



Amazon Rainforest Extension

A trip to the Ecuadorian rainforest is a unique experience. Because of its location near the Andes, the Ecuadorian Jungle, in the upper basin of the Amazon rainforest, is known as tropical humid forest, one of the most biologically diverse regions in the world with a high number of endemic species in flora and fauna. La Selva or 'jungle' lies out to the South-East of Quito. Every image of the rainforest comes alive as you take a longboat to the rustic Liana Lodge which lies on the river edge surrounded utterly by dense forest. It is part of the Selva Viva rainforest project and boasts its own protected rainforest area and animal rescue centre. The scale of the lodge is small - only local material was used in construction and with no electricity the ambience remains close to its tranquil rainforest roots. Visits to the animal reserve and nearby local communities supplement the excellent guided walks through the rainforest. It is a truly warm and delightfully simple place where you are greeted like lost friends and enthusiastically shown the hidden delights of various plants and food and where supper is literally produced from the jungle surrounding you. This trip can be taken either pre or post your main tour from either Quito or Banos.

ITINERARY

Day 1. Leave Quito (or Banos) early in the morning and travel in the direction of Baeza/Tena by public bus. During the five hour drive to the town of Tena you will experience a drastic change in climate, terrain and scenery. From Tena continue by bus for a further two hours to Puerto Barantilla, an indigenous village on the shores of the Arajuno River, one of the biggest tributaries of the great Amazon river itself. Here your traditional long-boat and guide will be waiting to take you on a peaceful journey down the river. You will enter a shallow side tributary and emerge from the dense canopy at Liana Lodge. This is a very special place built on strict eco-tourism principles and very simple in design. Delightful thatched cabanas with colourful hammocks swinging outside on the verandas perch high on stilts. Each room is en suite with warm water showers (although you may be glad of some cold water in the jungle!). Water comes from a crystal clear stream behind the lodge. Little stone paths weave in between the cabanas lined with gloriously colourful plants and trees. There is an outdoor barbeque area for evening guitar sessions and a large thatched dining room all replete with candles and a central pond full of indigenous fish. The staff will welcome you warmly and show unbelievable enthusiasm in demonstrating which plants to eat and cooking various local delicacies – mostly from their own market garden behind the kitchens. Tonight you will take an introductory nightwalk through the forest. *Liana Jungle Lodge, D*

Day 2. After a delicious breakfast of exotic local fruits amongst other such delights you'll begin a 3 to 4 hour trek through the rainforest. Along the way an indigenous Kichwa guide will show you the many species of plants. The entire jungle seems to be a market garden! The guide will describe their medicinal purposes as well as which ones are better suited to building, eating or for blow-pipes! With a little luck you will see monkeys and birds such as oropendolas and parrots. You will walk to the Mirador for wonderful views over Anaconda Island and the Kichwa village of Ahuano. Here you can enjoy a short break and some refreshing drinks. Continuing on through the protected area of Selva Viva you arrive at Rio Rodriguez where you can relax by enjoying a meal served in leaves of platanillos and perhaps taking a dip in the river. You will have the opportunity to learn about local



WALKS WORLDWIDE
12 THE SQUARE
INGLETON
CARNFORTH
LANCASHIRE LA6 3EG



T: +44 1524 242000

F: +44 1524 242657

INFO@WALKSWORLDWIDE.COM



customs and the way of life of the native people of the jungle. You are surrounded by an interesting variety of insects (butterfly, ants, termite) – there are larger mammals around but they are usually nocturnal. Return to the lodge by foot or float downstream in a rubber ring (no caimans in this stretch of the river!). **Liana Jungle Lodge B,L,D**

Day 3. In the morning, you'll travel by foot or canoes 30 minutes further along the river towards the mouth of Arajuno River, where you are invited to visit the Amazonico Animal Rescue Centre. Here you will be able to observe different kinds of jungle wildlife specific to the region often up extremely close as monkeys tend to run around loose and try to charm you by wrapping themselves around your legs! This magical place has been set up by Swiss volunteers and the knowledge that can be learnt from a few hours wandering around listening to the local guides is overwhelming – parrots, ocelots, caiman (a type of alligator), numerous forms of monkeys, terrapins, boa constrictors and leaf cutter ants are all present. There is a small shop here selling local craftwork. Continue up the Arajuno to the River Cosano where, on a small beach, you will build a traditional Kichwa raft on which you can float down the river back to the lodge. You can also swim alongside the raft if preferred. Enjoy a last evening at Liana where after dinner you may be invited to taste the local drink. Sitting around the smoky fire, sipping the local delicacy, listening to the various intriguing noises of the jungle – magical memories! **Liana Jungle Lodge B,L,D**

Day 4. After breakfast, take a morning walk in the area where the guide will show you more astonishing insects and flora including the Ceibo, the largest tree in the Amazon, with massive buttress roots. You then begin your return journey along the Arajuno River to Puerto Barantilla. From here reverse your journey back to Tena and on to Quito (or Banos). **B**

PRICE

£155 (based on 2 person minimum).

Please note that the cost increases dramatically if private transfers are requested - if you are interested then please do enquire.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Lodge accommodation based on double occupancy.
- Private river transportation to and from Puerto Barantilla to Liana Lodge.
- All excursions with English-speaking guide and native guide.
- Meals as noted above (full board at Liana Lodge).

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- Public bus to/from Puerto Barantilla (approx US\$27pp)
- Drinks.
- Entrance fee to Rescue Centre
- Insurance.
- Radio calls.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Tips.



WALKS WORLDWIDE
12 THE SQUARE
INGLETON
CARNFORTH
LANCASHIRE LA6 3EG



T: +44 1524 242000

F: +44 1524 242657

INFO@WALKSWORLDWIDE.COM