

Dual KICHWA & HUAORANI “B”: 9 Days & 8 Nights Itinerary

Day 1.- QUITO - YACHANA

Embark on flight At Coca airport you'll be meet and then transported to Yachana by private car. This will take 1 hour and a half. At Yachana, you'll receive a warm welcome from our native staff that will serve you a refreshing beverage and snack while you are introduced to the facilities.

After you've had a chance to rest in your room, your guide will take you on a short hike. The hike will take you to a place where there is a giant and beautiful Ceibo tree (kapok tree). Your guide will amaze you explaining a lot of things along the way. Dinner is served between 7:00 – 7:30 PM.

Day 2.- YACHANA

You have the option to start your day early by participating in a bird watching excursion or sleep little longer before enjoying another splendid breakfast, the first of the day's Amazon culinary delights. After a traditional breakfast from the Amazon, you will board our ranchera (typical local bus) and accompany your guide as he leads you on a journey into the rainforest stopping to observe birds, and possibly monkeys, along the way. During your rainforest trek your guide will explain the uses of various medicinal plants and amaze you with his knowledge of the several species of birds and animals that inhabit the rainforest, which he calls home.



Return to Yachana for lunch and an opportunity to rest before the next activity. In the afternoon the administrative will give an explanation about how the Yachana Training Center and the Yachana Foundation with his educational program. After this you will take our ranchera to Agua Santa community in order to board a raft downriver to observe a local family doing panning for gold. From there, using either inner-tubes, a small rubber raft or just life jackets, you can float/swim as you continue down river enjoy the spectacular scenery that surrounds you.

At some point you will get on board of a motorize canoe to head back to Yachana. Dinner is served at 7:00 – 7:30 PM. Go to bed early because tomorrow will be a long but fantastic day.



Day 3.- YACHANA - BAMENO

After a very early breakfast, travel by a private car from Yachana back to the city of Coca where you will first travel to the river port of Shiripuno, which is approximately a 2 hour drive from Coca city. At the Shiripuno port you will be asked to leave a paper copy of your passport and you will be given information about the Yasuni National Park you are about to enter. This is measure taken by the Ministry of Defense and Tourism to register all visitors. Local authorities will also perform a routine security check of your luggage ensuring unauthorized items are not taken into the park. At this point of your trip you will only be asked to take essential items you need for the 12 to 14 hour motorized canoe ride. We recommend you take all medications needed, raincoat, and a jacket. Although you will be in the Amazon the temperature does tend to drop during the evening and the wind gusts while traveling in a motorized canoe can make that cold air even colder. All other items that do not travel with you will meet you in the community upon your arrival. You will travel down the Shiripuno River until it connects to the Cononaco River where the community is settled. There will be programmed stops to use the washroom and stretch where possible. Snacks and water will be handed out either at your stops or in the canoe while in motion. You will also stop during your trip to have lunch on shore or with a native community settled on the river banks. Periodic stops will also be made to view native wildlife such as Caiman (small alligators), Anacondas, and various endemic birds (macaws, toucans, etc.). You will arrive to the Huaorani community of Bameno where you will be greeted and given your accommodations for the rest of your trip.



*depending on the time of the year you will be traveling and the river depth there may be the chance that you will stop mid trip to stay with a member of the community who lives in along the river banks. There will be a designated camp site (local hut) where tents will be set for the night.

Day 4.- BAMENO

On this day you will awake to the regal sounds of the rainforest wildlife, from the howler monkeys roars echoing through the forest, to the croaking songs of the Toucan on the tree limbs near your lodging. Breakfast will be served in the community dining area where are the travelers will be gathered. We will once again board the canoes and travel down the "Cononaco" river. At this early hour we will be able to observe a wide variety of amazon wildlife specifically birds, from Macaws to parakeets to the speedy Kingfisher skimming a top the water searching for its next meal. Once we arrive at our location we will enter the Rainforest for a light walk until we arrive to a local lagoon.



At this lagoon we will fish for the infamous Piranha, this is one of the world most misunderstood species. It is known for being the world's most ferocious fish able to eat animals twice its size. This reputation started with some of the world's most important Amazon voyagers, one of which was Teddy Roosevelt. He told of Piranha's devouring an entire cow in on sitting which he was supposedly a witness to. Once you pull one out of these out of the water you can be the judge of that time old legend! After your fishing excursion lunch will be served in the amazon brush under the shade of the numerous endemic Rainforest trees. The opportunity to take a dip in the river will be given after lunch to cool down after a hot amazon day. You will then be transported back to the community to wind down and relax with the Bameno Community members. Once the sun has fallen you will be taken once again on the canoe to explore the river banks in search for the elusive Amazon Black Caiman (the largest reptile in the Amazon). The search in Spanish is called "Caimando," the caiman rests near the river banks to take in sun and warmth during the day and uses this area at night to hunt for its prey.

Day 5.- BAMENO

Breakfast will be served early morning to prepare everyone for the day's expedition. After breakfast all will board a motorized canoe that will take the group down river with "Kemperi" who is eldest member of this community. You will enter into the jungle at a location only known by the locals in search for a specific vine that will later be turned into "Curare" which is the paralyzing poison placed on the tip of blow darts used to hunt for animals in the jungle by the natives. The reason "Kemperi" is traveling with the group is because he will guide everyone through the process of making this "Curare" which is a process that has been used by the Huaorani to hunt for as long as they can remember. After this excursion will navigate back to the community to have lunch and rest before we witness the final steps to making the "Curare."



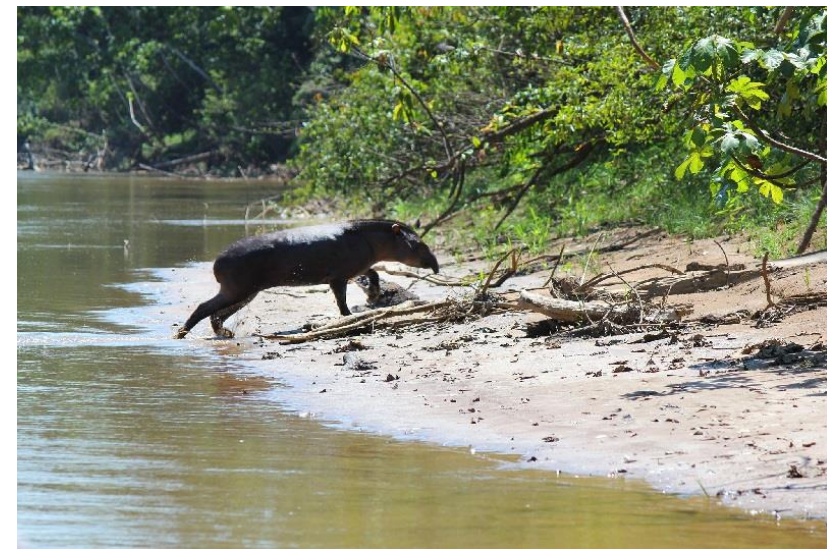
In the afternoon we will be guided through the final steps of the creation of "Curare" which Kemperi will continue to direct us through. The solution will be placed on blow darts along with the cotton from the Ciebo trees to give you the end result of the days expedition. The community will give everyone the opportunity to test their aim with the "bodoquera" or blow gun, trying to hit a target (usually a banana) hung from a tree. We will also be given the chance to try and throw an authentic Huaorani spear made from the wood of the palm tree "Chonta." The Spear is a bit heavy so a few extra days working on your arms may be in order to successfully hit your target with this local weapon. Dinner will be served and an explanation of the next day's activities will be given.



Day 6.- BAMENO

Breakfast will be served in the community dining area where all the members of the group will unite. Today we will once again enter into the Rainforest in search for more amazing wildlife and vegetation. During our voyage into the jungle we will be able to see plant and animal life in its natural habitat. We will cross paths with one of the oldest and largest species of trees in the jungle the "Ceibo" these trees are centuries old and serve an amazing purpose to the community and wildlife. These trees are used by the natives to communicate with other tribe members. They use this tree as a sort of Drum, they pound the base of the tree with their feet, and this sends the sound and vibrations across the jungle alerting other tribe members of their location. The wildlife uses these trees for shelter and a vantage point to see high above the other rainforest trees. They can grow up to 230 feet tall and have a base that is almost 10 feet in diameter. From this tree the Huaorani people harvest the cotton-like fluff obtained from its seed pods to wrap around their blow darts, the fiber like material creates a seal that allows pressure to force the dart through the tube of the blow gun.

During our walk we will also be able to taste the “lemon ant,” these are ants located within the branch of a specific rainforest tree that have an uncanny resemblance to a lemon once eaten. The local guide will guide you to this tree and break of a little piece for you to try. During our trip on the canoes we will be able to observe an array of wildlife that congregates on the river banks. For example Amazon River Otters, in some areas they are a rare treat but deep in this part of the forest they are more common than not. You will return to the village where the local chef has prepared lunch, this meal will be served in the community dining area. After lunch you will be treated to a cultural show where the community will share their native dance using their ceremonial body decorations. There will also be the opportunity to have these decorations placed on your arms. The ink used to mark the body’s of the Huaorani people is derived from a non-eatable fruit that grows in the forest called “wito” this is placed on your arms in the form of a river and rain drops.



Day 7.- BAMENO – COCA - YACHANA

On this day your wakeup call will be a bit earlier than normal. In the early morning hours you will board the canoes to be taken up river back to the Shiripuno port. During our trip up river through the forest you will be served breakfast on board and have one last chance to gaze at all the wonders the amazon has to offer. Toucans, Macaws, Caimans, and other creatures of the jungle will still be visible during your trip back to Shiripuno Port. Depending on the water level of the river Fresh water dolphins or “pink Dolphins” as there better known can also be seen. Lunch will also be served during your ride back up the river on shore. Your arrival back to Shiripuno port and subsequently Coca city will be later afternoon. Surface transfer to Yachana. Dinner.

Day 8.- YACHANA

After breakfast, you will onboard on our ranchera to go to a farm where you can see and harvest some many products you have probably never seen or prepared before like the cacao plants. You will be part of a culinary activity fixing your own typical lunch from the amazon under the supervision of our chef. In the afternoon after lunch, you will have a spectacular opportunity to learn how to make dark chocolate using organic cacao harvested from the local families. Turn the cacao beans into delicious jungle chocolate, one of the main ingredients for several of the delectable deserts served at the Yachana. This is one of our highlight activities as you prepare chocolate in a traditional way.

Day 9.- YACHANA - QUITO

After a wonderful breakfast surface transfer to Coca to board airplane to Quito.

2016, PRICE PER PERSON (Min. 2 pax): USD 2,696

INCLUDING:

- Air ticket Quito – Coca - Quito
- All transportation (road and river) from day 1 to day 9
- 3 daily meals, with water and juice
- English speaking guide/translator from day 1 to day 9

- Naturalist Spanish speaking local guide day 3 to 7
- 4 night accommodation at Yachana Lodge (private facilities) and 4 night accommodation at camp sites: camp tent or bed with mosquito net. Limited sanitary facilities
- Full program of visits and excursions
- Robber boots and rain poncho

NOT INCLUDED:

- Admission Fees: Yasuní National Park nor Bamenó (To be paid directly in cash)
- Tips and extras of personal nature
- Travel and Health Insurance

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Vaccine: Yellow Fever + Tetanus
- Pax have to be in an excellent physical condition
- Copy of Passport to deliver at the Yasuni National Park authorities

VERY IMPORTANT:

- Itinerary is subject to change at any moment for any reason, especially –but not exclusively- due to weather conditions. The only one person who decides what, where, how and when to do –or not- is the guide.
- During the excursion to Bamenó there are not communication facilities and clinics and hospitals are far away from camp sites.

SPECIAL BOOKING CONDITIONS:

PAYMENTS

- Deposit of USD 500 p/person to be received within 7 days of our confirmation (NOT refundable)
- Balance must be paid 60 days prior to beginning of services

REFUNDS

- Cancellation from 60 to 31 days: 50%
- Cancellation from 30 to 0 days: 0%