EXPEDITION ECUADOR 2026

ORGANIZED BY

YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE, IN THE JUNGLE!

Join our next expedition if you are passionate about nature, adventure, science, and conservation.

Bothrops pulchra
(Peters, 1862)

If you are looking for an authentic and transformative experience, if you dream of disconnecting from your routine and connecting with a wild world full of life, or if you are a naturalist, biology student, or amateur entomologist eager to experience science first-hand, this expedition is for you.

This is a unique opportunity to join a team of nature lovers and researchers on an adventure where you can enjoy the jungle, learn, share, make a real contribution to science and conservation, and have an experience you will remember for a lifetime.

A UNIQUE DESTINATION FOR ADVENTURE

This 7-night (8-day) adventure will take you to the heart of our mission at the Sumak Kawsay In Situ (SKIS) Reserve and Scientific Station, a 96-hectare sanctuary located at 1400 masl, in Mera Canton, in the province of Pastaza, Ecuador.

More than just a destination, SKIS is a research centre and a "biological hotspot", functioning as a biological corridor that connects two important national parks: Llanganates and Sangay. Here, in a humid tropical climate with one of the country's highest rainfall rates, you will experience a complete immersion in our dense humid and cloud forests.

Our reserve sits on a unique geographical point: an "Ecological Transition Gateway" where the imposing Andes merge with the vast Amazon plain. This location, within the montane forests of the Eastern Cordillera ecoregion, gives us an exceptionally rich biodiversity with high levels of endemism.

Boana almendarizae
(Caminer & Ron, 2014)

An endemic species of the eastern slopes of the Ecuadorian Andes. Photograph taken by Pablo Valero in the SKIS nature reserve.

BASIC DETAILS

Duration: 7 nights.
Price: 2600€ per person. *A 10% discount is available for the first six registrations, students, and groups of at least three people.*
Location: Mera, Prov. of Pastaza, Ecuador.
Dates: 11 to 19 April 2026.
Nearest international airport: Aeropuerto Internacional Mariscal Sucre, Quito.
Language of the expedition: English and Spanish (depending on the group).
Type of accommodation: Tents and inflatable mattress inside a wooden building.
Minimum age: 18 years.
Participants: Between 6 and 11 people.

WHAT WE OFFER

Rothschildia orizaba
Westwood, 1854

Immersion in the Jungle: You will experience a full immersion in the tropical jungle, in safe conditions and with the guidance of our expert team.

Nature Adventures: You will venture into the jungle with treks to hidden waterfalls and enjoy swimming in jungle rivers. We will also go on night excursions, when the jungle is at its most vibrant.

Photography Sessions: You will enjoy nature photography sessions with unique opportunities to capture the impressive local fauna and flora in their habitat. Don't worry if you are a nature photography novice; we have experienced photographers who can give you tips and tricks to get the most out of your equipment, whether it's a smartphone or a camera.

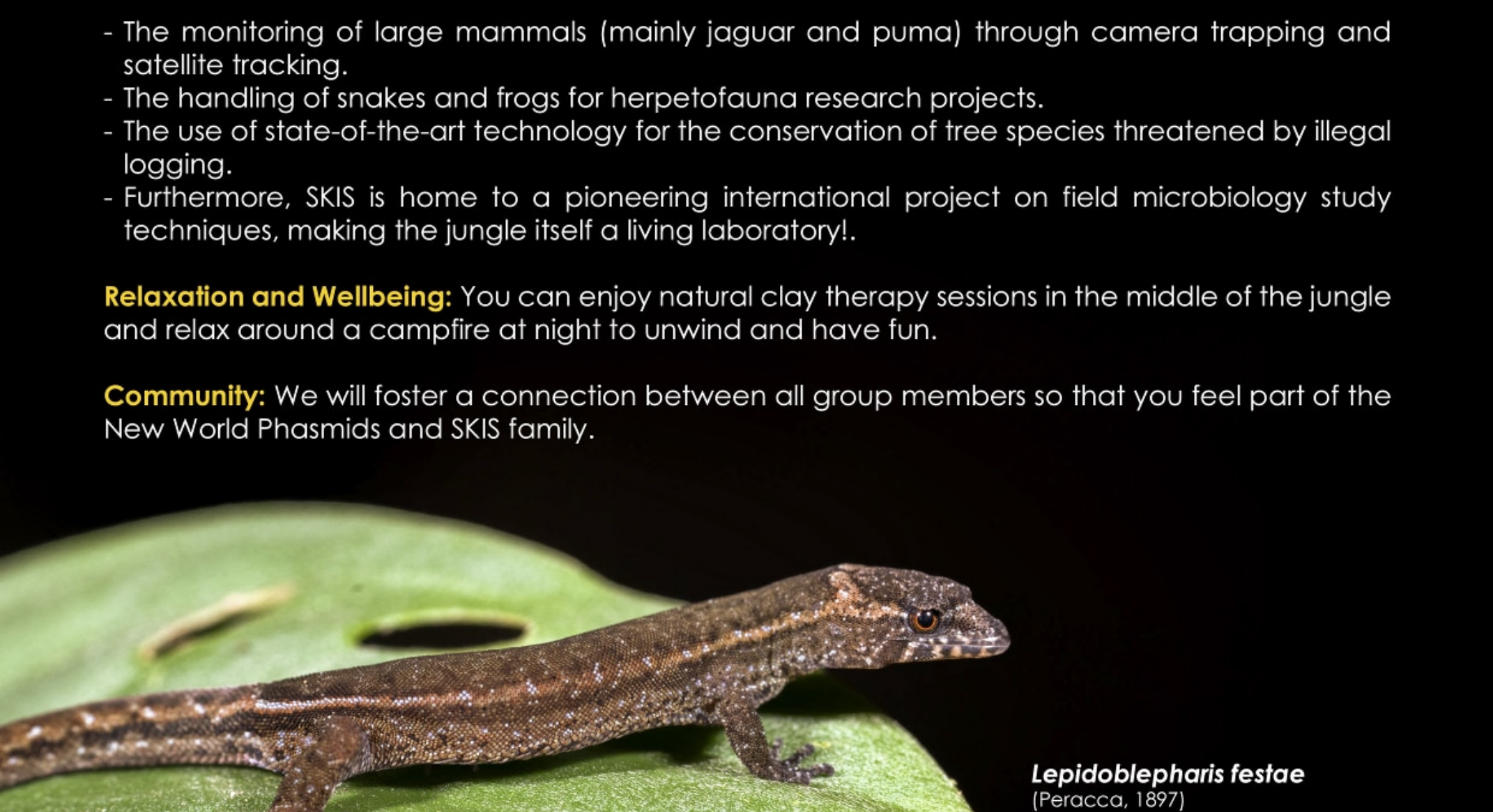
Tropical Entomology: We will also dedicate time to exploring all kinds of tropical invertebrates. We will set up light traps at night to attract giant moths, mantids, and all sorts of nocturnal flying insects; we will search for aquatic macroinvertebrates in streams, giant tarantula burrows in the forest, and so on.

Projects at SKIS: In addition to the immersion in tropical entomology, we will show you first-hand other research and conservation projects being carried out at SKIS, such as:

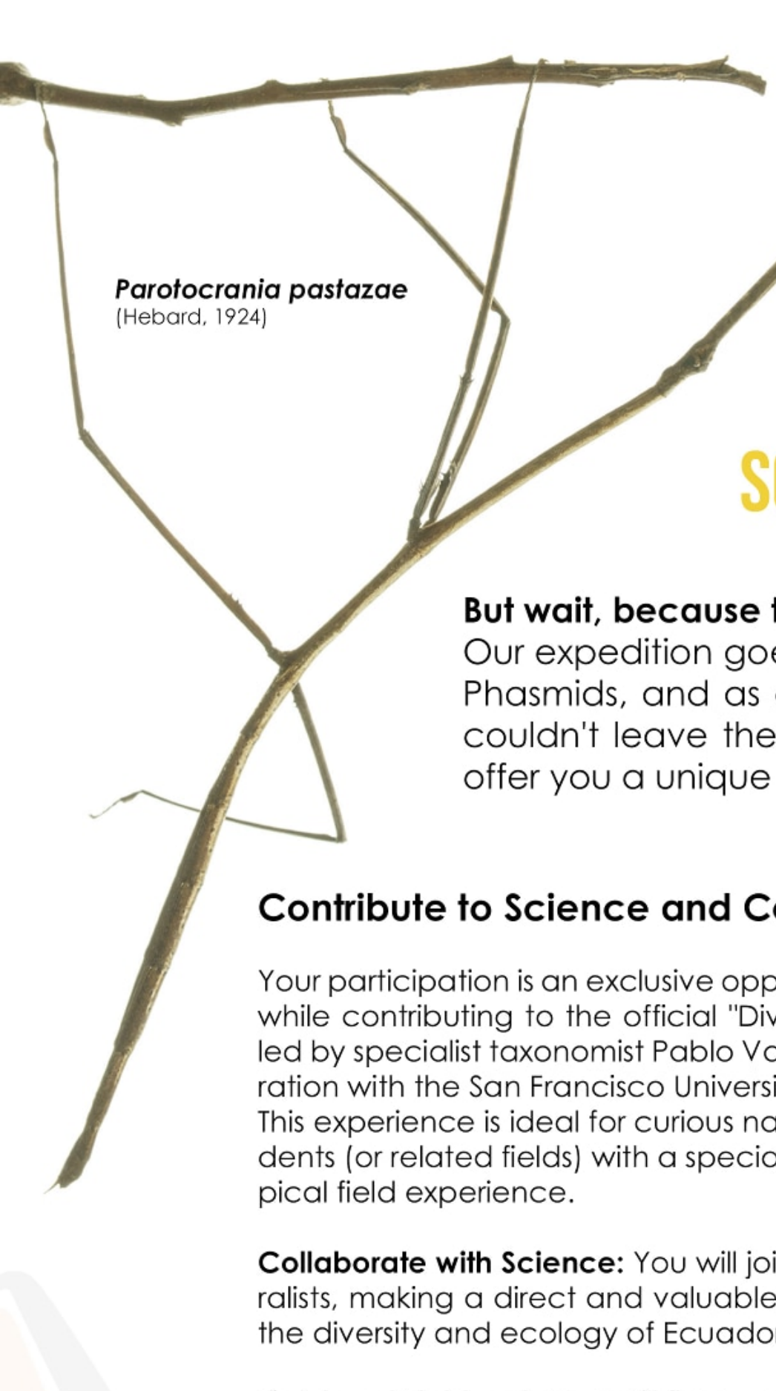
- The monitoring of large mammals (mainly jaguar and puma) through camera trapping and satellite tracking.
- The handling of snakes and frogs for herpetofauna research projects.
- The use of state-of-the-art technology for the conservation of tree species threatened by illegal logging.
- Furthermore, SKIS is home to a pioneering international project on field microbiology study techniques, making the jungle itself a living laboratory!.

Relaxation and Wellbeing: You can enjoy natural clay therapy sessions in the middle of the jungle and relax around a campfire at night to unwind and have fun.

Community: We will foster a connection between all group members so that you feel part of the New World Phasmids and SKIS family.



Lepidoblepharis festae
(Peracca, 1897)



Parotocrania pastazae
(Hebard, 1924)

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY: SCIENCE AS AN ADDED VALUE

But wait, because there's more!
Our expedition goes beyond adventure. We are New World Phasmids, and as experts in phasmids of the Americas, we couldn't leave these fascinating insects out. That's why we offer you a unique added value in the world.

Contribute to Science and Conservation

Your participation is an exclusive opportunity to experience scientific work in the jungle while contributing to the official "Diversity of Phasmids of Ecuador" research project, led by specialist taxonomist Pablo Valero (founder of New World Phasmids) in collaboration with the San Francisco University of Quito.
This experience is ideal for curious naturalists, amateur entomologists, and biology students (or related fields) with a special interest in entomology who wish to gain real tropical field experience.

Collaborate with Science: You will join a group of adventurers, researchers, and naturalists, making a direct and valuable contribution to our national research project on the diversity and ecology of Ecuador's phasmids.

First-hand Fieldwork: You will first receive a basic course on phasmids taught by one of the world's leading experts in Neotropical phasmid taxonomy. Thanks to this training, you will be able to assist with sampling, going out into the jungle at night to search for phasmids, collect ecological data, and learn to identify them, among other things. The goal is for you to learn, have fun, and experience a researcher's fieldwork first-hand, while contributing to science.

Search for New Species: We will also focus on the search for new species for science, such as the more than 20 we have found on previous expeditions in this same area. We want you to experience first-hand the thrill of finding species still unknown to science, the dream of millions of biologists and nature lovers.

Long-Term Commitment: After the trip, you will have access to a private online platform where you can follow the project's evolution and any scientific publications that arise from it, free of charge. Where applicable, and depending on your participation, your name will appear in the acknowledgements of these publications.

YOUR GUIDES

The expedition is led by Pablo Valero and Henry Sánchez, who act as the main project coordinators, with the help of Alejandra Razo. However, behind them is a team of specialists and logistics staff who ensure that every aspect of the adventure runs safely, efficiently, and with the highest level of scientific and quality standards.

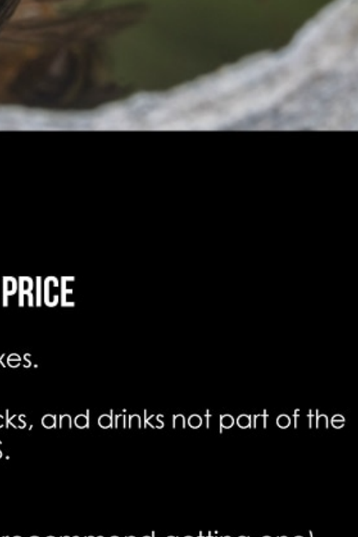
Pablo Valero
Tour leader

Pablo studied Biology at the University of Murcia, Spain. He is a professional entomologist who specialises in the study of phasmids in Europe and the Americas. With over ten years of experience as a phasmid specialist, he is a research associate at the Zoologische Staatssammlung München (Germany). His career has focused on phasmid taxonomy, and he has participated in the description of several genera and diverse species new to science. In 2025, he founded New World Phasmids with the aim of bringing science closer to society and training new generations of naturalists and biologists. He also combines his scientific work with nature photography, seeking to make entomology more attractive to the general public.

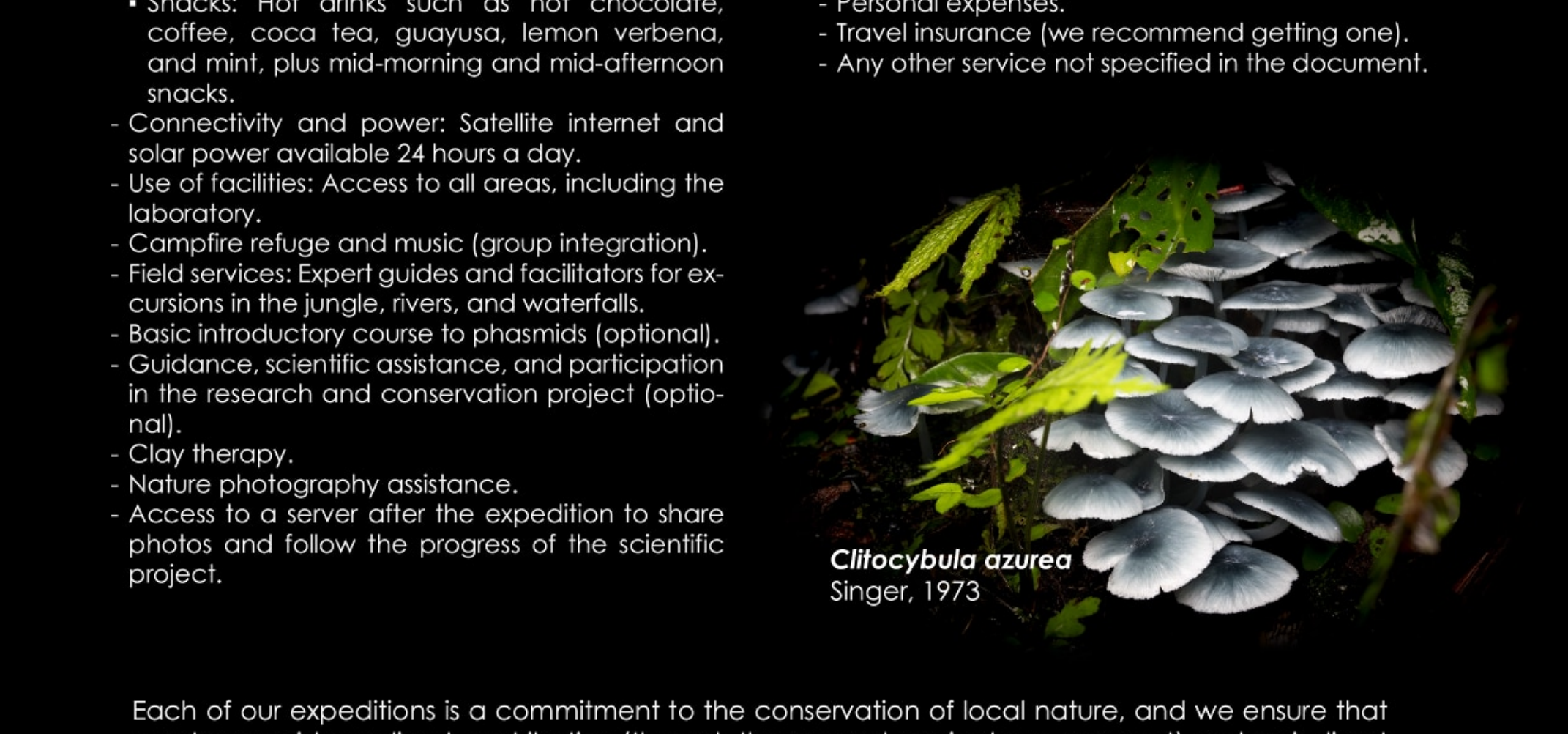
Henry Sánchez
Co-founder and General Director of SKIS

Henry is the visionary behind Sumak Kawsay In Situ, the centre that transformed a former naranjilla farm into a respected environmental education and scientific research centre. As General Director, he is the driving force of the reserve's mission: to connect people with nature, inspire personal growth, and preserve the natural world. Under his leadership, SKIS has directed its research to assess species richness, with a special emphasis on amphibians, reptiles, felines, birds, and plants. His philosophy of "Learn by doing, do by researching, and research by creating" is the motto that guides every project at the reserve.

Alejandra Razo
Engineer in Biotechnology and SKIS Laboratory Manager



Alejandra is a Biotechnology engineer by the Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador, with a specialisation in Advanced Microbiology. Her experience spans the areas of food microbiology, molecular biology, and microbial genomics. At SKIS, she is in charge of managing the field laboratory, where she leads research on the microbiology and mycology of the reserve. As a researcher and science communicator, Alejandra combines scientific rigour with a passion for teaching, enabling expedition participants to understand and appreciate the jungle's invisible universe.



***Epiponini* sp.**

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

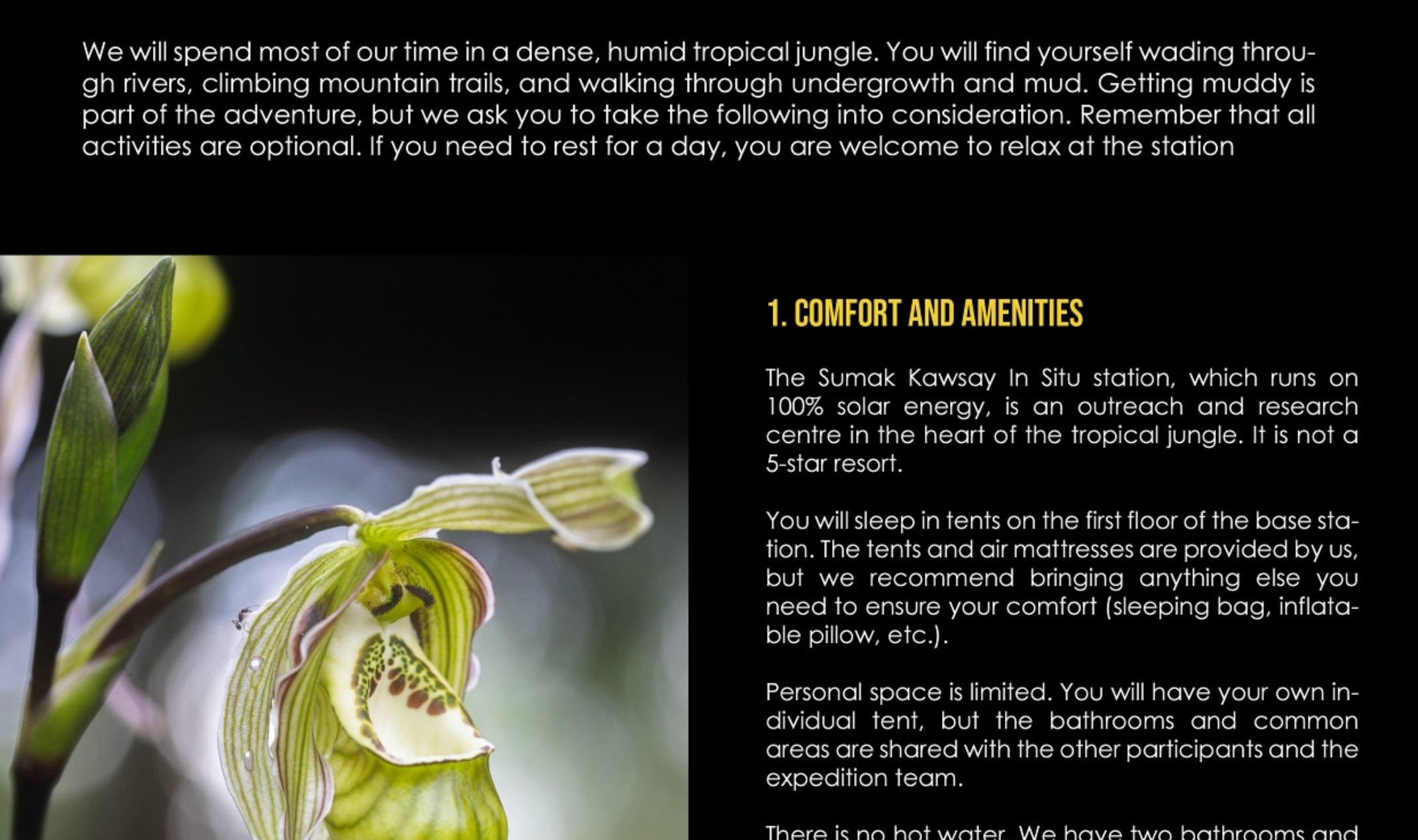
- Private transport: Quito-SKIS and SKIS-Quito.
- Accommodation: 7 nights at SKIS, with full board (breakfast, lunch, and dinner).
  - Food options: Vegan and vegetarian menus are available for those who require them.
  - Snacks: Hot drinks such as hot chocolate, coffee, coca tea, guayusa, lemon verbena, and mint, plus mid-morning and mid-afternoon snacks.
- Connectivity and power: Satellite internet and solar power available 24 hours a day.
- Use of facilities: Access to all areas, including the laboratory.
- Campfire refuge and music (group integration).
- Field services: Expert guides and facilitators for excursions in the jungle, rivers, and waterfalls.
- Basic introductory course to phasmids (optional).
- Guidance, scientific assistance, and participation in the research and conservation project (optional).
- Clay therapy.
- Nature photography assistance.
- Access to a server after the expedition to share photos and follow the progress of the scientific project.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- Flights and airport taxes.
- Additional nights.
- Alcoholic drinks, snacks, and drinks not part of the meals offered by SKIS.
- Toiletries.
- Personal expenses.
- Travel insurance (we recommend getting one).
- Any other service not specified in the document.

Clitocybula azurea
Singer, 1973

Each of our expeditions is a commitment to the conservation of local nature, and we ensure that our stay provides a direct contribution (through the research projects we carry out) and an indirect one (economically).



IMPORTANT: CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUR EXPEDITION

We will spend most of our time in a dense, humid tropical jungle. You will find yourself wading through rivers, climbing mountain trails, and walking through undergrowth and mud. Getting muddy is part of the adventure, but we ask you to take the following into consideration. Remember that all activities are optional. If you need to rest for a day, you are welcome to relax at the station

Phragmipedium pearcei
(Rchb.f.) Rauh & Senghas, 1975

1. COMFORT AND AMENITIES

The Sumak Kawsay In Situ station, which runs on 100% solar energy, is an outreach and research centre in the heart of the tropical jungle. It is not a 5-star resort.

You will sleep in tents on the first floor of the base station. The tents and air mattresses are provided by us, but we recommend bringing anything else you need to ensure your comfort (sleeping bag, inflatable pillow, etc.).

Personal space is limited. You will have your own individual tent, but the bathrooms and common areas are shared with the other participants and the expedition team.

There is no hot water. We have two bathrooms and two showers, with separate facilities for men and women.

We will be happy to assist you with any personal requests you may have, but please note that resources are limited.

Food and special diets: We offer full board throughout the expedition. We can adapt the menu if you are vegan, vegetarian, or coeliac, but you must inform us as far in advance as possible, as getting supplies to the station requires logistical planning.

2. SAFETY AND HEALTH

The jungle has stinging arthropods, as well as venomous snakes and other predators. You will need to exercise extreme caution and follow our safety instructions at all times.

If you have any allergies to hymenopteran venom (bees, wasps, or ants), please reconsider your participation or make sure you bring the necessary medication.

The safety of our participants is our top priority, but we cannot control wildlife, the terrain, or the weather.

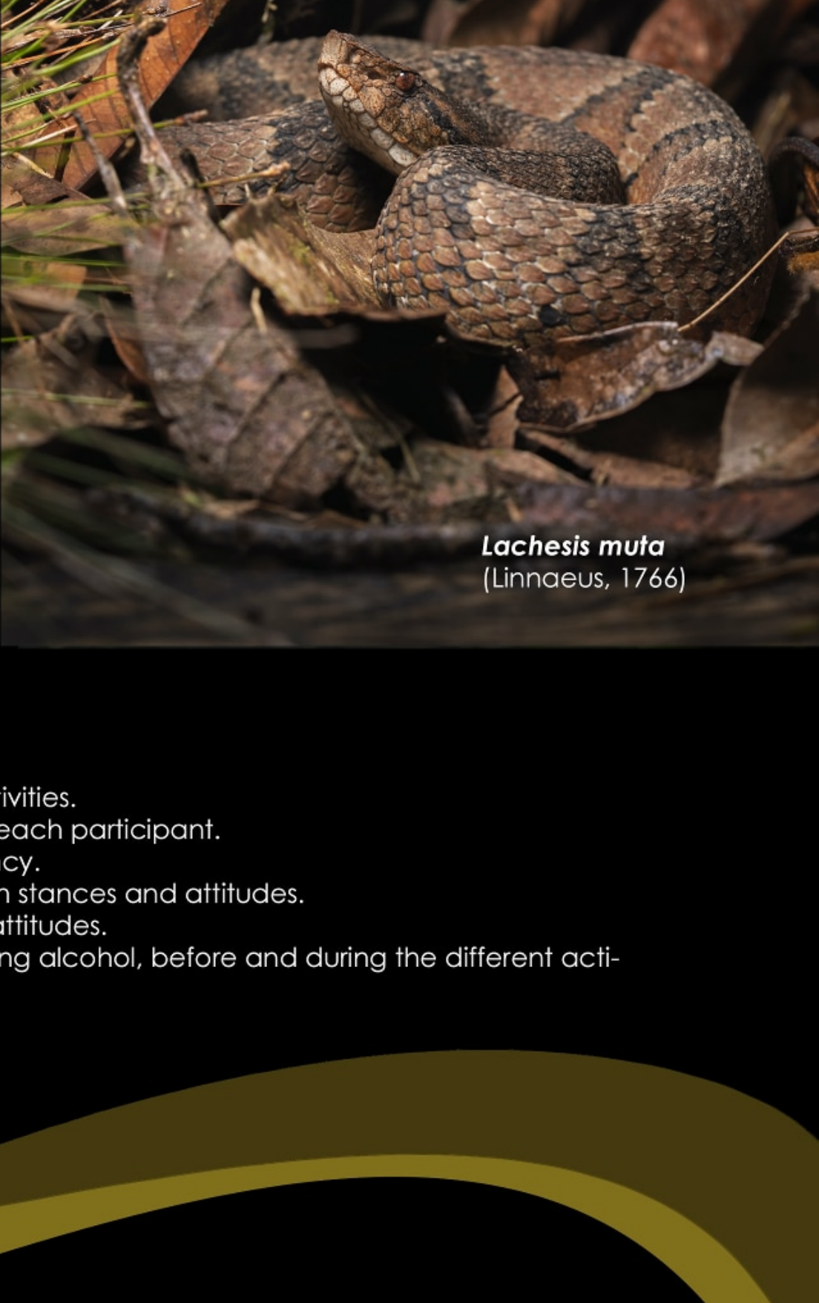
Our team is trained to act in emergency situations, but we are not professional doctors. Our staff is certified to assess and provide basic first aid, but not to diagnose or treat illnesses.

For internal communication within the reserve, long-range radios are used.

For external communication, the station has a Starlink satellite internet antenna, with a download speed of 90 Mbps and an upload speed of 31 Mbps.

The reserve has complete emergency kits and the team is trained in basic first aid.

In case of a serious emergency (such as a snakebite), a provisional helipad is available for air transport to the nearest medical centre, and contact is maintained with local emergency services.



Lachesis muta
(Linnaeus, 1766)

3. RULES OF CONDUCT

- Attend, participate, and collaborate during all activities.
- Respect the personal and professional integrity of each participant.
- Cooperate equally, with openness and transparency.
- Maintain positive leadership, avoiding authoritarian stances and attitudes.
- Do not express discriminatory and/or intimidating attitudes.
- Do not consume psychoactive substances, including alcohol, before and during the different activities.

EQUIPMENT SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR EXPEDITION

To ensure your experience in the jungle is as comfortable and safe as possible, we recommend packing the following. Remember that we cannot control the weather or the terrain, so it's best to be prepared.

Clothing and Footwear

- Lightweight, long-sleeved clothing (light-coloured, quick-drying shirts and trousers) to protect you from insects and the sun. We offer the possibility of washing your clothes by hand, but be aware that due to the high humidity, they may sometimes take several days to dry.
- Some warm clothing. Although temperatures typically range from 18 to 24 °C, minimums of 13 or 14 °C can occasionally occur.
- A raincoat or poncho.
- Comfortable rubber boots. Due to the large amount of mud in the area, boots are essential for getting around the jungle. They also provide protection against potential snake bites.
- Extra footwear for the station (sandals or trainers).
- Several pairs of wool or synthetic socks (cotton takes a long time to dry).
- A hat or cap for the sun.
- A swimsuit or bikini.

Personal Equipment

- Small backpack for daily treks.
- Waterproof headlamp with extra batteries, essential for night excursions.
- Canteen or reusable water bottle.
- Photographic equipment and binoculars (optional).
- Quick-drying towel.

Toiletries and Health

- Biodegradable insect repellent and sunscreen.
- Personal hygiene items (soap, shampoo, toothbrush, etc.).
- Personal medication. Although the station has an emergency kit, it is important that you bring any medication you may need.

Pamphobeteus skis
León-E., Peñaherrera-R., Cisneros-Heredia, Sherwood, Gabriel,Brescovit & Lucas, 2023
Species recently discovered in Sumak Kawsay In Situ and named in honour of the reserve.

JOIN THE ADVENTURE: BOOK YOUR SPOT!

Space for this expedition is extremely limited to ensure the highest quality, personalised attention, and maximum safety. For this reason, we encourage you to **book your spot as soon as possible**. This is your opportunity to have a unique adventure and contribute to science. Don't wait any longer, your expedition to the heart of the jungle awaits you.

Information and Bookings
To register for the expedition or to resolve any doubts, please write to us at the following email address:

info@newworldphasmids.com

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS!

10% discount if you meet at least one of the following requirements (discount is not cumulative):

- Groups (at least 3 people).
- University students.
- If you are among the first 6 to register.