

Detailed Itinerary

Trip Name: [8 days] Amazon Immersion Ecuador

GENERAL

Dates: This trip is bookable year-round. Contact Yūgen Earthside for your preferred start date.

Travel by motorized canoe and stay at campsites and lodges along the river banks on an extraordinary tour exploring the deepest of the primary forest in the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve.

Main Stops:

Lago Agrio – Aguarico River – Lagarto Cocha River Flooded Forest System – Cocaya River
Aguarico River – Napo River – Coca City

[Add detailed route map.]

About the Tour Operator:

We not only care about our travelers, but we also care about the local communities and the environment. When you book a tour with us, you become an active collaborator of the local and international foundations we work with in order to do our part. Whether it is educating children on the coast of Ecuador, or helping out conservation projects in the Galapagos, we care. We also support two projects: the Amiguitos del Océano, which works to reduce and prevent waste from going into the ocean, and the Galapagos Conservation Trust.

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY



Day 1: LAGO AGRIO – AGUARICO RIVER – ZANCUDO LODGE [Ecuador] (arrival day)

Your journey starts in the morning with a 2-hour drive from Lago Agrio to “Tierras Orientales” Village at the shore of the Aguarico River. Here we'll start our fantastic Amazon Rainforest experience by navigating on a motorized canoe downstream along this beautiful white-water river until we arrive at the mouth of the Cuyabeno River, a small and breathtaking blackwater river which is a tributary of the Aguarico.

Here, and with some luck we will have our first watch of the legendary pink Freshwater Dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis*). During this first relaxing journey we'll make a stop for a delicious picnic lunch and if you wish, a refreshing swim. From here we'll continue navigating downstream Aguarico river until we reach the Zancudo Kichwa Native Community territory. This is a fantastic journey navigating East into the deep Amazon rain forest. Navigation time 5 hours.

Accommodation: A rustic but comfortable lodge at the shore of the river

Included meals: Lunch, welcome cocktail, dinner

Day 2: ZANCUDO LODGE – ZANCUDO COCHA LAKE CAMP (IRIPARI)

Today, weather and level of river permitting, we will camp next to the amazing Zancudo Cocha Lake.

After breakfast, we'll start our day with a hike in the marvelous primary Amazon rainforest, one of the most biologically rich places on Earth. During the trek, our guide will explain the use of important plants for the Natives' survival and with some luck, we'll see impressive wildlife.

After lunch and a relaxing time, we'll explore by motorized canoe the fantastic Zancudo (Iripari) lake and its stunning landscape with good chances of observing wildlife. This lake is also a good place to enjoy a refreshing swim. At night and before dinner we'll take a short hike where it is possible to see giant insects, spiders, snakes and enjoy the fantastic sounds of the nightlife in the Amazon.

Accommodation: Campsite

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 3: ZANCUDO CAMP – AGUARICO RIVER - LAGARTO COCHA RIVER FLOODED FOREST SYSTEM - BORDER WITH PERU

After breakfast, we'll break camp and navigate by motorized canoe downstream on the Aguarico river towards the Lagarto Cocha river, a beautiful and remote small tributary of Aguarico river and the actual border between Peru and Ecuador.

Lagarto Cocha River in native language means "the river of the Caimans". We'll continue upstream along the Lagarto River deep into the Rainforest to explore this spectacular system of river and lakes. We'll arrive at Delfin Cocha Lake or "the Lake of Dolphins." In this beautiful lake we'll have the best chances of seeing the Amazonian Freshwater Pink and Grey River Dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis* and *Sotalia fluviatilis*), and maybe have a swim with them too!

Picnic Lunch. In the afternoon we'll set up our camp. Late in the afternoon, we'll navigate slowly up the Lagarto River looking for new species of wildlife until the sun sets on a beautiful landscape.

At night, and from the motorized canoe, we'll navigate downstream towards our camp. On the way, we'll search for wildlife including: Night birds, Snakes, Bats, Caimans, Frogs and more. Return to the camp and have dinner. Night in tents at the shore of Lagarto Cocha River. Navigation time 4 hours.

Accommodation: Campsite

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 4: LAGARTO COCHA RIVER FLOODED FOREST SYSTEM

Early in the morning, we'll navigate slowly for a bird watching trip and to enjoy the fantastic sounds of life in the rainforest. After breakfast we'll continue our adventure navigating upriver, exploring deep in this pristine remote rainforest with excellent chances of spotting wildlife including Parrots and Macaws, Herons, Egrets, Toucans and many other different species of birds. With some luck, we'll see some of the 10 species of monkeys that live in the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve.

This journey will take us to a remote Secoya Indigenous Community. Secoya people are ancestral people with great knowledge of their environment, flora and fauna. We will also go for a hike to learn about their traditional way of life in the jungle. Here we'll be part of the making of the Casabe (Manioc or Yuca) bread starting from the extraction of the Casabe roots to the final product that is a special type of bread that is large, round and flat. Casabe is an important part of Indigenous people traditional diet. Here our picnic lunch will include Casabe bread. Return to the Campsite. Dinner.

Accommodation: Campsite

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 5: LAGARTO COCHA RIVER CAMP SITE – AGUARICO RIVER – COCAYA RIVER LODGE

After breakfast, we'll break camp and navigate slowly downstream along the Lagarto River towards the white water Aguarico River. During this journey, we'll have opportunities to watch more wildlife.

We'll continue navigating by motorized canoe downstream along the Aguarico river towards the mouth of the remote black water Cocaya River. Aguarico river in this area is the actual border between Ecuador and Peru. From the mouth of the Cocaya River, a short navigation distance upstream will take us to a simple but comfortable Indigenous Lodge. Picnic lunch during the way. Arrive at the Lodge and have time to relax. In the evening, before dinner, we'll go for a second exciting hike. Navigation time 5 hours.

Accommodation: Indigenous Lodge

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 6: COCAYA RIVER

Early in the morning and by motorized canoe we'll go for a wildlife observation trip with good chances to spot different species of beautiful birds. After breakfast, we'll go for a fantastic hike in a pristine forest. Then we'll have lunch and a relaxing time at the camp. Later in the afternoon, we'll try our luck at Piranha fishing! Return to the Lodge by motorized canoe. Dinner.

Accommodation: Indigenous Lodge

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 7: COCAYA RIVER – AGUARICO RIVER – NAPO RIVER – NUEVA ROCAFUERTE VILLAGE

After breakfast, we will break camp and prepare to depart. We will navigate downstream the Cocaya River towards its mouth in the Aguarico river to visit a fantastic River Dolphin Conservation Project managed by the Kichwa Indigenous Community of Martinica. Here, you will enjoy observing from a short distance Pink Dolphins in their natural condition.

After lunch, we will continue navigating until we reach the Napo River which is one of the main tributaries of the Amazon River. From here we will navigate further upstream the Napo River to reach Nuevo Rocafuerte which is the last Ecuadorian village before the border with Peru. From this small and quiet village, we have excellent views of the beautiful Napo River. Navigation time 4 hours.

Accommodation: Hostel

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8: NUEVA ROCAFUERTE VILLAGE – COCA CITY

After an early breakfast, we will board a speedboat that will take us on the Napo River to the city of Coca located around 180 km from Nueva Rocafuerte. On the way, you will enjoy an amazing landscape. Packed lunch during the way. Upon arrival at Coca City, we will transfer you to the airport or bus station. Navigation time 5 hours.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch



INCLUSIONS

- **Accommodation:**
 - Accommodation in Indigenous huts
 - Hostel and meals in Nueva Rocafuerte Village and Tents (double and single occupancy)
 - Bedding and camping mattress
- **Meals:**
 - Lunch and dinner on the first day
 - Three meals a day on the next days
 - Breakfast and lunch on the last day
 - Purified bottled water
 - Tea & Coffee
 - Cuisine that caters for vegetarians and vegans
- **Transportation:**
 - Transportation from Lago Agrio (Bus & Canoe)
 - Airport and bus station transfers in Lago Agrio and Coca
- **Permits, Fees, Guides:**
 - Experienced bilingual naturalist guide/translator
- **Other:**
 - Activities with the Indigenous community
 - Entrance fee to the freshwater dolphin conservation project
 - Rubber boots (up to No 46)
 - Raincoat (Poncho)
 - Life jackets
 - Towel
 - Biodegradable soap

EXCLUSIONS

- **Accommodation:**
 - Accommodation and meals in Lago Agrio or Coca (if you come early or stay late)
- **Meals:**
 - Alcoholic drinks at a reduced price e.g. \$3 for a 750ml pilsener beer
 - Additional beverages
- **Transportation:**
 - Flights to/from Ecuador
 - Your transport from Quito - Lago Agrio - Quito (can be included upon request)
- **Other:**
 - Tips
 - Souvenirs from Native Communities
 - Any service not specified