

## CUYABENO RESERVE – JUNGLE TOUR

### 4 days, 3 nights

Dear visitor,

The trip to Cuyabeno Reserve organized by our Spanish school is operated by the travel agency “Luis Tipan Travel Cia. Ltda.” It’s been based in Quito since 2001 and is insured in case of accidents.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

The tour starts in the city Lago Agrio any day of the week. You will share the experience with 7 other tourists in a solo canoe.

To get to Lago Agrio: If you’re in Quito, you can take a 35 minute flight the same day of the tour or a bus (Trans Esmeraldas, Trans Tena, Trans Pelileo o Trans Baños) that leaves at 11:00 PM the night before the tour. The bus will take 7 hours and will arrive at Lago Agrio at 6:00 AM.

#### ITINERARY

##### Day 1

Lago Agrio, The Bridge: We will meet our agent in Lago Agrio at 9:30 at the Imperial Hotel located 6 blocks from the bus terminal and eat our breakfast there.

At 9:30, with transportation organized by our agent, we will travel to “El Puente” (The Bridge) known also as “La entrada a la selva Amazónica” (The Entrance to the Amazonian Jungle) in 2 hours.

Here you’ll have lunch and be ready to start the expedition to enter the Amazonian jungle by canoe (without a motor). After 4 hours, we will reach “Samona Lodge”, your home for the next 4 days. In the journey to the lodge, you will be able to observe innumerable birds, monkeys, snakes, sloths, and other amazonian animals.

You will arrive at the Lodge at approximately 5:00 PM and have time to rest, clean up, and prepare for dinner at 7:30 PM. Afterwards, you will be invited to take a nighttime walk to see insects, snakes, and other animals of the night as you listen to the “sounds of the jungle.” We anticipate returning to the lodge at 10:30 PM.

## Day 2

Cuyabeno River, Indigenous Community: After breakfast at 7:30, our guide will take the group on an interesting expedition to visit an indigenous community. We'll get to see their traditional way of life and have lunch with them just as they normally eat. In the afternoon until 6:00 PM or nightfall we will go to fish piranhas. During the return to the lodge, there will be time to rest, wash in the river, and prepare for dinner with chocolate or hot coffee.

During dinner at 7:30 PM, you will enjoy the piranhas that you and others in the group caught in the afternoon.

## Day 3

Visit to the Spanish and Indigenous community: After breakfast, you will go by canoe to the Siona Tarapuy Community located 2 hours from the Lodge. One of our naturalist guides will describe all the tribe's customs and traditions.

Here we will spend plenty of time with the people of the community. You'll be able to share your own experiences and learn about theirs, and perhaps play soccer with them. The head of the community, called "El Shaman", will teach us the importance of various plants and their uses in traditional and modern medicine. If you're interested, you can speak with him and buy various natural products.

After lunch in this community, the group will take a 3 hour walk in the primitive woods to explore the jungle. You'll be able to observe the locals' routines in several communities of the amazonian jungle.

While returning to the Lodge, you'll have time to relax, swim, and enjoy the setting sun from the magnificent "Laguna Grande" (Great Lake) which is close to the Lodge. If you wish, you will be able to swim near the canoe that will be located in the center of this lake with the strict supervision of the guide.

At 7:30 we will eat dinner. Afterwards we will travel by canoe in search of alligators and snakes. This activity is the most interesting of the trip, taking place at night without light. We will also take great care to stay safe!

#### Day 4

Observing birds and returning to Lago Agrio: Starting at 5:00 AM, you will have the (optional) opportunity to observe the birds of the Amazon.

Afterwards, you will return to the Lodge to eat breakfast and pack your bags. You will begin the trip home in a canoe, traveling on the Cuyabeno River for 3 hours to the site called “El Puente” (The Bridge) where you will have a “box lunch” to eat. Afterwards you will be drive for 2 hours to Lago Agrio where you will finish the trip.

#### NOTES

The itinerary may be changed because of guests’ preferences, weather which can be quite variable, or unexpected events such as festivals in the communities, damaged canoes or highways, or other reasons. Still, we promise the whole tour will be an unforgettable experience.

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#### Recommendations for the Return Trip:

If you are returning to Quito, we recommend that you travel with “Trasn Esmeraldas” and get the earliest bus back to Quito. It will take 7 hours to reach the capital. We recommend this company because it’s the only one where the bus stops at “La Av. Colon”, the street where the school is located. The bus will arrive here at about 10:00 PM. Other bus companies will only take you to the bus station called “Estación Quitumbe” in the south of Quito. You will need to take an hour-long ride in a bus or taxi to reach central Quito.

If you’re going to go to another city in Ecuador, take care to organize your trip so that you do not arrive at your destination late at night.

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<p><b>INCLUDED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bilingual, naturalist guides</li> <li>- Excursions</li> <li>- All the food</li> <li>- Drinking water</li> <li>- Cafeteria</li> <li>- Camping equipment</li> <li>- Camping sites</li> <li>- First aid kit</li> </ul> <p><b>NOT INCLUDED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transportation from Quito -&gt; Lago Agrio -&gt; Quito, \$8</li> <li>- Alcoholic beverages</li> </ul>	<p><b>TO BRING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insect repellent</li> <li>- Long-sleeved, cotton shirts</li> <li>- Flashlight with spare batteries</li> <li>- Sunblock</li> <li>- Sunglasses</li> <li>- Camera</li> <li>- Water bottle</li> <li>- Long pants (No jeans)</li> <li>- Shorts</li> <li>- Shirts</li> <li>- Cotton socks</li> <li>- Comfortable shoes for hiking and sandals</li> <li>- Waterproof coat or sweater</li> <li>- Hat</li> <li>- Bathing suit</li> <li>- Cotton underwear</li> <li>- Towels</li> <li>- Small waterproof bag</li> <li>- Your passport (not a copy)</li> </ul>
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