

13 DAYS / 12 NIGHTS

NATURE & WILDLIFE

AN ITINERARY FOR NATURE AND OUTDOOR LOVERS

Discover the diversity of Ecuador's various ecosystems – from the dry highlands over the cloud forest to the evergreen Amazon rainforest. In the highlands you hike around a crater lake, have a good possibility to observe the spectacled bear and watch the condor's flight. In Mindo you will discover many species of birds in the high biodiverse cloud forest. Your trip ends in the Ecuadorian Amazon staying in a comfortable jungle lodge, where a great wildlife is present. A lot of time is devoted to animal observation at all locations.

PRICE: upon request

INCLUDES

- Private transportation
- English speaking Naturalist Guide for the complete trip
- Accommodation based on a double or single room in *** hotels
- Meals conform the itinerary (B = breakfast, L = lunch or box lunch, D = dinner)
- Flight Quito – Coca – Quito
- Shared boat transportation from Coca to the Jungle Lodge and back to Coca
- Spanish speaking Native Guide in El Eden Jungle Lodge
- Costs guide and driver
- Permits and entrance fees
- Certification of biosecurity
- Water bottle of recycled material and sufficient drinking water
- First aid kit

NOT INCLUDED

- Beverages
- Single supplement: upon request
- Not mentioned meals
- Personal expenses and equipment
- Eventually tips
- Travel insurance

Remark: English speaking guide from the highlands will join the group to the Amazon Lodge in case of 7 or more participants

BEST TIME TO VISIT: all year round.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: Easy Hiking

- Follows good paths with up and downhill sections
- Up to 3 hours of activity
- No special preparation is necessary
- Hiking shoes are recommended
- Designed for people with a good health and ability to carry a small pack

ACCLIMATIZATION: No previous acclimatization is required for this itinerary. Please note that the temperatures during the excursions in the jungle can be very high. Rain must be expected every day in the cloud forest and the jungle, even in the dry season.

Overview

Day 1) Arrival to Quito and transfer to the hotel

Day 2) Visit to Quito's historic center and botanical garden, overnight in Quito

Day 3) Cuicocha crater lake and observe the spectacled bears, overnight in tents

Day 4) Visit a birds rescue center and journey to the cloud forest, overnight in Mindo

Day 5) Birdwatching in the cloud forest, overnight in Mindo

Day 6) Observe the cock of the rock, overnight in Puembo

Day 7) Visit the Antisana National Park and watch the Condor's flight, overnight in the region

Day 8) Flight to Coca and boat transfer to "El Eden" Jungle Lodge

Day 9) Excursion in the rainforest, overnight in the "El Eden" Jungle Lodge

Day 10) Walk in the jungle and paddle on the Yuturi Lake, overnight in the "El Eden" Jungle Lodge

Day 11) Visit indigenous community and shaman ritual, overnight in the "El Eden" Jungle Lodge

Day 12) Boat transfer to Coca and flight to Quito. Overnight at a cloud forest lodge, east from the airport.

Day 13) Transfer to the airport

Itinerary

Day 1) Arrival to Quito and transfer to the hotel

Meet up and reception at Quito's airport. Transfer to your hotel
Transfer 1 hour

Day 2) Visit to Quito's colonial center and botanical garden, overnight in Quito

On the visit to the historic center you will see the main attractions such as the golden churches, the main square and Archbishop's palace. Taste local food and get in touch with the "quiteños". Quito is a world cultural heritage declared by UNESCO and offers any interesting areas. After lunch you visit the botanical garden. The park exhibits the native flora of the Andes as well as a large orchidarium. Overnight in Quito

Travel time 1hour, 3 hours walk, visit of the botanical garden 2 hours (B)

Day 3) Cuicocha crater lake and observe the spectacled bears, overnight in tents

You travel to the north and arrive to the Cuicocha crater lagoon. Walk in this unique landscape teeming with native flora. After the excursion you continue by transport to the spectacled bear reserve of Pimampiro. This type of bear is the only species found in Latin America. They are very shy and in danger of extinction. You will learn about their behavior and habitat. In the late evening you will have the opportunity to observe them. Tonight you will sleep in a tent and a local family serves a typical dinner. This comfortable campsite is located next to the view point of the bears.

Travel time 6 hours, 2 hour walk (B-L-D)

Day 4) Visit a bird rescue center and journey to the cloud forest, overnight in Mindo

An early wake up gives you the opportunity to see the bears again! Only late in the evening or around daybreak you have the chance to spot them. After a good breakfast, served by the same family, you leave Pimamapiro. On the way to Mindo you stop at "Parque Condor", which is a bird rescue center. None of the exhibited raptors have been taken directly from the wild. Many of the species are rescued from illegal captivity.

You continue by transport and reach the region of Mindo, located in the "Choco Andino de Pichincha Biosphere Reserve". This area is known for its high biodiversity. Overnight in a comfortable lodge surrounded by the cloud forest.

Travel time 5 hours (B-L-D)

Day 5) Birdwatching in the cloud forest, overnight in Mindo

Mindo is a special place for bird watching. Here you can observe many species of hummingbirds, tanagers, fly catchers and many more. The guide draws your attention also to the native vegetation. In the afternoon you have time to visit an orchid garden and a butterfly farm. You can see the whole process from the caterpillar to the cocoon to the butterfly.

Overnight in the lodge

Travel time 30 minutes, 2-3 hours walk (B-L-D)

Day 6) Observe the cock of the rock, overnight in Puembo

Early in the morning you head toward a leak where you can observe the cock of the rock as well as the Giant Antpitta. The male cock of the rock has a striking red color and is easy to see when it's there. In this private reserve you have the opportunity to spot these incredible birds at day break. Later this day you travel to the next hotel, located east of Quito.

Travel time 3 hours, 1-2 hours walk (B-L-D)

Day 7) Visit the Antisana National Park and watch the Condor's flight, overnight in Puembo

A short transfer brings you to the Antisana National Park, which is the home of the largest Condor colony in Ecuador. Opposite of a rocky cliff you can observe these incredible big birds gliding in the sky. Afterwards you continue to Mica Lagoon, located at the foothills of the snowcapped Antisana volcano. Here you will hike in the surroundings of the lake. Antisana National Park is also home to animals such as deer, rabbits and birds of prey. Overnight in the same hotel in Puembo

Travel time 3 hours, 1-2 hours walk (B-L-D)

Day 8) Flight to Coca and boat transfer to "El Eden" Jungle Lodge

A morning flight takes you to the little town of Coca, located in the Ecuadorian Rainforest. A speed boat takes you along the big Napo River to the Lodge. For the last 30 minutes you change to a paddle boat and on the little Yuturi River you get to the Lodge. "El Eden" Eco Lodge itself is located at a small side river and lake, in the middle of the primary forest. It is a small Amazon community owned lodge with just 6 bungalows and a total capacity of 12 guests. This makes "El Eden" to an exclusive lodge and they are very flexible to the itinerary and needs of its guests.

Upon arrival and welcome to the lodge you make a first introductory walk into the jungle. When you fall asleep you can listen to the sounds of the jungle!

Transfer to the airport 30 minutes, boat trip 3 hours, 1-2 hours walk (B-L-D)

Day 9) Excursion in the rainforest, overnight in the "El Eden" Jungle Lodge

After breakfast your bilingual guide and native guide take you to the "Wangana" trail. Lunch is served on the lodge and in the afternoon they take you to a paddle boat trip to the Yuturi Lake. The trail and the lake afford excellent opportunities to spot monkeys, birds and other wildlife. Interested guests may also take part in a guided night walk... In the night you can observe little animals such as frogs, spiders and insects.

3 hours walk, (B-L-D)

Day 10) Walk in the jungle and paddle on the Yuturi Lake, overnight in the “El Eden” Jungle Lodge

Today’s excursion takes you deep into the jungle. You follow the “Otorongo” trail and your guide shows you medicinal plants and explains its use. You may spot monkeys or other animals along this long jungle walk. A pick nick is served in the jungle! You return by paddle canoe to the lodge. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at the lodge and go for sunset to the lake.

5-6 hours walk, (B-L-D)

Day 11) Visit indigenous community and shaman ritual, overnight in the “El Eden” Jungle Lodge

After paddling on the lake you walk 30 minutes to the Napo River. A motorboat is waiting there and takes you to an indigenous community. This community owns “El Eden” Lodge and you have the opportunity to buy handicrafts, elaborated by the locals.

Afterwards, on the way back to the Lodge, guests are welcome to swim in the Napo River. Lunch will be served on the river bank.

Back at the lodge, a meeting with a local shaman can be arranged. Enjoy your last night in the jungle!

1-2 hours walk, boat trip 30 minutes (B-L-D)

Day 12) Boat transfer to Coca and flight to Quito, overnight in a cloud forest lodge

An early morning wake up and departure brings you back on the same way to Coca. Breakfast is served on the boat. Once in Coca you get to the airport and a short flight takes you to Quito. You will be picked up and your driver takes you to a nice cloud forest lodge, just 1 hour away from the airport. You have a last opportunity to spot the Torrent Duck. Overnight in the “Guango Lodge”

Boat trip 3 hours, Transfer 30 minutes (B-L- D)

Day 13) Transfer to the airport

Depending on your flight schedule transfer to the airport

A Galapagos extension can be arranged for guests who want to explore more nature and wildlife in a complete different region of Ecuador. (B)