



CUYABENO WILDLIFE RESERVE

The Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve, a partly inundated forest in the northeast of Ecuador, is one of the best areas to admire the fauna of the tropical rainforest. The 14 lagoons and the labyrinth of small rivers are the territory of piranhas, river dolphins, caimans and anacondas. On the dense jungle and along the river shores live monkeys, tapirs and pumas. Cuyabeno is a paradise for birdwatchers: there are hundreds of species, such as hummingbirds, parrots and the peculiar hoatzin bird. Our itineraries, that start in the town of Lago Agrio, last 4 or 5 days.



4-DAY PROGRAM:

Day 1. In the morning you take a flight from Quito to Lago Agrio. Airport reception and transfer by car for 2,5 hour to Tierras Orientales, where we start a journey by motorized canoe. We navigate first downstream the Aguarico river and then continue upstream along the Cuyabeno blackwater river. After about 3 hours we arrive at the lodge. After dinner our bilingual naturalist guide will tell you about the program for the next days.

Day 2. Early morning we leave for a canoe excursion, because the brisk morning hours are the best time to see the rainforest's activity. After breakfast we will make a hike in primary rainforest with our naturalist guide and native guide. In the afternoon we will go with either paddling or motorized canoes to enjoy the beautiful landscapes and to try to find species of monkeys or dolphins. After dinner we will make a short excursion to look for nocturnal insects, and with a bit of luck we may see some species of tree frogs.

Day 3. Starting early in the morning we spend the whole day exploring. We observe the enchanting salt lick (an exposed clay bank) where colourful parrots and parakeets feed on the clay to draw the toxins from their bodies. During a hike in the forest the native guide shares with us the ancient knowledge learnt from his ancestors. He shows us the many different medicinal and practical uses of the rainforest and we learn how all life in the tropical rainforest co-exists in a fragile balance. In the afternoon we explore the Cuyabeno river, observing different habitats and looking for other species. We have a good chance to see the freshwater pink and grey river dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis* and *Sotalia fluviatilis*). We also visit the Quichua Birdwatching Tower; from above the canopy we have a breathtaking view of the surrounding rainforest. After dinner, we venture out on a night excursion to search for caimans and nocturnal birds.

Day 4. After breakfast we navigate along the Cuyabeno river to an indigenous community of Quichuas, where our guide will explain about the culture and traditions of the native people. Then we travel by canoe down the Cuyabeno river and back along the Aguarico river to Tierras Orientales, from where we return by car to Lago Agrio. Arrival at Lago Agrio around 16.00 p.m. and return flight to Quito.

NOTE: The itinerary may be subject to changes due to weather conditions and the water level in the reserve.

DIFFICULTY: easy

DEPARTURE: any day with minimal 2 persons

INCLUDING:

- jungle guide
- private transfers from / to Lago Agrio
- transportation by canoe in the reserve
- accommodation in Tourist Class jungle lodge, cabins with private bathroom (only cold water)
- meals (4 lunch, 3 dinner, 3 breakfast) and coffee, tea, purified drinking water

- jungle equipment (including rubber boots, rain poncho)

NOT INCLUDING:

- flight Quito – Lago Agrio 135 or 145 USD depending on airline, VIP or TAME
- entrance fee Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve (if applicable)
- travel insurance
- tips



5-DAY PROGRAM:

Day 1. In the morning you take a flight from Quito to Lago Agrio. Airport reception and transfer by car for 2,5 hour to Tierras Orientales, where we start a journey by motorized canoe. We navigate first downstream the Aguarico river and then continue upstream along the Cuyabeno blackwater river. After about 3 hours we arrive at the lodge. After dinner our bilingual naturalist guide will tell you about the program for the next days.

Day 2. Early morning we leave for a canoe excursion, because the brisk morning hours are the best time to see the rainforest's activity. After breakfast we will make a hike in primary rainforest with our naturalist guide and native guide. After lunch we will go paddling by traditional dugout canoe, enabling us to enjoy the sounds of the jungle, from the smallest insect to the fierce sounding Howler monkeys. On the way back to the lodge we will stop and try our luck at piranha fishing. After dinner we will make a short excursion to look for nocturnal insects, and with a bit of luck we may see some species of tree frogs.

Day 3. Early morning we go birdwatching. We have the opportunity to observe macaws, toucans, parrots, caciques, hoatzins and other tropical bird species. After breakfast, we trek into primary rainforest and the guide will explain us about the practical and medicinal uses of several plants. After lunch we navigate along the Cuyabeno river to enjoy the beautiful nature. Optional night walk.

Day 4. Starting early in the morning we spend the whole day exploring. We observe the enchanting salt lick (an exposed clay bank) where colourful parrots and parakeets feed on the clay to draw the toxins from their bodies. During a hike in the forest the native guide shares with us his ancient knowledge learnt from his ancestors. He shows us the many different medicinal and practical uses of the rainforest and we learn how all life in the tropical rainforest co-exists in a fragile balance. In the afternoon we explore the Cuyabeno river, observing different habitats and looking for other species. We have a good chance of seeing the freshwater pink and grey river dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis* and *Sotalia fluviatilis*). We also visit the Quichua Birdwatching Tower; from above the canopy we have a breathtaking view of the surrounding rainforest. After dinner, we venture out on a night excursion to search for caimans and nocturnal birds.

Day 5. After breakfast we navigate along the Cuyabeno river to an indigenous community of Quichuas, where our guide will explain about the culture and traditions of the native people. Then we travel by canoe down the Cuyabeno river and back along the Aguarico river to Tierras Orientales, from where we return by car to Lago Agrio. Arrival at Lago Agrio around 16.00 p.m. and return flight to Quito.

NOTE: The itinerary may be subject to changes due to weather conditions and the water level in the reserve.

DIFFICULTY: easy

DEPARTURE: any day with minimal 2 persons

INCLUDING:

- See 4-day program above

NOT INCLUDING:

- See 4-day program above