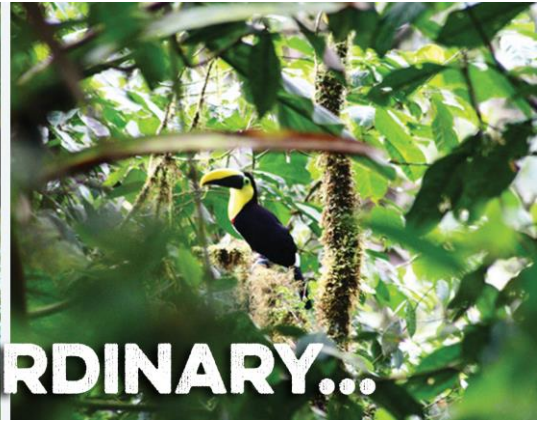




Ecuador - Huaorani
Amazon Kayak Expedition

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...

ITINERARY

Huaorari • Amazon Kayak Expedition

6 DAYS • 5 NIGHTS

Amazon frontier town of Coca – Shiripuno – Rainforest

HIGHLIGHTS

- Kayak through pristine primary forest to observe Amazon plant and wildlife
- Cultural interaction with Huaorani communities
- Encounter other wildlife including monkeys, peccaries, frogs, snakes, paca, and tapir
- Skilled naturalist guide accompany you every step of your journey

TOUR ESSENTIALS

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Tour Style | Kayak Expedition |
| Tour Start | Coca |
| Tour End | Coca |
| Accommodation | Hotel, Camping, Lodge |
| Included Meals | 5 Breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 Dinners |
| Difficulty Level | Medium |

AMAZON KAYAK EXPEDITION



Kayak into the pristine heart of the Amazon as a guest of the Huaorani tribe. The biodiversity of plants, birds and animals will be sure to astound you, however one of the trip highlights has got to be the privileged interaction with one of the world's most primordial forest tribes.



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HUAORANI, *an overview*

The Huaorani (also known as Waorani) have lived as hunters and gatherers in the rainforest for hundreds of years, entirely without contact from the outside world until the end of the 1950s. This expedition will give you a deeper understanding of the forest as you learn how the Huaorani Indians use it to forge a living. You will have a chance to see more than 100 different species of tropical birds, including the prehistoric Hoatzin. Moreover, during this expedition you will have a great opportunity to learn how to use a blowgun, throw a spear, forage edible fruits, weave tree fibers and identify medicinal plants. You will Kayak through the lakes of a flooded forest and possibly enjoy sightings of the Black Caiman crocodile, a formerly endangered Amazon species. Your visit will also promote Huaorani cultural identity and the conservation of their rainforest home. Our stay in the Shiripuno community eco-lodge especially provides increasing benefits to the Huaorani people. You will hear impressive Huaorani stories and reciting of traditional chants. This kayaking expedition is about experiencing first hand one of the most important and bio-diverse ecosystems on Earth through the eyes of the people who have lived here for millennia.

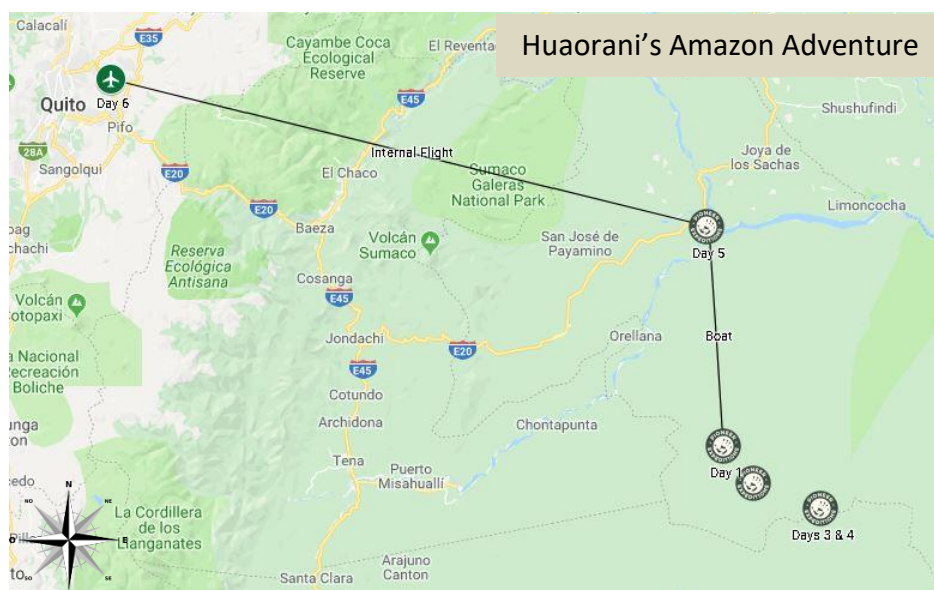
WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

Pioneer Expeditions are one of the few specialists that really *do* off the beaten track and unique adventures. The team have a real passion for wildlife and adventure travel which we love to share with our clients. We delight in searching the world for new destinations, new experiences and creating the most incredible adventures.

We like to introduce our clients to unique, the different, and the incredible. Whether it is through wildlife tracking, sea kayaking, snorkelling, trekking, rafting, cycling or observing wildlife in its natural environment, we want to give you the real Pioneer experience.

From the moment you choose to travel with Pioneer Expeditions until you return back home, you are supported by our dedicated team. We listen to what you want and can create an itinerary around your specific needs, working with your budget and with a commitment to responsible travel.

ITINERARY



DAY 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE RAINFOREST

From Quito, we board a morning flight to the Amazon frontier town of Coca. A scenic two-hour drive south brings us to the banks of the Shiripuno River, where our kayaks are waiting for us. After lunch and a safety briefing, we paddle down the Shiripuno River, surrounded by breathtaking jungle scenery. Our guide introduces us to the magnificent plants and wildlife of the Amazon. In the late afternoon, we reach our campsite near the Noneno Community and receive a visit from a Huaorani family. They share with us the stories of creation that define Huaorani cosmology and explain how the Huaorani view their existence. Together, we recite traditional chants that detail the creation of the jungle and the mountains. We enjoy a fresh gourmet dinner together prepared by our guides.



Overnight:
Camp



Meals:
L, D



Activity:
Wildlife and culture

DAY 2: HUAORANI COMMUNITY AND PADDLING DOWN THE SHIRIPUNO

After breakfast, we visit the nearby Noneno Community, a Huaorani settlement made up of both traditional thatch huts and wooden houses. From our encounters in the community, we learn more about the Huaorani way of life and customs. We exchange gifts and are taught how to use a blow gun and spear – traditional hunting tools of the Huaorani. We then try our hand weaving with *chambira*, a palm tree fiber used locally for a variety of purposes. After our community visit, we continue paddling down the Shiripuno in our kayaks. Meanwhile, the Shiripuno widens as we move downstream, with small tributaries feeding into the river. We are delighted by the sights of tropical flowers and exotic trees, which give cover to wildlife such as birds, monkeys, and other mammals that our guides help us find. We may also come across medicinal plants that our guides show us how to use. At the end of the day, we reach our fully equipped campsite and prepare for dinner.



Overnight:
Camp



Meals:
B, L, D



Activity:
Kayaking and wildlife

DAY 3: EXPLORING THE JUNGLE AND NOCTURNAL WILDLIFE HIKE

After breakfast, we continue our journey down the Shiripuno to explore another awe-inspiring section of the jungle. We keep an eye out for more plants and wildlife with the help of our naturalist and Huaorani guides, and stop to explore the micro-ecosystem of a giant Ceiba tree, many of which are more than 500 years old. In the afternoon, we reach the comfortable accommodations of the Shiripuno Lodge, with a wooden observation deck and social area with hammocks to relax in. In the early evening, we set out into the rainforest for a short guided hike in search of nocturnal wildlife, such as frogs, snakes, spiders, owls, rodents, and bats.



Overnight:
**Shiripuno
Lodge**



Meals:
B, L, D



Activity:
Hiking



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DAY 4: RAINFOREST HIKE AND FLOODED FOREST EXPLORATION

After an early breakfast, we travel by canoe to reach a nearby trail head and begin a 4-hour-long hike into the rainforest. During our hike, we explore old growth forest, including varzea (flooded) forest, and terra firme forest. We will appreciate a variety of plant life, including Parkia, Ficus, and Ceiba trees, which are common in this area. As for wildlife, we are likely to spot the common woolly monkey and white-lipped peccary, in addition to numerous bird species. Jaguar tracks are also a common find. Our guides lead us to a hill which overlooks the jungle to appreciate the canopy from above. They also introduce us to a wide range of medicinal plants, which help us to understand the Huaorani's practical, medicinal, and spiritual relationship with the rainforest. After returning to the lodge for lunch, we hike to a group of small lakes and explore the ecosystem of the flooded forest (also a popular fishing site with the locals).



If we are lucky, we will be able to see tapir - South America's largest land mammal. We are also likely to spot Black Caimans (formerly endangered crocodilian specie) and birdlife including the Hoatzin (a prehistoric bird unique to this area). We explore giant ant colonies to learn about their social structure, as well as the fascinating interaction between insects, animals, and plants in the jungle. After a long day, we are able to relax in hammocks before dinner.



Overnight:
Camp



Meals:
B, L, D



Activity:
Hiking and Wildlife

DAY 5: RETURN TO COCA

After an early breakfast, we head back to Coca by motorized canoe. Along the way, we stop to observe wildlife - especially monkeys like the red howler monkey, the spider monkey, and the woolly monkey. We may also stop if we pass by Huaorani families cooking or making handicrafts, as they often invite us to eat fresh yucca with them. In the afternoon, we reach the bridge across the Shiripuno River, where our vehicle is waiting to take us back to the frontier town of Coca. We spend the night at a hotel and enjoy one last evening before our return to Quito.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Activity:
Transfer and Wildlife

DAY 6: FLIGHT TO QUITO

After breakfast, we drive to the Coca airport to board our return flight to Quito.

NOTE this itinerary is subject to change due to weather conditions and/or river water levels.



Overnight:
N/A



Meals:
B



Activity:
Travel



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INCLUDED

- Road and river transportation to and from Coca
- All camping gear including sleeping bags, kitchen, social and bathroom tents
- All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- Expedition kayaks and safety gear
- Certified professional bilingual guide
- Entrance fee to Huaorani territory
- Two nights camping, two nights basic lodge, and one night tourist class accommodations in Coca. For groups larger than 6, additional dugout canoes are taken for logistical support.

NOT INCLUDED

- Flight Quito-Coca-Quito, beverages and guide tips.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITY DURATION

2-5 hours

SEASON

This expedition is open between January and December.

BEST TIME TO GO

The best time of year for these expeditions is March to October as these are the driest and usually the most settled months.

EXPEDITION SCHEDULE

Check out our website or email us for a list of our scheduled departures and prices.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'Medium difficulty level'. This means that you will need an average level of fitness.

ABOUT THE HUAORANI PEOPLE

The Huaorani are a tribe of Amerindians native to a small section of the Ecuadorian Amazon Rainforest numbering approximately 3,500 individuals. They are highly unique from surrounding indigenous tribes, and their language is unrelated to any other on Earth. They are extraordinarily spiritual people, making no distinction between the physical and spiritual worlds. They were also formerly one of the fiercest tribes ever recorded in documented history. It is estimated that up to 60% of Huaorani deaths were murders around the 1940s. The Huaorani were the last of Ecuador's indigenous tribes to be contacted by the outside world (this occurred in 1956), and as many as 2 of their clans still resist all contact with the outside world and continue to live as they have for centuries. Many other Huaorani clans have been dramatically affected by missionaries and the oil industry, but this kayaking program helps to encourage ecotourism and cultural preservation as a sustainable alternative.



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THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at info@pioneerexpeditions.com if you're interested in this trip, or any of our other expeditions from around the world. Visit our website www.pioneerexpeditions.com to unearth all of our other equally amazing trips and destinations.

1. Contact us -

We will be happy to answer any questions or enquiries you may have. From here we will begin to plan and put together your dream adventure holiday! Alternatively, on our website you will find our booking and enquiry forms; once filled in, we will be notified of your enquiry and will get back to you ASAP.

2. Leave everything to us -

Everything will be arranged and booked by us, but we will make sure to keep you updated every step of the way. In addition, we can arrange your international flights if needed, as we have access to competitive airfares. We can also arrange any additional tours or additional night's accommodation.

3. Wait for your adventure to begin -

Sit back and count down the days until your trip of a lifetime with Pioneer Expeditions. We'll handle all of the last minute preparations and provide you with everything you need. All practical information will be sent out to you, prior to your trip.

If you feel like altering this itinerary to suit your personal preferences, we can arrange all of that and more – just get in contact with us and let us know your requirements and wishes. From here, we can simply tailor-make your dream holiday.

