy Miorelli** (SciBugs) & **Jon Perry** (Stated Clearly) on this 8 day all inclusive tour that covers three of Ecuador's unique ecosystems.



**PARAMO**



**CLOUD FOREST**



**AMAZON**



## QUICK OVERVIEW

We'll start with a couple days in Ecuador's capital city Quito riding gondolas up the neighboring mountains, getting a sneak peek of our destinations at the botanical gardens, and meeting some of the amphibians that call Ecuador home.

Then we're off to the Amazon! As we cruise up the Aguarico river and into the Cuyabeno River we'll be greeted by pink river dolphins, toucans, monkeys, and shimmering butterflies. After our time acquainting ourselves with the winding forest trails, medicinal plants, and evolutionary theory, it's back up to the hills for our final day in the cloud forest where tourmaline hummingbirds and opalescent weevils are waiting to greet you.



# EVOTOUR MAP



**QUITO**  
Paramo

**PAPALLACTA**  
Cloud Forest

**CUYABENO RESERVE**  
Amazon

**COCA**  
Gateway to  
the Amazon



## IMPORTANT INFO

REGISTRATION CLOSES **JULY 2025**  
FIRST COME FIRST SERVE!  
SPOTS ARE LIMITED TO 10 PARTICIPANTS!

TRIP DATES:  
DECEMBER 27, 2025 - JAN 3, 2026

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION:  
2,800 USD PER PERSON  
**ALL-INCLUSIVE TOUR PACKAGE!**  
(YOU MUST BE ON THE WAITLIST)  
(AVAILABLE JUNE, 2025)

STANDARD REGISTRATION:  
3,050 USD PER PERSON  
**ALL-INCLUSIVE TOUR PACKAGE!**  
(AVAILABLE JULY, 2025)

(PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE)  
UPGRADES TO SINGLE ACCOMMODATIONS ARE AVAILABLE

[Click here for  
the Packing List](#)

[Click here for the  
Cancellation Policy.](#)

**LET'S GO!**

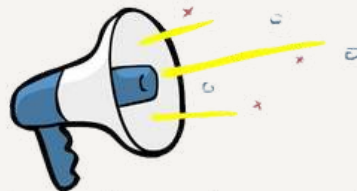
## YOUR HOST: JON PERRY

Jon Perry is a science educator and founder of the YouTube channel "Stated Clearly". There, he works with biologists and biochemists from around the world to produce animations that teach genetics, evolution, and chemistry to the public.

His passion for biology started with a love for wildlife. As a kid, he spent much of his summers camping and exploring the forests of the Great Northwest. For the past 11 years, much of his free time has been spent volunteering, first at the Portland zoo, OR and then at Chintimini Wildlife Center, educating the public about native animals, as well as working directly with the rehabilitation of sick and injured animals.

It's no accident that both Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace independently discovered the process of Natural Selection after visiting our world's tropical forests. Museums, classroom lectures, and YouTube videos are all great ways to learn about evolution, but nothing beats a walk in the jungle!

*Contact:* [Jon@StatedClearly.com](mailto:Jon@StatedClearly.com)



### Stated Clearly

Want a cracker?



## YOUR HOST: SCIBUGS

Nancy Miorelli is a passionate, self-proclaimed, PR representative for insects. While earning her Master's degree at the University of Georgia in Entomology, it became crystal clear that most people did not see insects the way she did.

In attempts to combat this "kill it with fire" mentality, Nancy started several science communication projects including a [YouTube channel](#), and co-founded the blog [Ask an Entomologist](#) which seeks to answer the public's questions about insects using scientific literature and written in a way that is both fun and accessible.

Following her Master's, Nancy flew to the heart of the Ecuadorian cloud forest where she worked in an ecolodge showing tourists the beautiful and hidden world of the smaller majority; leading environmental education programs, guiding tours, and giving natural history presentations featuring insects.

After two years, Nancy traded her leafy green jungle for the concrete jungle of Quito where she designs her own tours under the brand SciBugs which focuses on the interconnectedness of ecology (especially insects), geology, conservation, local culture, and ecotourism. She is licensed in Ecuador and has been working in Tourism since 2015.

**Contact:** [Nancy@SciBugs.info](mailto:Nancy@SciBugs.info)





# About SciBugs Tours



I believe that everything is *connected*. It's **IMPOSSIBLE** to focus on fauna without also exploring the flora. It's impractical to focus on Ecuador's biology and ecology without also understanding the millions of years of geology preceding that shaped Ecuador into what it is today. You can't talk about conservation without also acknowledging that the local people are our most crucial allies in the battle to save Ecuador's diverse ecosystems.

While I have my master's in Entomology (bugs!) the interconnectedness of all these facets - *Tourism, ecology, and conservation* is what I hope to share with you in these tours. You'll get a unique experience exploring not just natural history of the ecosystems we visit but also connect with locals on meaningful levels as they show us their **HOMES**, their conservation **PROJECTS**, and their **WAY OF LIVING** with the Ecuadorian jungles and forests.

I invite you to join me on these purposeful and unique tours of Ecuador exploring the *interconnectedness* of ecology, geology, natural history, conservation, and local life.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- *Evolution classes*
- *Evotour journal & printed slides*
- *All scheduled meals*
- *Drinkable water*
- *Hotels & lodging*
- *Domestic ground transportation*
- *Domestic flights + 1 checked bag*
- *Local guides*
- *Entrance fees*
- *Activity fees*
- *On site doctor for medical assistance*
- *Tips for appropriate staff & guides*

## WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- *Alcoholic beverages*
- *Souvenirs*
- *Laundry service*
- *Extra baggage fees*
- *International airfare*
- *Traveler's insurance*
- *("Cancel for Any Reason") plans are recommended)*
- *CC processing fees*

**LET'S GO!**

# SUMMARY OF PLACES

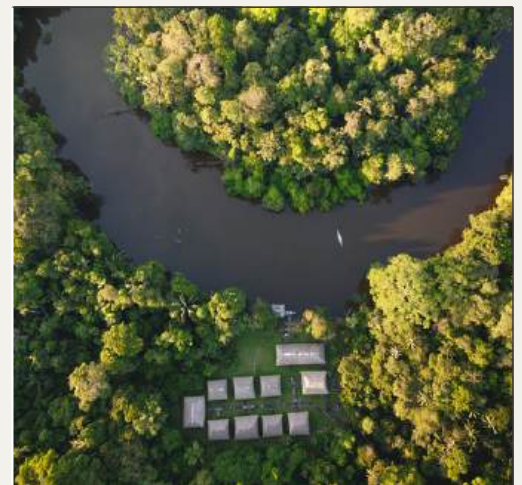
## AMAZON RAINFOREST

### WAITA LODGE

The Cuyabeno reserve, the part of the Amazon Rainforest located near the Colombian border, is home to playful dolphins, chattering macaws, pocket sized monkeys and floating forests! It's the second largest reserve of the national parks in Ecuador, protecting ~6,000 kilometers of pristine Amazon tributaries.

We'll be visiting Waita Lodge and it is truly in the heart of the Amazon. Located three hours upriver by boat, you'll be greeted by dolphins, toucans, turtles, and dragonflies as you make your way up the narrowing Amazon rivers. The tranquil lodge has a balanced mix of water activities including paddle boating and canoe rides, and land based activities. Learn about medicinal plants, follow leaf cutter ant trails, and learn about the people and cultures that live in one of the most beautiful places on earth.

### CUYABENO



## SUMMARY OF PLACES

### CLOUD FOREST

The Cloud forest sits between 4,000 & 8,000ft above sea level and is one of the most biodiverse areas in the world! Hummingbirds that can only be found here flit through the trees and glittering insects wander around the elephant-sized leaves. Oh - and don't forget to look for the orchids. The cloud forest is protected thanks to a patchwork of community efforts.

### VOLCANIC PARAMO

Quito, Ecuador's capital, is surrounded by nature and shrouded in history. The high altitude Paramo ecosystem is where you land when first arriving in Ecuador. Several towering volcanos rise from the outskirts of the city, deserts cover the expansive wastes of the north, while cobblestone roads and golden churches litter the central streets. Above the city skyline is the volcano Pichincha - a beautiful natural refuge housing dozens of unique plant and bird species. And that's just in Quito! Ecuador is covered in volcanoes which you'll see almost at every vantage point we'll be visiting in Ecuador.



LET'S GO!

## ITINERARY

### *Dec 27 // Amazon*

Arrival into Quito. Lodging and transportation to our hotel is included.

### *Dec 28-29 // Beloved Quito*

On our first day we'll explore the botanical gardens and natural history museum to give you a sneak peek of the ecosystems we'll be visiting over the next week. Then it's off to Wikiri - a frog sanctuary and breeding center to learn about one of Ecuador's conservation projects.

On our second day we'll visit the Rumipamba museum to learn about Quito's cultures before the Incan and Spanish invasions. To finish off our Quito adventure, we'll ride the gondolas up the neighboring volcano Pichincha to get a bird's eye view of the city and become acquainted with the high altitude Paramo.

### *Dec 30 // Travel to the Amazon*

Leaving Quito, we'll fly to the small town of Coca where we'll try some palm weevil larvae as a snack at the local market! Then it's a boxed lunch and we make our way up the Aguarico and Cuyabeno rivers to our home away from home deep in the heart of the Amazon.



## ITINERARY

### *Dec 31 - Jan 2 // Amazon Adventure*

The Cuyabeno Reserve is bursting with flora and bustling with fauna. Dolphins dance around the canoe, monkeys howl from their perches, parrots lick clay from the river, frogs call the rains, caimans watch the lagoons, and insects rule the night.

Activities will be conducted depending on the current day's weather. As it tends to rain in the Amazon at least once a day we will schedule the outdoor activities around the rain and around the times the animals tend to be most active.

#### *Scheduled Activities*

- Evolution Classes
- Nature hikes
- Night hikes
- Canoe safaris
- Paddle canoe safaris
- Observation tower
- Traditional New Year's Celebrations

#### *Free Time Activities*

- Paddle boarding
- Piraña Fishing
- Cooking classes

#### *General Schedule*

6:00 am: Birding canoe safari

8:00 am: Breakfast

10:00 am: Waita's scheduled activity

1:30 pm: Lunch

2:30 pm: Free time

6:00 pm: Evolution classes

7:00 pm: Waita's scheduled activity

8:00 pm: Dinner

9:00 pm: Night walk



## ITINERARY

### *Jan 3 // Leaving the Amazon*

Our last day in the Amazon before we have to say goodbye! We'll start off with one final morning activity before making our way to Coca where we'll spend the night at Auca hotel. Auca has a beautiful garden and frequently rescues wildlife. Look out for the tortoises and agutis hanging out on the grounds.

### *Jan 4 // Misty Mountains*

Our day of farewells will start with a flight back to Quito. Then we're off down the mountain to the cloud forest for our last jungle hurrah. Here dwell glass frogs, opalescent beetles, and tourmaline hummingbirds.

*Please note this a generalized itinerary and it is subject to change due to availability or weather. In case of changes, similar accommodations and activities will be substituted.*

*Add-on tours will be made available.*

**LET'S GO!**

## WHAT TO EXPECT

We will be a small group of travelers. The group will be capped at 12 people to ensure an intimate experience with the instructors, local guides, and nature. Learning will happen on and off the trails, both formally and informally from your instructors, guides, and most likely each other!

Think of this trip like summer camp but with way better food! The cabins are simple but comfortable and the hot water for the shower is solar heated.



You'll probably get wet! It is the \*RAIN\*forest after all. You can decide your preferred method of staying dry ... or accepting your fate. By that token, it can also be sunny and hot, so make sure to bring a lot of water and comfortable clothes.

Trail conditions can be muddy and slippery depending on the amount of rain we get during our stay. We'll also be in the hills and at altitude. We recommend you being physically fit enough to do short walks over difficult terrain and up to 2 mile walks on flat terrain.



## WHAT TO EXPECT

We will have two long travel days. The first will be entering the Amazon where we'll leave Quito in the early morning and fly to Coca. We'll then have a 2 hour bus ride to to the pickup point and then a 3 hour canoe ride to the lodge. We'll leave Quito around 7:30am and get to the lodge around 5pm. When we leave the lodge, we'll overnight in Coca. After lunch we'll have our 3hr canoe ride to the pickup point and the 2 hour bus ride to Coca. If you get carsick please anticipate these long bus rides and take the necessary precautions to ensure you have a pleasant voyage. I know it's a trek - but if you want to see amazing animals, you have to go to where they live!

*Most of all -  
you can expect we'll have fun!!!*



## GENERAL ADVICE ABOUT ECUADOR

### *The Altitude*

Quito sits right about 9,000 ft (2,800 m). It's not uncommon for you to feel more tired than usual and you might find a flight of stairs takes your breath away. This is normal - so don't worry! Just take it easy and drink a lot of water!

#### Other Normal Symptoms

- Waking up in the middle of the night
- Getting dehydrated quickly
- Tingly fingers / lips.
- Headaches
- Nausea

\*\*Please note that alcohol may affect you differently than normal at altitude.

Always communicate how you're feeling with your guide. If you need to take a breather just say so!

Vegans and vegetarians may find that they have trouble at altitude. Talk to your travel doctor about taking iron supplements before and during your trip.



## GENERAL ADVICE ABOUT ECUADOR

### *The Weather*

[Click here for the Packing List](#)

While Ecuador is on the equator - only certain parts are warm! Dressing in layers is key. Always bring a jacket with you no matter how sunny it is outside! Weather can change here in an instant.

#### The Highlands:

In the highlands, like Quito and Papallacta, nightly temperatures can drop below 45°F (7°C). During the day, average temperatures are around 70°F (23°C) but the sun is strong! Wear sunscreen even if you normally don't. (take it from someone who's been burned a few too many times). Some mountains like Cotopaxi have snow! If you're planning on going up even some of the smaller volcanoes like Pichincha or through the Papallacta Pass it's best to bring gloves, scarf, and a hat.

#### The Cloud Forest:

Halfway between here and there - the cloud forest is temperate but muggy. At night it can still get cool and the humidity makes it feel colder than it is. During the day it gets up to around 80°F (27°C) and at night can drop down to 50°F (4°C)

#### The Amazon:

When we're in the boats in the amazon you'll want sandals, shorts, and a t-shirt. When walking around in the jungle you'll want long pants as a preventative against insect bites. We'll be provided rain ponchos for our inevitable showers in the rainforest.

Temperatures are a bit warmer in the Amazon ranging from about 70°F (23°C) at night and 90°F (32°C) during the day.

Most hotels do not have heating or air-conditioning in Ecuador.

## GENERAL ADVICE ABOUT ECUADOR

### *What to Wear*



Mountains



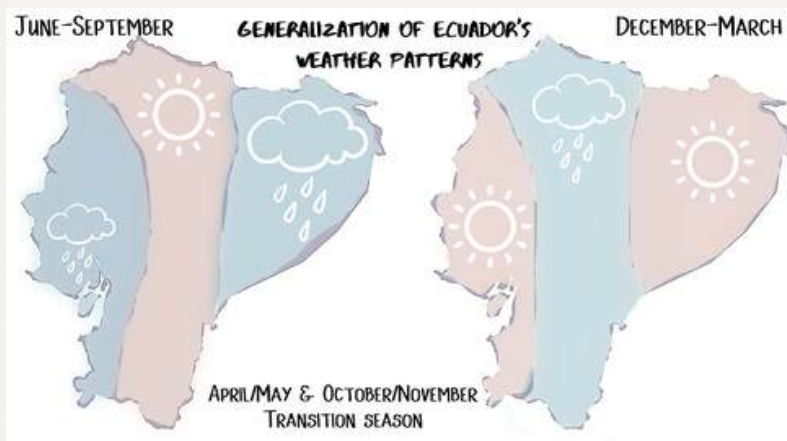
Cloud Forest



Quito



Amazon



### *Insects & Tropical Diseases*

#### The Highlands:

The Andean mountains in the "Sierra" region are devoid of insect vectored diseases. Right now - above 7,000 ft (2,100 m) is completely safe.

#### The Cloud Forest:

Sitting between 4,000 - 8,000 ft (1,200 m - 2,000 m) the cloud forest is relatively safe. There have NOT been reported cases of malaria, dengue fever, chikungunya, yellow fever, or chagas. Rumored cases of leishmaniasis have been mentioned but nothing yet confirmed. Black flies definitely like your ankles - so rubber boots are recommended.

## GENERAL ADVICE ABOUT ECUADOR

### *Insects & Tropical Diseases*

#### The Amazon:

Outbreaks of chikungunya and dengue fever have been reported however it is not a common occurrence.

Malaria: In the area of the Amazon in which we are visiting - cases of Malaria have not been reported in the past ten years.

Yellow Fever: Recent cases of yellow fever have not been reported. You can be vaccinated against yellow fever. If you are visiting other countries (ex. Costa Rica) after Ecuador you may be required to show proof of your vaccination against Yellow Fever. This vaccination is not required to enter Ecuador.

Zika: Only a handful of cases have been reported in Ecuador and only on the coast.

Chiggers: The larval stage of mites. They do not carry any diseases, but having had them myself, are definitely no fun and EASILY preventable. When you get back from the field, take your clothes off and take a shower BEFORE lying in your bed. We'll give you a "chigger prevention chat" at the lodge.

It's always recommended to be cautious!

Visit your doctor to see the latest CDC recommendations. Be up to date on all of your vaccines. Wear protective clothing (long sleeves / long pants) and insect repellent

[Click here for the Packing List](#)

## DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT

From the concrete jungle (NYC) to the world's most biodiverse jungle, there are no words to describe how AMAZING this experience was. Thank you Nancy, Waita Lodge, and my jungle family for the memories.

*~Jeanne S, 2024*

Visiting the Amazon has been a dream of mine for years and this tour made it come true. It has been so much more wonderful than I dared to hope! Seeing so many fascinating species in life which I had only watched on screens before was incredible!

*~Rory, 2023*

Spending time with y'all in the Amazon made me feel like the world was brand new again. The layers upon layers of ecological complexity that you, Jon, and Diego walked us through was jaw dropping, even for someone like me who studies biological complexity for a living.

The layers of logistical complexity behind organizing a trip like this was equally surprising but I think I speak for the whole group in saying that we were always confident that you had everything under control, which let us relax and enjoy the ride.

Thank you so much for a wonderful tour!

*~Farhan, 2024*

## DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT

I came to learn about bugs and went away inspired and immersed in entirely new worlds ancient, moist, and minuscule. You connected us to the Ecuadorian people like I never could have expected.

~ Shane, 2023

Thank you for sharing your knowledge, your experiences, and your kindness. But mostly, Thank you for bringing this group of people together! I have a new family who appreciates me and my uniqueness!

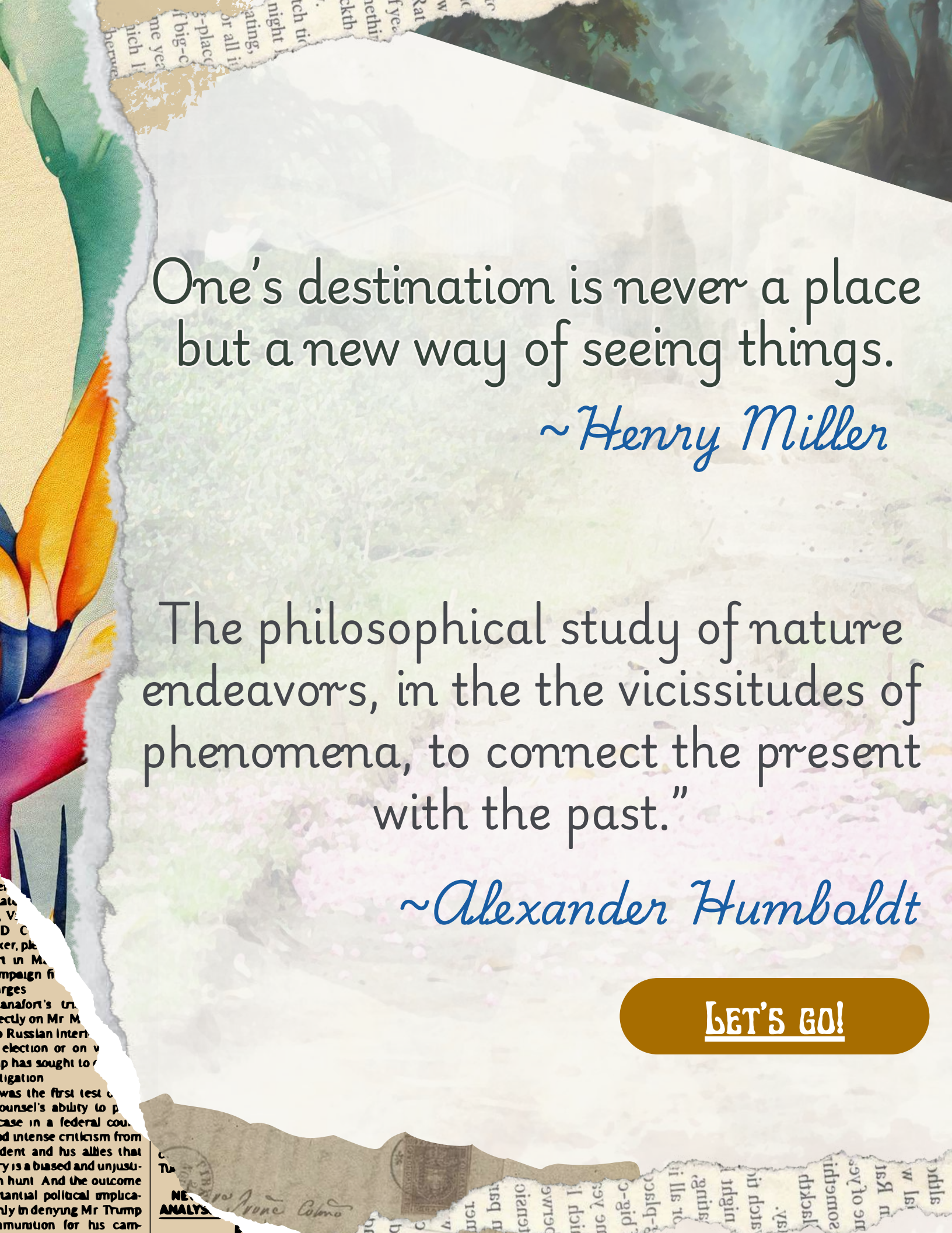
~ Michelle, 2023

This has been the best trip I have ever been on! Thank you so much. To share this experience with a group of like minded people has been deeply encouraging and made this trip more than just a destination.

~ Alex, 2024

Thank you for coordinating this amazing trip. I had the time of my life at every location we visited. Ecuador is a beautiful country with such a rich history an ecology. I will be bragging about this trip for years to come.

~ Brian, 2023



One's destination is never a place  
but a new way of seeing things.

*~ Henry Miller*

The philosophical study of nature  
endeavors, in the the vicissitudes of  
phenomena, to connect the present  
with the past."

*~ Alexander Humboldt*

LET'S GO!