

CUYABENO LODGE VACATION TRAVEL LIST FOR JUNGLE TRAVEL

1. Light fast drying camping trousers (not jeans) with zip-off sleeves;



2. Light windbreaker (jacket) as it can be surprisingly cold at night or in the canoes when it is cloudy and during rain showers;
3. Shorts. You will be on the water a lot, so be careful with sun burn. Start out with one hour per day and increase wearing shorts by an hour per day;
4. At least one long-sleeved outdoors shirt but preferably one per day. Dress shirts for men as worn under a jacket (similar blouses for women) are also suitable, as they are much thinner than T-shirts and when wet, they dry much quicker. So in spite of seeming to be overdressed, you will feel much better in an outdoors or dress shirt. If not with you, long-sleeved T shirts.



Long sleeves are essential against sun burn;

5. A light sweater;
6. Wide brimmed hat that cover the ears (The latter quickly get sun-burned);
7. Comfortable gym shoes or water shoes (check out Salomon Amphibia shoes) that may get wet and sandals for use on the lodge premises (we provide ponchos and rubber boots). Please don't



expose you bare feet to the sun as they can get terrible sun burns.

8. At least 1 pair of clean socks for each day. It is very easy to get fungi or athlete's foot in the humid tropics, so change socks at least once a day. Cotton socks are better to prevent athlete's foot, but it takes longer for them to dry;
9. Insect repellent with DEED (It is said that non-spray may be more environmentally friendly, but I am not convinced that that is still the case);
10. Sun cream, the strongest factor you can get;

11. Sun glasses;
12. Bathing suit;
13. Personal toiletries (we provide soap and shampoo);
14. Personal medicines;
15. LED flashlight and batteries. They are very low energy and their batteries last many times longer
16. Sufficient cash for any emergencies, eventual expenditures at the lodge, and some money in small denominations for expenditures in the Siona community, but if possible, avoid traveling with a lot of money. You can't spend it in Cuyabeno anyway;
17. Passport (Obligatory for park registration);
18. Medium sized suitcase or backpack (space in the canoes is limited);
19. Some large plastic bags for keeping your clothes dry;
20. First aid kit. Never leave home without it. Buy a good one for the tropics and before your next trip, check it for its next use.

Optional additional items:

1. Zip lock bags to keep small items dry;
2. Binoculars (Indispensable in the rainforest - it's worth spending a bit of extra money to get a good water proof pair: 8 x 32 or 40 are excellent for poor light conditions under the forest



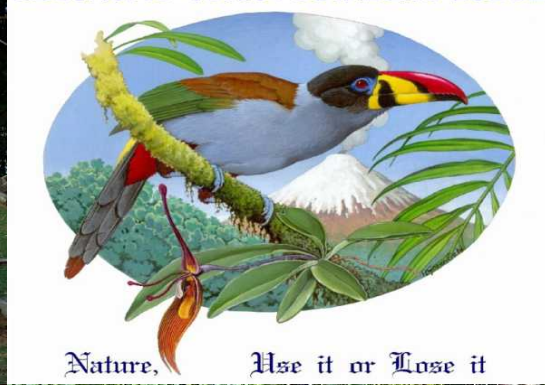
canopy).

However, if you forgot to bring your binoculars, we rent them out at \$15 for the duration of your visit;

3. A GPS. Nowadays GPS are very affordable and it is fun to look for the equator! You don't need one to find your way, because you will always have one of our guides with you;
4. A water proof digital camera is ideal for the wet tropics! But of course a regular camera will do, as long as you put it in a ziplock bag as soon as it starts raining. Don't forget to take it back out as soon as you are back at the lodge or in the bus as it may fog up and your lens may become permanently damaged ;
5. Extra pair of loose-fitting, fast drying pants (no jeans, they never seem to dry up after a rain shower);
6. Birds of Ecuador by Ridgely;
7. Neotropical Rainforest Mammals by Emmens and Feer is complete and small enough to bring along.
8. Our Bird List of Ecuador:

* This list of travel packing tips is not exhaustive and travelers be advised to consult other sources as well.

As our team members have traveled to so many countries in the world on business travel, expeditions and just regular family pleasure, we decided to provide checking lists for different occasions as well. For our list of travel packing tips for air travel or a packing list for camping, click here: http://www.birdlist.org/downloads/parks/packing_list.pdf



When the Cuyabeno Wildlife reserve was under great threat some 25 years ago, a group of conservation biologists joined hands to create alternative sources of income for the reserve. At the time there was no ecotourism in the park, so they built the first ecolodge, the Cuyabeno Lodge. Thanks to this brave initiative, the 600,000 ha park is no longer in danger, as ecotourism in Cuyabeno has become important for both the local and national economy!

As field biologists, we know how good it feels to be able to enjoy a hot shower, sleep in a comfortable bed and eat great food after coming back from an excursion through the jungle, so we built the Cuyabeno Lodge with hot showers and private bathrooms. We developed great field programs for really getting to know the tropical rainforest while staying in an idyllic comfortable lodge in the jungle.

A quarter of a century later, the owners religiously continue to provide the best possible programs and service, including a canopy observation tower, 24 hours solar energy, hot showers and binoculars which are essential in the jungle. As we were the first, we chose the most gorgeous location in the reserve, a lovely hill on a hidden island overlooking Lake Cuyabeno.

The lodge has 3 levels of comfort:

1. basic: A common sleeping cabin which we refer to as the dormitory with a shared toilets and shower facilities;
2. Standard: Independent thatched roof cabins with hot private showers and toilets;
3. Deluxe: Comfortable rooms with pretty bathrooms, wonderful lovely beds balconies with fabulous views.

The Lodge facilities include a restaurant, a reading and information room and a drinks bar. Electricity is provided by solar energy. Our guides are bilingual naturalist licensed the Ecuadorian National Parks Service. Our restaurant serves international dishes as well as national specialties and we will try to accommodate special requests at no additional costs.





As one may suspect from a company owned by conservation biologists, from the beginning, the Cuyabeno Lodge operated under a strict code of sustainable tourism, long before the Rainforest Alliance started its certification program. In fact, being an experimental **ecolodge** in cooperation with the National Parks Service of Ecuador, it did not come as a surprise that our lodge was found to be fully compliant.



Most animals in the Amazon Rainforest are rather small and many of them spend most of their lives in the crowns of the trees. At 25 - 35 m high, it is quite difficult to distinguish wildlife. Along small rivers, however, the trees tend to be lower and have lower branches on which birds like to perch to look for food. Along the rivers, light can easily penetrate from the opening in the canopy onto the lower branches and shine on the wildlife, which makes animals much more visible than in closed forests. Therefore, animals are much more visible from the water. Among the Andes-Amazon countries, only the lake areas of Cuyabeno have such ideal conditions. That is why Cuyabeno is the worlds best Amazon Park for wildlife viewing! Which is better, Cuyabeno or Yasuní? Yasuní has just a few lakes near the border with Peru, while Cuyabeno has about 15 lakes!

The number of recorded birds for Cuyabeno is about 550 species, while 10 species of monkeys call Cuyabeno home. The tropical rainforest has more species of plants and animals than any other forest on earth. However, don't expect to see many large animal species. Most species are small, but quite a few of them have delightful bright colors. Especially among the birds, one can find beautiful species, like the noisy Blue and Yellow Macaws, Trogons, Quetzals and many hummingbirds. And then of course at dawn, there are the mysterious prehistoric Hoatzins, whispering at you with their husky voices as one peddles along the igapó swamps along the Cuyabeno Lake. But other groups of animals too have brightly colored species, especially insects and amphibians.

With so much water, Cuyabeno is home to many species that love water like caymans, enormous anacondas, both fresh water dolphin species of the Amazon, the worlds largest rodents – capibaras - manatees, giant otters, etc. Of course, there are lots species of water and shore birds, while the underwater world is dominated by some famous and infamous fishes, like piranhas, bagres, paiches, electric eels and some of the most colorful tropical "aquarium" fishes.





What it will be like when you join us

Your jungle experience starts the moment you enter in our motorized canoe and go down the beautiful winding Cuyabeno River to our Lodge. After lunch and some rest, you may enjoy a swim in the lake and maybe, see Amazon Dolphins or a Manatee. Over the next few days you will be taken on a 3 – 4 excursions per day.

In daytime, our guide will take you on wildlife viewing excursions, both on water and land. You may hear the mysterious sound of the Howler Monkeys or see squirrel monkeys bouncing through the trees.

You will also visit the Siona village, where you will learn about their way of life and their traditions.

Once the curtain of the night falls, after dinner, you will silently head out onto the lake in search of caiman. You can spot them as their eyes reflect orange in the beam of your flashlight. Occasionally, with a bit of luck, you may also catch the eyes of a wandering Ocelot Cat or Jaguar in your beam.

Our standard Tours are 4 Days-3 Nights or 5 Days - 4 Nights.

Activities include:

- Excursions in part in motorized and in part in peddled canoes;
- Swimming, enjoying spectacular sunsets;
- Relaxing at the lodge, enjoying the jungle from our canopy tower;
- Bird watching, looking for dolphins and monkeys, fishing piranhas;
- Hiking in the Rainforest
- Learning about the jungle, wildlife and medicals plants;
- Visiting the Siona Community and learning about their culture;
- Night excursions to observe caimans, insects and nocturnal birds.





WHY IS CUYABENO THE GREATEST AMAZON PARK IN THE WORLD?
To see wildlife, birds and flowers in the rainforest, one needs to be on narrow creeks and lakes. Cuyabeno is the only Amazon Park near the Andes with both narrow navigable creeks and lakes. It has convenient air and asphalt road access and accommodation is very affordable.
Read more at <http://www.cuyabenolodge.com> © Neotropic Tours Ltd.

CUYABENO LODGE SAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1
Quito - Lago Agrio- Río Cuyabeno Lake
Fly or drive over the Andes to the frontier oil town of Lago Agrio, approximate arrival time 9.30am. Private transportation to “El Puente Cuyabeno”, the Cuyabeno Bridge (100Kms). You will have your lunch in the bridge’s restaurant or in the Lodge, depending on flight arrivals. Motorized canoe transportation along the Cuyabeno River to Laguna Cuyabeno (Cuyabeno Lake), where the Lodge is situated. While on the river, you are within the park and you will already be able to observe the richness of the wildlife. After a short siesta, exploratory tour on the lake to observe animals, take a swim and enjoy the sunset from the water.

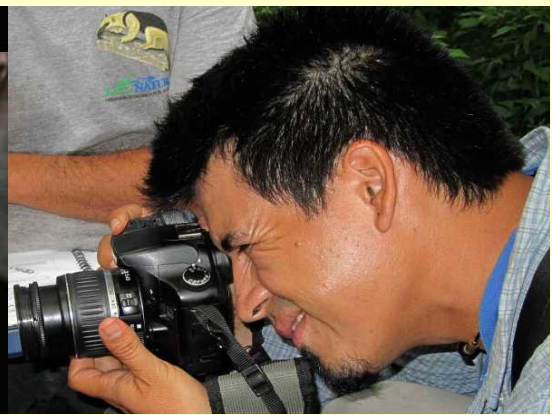
Day 2
Rise at dawn to watch birds before breakfast and spot river dolphins. After breakfast, walk through the “terra firma forest” with your naturalist guide who will explain the wildlife, medicinal forest plants, the forest ecosystem and indigenous life. After lunch, a siesta, followed by a trip in a dug-out canoe to the flooded igapó swamp to spot monkeys and birds in the epiphytes covered Macrolobium trees.

Day 3
After breakfast, you will follow the Cuyabeno River downstream to reach the Siona Village. The villagers will explain their traditions and ways of life. You will observe how they cook the typical “Cassava”. After visiting the village, you return to the lodge to lunch. After a siesta, a refreshing swim in the Laguna Cuyabeno and/or go on evening birdwatching. After dinner, night excursion to spot caimans, insects and nocturnal birds.

Day 4
Early in the morning, birds watching. After breakfast, you will enjoy a walk through the rainforest to explore plants and animal life. For the evening, an excursion to discover other little lakes in the Cuyabeno Reserve.

Day 5
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.

Additional days can be added for visitors who would like to stay longer stay at the Lodge. Itineraries and activities can be adjusted according to group interests. 2 persons or can start the tour whenever you want, but individual and dormitory guests will have to join another a group. We encourage visits from families, students and scientists.



How to get to LAGO AGRIO?

1. Private transportation with a special Tour (see further down for details);
2. Bus: 7 hours Cost: 16 USD round-trip. To go: Bus trip the day before or by night. During the day, there are buses every hour. By night, there is one at 23:00PM (“Trans Esmeraldas”)..To return: Buses every hour to Quito.
3. Plane: 30 minutes Cost: 164 USD round-trip. Plane reservations can be made by us. **Quito - Lago Agrio** from Monday to Friday: TAME at 8.30AM, Saturday: TAME at 11.45AM, Sunday: TAME at 10AM. **Lago Agrio - Quito** from Monday to Friday: TAME at 17.10PM, Saturday: TAME at 12.45PM.

CUYABENO LODGE TOUR TARIFFS:

STAY	PRICES IN US\$
3 DAYS / 2 NIGHTS	
Dormitory	\$ 260
Standard room	\$300
Deluxe room	\$350
4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS	
Dormitory	\$260
Standard room	\$380
Deluxe room	\$440
5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS	
Dormitory	\$295
Standard room	\$475
Deluxe room	\$550



We like to think that our prices are quite reasonable. We try to keep them low so that you can fully enjoy the park even if you have a low budget. Our objective is to make the park accessible for every traveler. You can already stay in our dormitories for as little as \$60 dollars per day, but if you want some more luxury, we have deluxe rooms for as little as \$100 per day, all in, depending on the duration of your stay. Our 4 day program includes:

- 3 nights in our lovely lodge
- 10 - 12 Guided excursions
- 2 hours of transportation on a bus from the airport or bus terminal in Lago Agrio to the Park and back (4 hrs total)
- 4 hours transportation in a motorized canoe (in and out of reserve)
- Rubber boots and ponchos
- About 10 meals/lunchboxes All home-made non-alcoholic beverages. We love great coffee in the morning, so we serve as much as possible (not always available) the famous Juan Valdez Premium coffee!
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Additional information:

- Our standard and deluxe rooms can be equipped with 2 single beds, a double bed and if so wished with an additional single bed;
- The dormitory has shared bathrooms and showers;
- Please note, we do not accept credit cards;
- Payment can best be made in cash, by **Western Union** or **Moneygram** or by direct transfer to our bank account.
- We offer a 30% discount for children under the age of 12;
- If you require a cabin just for yourself, the additional cost is 70 USD for the whole tour;
- Additional day: 70 USD.

Our rates DON'T include:

- Transportation Quito - Lago Agrio – Quito (prices indicated above);
- Alcoholic and bottled beverages at the bar.



PRIVATE CAR TRANSPORTATION TO GO TO OUR CUYABENO LODGE

Unique tour through the high Andean paramo and along the Eastern Andean Cloud forests of the Cayambe – Coca National Park with stops in Papallacta and the San Rafael Waterfall.

We offer transport from Quito to Lago Agrio and from Lago Agrio to Quito in a private car or van with driver. This is a great trip to see the gradual descent from the Andes paramo to the Amazon basin and enjoy the changing scenery..This journey takes you along the Cayambe – Coca National Park and provides opportunities to stop along the way.

You will be leaving Quito around 14:00hrs to go to Papallacta, the thermal hot spring.

<http://www.papallacta.com.ec>. Arrival time at Papallacta is around 16.00hrs and you will spend the rest of the day at the hot springs of Papallacta, “Termas Papallacta”, with its many pools, the spa in the unique surrounding landscape of the Andean Highlands. Hiking in the area is an alternative.

You will spend the night in one of the hotel rooms or a cabin (depending on the number of persons). The next morning we will leave at 7:00 hrs and in about 2 hours you will reach the San Rafael Waterfalls – the highest in Ecuador - hidden in the breathtaking landscape of the Andean Highlands. The falls are located at a 30-minute walk from the main road.

After you have visited the falls, you continue to Lago Agrio from where our regular transport takes you to the entrance of the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve, leaving from Lago Agrio around 11:00 hrs, after arrival of the daily plane.

After your visit to Cuyabeno, on the way back, you will be taken straight back to your hotel in Quito; depending on the interests of the passengers, on request short stops can be made to enjoy the landscape and/or look at birds.

Prices for the transportation:

Quito – Lago Agrio: \$240 (1-4 persons), \$260 (5-8 persons)

NOT included:

Food and the Hotel “Termas de Papallacta”: \$144 Cabin of 2 or 3 people

\$174 Suite (with fire place) for 2 people

\$204 Cabin for 6 people

Lago Agrio – Quito: \$200 (1-4 persons), \$220 (5-8 persons)

On the way back, food is NOT included.



Neotropic Turis Cia. Ltda.

When the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve was being invaded, Neotropic Turis was incorporated specifically as a **conservation corporate social responsibility company** in 1988 with the objective to rescue the Cuyabeno Wildlife reserve from permanent deforestation by creating alternative livelihoods. Similar problems occurred in other national parks and nature reserves and the intention was to promote visitation to national parks and protected areas in general, so that by being visited, governments and local communities would become aware of their importance for generating income and alternative livelihoods. After its humble initiatives, Neotropic Turis is working on promoting ecotourism to other national parks in Ecuador and over time, elsewhere in Latin America.

We are also committed to providing you the best possible nature experience possible, based on our professional knowledge about nature in Ecuador and Latin America. While being enthusiastic aficionados of culture (including good restaurants as well as indigenous cultures) and historic architecture, we have traveled all of the Americas and know where to direct you to see the best of the best of Latin America, while keeping your expenses down. If you want to know more about our mission, you may read: <http://www.cuyabenolodge.com/neotropic-turis-corporate-social-responsibility-company.htm>.

Neotropic Turis has 2 websites:

<http://www.neotropicturis.com> is the generic corporate website particularly focused at processing reservations to any destination in the country, while

<http://www.cuyabenolodge.com> is a very informative multilingual website, currently with pages in English, Spanish, French, Chinese, Dutch and Russian, featuring beautiful high resolution photographs. We particularly invite you to visit this website to get an idea of where you will be going.

Carbon Offset of Air travel

Carbon offset is a mechanism to reduce the net carbon emissions by compensating their carbon emissions with measures for absorbing greenhouse gases. Nowadays, many tourists like to offset the carbon emissions of their air travel. If you come from the USA, your contribution to the CO₂ emission from your flight will probably have been about 8000 kg CO₂ per person; coming from Europe it will have been around 13,000 kg CO₂; averaging somewhere around 10,000kg.

Since the ecotourism related economy has been and continues to be the major defense against deforestation, it is a very reasonable argument that each visit contributes to the prevention of deforestation of the jungle in the reserve and the related release of CO₂ into the atmosphere. The total release of CO₂ from the jungle of Cuyabeno would be about 500 x 6,000,000 (ha) = 3,000,000,000 kg CO₂. As the average amount of CO₂ production from flights to Ecuador from the USA and Europe is around 10,000 kg, one may argue that the first 300,000 visitors to Cuyabeno may consider their flight fully compensated by visiting Cuyabeno. Under the current level of visitation that will allow for somewhere between 15 - 20 more years of CO₂-offset for Cuyabeno visitors. Of course, if you want to do more, and buy carbon credits, that is great. We just want you to make you aware how YOUR visit to Cuyabeno or any forested legally protected area contributes to the conservation of nature and to help fight climate change. If you want more details, read <http://www.cuyabenolodge.com/co2-emission-offset.htm>.

Cuyabeno Lodge / Neotropic Turis Office in Quito, Ecuador:

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Email: info@cuyabenolodge.com

Talk to us directly on Skype. Our Skype name:

Shyris Park Building, Av. de los Shyris N36-188 & Av. Naciones Unidas, Office 608, 6th floor.

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