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Wilson OE7-56 y Diego de Almagro
Quito - Ecuador



TAPIR LODGE

4 Days +1

The Essentials

Tapir Lodge is strategically located within the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve, one of Ecuador's most important protected areas and a recognized hotspot of Amazonian biodiversity. The lodge operates in close harmony with its surrounding ecosystems, emphasizing low-impact tourism, environmental education, and conservation awareness. Its remote setting within primary rainforest and blackwater river systems provides ideal conditions for biological observation and ecosystem interpretation.

Guided by certified naturalist guides, guests participate in field-based excursions designed to highlight the region's complex ecological processes, including rainforest stratification, aquatic ecosystems, and species interactions. Activities such as canoe navigation, forest transects, birdwatching, and nocturnal surveys offer opportunities to observe mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and avifauna in their natural habitats. Tapir Lodge promotes responsible ecotourism by supporting local conservation initiatives and fostering respect for indigenous knowledge systems, making it an ideal base for research-oriented travelers, educational groups, and conservation-minded explorers.

#	Day	Date	Itinerary	Accommodation	Meals
1	FRI	-	Arrival to Cuyabeno Bridge – Trip to Tapir Lodge	Cuyabeno	-/BL/D
2	SAT	-	Amazon Jungle Expedition in Cuyabeno	Cuyabeno	B/L/D
3	SUN	-	Amazon Jungle Expedition in Cuyabeno	Cuyabeno	B/L/D
4	MON	-	Transfer to the Cuyabeno Bridge & Coca Town	Coca	B/-/-
5	TUE	-	Transfer to Coca Airpot – Flight Back to Quito	-	B/-/-

B = Breakfast, BL = Box Lunch, L = Lunch, D = Dinner





Day 1. First Encounter with the Amazon Rainforest

After a scenic 30-minute flight over the Eastern Andean Cordillera to Puerto Francisco de Orellana (El Coca), our expedition continues with a private overland transfer of approximately 3.5 hours.

Our adventure begins upon arrival at El Puente del Cuyabeno at around 2:00 pm, where there is a brief stop for a box lunch and final logistical preparations before entering the reserve by motorized canoe. Equipped with rain ponchos, life vests, and protected luggage, the expedition continues downstream along the narrow Cuyabeno River, a blackwater system rich in biodiversity.

During the 2–3 hour navigation, guests have the opportunity to observe riparian forests, aquatic ecosystems, and a wide variety of flora and fauna, including birds, primates, reptiles, and aquatic species.

Upon arrival at the lodge, guests settle into their accommodations before dinner. In the evening, a comprehensive orientation is provided by the naturalist guide, introducing the ecological significance of the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve, the lodge's conservation approach, and the scientific and interpretive activities planned for the following days.



Box Lunch
Dinner



Tapir Lodge



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Activities



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Day 2. Laguna Grande Expedition & Rainforest Ecology Exploration

Begin the day with a nutritious breakfast around 7:30 a.m., followed by preparations at the pier, where guests are equipped with rubber boots and briefed for the day's exploration. At approximately 9:30 a.m., the expedition travels upstream by motorized or paddle canoe to Laguna Grande, one of the most ecologically important zones of the reserve. Here, we explore the flooded igapó forest, home to ancient macrolobium trees that rise directly from the water and support diverse epiphytic life such as orchids, bromeliads, ferns, and cacti. The calm navigation allows for close observation of flora and fauna, offering excellent opportunities for wildlife sightings and photography. We then continue to terra firme for a guided walk along the historic Palma Roja trail, where our naturalist guide explains fundamental rainforest ecology while we search for bird species such as macaws, toucans, tanagers, and woodpeckers, and possibly encounter monkeys moving through the canopy.

After returning to Tapir Lodge for a late lunch around 2:30 p.m., guests enjoy time to rest before resuming activities in the late afternoon. Around 5:00 p.m., we return to Laguna Grande for an evening canoe excursion, a prime time to observe wildlife as the forest transitions into dusk. Guests may also enjoy a safe swim in the lake while taking in the peaceful surroundings, and weather permitting, witness a spectacular Amazon sunset. Back at the lodge, the evening concludes with dinner and, depending on conditions, an optional short night walk around the lodge to discover nocturnal species such as frogs and other nighttime rainforest inhabitants.



Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner



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Day 3. Cultural Immersion and Rainforest Secrets

The day begins before sunrise with an optional bird-watching excursion by canoe, taking advantage of peak morning activity to observe Amazonian birds, primates, and other riparian wildlife. After returning to Tapir Lodge for breakfast, we continue downstream to Puerto Bolívar, home to the Siona people, where the river ecosystem and local communities demonstrate the intricate connections between biodiversity and indigenous life.

In the afternoon, we visit a nearby Cofán community to meet a shaman and learn about traditional medicinal plants and ancestral healing practices, followed by a box lunch. Guests also participate in the harvest and preparation of cassava bread (yuca), a staple of Amazonian diets. The day concludes back at the lodge with dinner, a farewell gathering with staff, and an optional short nocturnal walk, highlighting frogs, insects, spiders, and other night-active species, offering a complete view of the rainforest's 24-hour ecological rhythm.



Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner



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Day 4. Farewell to the Amazon – Return to Coca

Enjoy breakfast at 7:30 a.m. before preparing for your departure from Tapir Lodge, typically around 9:30 a.m.

On this final day, we will board a motorized canoe and navigate upriver, enjoying one last view of the landscapes and biodiversity of the Reserva de Producción Faunística Cuyabeno, until reaching the Cuyabeno Bridge.

Arrival at the bridge is scheduled for approximately 10:30 – 11:00 am, where you will connect with your transportation to Coca Town.



Breakfast



Gran Hotel del
Lago o similar



Return to Coca



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Day 5. Final Day – Return to Quito

At a convenient time, we will be transferred to Coca Airport for our return flight to Quito, marking the end of our services.



Breakfast



N/A



Transfer to Coca
Airport

**Important Info: Itineraries & prices are subject to change due to many different elements such as weather, park authorities and regulations, airline / tourist bus operations out of our control, guide experience, and safety concerns.*



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INCLUDES

- Motorized canoe transportation IN/OUT from El Puente de Cuyabeno to the Lodge and from the Lodge to El Puente de Cuyabeno.
- Guided tours with bilingual (English and Spanish) certified naturalist guides during all excursions.
- Accommodation in double room with private bathroom and hot water Shower
- Canoe rides
- 3 meals a day (by arrival and departure days, only box Lunch)
- Purified water, coffee, tea
- Daily excursion program
- Naturalist multilingual speaking guides (English, Spanish, German)
- Rubber boots, raincoats, lifesaver.
- WIFI
- Transfer from Coca to - Cuyabeno
- 1 night in Coca at Gran Hotel del lago or similar, with breakfast included.
- Transfer to Coca Airport.

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Transfer to the meeting point in Quito
- Extra meals and extra drinks before and after the trip
- Excursions and activities not specified in the program
- Soft and alcoholic Drinks.
- Travel and health insurance. Tips. Extras
- Additional alcoholic beverages.
- Visit to the community & shaman USD 20 per person.
- Binoculars
- Transfer from Quito / to Quito Tourist bus.
- Flight Quito - Coca - Quito
- Alcoholic and bottled beverages.
- Tips, and personal expenses





HOW TO GET TO CUYABENO BRIDGE

By Tourist Bus

Travel by tourist bus the night before the tour (approx. 10–11 hours).

To reach the meeting point directly, you can take a tourist bus to Cuyabeno Bridge. This transport operates on the direct Quito–Cuyabeno–Quito route and costs \$40 per person per way or \$80 per person round trip.

Advance reservation is required, as availability must be checked and confirmed beforehand.

Pick-up in Quito is at the following time and meeting point:

- Blue House La Floresta Hostel / La Mariscal Neighbourhood – 22:30
- The Secret Garden / San Blas Neighbourhood – 23:00.

Drop-off is at Cuyabeno Bridge (meeting point).

By Airplane

The Lago Agrio airport is currently closed.

As an alternative, you can take a flight from Quito to Coca, arriving at approximately 11:00 am. From Coca, you will then travel by road for at least 3.5 hours to reach Cuyabeno Bridge.

Ask us about our tours that include flights and transfers from Coca airport.

Note: Due to flight schedules, the return flight from Coca to Quito requires an overnight stay in Coca town. If you need to return to Quito on the same day, an additional cost will apply.

