

**Amazon exploration and discovery  
Huaorani Lodge 5Days/4Nights**

Once in a life time experience, venturing in the mighty Amazon jungle by the hand of the ancestral Huaorani people. This is a learning and life changing adventure. Your travel to the Amazon basin will contribute directly to conservation efforts, local community projects, as well as fostering respect for native and traditional peoples. Visit one of the most amazing places on earth and contribute to preserve this place for future generations, the Amazon rainforest.

**Detailed Itinerary  
Amazon exploration and discovery  
Huaorani Lodge 5Days/4Nights  
Monday-Friday departures**



The award winning Huaorani Ecolodge is situated at the headwaters of the Amazon and run by the Huaorani, one of the most isolated ethnic group on earth. This is a life changing experience where you will learn how to use a blowgun, climb trees, smear your face with red achiote, and take a two day meander down the Shiripuno river in kayaks or dugout canoes watching tropical birds and monkeys and listen to an indigenous leader relate the tribe's fight against oil exploration and with luck meet Moi Enomenga a conservation hero honored by **National Geographic and the Buffett Foundation**, The Huaorani are high energy, fun-loving people and they expect you to immerse in their culture and customs. Visit, learn, act, share and inspire!

## DAY 1

Your journey to the Amazon begins early in the morning after being picked up at your hotel. Leaving the bustling metropolis of Quito, you will be treated to the beautiful sceneries of the Ecuadorian countryside as transportation heads south, transitioning from the Andes to the Amazon (locally known as the Oriente). The excursion winds along the impressive Avenue of Volcanoes—a strip of 14 active, semi-active and dormant volcanic mountains—passing traditional haciendas, indigenous villages and protected natural areas, giving you a taste for the local culture. With luck and clear weather, you'll be able to see the remarkably steep peaks in all their glory, including the cone-shaped Cotopaxi, one of the highest active volcanoes in the world, and Tungurahua, which has ongoing eruptions. Baños (*bah-nyos*), named for its thermal baths that draw thousands of visitors per year and known for its adrenaline-pumping adventure sports and *melcocha* taffy, will be the

first major town on the way. Your journey will continue into its surrounding green landscapes punctuated by beautiful cascading waterfalls, riding adjacent to the Agoyan River (which changes name to Pastaza once it crosses into the province of the same name) while passing under several tunnels. Heading onward to the jungle, you'll start to notice changes in vegetation, with Spanish moss, bananas and tropical palms beginning to dominate the countryside.

Four or five hours later, you will arrive to the town of Shell, named after the oil company. This hosts the third busiest airport in Ecuador, with frequent flights in and out of the Oriente to facilitate easier travel to the region for military personnel, missionaries, various aid groups and charter companies.

Around noon, you will depart in a light aircraft to the Huaorani community of Quehueri'ono (keh-wei-oh-noh), only to be warmly greeted by your guests after a short 35-minute flight. From here, you will start your expedition downstream in a shallow dugout canoe called a quilla (kee-yah). Your luggage will be taken ahead separately, so be sure to keep your camera, binoculars, sunscreen and hat on-board with you. Rubber boots and rain ponchos will be distributed at this point.

Immediately, you will begin to enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the Amazon. The entire paddle downstream will be filled with amazing wildlife viewing, and you'll likely catch a glimpse and photo of the many riverside birds, including the Yellow-romped Cacique, the Greater and Lesser Kiskadees, and any of the four Amazonian kingfishers. You won't want to put your camera down as you traverse the mighty Shiripuno River (shire-puno) sandwiched between thick tangles of rainforest vegetation on either side.

Finally, you will arrive at Huaorani Ecolodge, your intimate and comfortable home for the next few days. You'll have the chance to settle in, have lunch listen to an introductory briefing about the Huaorani culture and their relationship with the rainforest at the discovery trail. After dinner, feel free to rest up for day two of your Amazonian adventure, or if you have an urge to start exploring, ask your guide to lead you on a night walk.

## DAY 2

Today is hunting day! (Figure speak) And you thought this was an environmentally friendly project? Well, it is! Huaorani are hunters and gatherers and their main sources of protein are mammals (yes, including monkeys), fish and birds. The goals of this project are to preserve the traditional practices of the Huaorani culture and to protect the tropical rainforest.

After breakfast, a Huaorani guide will accompany you on a long nature hike into the forest. The local guides are also experienced hunters and they will teach you the secrets of rainforest survival without killing any of the creatures that live there. You'll learn how to set traps, make fire without matches, build a shelter in minutes, use a blowgun, practice the perfect swing of the machete and catch fish in small creeks. Your guide may also point out and let you taste edible insects, identify and explain the uses of medicinal plants, and show you which clay is used to make pottery.

The trail has two overlooks as it winds toward the community. There are tree trunk seats for some much-needed rest and will allow you to enjoy the view over the forest canopy, where you may see vultures soaring and trees in bloom. Afterwards, you'll have time to change into your swimsuit and take a dip in the fresh river water, swimming beside the creatures of the Amazon. Do not worry, though, the animals won't bite; humans are the only true threat in the jungle! Most likely, members of the Huaorani community will join you for the swim; the river plays a central role in their lives and they love to play in the water!

Shortly after, you'll fill up on a hearty lunch near the community. The afternoon will be spent with the community, when you'll get to know the members personally. The relaxed, informal visit may lead you to share a bowl of chucula (a sweet drink made of ripe bananas) under the filtered light of the thatched houses, or admire the beautiful handmade artifacts, including woven hammocks and bags, blowguns, traps and necklaces. You'll also have the chance to visit the Bi-cultural Ecology Education project and learn how to harvest manioc, also known as yucca or cassava. Perhaps you will be invited to join in a game of ecua-volley!

If you'd like, you can visit the community's handicraft market and purchase some of the products. The production of crafts is one of the ways the Huaorani maintain their culture, and buying crafts is way to provide direct support the Huaorani families: it provides employment in the village and another reason to protect the natural areas around the community. You return to the lodge by canoe at the end of the afternoon to relax and have dinner, then your naturalist guide will offer a half hour discussion, or talk, on a subject of interest. Like the day before, if you'd like to extend your day and continue observing, ask your guide to bring you on a short night hike.

### **DAY 3**

If you'd like to do some wildlife watching prior to breakfast, feel free to ask your guide. Otherwise, your day will start with the daily scheduled breakfast.

After fueling up for another exciting day in the rainforest, you'll embark on three-hour hike through the terra firme (never flooded whose composition is predominantly tall trees with little understory vegetation) and varzea (occasionally-flooded) forest. The trail winds through towering trees and across 10 different streams, following the Heliconia swamp to the summit of a small hill where a giant ceibo tree stands. This massive tree reaches 40 meters/131 feet high and has an equally impressive width around. Branching off the Ceibo Trail, you follow a path that parallels the Shiripuno River for some time, crossing several small tributaries, including one that some White-collared peccaries bathe in. Don't be surprised if you come across their tracks and tusk marks, or if you catch a whiff of their distinctive smell.

Continuing on through the open forest, you'll climb over several gentle hills until you reach a lead-cutter ant metropolis on the edge of a small oxbow lake. There you'll find a mirador, or viewpoint, where you can see the ants in action! From there, you'll follow the lake back to the river, where the canoe will meet the group to take you back to the lodge. Expect to see some colorful aquatic birds and reptiles in their natural habitats on the way!

Lunch will be served at the lodge, and then you will canoe back downstream to an oxbow lake formed by the Shiripuno River (Cocha Pequeña). From there, you will walk inland for a few minutes, where you will have the opportunity to catch a glimpse of the extraordinary Hoatzin (one of the few birds that feeds almost exclusively on leaves), as well as anacondas, capybaras (world's largest rodent) and caimans (types of alligator) with some luck.

On the way back, you'll be dropped off across from the lodge where you will begin to climb to the top of a hill to witness a frequently used salt-clay lick. Many animals gather here to feed off of the mineral-rich clay, and if the animals haven't been scared away, you will get to see them in action. If it is inactive, you will still have the opportunity to see how the lick functions and its importance as a dietary supplement for rainforest creatures.

The return trip is a brief night outing to see nocturnal animals. Most of the rainforest animals are actually nocturnal, so this is your best opportunity to see some of these elusive creatures, or at least hear them climbing through the trees or digging for food. The night comes alive with gigantic buzzing insects, shimmery-skinned snakes and beady-eyed caimans, and you'll be able to see a sampling of this critter.

#### **DAY 4**

After breakfast, you set off canoeing down the Shiripuno River in traditional Huaorani style, or you can choose to kayak instead at an additional cost.

Today the day starts extra early in order to catch a glimpse of the many different birds out at these hours. The tranquility of the morning will allow you to appreciate the true peace and calm of the rainforest, and is the perfect time to relax and engage in intimate conversations, reflect on the past few days of the journey, or to learn some Huaorani vocabulary.

Next up is a stop at the Apaika community, which lives inside the Yame Reserve, a 55,000-hectare protected area managed by the Huaorani Association, who leads the region's ecotourism initiatives. Here you will enjoy a quick snack and visit Apaika's mini interpretation center, where you can learn more about Yasuní National Park. To complete the afternoon, you'll be able to join the community in some of its daily activities and share in its history, myths and magic.

Afterwards, the group continues a couple more hours downriver near the Huaorani village of Nenquepare. You will spend the night here, camping out along the Shiripuno River, sleeping with the sounds of the Amazon's animals. The well-constructed and comfortable campsite is part of a community initiative, so you will really get to participate in and support community tourism at its finest.



## **DAY 5**

Before the return journey and after being treated to a delicious breakfast, you will have the opportunity to hike the community trail to visit an impressive waterfall, one that has special importance for the Huaorani.

Once there, you can take a dip in the energizing waters to recharge for the trip back to Quito. The fairly easy walk is three hours altogether, and your naturalist guide will be sure to point out any special plants and animals you may come across.

Once back at the campsite, the group will bid farewell and start the return journey downstream in canoe. This will begin to an introduction to how the oil industry has impacted the Huaorani lands. The group will head to the border between traditional Huaorani territory and that of the petroleum companies, though it all used to belong to the Huaorani.

Here you will see the road built by oil companies in the early 1970s, which crosses the river, and transitions from forest to "civilization." Roads are symbols of modern deforestation, providing access and means for human populations to grow at a rapid rate. This affects indigenous peoples by displacing them from the best and most accessible agricultural soils (which aren't particularly well suited to begin with), reducing the amount of land available for their hunting and gathering practices, and encouraging them via settler example and government policy to increase their reliance on agriculture and timber extraction.

On this short tour, you will witness the crude reality of our collective thirst for oil as you ride alongside miles of pipelines, which go from the Huaorani community of Tihuino to Lago Agrio, the oil hub of el Oriente, to be pumped across the Andes to the port of Esmeraldas. This brief journey through oil territory illustrates the reality of the threat facing the rainforest and the Huaorani people. You will also realize why your visit to Huaorani Lodge was so important!

After a 2-hour overland ride down the Auca road, you will reach the banks of the Río Napo and the town of Coca, where you will catch your flight back to Quito in the late afternoon.

### ***Important notes and considerations:***

- Your travel to Ecuador will contribute directly to conservation efforts, local community projects, as well as fostering respect for native and traditional peoples. The Conservation in Action Foundation is the logical extension of our work.
- Minimum of guest required to open a departure for the Huaorani lodge is two people.
- We are open and welcome single travelers at any time!, if dates don't match when looking into availability in order to join an open departure, a single guest departure can be done, but covering the expenses of the minimum number of people required for this purpose as is two guest.
- Maximum number of guest at the lodge 10 people, sharing double twin cabins, 11 people can be hosted when turning one cabin into a triple as long as is shared by two adults + one child. (no triple cabins available for 3 adults)
- Soft drinks and beer is available at the lodge only, and have to be paid in cash on spot.

- Please bear in mind weight restrictions, as we fly small planes for our jungle operations, the luggage weight limit is 5(Kg.) Kilogram or 10 pound per person as checked in baggage.
- Satellite Phone available for emergencies only
- No malaria or yellow fever risk in this Amazon region, please ask you local doctor in case you decide to get vaccination.
- These are the general terms for activities/programs at Huaorani Ecolodge, though they may vary according to the program and/or weather; please note that a 24-hour clock is used, punctuality is the norm, and times given for activities are for going only one way unless otherwise noted.
- We have departures every day of the week but Sundays.

#### **Included:**

- Accommodations at the Lodge
- All meals & drinks (except soft drinks and alcoholic beverages)
- All activities
- Local Huaorani guide
- Bilingual naturalist guide (English speaking guide)
- Use of camping gear (tents, mattress, sheets), no need of sleeping bag.
- Use of rain poncho available.
- Use of rubber/Wellington boots up to sizes:  
European 44; American M 10.5 / F12; British M 10 / F 9.5
- Use of umbrella (in each cabin at the lodge)
- Biodegradable soap & shampoo
- Free potable water refill

#### **Not Included:**

- Transfers from and to Airport
- Accommodations in Ecuador (please don't hesitate to ask us for available options)
- Transportation package air, land, river in/out Quito - Huaorani Lodge - Coca- Quito (\$250.00 per person-subject to change. The transportation package includes: pick up at the hotel Quito, overland transfer through the Andes from Quito to Shell, private small plane charter from Shell to Huaorai lodge air strip, motor canoe transfer in and out Huaorani Lodge, overland transfer to Coca airport)
- Domestic flight ticket, Coca - Quito One way \$87.00 (subject to change)
- Airfare tax at Shell airport \$7, 60 per person. (to be paid in cash locally)
- Transportation outside of the vicinity of the Lodge area
- Entrance fee to Huaorani Territory \$20 per person
- Explore the Shiripuno River kayaking at your own pace from the lodge to the Campsite Full day kayaking \$40.00 per person.
- Tips, personal expenses, drinks, meals not noted in the program
- Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages (to be paid on spot in cash)

#### **Highlights & Brief Itinerary**

- At the Huaorani Ecolodge we facilitate friendships with the local communities.
- In our 30 kms of trails system we facilitate discovery the Huaorani food market, hardware shop and playground.
- In the Shiripuno river we facilitate explorations: poling dugout canoes, recreational kayaks and stand up paddling.
- In Nenkepare Campsite we facilitate connections to the Amazon wildest sites.
- On the way out of the Huaorani territory we facilitate change, a change by given the opportunity confronting two opposite realities that guest will soon face the importance of global conservation, generating a deep conscious of what really

means to save the last ancestral cultures that lived for a millennia in the rain forest, whom are now been exposed to everlasting changing of civilization.

- The entrance to the lodge and to Huaorani territory, is flying in a small plane over the uninterrupted lush of endless green rainforest, this is one of the highlights of the jungle experience.

## Facilities

- Huaorani Ecolodge, provides accommodations in a style harmonious with the surrounding environment and the Huaorani culture.
- The lodge is cozy, providing accommodation for a maximum of ten people housed in five comfortable, traditionally built, palms thatched cabins. All cabins contain: a pair of twin beds (which can be joined to create a double if desired and triples for small families with a young child); a private bathroom equipped with a shower and flush toilet; a porch with comfortable chairs. Electricity is supplied 24 hours a day by solar panels. Environmentally friendly soaps and shampoos are provided, and for days when relaxing is the priority. The dining area has a lightly stocked bar. The whole area is covered with traditional Huaorani-style palm thatching and comfortably seats everyone.
- Other structures include an employees' dormitory, an Administrator's house, two storage buildings and, perhaps most importantly,
- the "Casa de Hamacas" (Hammock House) on the edge of the Shiripuno River for those few occasions when you are not engaged in activities away from the Lodge.

***Huaorani Eco Lodge program  
5Days/4Nights:  
From USD\$989, 00  
Per person in double share cabin***

