



Transformational Learning Journey to The Amazon Sacred Headwaters
September 29 - October 4, 2018

Join us for a transformational Amazon rainforest adventure exclusively **for NEXUS members, family and friends and NEXUS Latin American Summit Delegates.** Travel with **Domingo Peas Nampichkai** Achuar indigenous leader and **Atossa Soltani** Amazon Watch Founder & Board President on this extraordinary journey following the NEXUS Latin America Summit in Quito on September 27-28th (*Summit participation is not a prerequisite to joining the Learning Journey*).

Saturday September 29

Meet at 6:30 AM in Quito for an orientation breakfast and prepare and for our journey. At 7:30 AM we'll board chartered bus and travel along a breathtaking avenue of volcanoes descending from the Andes to the Amazon. We'll arrive in town of Puyo/Shell by midday where chartered planes (5 or 9 seat) will be ready to fly us to the Achuar Territory (a 45-minute flight). We will land deep into the Achuar territory in the community of Sharamentsa, a village founded by our guide Domingo Peas. We will settle into our accommodations at the community owned lodge and enjoy free time. The leaders of the Achuar nation will join us for dinner conversation about their territory, history, life plans and vision for the future.



The Achuar who are a visionary dream culture are uniting the indigenous nations of the sacred headwaters of the Amazon on both sides of the Peru Ecuador border. We will learn more about the Achuar culture and their successful efforts to keep oil companies out of their vast rainforest territory for over 2 decades.



Sunday, September 30 — We will rise early to participate in traditional dream sharing ritual. We will spend the day learning about the Achuar culture and traditions and explore community life and challenges. We will hike to a sacred waterfall and have an opportunity to participate in a tobacco purification ceremony with an Achuar shaman.

Monday, October 1 — There will be early morning hike to a nearby sacred tree important to Achuar culture. Around 10 am, we will board motorized canoes and head to the Achuar owned Kapawi Ecolodge for a gourmet lunch. We will spend the afternoon exploring the surrounding forests & swimming in the Kapahuari River.



Tuesday October 2nd — Early morning bird watching and kayaking activities will be offered and participants will have a chance for guided hikes to learn about the diverse flora and fauna of surrounding forests. There will be time to circle and share our reflections. After dinner, will be a nighttime river adventure to look for the nocturnal creatures of the forest.

Wednesday, October 3rd — There will be optional dawn birdwatching / kayaking trip. Shortly after breakfast we will fly back to the town of Shell and board our bus for a luxury lodge / spa near on the flanks of the Tungurahua Volcano near the town of Baños. We will be joined for lunch roundtable with indigenous movement leaders from throughout the Ecuadorian Amazon who are part of alliance to protect the Sacred Headwaters and who are working on sustainable livelihood solutions to extractive industries. There will be time in the afternoon to enjoy the facilities and meet up for an evening dinner strategy session and debrief.

Thursday October 4 — After breakfast, we will start our return journey on the bus back to Quito thru the Avenue of volcanoes. In the afternoon participants will be able to explore Quito: visiting the old town, the indigenous artisanal market, or the Gulasamin Museum or just rest and prepare for the return trip. We will have our final farewell dinner. Many international flights depart out of Quito around midnight.



Amazon Journey Leaders

Atossa Soltani is the founder and board president of [Amazon Watch](#) and served as the organization's first Executive Director for 18 years. Currently Atossa is a senior strategist for [the Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative](#), working to protect one of the most biodiverse ecosystems on Earth. The initiative is led by an alliance of Amazonian indigenous nations of Ecuador and Peru with support from Fundación Pachamama, Amazon Watch and the [Pachamama Alliance](#). Atossa is the Hillary Institute 2013 Global Laureate for Climate Leadership and recipient of the 2014 Hillary Step Prize. She is currently producing her first feature-length documentary film titled *The Flow* about learning from nature's genius. Atossa served on the board of trustees of The Christensen Fund for from 2008-2017 and was Board chair for five years. Prior to starting Amazon Watch, Atossa directed campaigns at the Rainforest Action Network (1992-1996) that helped end clear-cut logging in British Columbia and convinced Hollywood Studios to phase out the use of tropical hardwoods in movie sets.



Uyunkar Domingo Peas Nampichkai is a leader from the Achuar Nation of the Ecuadorian Amazon with a history of serving the country's indigenous movement. Currently Domingo is the coordinator for the Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative for the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon ([CONFENIAE](#)). CONFENIAE represents 11 indigenous nationalities from the Ecuadorian Amazon region. Domingo served as the director of communication for the Achuar indigenous Nation of Ecuador (NAE) from 2000-2003. He is also the founder of the Achuar indigenous community of Sharamentsa, and served as the Vice President of the CONFENIAE from 1993-1996. Domingo has also served as the Vice-President and later President of CODENPE (Council of Nationalities and Peoples of Ecuador), as the legal representative of the German Foundation Indio-HILFE.

Participants should arrive in Quito the evening of Sept 28th ready for 7:30 am departure on 29th. Return flights should be booked no earlier than 11 PM on Oct 4. Total trip cost for September 29-October 4 is US \$3,850. Payment is due by no later than September 15th. To register contact delegations@nexusglobal.org. List of affordable hotels for September 28 for non LatAm NEXUS Summit Delegates is available on request.

** Minimum of 10 people are required for the trip, otherwise the trip will likely be postponed. Maintaining the safety and comfort of participants is our top priority. The above itinerary may be modified based on weather, etc.*