

**GENERAL INFORMATION CUYABENO LODGE TOUR 2010**  
*(RECOMMENDED BY THE LONELY PLANET 2009)*

**THE CUYABENO LODGE. *NOW WE HAVE AN OBSERVATION TOWER!***



When Cuyabeno Lodge started operating in 1988, the owners believed that the rainforest traveler should be hosted in conditions, which would be both in harmony with the surrounding environment and attuned to the needs of the modern visitor. We work together with the Siona community whose members provide the canoe transportation as well as their knowledge of the jungle.

It's situated in a small island in the Laguna Grande and the first in the Cuyabeno Reserve. We started to operate together with the Siona natives. **We are an ecolodge (not a camp)**, and we operate in harmony with the environment to cause a minimum impact due to our operation. Just being at the lodge you can spot wildlife.



The Lodge provides the most comfortable and spacious independent cabins in the Cuyabeno National Wildlife Reserve.



The cabins are solidly constructed with thatched roofs and clean tiled private bathrooms with hot water showers, solar energy and comfortable furniture that includes curtains and mosquito nets. Illumination in the Lodge is provided by solar energy in a way that the environment is not altered from its natural setting. You can also charge batteries for your cameras. We also have a information center with books about flora and fauna of the Amazon Jungle.

Adjacent to the cabins is our restaurant, which serves up delicious Ecuadorian, Siona and International cuisine. A wide range of drinks is available in the bar.

Since March 2010 we have an observation tower in the lodge that allows visitors to look for wildlife above the canopy of the trees.



## **LOCATION**

The Cuyabeno Lodge is located in the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve, an elaborate system of wild lagoons, river and flooded forest found in the North-Eastern Ecuador.



The reserve encompasses over 602.000 hectares of primary rainforest and boasts an incredible variety of Neotropical wildlife including river dolphins, tapirs, capybaras, caimans, anacondas, ocelots, monkeys and the infamous piranha.

The bird life is particularly spectacular: over 515 species have been recorded such as the prehistoric-looking hoatzin, the umbrella bird, blue headed parrot, the white eared jacamar, the scarlet macaw and the awesome harpy-eagle with its eight-foot wingspan. Additionally, over 12.000 species of plants have been identified.



The Siona, Secoya and Cofan, indigenous inhabitants of the Amazon basin for thousands of years, also call Cuyabeno their ancestral homeland.

One of the best ways to explore the rainforest is by canoe and Cuyabeno with its maze of waterways provides you with ample opportunities to experience this wet and wild green world in a way that is intimate and highly rewarding.

You are guided through the forest by an indigenous guide in his canoe from the Siona Indian community, as well as a bilingual naturalist guide. Activities include canoeing in motorized and dugout crafts, hiking, bird watching, night walks and swinging in a hammock.



## **CUYABENO RAINFOREST ADVENTURE – SAMPLE ITINERARY**

Below is a 5-day sample itinerary for guests, wanting to use the Cuyabeno Lodge as their base to see the reserve.

Days can be added and itineraries/activities can be adjusted according to the group interest. Families are encouraged and welcome. Special arrangements can be made for long-term visitors, student groups and researchers.

### **DAY 01 Quito – Lago Agrio – Rio Cuyabeno – Laguna Grande**

Fly or drive over the Andes to the oil frontier town of Lago Agrio. Continue by private transportation to the entrance of the Cuyabeno Reserve, El Puente (2 Hrs aprox.) Load your luggage onto a dug-out motorized canoe and follow the winding Cuyabeno River to Laguna Grande, the largest lagoon in the Cuyabeno Reserve and also the site of the Cuyabeno Lodge. During this journey you will be able to appreciate the richness of the wildlife in Cuyabeno. You will arrive aprox. at 1300 pm (Saturday 04.00 pm). After lunch and a short siesta you are going to explore the lagoon and observe animals.

### **DAY 02**

Rise at dawn to watch birds before breakfast and spot river dolphins. After breakfast have a walk through the "terra firma forest" with your naturalist guide to explore plants and wildlife. Your guide will teach you about the forest's medicinal plants and how the forest works. After lunch and a siesta you will take a trip by dug-out canoe to the flooded igapo with macrolobium trees covered with abundant epiphytes to spot the active monkeys and birds in the afternoon. Furthermore you have the possibility of swimming and seeing the sunset. After dinner there will be a nocturnal excursion to spot caimans and nocturnal birds.

### **DAY 03**

Optional is early bird watching possible. After breakfast you will enjoy a rainforest walk to explore plant and wildlife, medicinal plants, and track animals. Furthermore we will go Piranha-fishing, where you will have the chance to catch your own Piranha. After dinner, you have the possibility of doing a nocturnal jungle walk with your flashlight to spot insects.

### **DAY 04**

\*After breakfast you will follow the Cuyabeno River downstream to reach the Siona Village with a picnic lunch served by our cook. You will learn something about the traditions and living habits of the indigenous community and will return to the lodge late afternoon for a siesta or a refreshing swim in the Laguna Grande.



## **DAY 05 Cuyabeno – Lago Agrio – Quito**

Following an early breakfast journey upstream to El Puente where our vehicle will take you back to Lago Agrio. You will return to Quito either by bus or by flight.

\*If you prefer a 4 days / 3 night's tour, the tour will end on day 4 (program 4<sup>th</sup> day, see day 5)

## **HOW TO GET THERE**

From Quito to Lago Agrio you can go by:

a) **Public bus:**

approximate time from Quito to Lago Agrio: 7 hours; costs: 8, - USD per Person each way.

Going by bus you can go the night before ( 23:00 hrs) or the day before. (Buses every 45 minutes aprox.during the day). The same for the return to Quito.

b) **plane:**

approximate time from Quito to Lago Agrio: 30 min.; costs: 140, -USD per Person (roundtrip)

**Quito- Lago Agrio:**

Monday to Friday 06:15 am (VIP/AEROGAL)

Saturday 12:00 am (TAME)

**Lago Agrio- Quito**

Monday to Friday 04:45 pm (VIP/AEROGAL)

Saturday 13:00 am (TAME)

Sunday 04:45 pm (VIP/AEROGAL)

In Lago Agrio you will be picked up by our driver who will bring you to El Puente (2 hours drive approximately); from there it is a 2 hours aprox. drive by canoe to the Cuyabeno Lodge.

On your last day, we will take you back to the bus station or the airport.

## **WHAT TO BRING**

### **The following items are essential:**

Long sleeved shirts and long pants for hikes in the jungle, sun cream, sun hat, insect repellent, bathing suit, torch, binoculars and, of course, your camera and personal toiletries, your own medicine and personal documents. It is also advisable to put your clothes in plastic bags. Please don't bring a big bag or rucksack, canoes are not to big, if you've got more luggage than necessary for the jungle trip, you can store it in our office in Quito.

### **Our rates include:**

- Return transportation Lago Agrio - Cuyabeno Lodge
- Accommodation and 3 meals per day ( including vegetarian food) at the lodge
- Coffee, tea and purified water available at all time
- Use of rain ponchos and rubber boots (up to size 44)
- Tours with bilingual-naturalist guide; accompanied in the canoe by native guides

### **Our rates DON'T include:**

- Cuyabeno Park entrance fee (20, - USD per person)
- Tips
- Additional beverages
- Transportation Quito - Lago Agrio - Quito

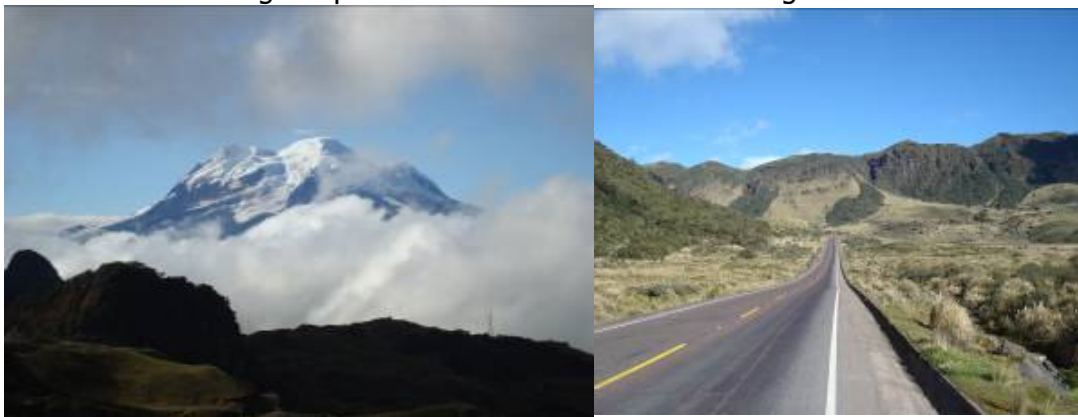
## **Private car transport to Lago Agrio**

- *Unique tour through the Andean Highlands with stops in Papallacta, respectively San Rafael*

We offer transport from Quito to Lago Agrio and from Lago Agrio to Quito in a private car. This is a nice alternative to the public bus or the airplane, as you can enjoy the beautiful trip past and through the Cayambe-Coca National Park and have the possibility to stop along the way.

### **Quito – Lago Agrio:**

We will be leaving around 2:00pm and go to Papallacta, the thermal hot springs ([http://www.papallacta.com.ec/index\\_fl.html](http://www.papallacta.com.ec/index_fl.html)). We will get there at around 4pm and spend the rest of the day at Termas Papallacta with its many pools, the spa and the surrounding unique environment of the Andean Highlands.



We will spend the night in one of the rooms or a cabin (depending on the number of persons). The next morning we will leave at 7:00am and drive on to Lago Agrio.



### **Lago Agrio – Quito:**

We will leave around 11:00am from Lago Agrio. After about 2 hours we will reach San Rafael, where we will have some lunch before we explore the biggest waterfall in Ecuador embedded in the beautiful environment of the Andean Highlands. After about 2 hours we will pick up our tour to Quito. Along the way we will have further short stops to enjoy the various views. A stop at the thermal hot springs in Papallacta is also included. Around 8pm we will reach Quito, where you will be dropped directly at your place of stay.



### **Prices:**

Quito – Lago Agrio:	210, - USD (2 ppl.), 230, - USD (up to 4 ppl.)
Not included:	Hotel costs in Papallacta (120, - USD per room up to 3 ppl.) Food
Lago Agrio – Quito:	150, - USD (2 ppl.), 180, - USD (up to 4 ppl.)
Not included:	Food

Road condition: good (paved)  
Distance: 280km aprox. 5 hrs.

**For any further information that might be needed, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will be pleased to answer your questions.**

**Neotropic Turis  
Pinto E4-360 y Amazonas**

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