

4-DAY ADVENTURE

YASUNI AND WAORANI EXPERIENCE

Ecuador

During this 4-day extension in the Yasuni Intangible Zone, you'll visit one of the most biodiverse places on Earth. Home to thousands of species and the ancient Waorani people, this ecosystem thrives through a centuries-old harmony between the land and it's traditional guardians. The Yasuni National Park serves an extremely important role in protecting this environment from the pressures of developers and provides those fortunate enough to visit, a once-in-a-lifetime experience that combines nature with indigenous traditions.
We will spend our time here under the shelter of the rainforest canopy, where we will alternate between land and water based wildlife spotting and spending time with members of the Waorani community.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Look out for Cayman in the Shiripuno River from your canoe
- Learn ancient hunting skills from Gaba, the Waorani elder
- Take a night walk to find electric coloured tree frogs
- Trip fully carbon offset as standard


KANDOO
ADVENTURES
Otavalo
Quito
Cayambe
Coca
Cotopaxi
WAO Kamp
Toachi
Canyon
Parque National
Cajas
Quito to Coca (flight).....30-40 mins (157km)
Quito to Coca (night bus).....7-8 hours (309km)
Coca to Shiripuno river.....2 hours (90km)
Motorised canoe to WAO Kamp.....2 hours (35km)
Journey times are approximate

ITINERARY

DAY 1

EL COCA TO THE YASUNI

We will collect you from Francisco de Orellana Airport in Coca and make our way towards the Ecuadorian Amazon and the Yasumi National Park. As we make our way into the Yasumi, keep your eyes peeled for rainforest wildlife keeping cool under the green canopy. The WAO Kamp is located at the entrance to Gaba's Territory, part of the Waorani territory. After your guide has gone through the safety procedures and you have settled into your tent, you will meet Gaba, an elder of the Waorani Community before returning to the camp for our evening meal.

Transport: **Private vehicle, Motorised canoe (4 hours)**
Accommodation: **Camping**
Meals included: **Dinner**

DAY 2

WILDLIFE WITH THE WAO FAMILY

We rise early this morning and take to the river before breakfast to see the forest waking up. As the day warms and lifts the clouds, our guide points out the rich birdlife around us. After two hours on the water, we head back to the camp for breakfast. We will spend the remainder of the morning with Gaba who will take us on a guided tour in the rainforest, sharing how the Waorani have lived for centuries with their in-depth knowledge of plants that are helpful / harmful coupled with their hunting and survival skills. One of the most impressive sights on the hike is a clay lick, teeming with birds and other wildlife feeding on the mineral-rich clay. We return to camp for lunch and some time to rest before meeting up again to spend the early evening kayaking down the gently flowing Shiripuno river in search of toucans, macaws, turtles and monkeys. Once it is dark, we will head back out to see if we can spot nocturnal wildlife. As day becomes dusk, you may see capybaras and as it gets darker, look out for owls, aotus (night monkeys) and maybe even jaguars!

Hiking time: **4 - 5 hours**
Activity time: **3 - 4 hours**
Accommodation: **Camping**
Meals included:
Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

DAY 3

ANACONDAS AND WAORANI HUNTING

We will have breakfast at around 6am this morning and then head off to the blackwater lagoons in the hope of seeing an anaconda. These huge snakes inhabit these lagoons and we have the whole morning to explore several of them either on foot or by canoe. After lunch, Gaba invites us into his home where he will teach us about traditional Waorani hunting techniques and handmade weapons such as blow darts and spears. The Waorani people have been creating artwork and making jewellery for centuries and they will share some of their traditional techniques with you. After dinner tonight, we will take a short night walk to see if we can spot tree frogs, spiders, snakes and insects.

Activity time: **4 - 5 hours**
Accommodation: **Equipped Camp**
Meals included:
Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

DAY 4

DEPARTURE

As we rise for one last morning inside the Amazon rainforest, we can reflect on this once-in-a-lifetime experience with the Waorani community. We have another early start, but the time you depart will depend on whether you are flying or travelling overland from El Coca. If flying, you will need to be ready to depart at 4am, whereas if you are travelling on the road, you will leave the camp at 6.30am. One of the team will take you up the river to the Shiripuno Bridge where you will meet the transfer vehicle that will take you to El Coca.

Transport: **Private vehicle, Motorised canoe (4 hours)**

PLEASE NOTE

It is in the nature of a trip of this kind that arrangements and participants have to be flexible. While we use all reasonable endeavours to ensure a trip runs according to your itinerary, the day-to-day agenda and ultimate goal of the trip are taken as aims and not as contractual obligations. It is a necessary condition of your joining any of our trips that you accept this flexibility. Occasionally, we may have to make changes and we reserve the right to do so at any time.

TRIP INFORMATION

DIFFICULTY

This extension is rated level 3, which means moderately challenging. You will be camping in a remote location, where it is frequently humid or raining and, whilst the activities are not extremely challenging, the uneven terrain of the rain forest, combined with early mornings are not to be underestimated.

FOOD & DRINK

Drinking water

Water in Ecuador isn't necessarily safe to drink. Purified water is available from dispensers at the WAO Kamp and you should not need to bring a filtration system unless you choose to.

Meals

At the WOA Kamp, meals will be simple and will consist of locally inspired dishes and use seasonal vegetables. All meals will be taken in the camp's dining area.

Breakfast

You should expect a mix of hot and cold options, including fruits, bread and jam, eggs, pancakes and, of course, lots of tea, coffee and locally sourced Guayusa leaf tea.

Lunch

Lunches will consist of a selection of meats, salads and stews. You will also have the chance to try local dishes such as Tilapia maito (fish cooked in banana leaves).

Dinner

Your evening meal will consist of three courses. Typically there will be a soup to start, followed by meat or fish dishes served with cabbage / beet salads and rice and with a sweet desert to end the meal.

Hygiene

It is important to maintain a high standard of hygiene in what can be a difficult environment. It is worth carrying some anti-bacterial hand gel in case you are caught short during the day's activities.

Dehydration

You can easily become dehydrated in the hot and humid conditions in the Amazon. You will also be exerting yourself, and sweating. As a result, you'll have to drink much more water than you normally would so you should drink at least 3 litres of fluids every day. Even when you don't feel thirsty you should drink this amount as a minimum – preferably more. The most common
symptoms include thirst, dry lips, nose or mouth, headache and feeling fatigued or lethargic.

Dietary requirements

Please inform us of any dietary requirements upon booking so that we can inform the accommodations and plan suitable meals for whilst you are camping. As this trip takes place in a remote location, it may be difficult to source certain items that you may be able to get at home. Please discuss any dietary requirements with our team in the UK.

ACCOMMODATION

On this trip we will stay in the unique WAO Kamp, located on the shores of the Shiripuno River, in the Yasuni National Park. Accommodation is built in the style of the Waorani people's homes with 4 meter tall bell tents underneath shelters made from woven leaves. Tents are allocated on a twin share basis and contain comfortable beds, towels, bedding (including pillows and duvet). There are shared shower and bathroom facilities and comfortable areas to eat and relax.

By staying in the WAO Kamp, you are helping to protect the way of life of the Waorani people and other nomadic groups who reside in the Ecuadorian Amazon as well as supporting the vital work being done by the National park to preserve the biodiverse eco-system that houses over 2000 types of plant and more than 1000 animal species. The WAO Kamp is a sustainable travel initiative fully led by the Waorani people. Your stay directly supports the community, their education, healthcare and conservation efforts.

YOUR GUIDE

On this trip, you will be in the incredibly safe hands of the WAO Kamp staff and their team of native, English-speaking guides. They will provide a welcome and safety briefing on your arrival and you will be given a daily activity briefing. They have overall responsibility for your health and welfare. You must listen carefully to all of their instructions and follow them carefully. The guide's ruling on any matter is final, especially in relation to an early retreat from any of the activities.

TRANSPORT

All transportation costs are included in this trip. Your transfers will be taken in either a comfortable minibus or a 4x4 vehicle dependent on the location and conditions of the roads. You will also be transported by motorized canoe.
Your luggage will also be transported in these vehicles.

We insist on using a high standard of vehicle and driver for all of our transfers. In Ecuador, it is a legal requirement for front seat passengers and driver to wear seatbelts and for all vehicles to have seatbelts fitted in the back. Whilst travelling in the motorised canoes, you will be provided with personal floatation devices. If you are unhappy about any aspect of the vehicle or the standard of driving, please speak to the driver or our local office immediately.

LUGGAGE

Bag Weight: 15kg

On this trip you have a maximum luggage allowance of 1 x 15kg bags. We recommend using soft 80-100L duffel bags.
Your bags will be transported by vehicle (car and boat) between locations, and you will carry a smaller daysack (around 30l) on your activities each day.

HOW DO I GET THERE?

This adventure starts in Coca (also known as El Coca) and you must make your own way there. From Quito, this is possible either overland or flight. If you fancy travelling by road, the bus takes around 8 hours and is pretty inexpensive (around $15-$20). The best option is the night bus which leaves Quito at 11pm and arrives at the bus terminal in Coca at around 7am. Alternatively, the quickest option is to fly, Flights take around 30 minutes and depart in the morning. LATAM operate flights between Quito (Mariscal Sucre International Airport – airport code UIO) and Coca (Puerto Francisco de Orellana – airport code OCC). Please check the baggage limitations for domestic flights as they are often small. You must arrive in Coca in the morning as it is only possible to operate the boat transfer to the WAO Kamp during the day.

Departure

Depending on whether you are travelling onward from Coca by road or by air will determine the time you will leave the WAO Kamp. LATAM operate flights leaving Coca at around 10:30am. Alternatively, buses typically depart from Coca at around 11am.

ON ARRIVAL

Upon arrival at Francisco de Orellana Airport, look out for one of our team who will be holding a sign displaying your name. They will assist with your transfer and onward journey. The journey is half by road and half on the water. In total, the journey to the WAO Kamp takes around 4 hours.

PRE-TREK BRIEFING

It is a requirement of joining any of our trips that you attend a pre-trip briefing on your arrival at WAO Kamp. The team will provide a full orientation of the Kamp and a full safety briefing. If time allows between the end of your Ecuador trip and the start of this extension, a briefing will be provided at your hotel in Ecuador the evening before the extension begins. The briefing in Quito is held the at 6pm the evening before the trip begins in the hotel lobby.

BUDGET & CHANGE

The main currency in Ecuador is the US Dollar (USD). These can be easily exchanged before travelling. It is very important that US bills be new (no more than 10 years old), crisp
and untorn.

You will also be able to exchange money upon arrival in Quito. Most hotels, banks and exchange bureaus will exchange money for you and our guides are happy to assist you
to do this.

Please note that whilst you are out of the big cities there won't be anywhere for you to exchange money, so we would recommend doing this before leaving Quito. Credit cards are accepted in most restaurants and shops in the cities however in the smaller towns and villages they will be useless, so please make sure to have some cash on you as well. If you are relying on a credit or debit card for emergency funds, make sure you tell your card issuer that you will be using it abroad, or you may find that it won't work when you really need it.

Depending on how many souvenirs you want to buy, we would suggest a recommended budget of around US$150.

TIPS

Tipping is typically not expected in Ecuador, but is appreciated. The amount you tip should be based on the level of service you feel you have received and is completely voluntary. In restaurants and bars there is an official 10% service tax. For your trip crew, the decision on how much to tip should be determined by how well they serve you whilst you are on your adventure but the amounts below are a recommendation:

Guides: US$10 per person per trip
Drivers: US$5 per journey
WAO Kamp staff: $15 per group as a collection for either tip box or to be handed to guide who will distribute

Tips should be made in US Dollars and bills should be crisp, untorn and less than 10 years old.

For the Waorani, small thoughtful gifts to say thank you are appreciated and culturally welcomed. Practical items, educational materials, outdoor gear or items from your home country are considered very meaningful.

FORMALITIES & HEALTH

PASSPORT

Most travellers require a passport that is valid for at least six months after the return date. It is your responsibility to confirm your specific passport requirements and please be aware that proof of onwards travel may be required. You can check your requirements on the website provided by the Ecuadorian government.

VISA

United States and UK passport holders do not require a visa to enter Ecuador. On arrival you will be granted a maximum 90 day stay in the country. This information may be subject to change, without notice, by the local authorities. It is your responsibility to check the latest travel requirements and information before departure.

VACCINATIONS

The World Health Organisation recommend the following vaccinations for travel to Ecuador:

Tetanus
Hepatitis A
Hepatitis B
Diphtheria
Typhoid
Rabies

Yellow Fever - This is necessary for all citizens of Peru, Bolivia, Columbia and Brazil and for any guests who have spent 10+ days in these countries prior to their Ecuador trip. It is also necessary if travelling from a country with Yellow Fever or transiting through one for 12+ hours.

If you are joining our Yasuni and Waorani extension in the Amazon rainforest, it is strongly recommended that you are vaccinated against Yellow Fever.

It is your responsibility to check the latest health information before travelling.

INSURANCE

Before you can join any Kandoo Adventures trek, you will need to insure yourself against accident, injury, and illness. Your insurance must cover the cost of rescue and repatriation if necessary. Make sure your insurer knows of your travel plans, and verify that your policy fully covers your trek and any other activities you will participate in. On trips including the peak summits of Cotopaxi, Cayambe or Chimborazo you will need to be covered for roped glacier walking and specifically, for our Peaks of Ecuador trip, you need to be covered for trekking up to 6500m and for our Volcanic Adventures trip you need to be covered for trekking up to 6000m. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are fully and adequately insured for the duration of your trip. Please ensure that all activities, excursions and destinations in your itinerary are included in your travel insurance policy, in addition to your regular cover for cancellation and medical expenses.

We ask that you keep a copy of your policy summary (containing policy number and the emergency contact number for your insurer) in your day sack at all times, so that we can access this information should we need to contact the insurer on your behalf. You will also need to bring details of your insurance cover to the pre-trek briefing.

HEALTH

Malaria

There is low to no risk of malaria in any of the regions we operate in Ecuador. When the risk is low to none, antimalarials are not normally advised.

MINIMUM AGE LIMIT

You will be joining other people at the WAO Kamp. The minimum age for participants is 16 years old.

EQUIPMENT & CLOTHING

EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED BY KANDOO ADVENTURES

For this trip you will need specialist equipment for time spent on the water. your activities. We provide everything you need as part of your trip package. This equipment is regularly checked and updated to meet regulations. Please see below for equipment provided for activities:

- Kayaks
- Canoes
- Paddles
- Personal floatation devices

Camping platforms will house two comfortable bell tents which each sleep 2 people. The following items are provided:

- Beds - raised off floor with mattress
- Bedding, including pillows and duvets
- Towels
- Lighting in tents
- Shared bathroom facilities

CLOTHING TO BRING

- Short-sleeved quick-dry shirt (x 2)
- Long-sleeved quick-dry shirt (x 2)
- Lightweight and breathable trousers (cargo / trekking pants work well)
- Shorts (ideal for leisure time at camp)
- Quick-dry underwear (we suggest packing extra)
- Quick-dry socks (we suggest packing extra)
- Crocs or sports sandals (to wear at camp and will be useful in the showers)
- Comfortable walking shoes or trainers

EQUIPMENT TO BRING

- Insect repellent (should contain DEET or a strong natural alternative)
- Suncream (biodegradable products preferred)
- Personal toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste – biodegradable preferred)
- Quick-dry towel
- Lip balm with SPF
- Antihistamines and cream to soothe insect bites
- Personal first-aid kit with any medications you usually take
- Water purification system – (optional as purified water is available at the WAO Kamp)
- Hand sanitiser
- Daypack (approx. 30l)

HOW TO BOOK THIS TRIP

1 CHOOSE YOUR DATE AND CHECK AVAILABILITY

A full list of available dates can be found on our website.

2 CONTACT US

Contact us by phone, email or through our website. We will answer any questions you may have and send you a personalized itinerary and quote.

3 COMPLETE BOOKING AND PAYMENT

When you are ready to book, we will send you a link to our online booking forms and participation agreements. We accept all major credit and debit cards and require a low 20% deposit to secure your place.