



*Responsible Travel*TM



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Wilson OE7-56 y Diego de Almagro
Quito - Ecuador



TAPIR LODGE & PAPALLACTA

A UNIQUE COMBINATION FOR NATURE LOVERS!!!

10 Days / 9 Nights

#	Day	Date	Itinerary	Accommodation	Meals
1			Flight from Quito to El Coca – Transfer to Cuyabeno Bridge – Entrance to Tapir Lodge	Cuyabeno	B/L/D
2			Amazon Jungle Expedition in Cuyabeno	Cuyabeno	B/L/D
3			Amazon Jungle Expedition in Cuyabeno	Camping	B/L/D
4			Amazon Jungle Expedition in Cuyabeno	Camping	B/L/D
5			Amazon Jungle Expedition in Cuyabeno	Cuyabeno	B/L/D
6			Amazon Jungle Expedition in Cuyabeno	Cuyabeno	B/L/D
7			Amazon Jungle Expedition in Cuyabeno	Cuyabeno	B/L/D
8			Amazon Jungle Expedition in Cuyabeno	Cuyabeno	B/L/D
9			Transfer to the Cuyabeno Bridge and Coca Town	El Coca	B/-/-
10			Transfer to Coca Airport – Flight back to Quito – Transfer to Papallacta Hot Springs		B/-/-

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



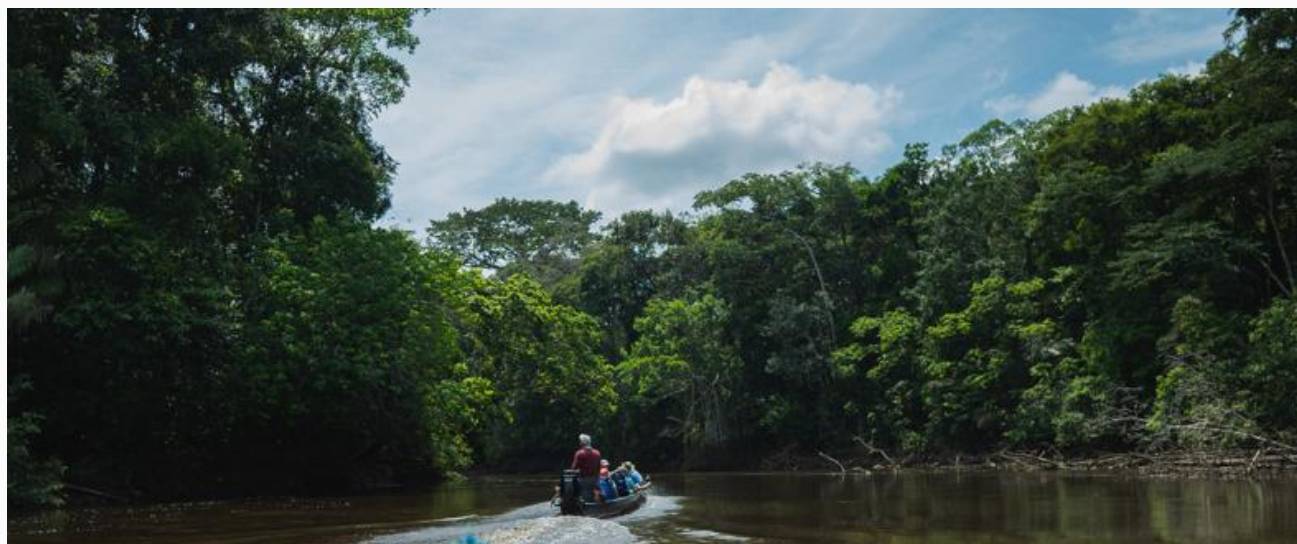


Day 1. First Encounter with the Amazon Rainforest

After breakfast you will be transferred to Quito Airport to take a rewarding 30-minute flight over the Andean Eastern Cordillera to the city of Puerto Francisco de Orellana "El Coca". Transfer to the Cuyabeno Bridge Our in private, this transportation will drive us (2 ½ - 3 hours) to "El Puente" (The Bridge). Throughout this drive you will have the opportunity to see beautiful landscapes created by the combination of rainforest, rivers and small towns; *95% of this road is paved. On "El Puente" we will enjoy our box lunches and continue our trip via motorized canoe (12mts. / 24 ft. long); the luggage will be covered with plastic for protection, to prevent it from getting wet in the event of rain. We will also provide you with rain ponchos and life vests. In this narrow river you will be able to admire some of the wide variety of flora and fauna the Cuyabeno Reserve has to offer.

After close to 2 ½ hours of navigating, we will arrive around dusk to the beautiful Tapir Lodge (05:00-06:00 PM).

Dinner will be served at approximately 07:30 PM; after dinner the guide will inform our guest of the next day's activities, and the required gear. Overnight spent in our cozy and relaxing lodge.



Box Lunch
Dinner



Tapir Lodge



Tapir Lodge
Activities



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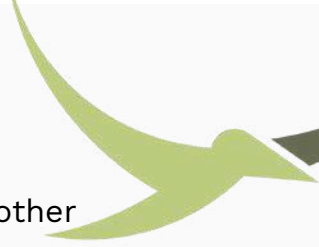


Day 2. Laguna Grande Expedition & Rainforest Ecology Exploration

After a good night's slumber, our day begins with our delicious breakfast, which is served at approximately 07:30 AM. Once breakfast is concluded, we will prepare to depart on our first journey of the day, but first we will provide our guests with rubber boots. At 08:30 AM we will meet at our pier and take our canoe; depending on the size of the group, we may take the motorized canoe or the paddle canoe (small wooden canoe 5mts. / 15ft. in length) which the indigenous inhabitants use as their main source of transportations and call them Quillas. These small yet stable vessels can accommodate up to four passengers and guide. We will navigate upstream to "Laguna Grande" (Big Lake) enjoying a slow ride in order to observe the surrounding Flora and Fauna. Our travel time should be about 30 minutes (paddle canoe 1 hour). Once we get there, we will appreciate this one of a kind Igapo or inundated forest. The Flora that can be found here is quite unique, with macrolobium trees abundant in numbers and ancient of age; which have adapted to the surrounding environment allowing them to grow straight out of the water. These majestic and antique trees create the perfect habitat for other plant life, such as Bromeliads, Orchids, Ferns and Cacti. Once we complete our Igapo excursion, we will travel to "Terra Firme"; and begin a trek on a path called Palma Roja "Red Palm"; this path was once part of a scientific research station belonging to the Catholic University. This will be our first encounter with primary rainforest, which is the habitat for many terrestrial mammals; such as Tapirs, Capibaras, Jaguars, Agoutis and many more species native to the rainforest.

These creatures are usually shy or only active during nocturnal hours. Before our trek begins, there will be brief explanation regarding basic ecology of the rainforest. The duration of this trek is close to 3 ½ hours. On the way you will come across a swampy area but not to worry, our expert guide will lead you through the right way. There will be the opportunity to admire a variety of ancient trees, long Lianas and Giant Palms. We also hope to have the opportunity to see and hear many species of birds such as Woodpeckers, Tanagers, Macaws, and Toucans; and with luck we will come across two or three species of Monkeys. This trek follows a path that loops around in the rainforest; bringing us back to our point of origin. Our return time should be around 01:30 PM, to take the canoe back to Tapir. Lunch will be served at the lodge at about 02:20 PM, followed by a resting period of approximately 2 hours. During this time guests will have the option to try Piranha fishing or just relax in our hammocks to read or take a "Siesta" (Spanish for nap). At 05:00 PM we will again meet at our pier, and take the canoe to a new area of "Laguna Grande". Once we get to the lake we will navigate through the surrounding area searching for birds and other animals. The option of swimming is available and it is a perfectly safe and relaxing activity. Depending on the weather, we may be able to admire a breathtaking sunset, as we pass the time enjoying the surrounding symphonies of the rainforest until night fall. Once nighttime joins us, with the aid of our flashlights we will look for animals on the shores of the lake and river. Typically, in very bright nights (full





moon) the chances of finding caimans are minimal, however there are other animals that may be found such as birds and tree snakes.

Once the evening activities are concluded, we will return to Tapir around 07:00 PM. During this free period before dinner, guests are welcome to take a shower, have refreshing drink at our bar or to chat with the guide about the day's events. Dinner will be served at 07:45 PM; after dinner depending on the weather conditions we can take a quick night trek around the lodge looking for frogs and other night wanderers. Overnight spent at Tapir Lodge.



Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner



Tapir Lodge



Tapir Lodge
Activities



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Day 3. Into the Wild: Cuyabeno River Journey & Jungle Camping

After Breakfast, we will start our expedition by taking our canoe and navigating downstream for about 4 hours. A delicious box lunch will be provided. We will search for the perfect camp site on the shores of the Cuyabeno River, where we can settle our tents. Once camp is set up, the afternoon will be spent enjoying a trek through the rainforest. Due to the isolated location, the chances to see diurnal mammals is greater, especially during dusk. Enjoy dinner as we overnight at our campsite, making this camping experience unique and memorable.



Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner



Camping



Tapir Lodge
Activities



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Day 4. Sunrise River Journey & Jungle Wildlife Discovery

Early in the morning, we will take the canoe and just glide downstream. This will allow guests to enjoy the sounds of the rainforest and of the animals beginning their day.

Breakfast will be served in the heart of the rainforest. There will be a 4-hour trek in the rainforest; in this area we will have the opportunity to search for and find birds such as: Herons, Egrets, Curassows, Hawks, Screaming Pihas, Oropendolas, Fly catchers and King Fishers, as well as different species of Monkeys. We will return to camp where lunch will be served. After lunch, there will be resting period of a couple of hours. In the afternoon we will take the canoe along the Cuyabeno River for more bird watching until night fall. Once the night settles, with the aid of our flashlights we will search for caimans and other nocturnal animals engaging in their night time activities. Return to campsite for dinner, overnight at campsite.



Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner



Camping



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Day 5. Cultural Immersion and Rainforest Secrets

After an early breakfast, while enjoying the mood of the rainforest, we will begin disassembling the camp site. Heading upstream, we will once again navigate following the Cuyabeno River. During our return we will stop at a small settlement. Here we will have the opportunity to visit and meet Thomas the local Shaman, as well as his family. These natives belong to the Cofan ethnic group. Presently Thomas spends part of his time curing and treating the local inhabitants with his vast knowledge of medicinal plants. This humble man carries with in him more than 50 years of wisdom and knowledge regarding the rainforest and the use of medicinal plants. He will share with us some of the many experiences he has had with the rainforest, other shamans and process of healing people. For our interested guests, you can participate in a “healing” ceremony which should last about 40 minutes. There will be some free time to ask Alberto questions or simply take pictures of and with him. Handcrafts are available for purchase, all of them crafted out of materials provided and obtained in the rainforest. We say goodbye to Alberto and his family (about 03:00 PM) and navigate to Puerto Bolivar. There we will be greeted by a local Siona family, where we will take part in the preparation of Cassava Bread. The Yuca (Cassava) Root (*Manihot Esculenta*) has always been an essential food supply and perhaps the main source of carbohydrates for the indigenous communities of the rainforest. After gathering the Yuca (Cassava), it will be peeled and grinded into a paste; this “paste” is then pressed to eliminate the humidity and the starch. The remaining dried product will be fried in a pan for a few minutes; obtaining a “pancake like bread” of neutral taste which we will be able to sample. We say goodbye to the village and navigate back to Tapir arriving just before dusk. Dinner will be served at around 08:00 PM. Overnight spent at Tapir Lodge.



Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner



Tapir Lodge



Tapir Lodge
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Day 6. Wildlife Trails & Lagoon Sunset Experience

After enjoying a nice breakfast, we take our motorized boat and drive to the Laguna Garnde, where we are going to start a hike for about 2 hrs, on the so called El Salaladero hike for about 3 hrs. This particular trail was used by most of the Indians in the old times for hunting, so far, the Saladero means the salt leak, where animals need to get their minerals by leaking the clay. This hike takes us through little depressions and flooded forest called Cananguchal, where most of the giant palms like the *Mauritia flexuosa* are growing. This palm is also very important, because the fruit is eaten by many animals like wild pigs, Tapir, and monkeys. We will be able to find some animal tracks from Tapir, wild pigs among other. Also sounds of Toucans, and Caracaras. All this excursion will last about 3 hrs. On the way back to the rim of the lake, we can have a nice dip in to the Cuyabeno lake, before we head back to Tapir Lodge. Lunch will be served at 2 pm.

In the afternoon, we have a very nice tour rowing with our wooden dugout canoes between the trees in the flooded forest of the Laguna Grande, and enjoy a fantastic sunset. Dinner will be served at 8 pm, after dinner we can lay on our Astrodome, to enjoy looking at the stars in the night in this unique open place. Overnight in Tapir Lodge.



Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner



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Day 7. Lagoon Adventure & Afternoon at Leisure in Tapir Lodge

After breakfast we will drive with our motorized boat, pulling our dugout canoe, to a unique lake called Canangueno, paddling on our wooden boats in this natural habitat is fantastic.

We can probably see pink dolphins on the way, some little groups of Capuchin and squirrel monkey, blue morpho butterflies. All the ancient trees growing in the water are very special, so far, they adapted very good in the flooded forest. Many of the trees have blooming orchids, bromeliads, cacti, and small figs. We are going to spend about 2 hrs, in this lovely place. We will have our picnic in the forest, with cold drinks in the shade of the trees. In the afternoon will slowly paddle back to Tapir Lodge. We will be back at 5 pm.

Time for a nice shower, have some nice cold drinks, and enjoy the end of the afternoon, in our hammocks or just enjoying a view over the river Cuyabeno. Dinner and overnight at Tapir Lodge. All the nights we will a speech about the next day activities.



Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner



Tapir Lodge



Tapir Lodge
Activities



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Day 8. Personalized Amazon Experiences & Farewell Evening

Breakfast will be served at 07:30 AM. On this day, guests will have the option to choose their activities with the guide. Several options are available: bird watching, canoeing in the lake, fishing, or trekking in the rainforest. According to the type of activity you choose, the day will be scheduled to fulfill your interest. Lunch will be served at Tapir.

In the afternoon our guests can enjoy some leisure time and enjoy the last Sunset over the lake. Dinner will be served at around 08:00 PM. After dinner we will serve and enjoy farewell Passion Fruit Cocktail, as we take a little time to introduce our hard working, attentive and diligent staff members; whom without their cooperation, assistance and courteous service Tapir Lodge could not provide our guests with the first-class service we trust you will receive from your first day with us. Confident that we will meet and exceed your expectations we hope that your stay with us is a pleasant and comfortable one, making your experience at Tapir memorable and one of a kind. Overnight spent at Tapir.



Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner



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Day 9. Farewell to the Amazon – Return to Coca

Breakfast will be served at 08:00 AM. After breakfast we will coordinate and schedule your departure from Tapir. Departure time is generally between 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM depending on *flight times, river and road conditions as well as the guide's decision. Our staff will attend to the luggage as they make sure it is all loaded onto the canoe. We will depart Tapir and make our way back to the bridge. Our private transportation will be waiting for us. Drive back to Coca. Arrive to town and check in at the hotel.



Breakfast



Gran Hotel de
Lago



Return to Coca



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Day 10. Return to Quito

At a convenient time, we will be transferred to Coca Airport for our return flight to Quito.



Breakfast



N/A



Transfer to
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

- Flight Quito - Coca - Quito
- Transfer from Coca Airport to Cuyabeno Bridge.
- 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.
- 7 nights of accommodation in double room with private bathroom and hot water Shower
- 2-night camping in Cuyabeno River Area.
- 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 Cuyabeno Bridge to El Coca.
- 1 night accommodation in El Coca at Gran Hotel de Lago, with breakfast included.
- Transfer from hotel in El Coca to Airport.

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- 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
- **Visit to the community & shaman USD 20 per person (Cuyabeno).**
- Binoculars





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:

- Embassy Quito Hotel / 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.





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