



## **Nature + Culture Tour**

4 days - maximum 6 guests per guide (also available as a private tour)

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For some, the Amazon rainforest is a place they've heard about or seen on a screen. We'll take you deep into the jungle, where you'll learn about its unique flora and fauna, natural history, and the cultural traditions of its people. Our tour will help you gain an understanding of the importance of protecting the remarkable biodiversity it protects.

### **About the Tour:**

The Yasuni National Park is one of the most biodiverse regions on the planet. In this tour, we will discover the incredible biodiversity of the rainforest jungle and its importance while observing how the indigenous kichwa people live. Each day you will discover and learn about the amazing variety of tropical animals and plants. By night, you will enjoy the calming sounds of the jungle; frogs, crickets, and rain will help you sleep like never before.

## Specifications of the Tour:

This is a tour for nature and outdoor lovers. The pace of the tour is relaxed to moderate. Activities range from short to long hikes, fishing, canoeing, harvesting, and cooking. Days will start with breakfast at 6:30 am and will end with a short night hike after dinner. After lunch, you will have some time to relax. At night, the group and guide will go over the following day's activities.

## Itinerary

The times and length of the hikes are flexible and defined by the guide the day before. The guide may modify the plan on any particular day based on weather, wildlife activity, recent sighting information, and other factors.



### Day 1: Arrival at Mandari Panga

Upon arrival in Coca (airport or bus terminal), you'll be met by your local guide. Depending on your time of arrival, you'll have a chance for breakfast (not included) at "Maitos del Yasuni" a typical restaurant created by the association Challuwa Mikuna to benefit indigenous women.

We'll then begin a journey of about an hour and 45 minutes in land transport and another hour and a half in a motorized canoe along the Tiputini river. When we arrive at the camp, you will have time to get to know the facilities and settle into your tent. Enjoy a welcome drink; then a delicious lunch will be served in the main house.

In the afternoon, we'll cross to the other side of the Yitsu Yacu River for a walk of approximately 2 hours. We'll finish the afternoon enjoying the sunset onboard our motorized canoe, and when we return to camp, a delicious dinner served by candlelight will be ready for you.

### Day 2: Hiking the "Pecary Trail"

After an early breakfast (6:30), we will cross to the other side of the Tiputini river in a traditional canoe and start a walk of approximately 4 hours along a loop trail passing through spectacular virgin jungle. We'll arrive at the lagoon of the anacondas where, with luck, you will be able to see this reptile so characteristic of the area.

We'll return to camp for lunch, and you'll have time to relax in your hammock or tent, walk around the campsite and even cool down with a swim in a tranquil tributary of the Tiputini river.

In the afternoon, we'll enjoy a pleasant traditional canoe trip in the Pishña lagoon (giant otter oxbow lagoon) for about 2 hours. This black water lagoon is a fascinating ecosystem, a blackwater lake where unique species live. We'll enjoy the sunset and then return to the campsite for dinner.

### **Day 3: Rio Tiputini and the Casa de la Abuela**

Early in the morning, we'll begin a trip along the Tiputini River in a traditional wooden canoe and have breakfast during the journey while we enjoy the sunrise. We'll have plenty of opportunities to observe birds and wildlife during our trip, from monkeys and other mammals to river otters and freshwater dolphins (with luck); we'll be back at the camp around 11:30.

When we return, you'll have a refreshing drink and a delicious lunch. Time for a short rest or a swim, then around 15:30, we'll depart in our motorized canoe for the Casa de la Abuela (Grandmother's House), a traditional home where the founding grandmother of the community still lives. We'll learn how to make traditional chocolate, which we'll serve with our dinner this evening. Time to enjoy amazing views of the sunset from this hilltop home, then we'll return to camp for a delicious dinner.

After dinner, we'll take a night walk along a short trail known as the Tucán trail near the camp; this walk is about an hour.



### **Day 4: Return to Coca**

Breakfast will be served early in the morning (depending on the time of the group's flight departure). We'll begin our trip in our motorized canoe for about an hour and a half; during the relaxing trip, you can say goodbye to the beauty of the Amazon rainforest. We'll then be met at the shores of the river and travel overland for about an hour and a half back to Coca, where you'll be dropped off at the airport or bus terminal for your return to Quito or travel to your next destination.

## **General Information:**

Tour runs with a minimum of 2 persons

There is no internet access in the lodge, and electricity is limited from 6 pm to 10 pm. We recommend taking enough batteries as well as a small solar panel. The CDC recommends vaccinating against yellow fever (not known to be present in Yasuni), tetanus, and hepatitis A (consult your doctor before traveling). While malaria is present in the Ecuadorian Amazon, it is very uncommon in the region thus we do not feel malaria medication is necessary for most people...however please consult with your doctor.

## **Included:**

- Transportation Coca - Mandari Panga - Coca
- Bilingual naturalist and native guide
- Accommodation in tents complete with mattress and bedding
- Use of rubber boots for hikes, life jacket for canoe travel
- Three meals a day (starting with lunch on first day through breakfast on final day)
- Purified water

## **Not Included:**

- Transportation Quito - Coca - Quito
- Additional beverages and snacks; extra meals in Coca before and after the tour
- Rain ponchos
- Tips
- Personal Expenses
- Travel insurance

## **What to bring (recommendations):**

- ORIGINAL PASSPORT (in waterproof plastic bag)
- Fast drying, lightweight clothing including long sleeve shirts and pants
- A light jacket for colder nights
- Waterproof jacket or rain poncho
- Sandals or walking shoes
- Thick, absorbent hiking type socks
- Hat or cap
- Sunglasses, sunblock and repellent (no spray)
- Water bottle

- One small (waterproof recommended) daypack
- Flashlight or headlamp with spare batteries
- Plastic bags to protect electronic equipment
- Camera and Binoculars
- Swimming suit