



Amazon Photo Safari

6 days, limited to 3 guests per guide (available also as a private tour)

A unique photographic experience in which we can find poisonous frogs, anacondas, boas, monkeys, birds, spiders, and endless animals in a magical place overflowing with life.

About the Tour:

The Yasuní National Park is one of the most biodiversity places on the planet. In this Safari, we will photograph, ethically and in situ, a large number of animal species, from the largest as birds and mammals to the smallest such as reptiles, amphibians, or invertebrates. Tour focuses on photographing animals as we find them, showing their behaviors. With the assistance and advice from your guide and instructor, you will obtain the best results in every situation.

Specifications of the Tour:

Tour for specialized photographers or photography lovers of all levels. The pace of the tour is relaxed to moderate. A couple of days, we will have early morning activities, usually starting at 5:30 am. We have activities during the day and night. Some afternoons you will have a moment to relax, you will have some free time with your guide to go over your shots. We will spend the night hikes on nearby trails, focusing on finding all types of wildlife at a slow pace. Group will not walk too far as there is plenty of activity nearby.

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: Tour starts with morning pick-up in Coca, either from the airport or a hotel if you arrived the day before. Then, we will drive for about an hour and a half to the Tiputini Riverport. Here is where one can start to appreciate the spectacular beauty of the rainforest. We will board a large covered motorized canoe for a 70-minute journey. We will see the beautiful surroundings we will be shooting; animal and landscape photography from the canoe from the port until arrival at the lodge. Along the way, we will pass a few houses from the kichwa and Huaorani communities. We will see the Spectacled Owl, the Anhinga, and some Blue Morpho butterflies if we are lucky while zig-zagging along the river.

All this area is primary and secondary forest. After we arrive at the camp, we will have lunch. Then, we will have a short canoe ride for sighting and animal photography; the scenery itself may be our biggest photo asset.

Just before sunset is a great time to see animal activity. At candlelight, we will enjoy our dinner. A night walk will follow (optional), 1-3 hours taking pictures of night animals on one of the various trails near the camp.

Day 2 - 5: Each day's activities will be planned the night before, based on weather conditions, animal activity, sightings, and current hotspots known by the local guides. This area has different environments: terra firme and igapo forest, black water lagoons, and white water rivers.

Parrot clay-lick. Birds are usually more active early in the morning; we will leave the camp around 5 am to visit this site. A short canoe ride on the Rumiyacu river and a walk will lead us to the clay lick. There are various types of parrots, like the Orange-cheeked Parrot. We will return slowly, photographing the fauna we can find like toucans, trogons, or amazing insects. We will pack some fruits and drinks to eat along the way.

El Moretal. This site is just crossing a small river from the camp. Morete is a type of palm tree, and local refers to Moretal to a lowland flooded forest composed by this palm. This hike is near or in swamp areas. This ecosystem is a perfect area to photograph amphibians at night as well as some rare species of birds during the day, like the Long-tailed potoo.



Spectacled owl perched on a river shore tree on the Tiputini river. Photo: Javier Aznar

Tiputini river. This river flows west to east and passes all the Yasuni National Park, and in some areas, it is the natural limit between the Kichwa and Huaorani communities. This river carries a lot of nutrients in its water. We will leave early in the morning for a canoe ride; we will turn the motor off and go with the flow. Photography is mainly done from the canoe with a couple of stops at river beaches. This is an excellent opportunity to see swallows, kiskadees, kingfishers, woodpeckers, potoos, and others. If we are lucky, we might see river dolphins. We will return to the camp for breakfast.

Blackwater lagoon. There are a few of these in this area. We can find hoatzins, herons, pigeons, tanagers, swallows, and others. And with some luck, the giant otter. This is a mixed activity, hiking and canoeing.

Casa de la Abuela. We will visit the "grandmother"; this is an excellent opportunity to photograph the daily life of a kichwa family, their customs, and activities. Many birds can be observed and photographed from here as oropendolas, tanagers, trogons, and a tin



of different invertebrates as insects in the area. Possibility of going out for a walk from the grandma's house to the camp doing some photography, on the way we will be able to see more wildlife.

The common lance-head (Bothrops atrox) up on a tree branch. Photo: Javier Aznar

Trails by the camp. One trail (Peccary trail) starts just back of the restaurant, and another two trails are crossing the Tiputini River and the Yutzuyacu River from the camp. Most are loop trails with three options of length. Most of the time it is not necessary to walk long distances to get good photographs. Lots of birds and insects as grasshoppers, katydids, spiders, and some frogs are close.

Day 6: Depending on your flight schedule, we might have some time for a short morning activity. We will leave the camp around 9 am, just after breakfast. Keep your camera out as there are always new findings on the way. We will be arriving in Coca around noon.

General Information:

Tour runs with a minimum of 2 persons and a maximum of 6 (if there are more than three persons, another photography guide will join the group).

There is no internet access in the lodge, and electricity use is available 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, tetanus, and hepatitis A (consult your doctor before traveling).

Included:

- Transportation Coca - Mandari Panga - Coca
- Bilingual photography guide 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 the first day through breakfast on the 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
- 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 photographic equipment or electronic equipment
- One small (waterproof recommended) daypack
- Film gel to keep the equipment dry

Recommended photography equipment:

- Digital SLR camera (DSLR or MIRRORLESS)

- Angular objective, macro (50mm and/or 90mm) and telephoto (100mm-400mm or a 600mm lens), extension tubes and teleconverters
- 1-2 flashes with diffusers and triggers or cable
- Trusting cable
- Tripod
- Sufficient rechargeable batteries
- Sufficient memory cards

We can observe and photograph some species of animals like:

Mammals

- South American Tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*)
- White-tailed Titi (*Plecturocebus discolor*)
- Mouse Opossum (*Marmosa* sp.)
- Common Squirrel Monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*)
- Colombian Red Howler Monkey (*Alouatta seniculus*)
- Spix's Night Monkey (*Aotus vociferans*)
- Giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*)
- Jaguar (*Panthera onca*)

Reptiles

Lizards

- Southern Turniptail Gecko (*Thecadactylus solimoensis*)
- Bridled Forest Gecko (*Gonatodes humeralis*)
- Elegant Eyed Lizard (*Cercosaura argulus*)
- Crowned Dwarf-Caiman (*Paleosuchus trigonatus*)
- Common Forest Anole (*Anolis trachyderma*)
- Cusco Tegu (*Tupinambis cuzcoensis*)
- Amazon Bark Anole (*Anolis ortonii*)

Snakes

- Green Anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*)
- Mountain Keelback (*Helicops angulatus*)
- Common Blunt-headed Tree Snake (*Imantodes cenchoa*)
- Western Rainbow Boa (*Epicrates cenchria*)

- Common Lancehead (*Bothrops atrox*)
- Forest Flame Snake (*Oxyrhopus petolarius*)
- Ornate Snail-Eater (*Dipsas catesbyi*)
- Northern Woodland Racer (*Drymoluber dichrous*)
- Boa constrictor
- *Chironius multiventris*

Turtles

- Yellow-headed Sideneck (*Podocnemis uniflies*)

Amphibians

- Variable Dart Frog (*Ranitomeya variabilis*)
- Cabrera's Spiny-backed Frog (*Osteocephalus cabrerai*)
- Kichwa Rainfrog (*Pristimantis kichwarum*)
- Ecuador Poison Frog (*Ameerega bilinguis*)
- Manaus Spiny-backed Frog (*Osteocephalus taurinus*)
- Upper Amazon Tree Frog (*Dendropsophus bifurcus*)
- *Pristimantis variabilis*
- Brown-eyed Tree Frog (*Nyctimantis rugiceps*)
- *Pristimantis diadematus*
- Rainfrog (*Strabomantis sulcatus*)
- Short-nosed Tree Frog (*Dendropsophus brevifrons*)
- Painted Forest Toadlet (*Engystomops petersi*)
- White-lined Leaf Frog (*Phyllomedusa vaillantii*)
- Arboreal Salamander (*Bolitoglossa* sp.)
- Common Big-headed Frog (*Oreobates quixensis*)
- Rainfrog (*Pristimantis martiae*)
- Spotted Toad (*Rhaebo guttatus*)
- Leaf-litter Toad (*Rhinella alata*)
- *Pristimantis omeviridis*
- Flat-headed Spiny-backed Frog (*Osteocephalus planiceps*)
- South American Common (Toad *Rhinella margaritifera*)

And hundreds species of invertebrates as insects, spiders, scorpions.... and much more!!