

## Galapagos Islands

### Paradise Huts Jungle Lodge



Although only 3½ hours from Quito— the capital of **Ecuador** — the 110 hectares of private jungle is only accessible by canoe. Directly across from our jungle paradise is the **Cuyabeno Fauna Reserve**, and to the north are found the settlements of the Secoya Indian Tribe.

**Paradise Huts** accommodates up to 36 people in six individual guest lodges. Each lodge has three double bedrooms, each with its own private bedrooms and shower. Additionally, a spacious balcony is incorporated into each lodge with hammocks and comfortable seats. The main lodge is centered around a spacious dining area, which includes the kitchen and bar. Oil lamps provide the lighting throughout the lodges.

The gardens within our small clearing are full of exotic plants, such as orchids and gardenias, tropical fruits including pineapple, passion fruit and bananas,

and trees and bushes of coffee and palms, to name but a few.

Our neighbors to the north are the Secoyas and Cofanes, indigenous tribes who have inhabited this area for centuries and were first "discovered" by the Spanish conquistador Pizarro in 1541. Included in your tour to the Secoya community of San Pablo de Kantensiya you will visit the house of the local Shaman and see the daily activities of the inhabitants of this small village. Also try your hand at using a genuine blowgun and paddling an Indian canoe!



Breakfast is served buffet style, with assorted fresh fruits, cereal, yogurt, scrambled eggs, assorted cheeses, breads, butter, marmalade, ham, sausages, milk, coffee and tea. Lunch and dinner are served directly to the table and is based on chicken, fish, spaghetti, meat, pork chops and a large variety of salads, French fries and rice. Desserts are basically fresh fruits and cakes. All water used at the lodge is bottled. Each room has bottled water free of charge. An electric generator is used during the day and is shut down at night.

Come prepared for some rain showers and cool nights. Life vest and rubber boots are provided for the canoe ride to and from the Lodge. All guests should bring rain ponchos, insect repellent and sun tanning lotion.

#### Itinerary:

**Day 1:** Morning flight from **Quito** to **Lago Agrio**. A reception at the airport and is followed by lunch. Transfer to **Chiritza**, 1½ hours southeast of Lago Agrio on the **Aguarico River**. From here your transportation is by motorized canoe down the Aguarico River until you reach **Paradise Huts**. This exciting leg of your trip takes 1½ hours. The evening meal is served and a nocturnal hike is optional.

**Day 2:** After breakfast, hiking in the 110 hectare forest owned by **Paradise Huts** to see the great variety of species of plants, trees and animal life. You will see the "ceibo" tree, the largest tree found in the jungle. Lunch back at the lodge is followed by a visit to the home of an indigenous family to see a demonstration and participation in the use of blowpipes, typical musical instruments and the elaboration of woven goods. The evening meal is served.

**Day 3:** Breakfast followed by a visit to **San Pablo**, the largest **Secoya** tribe community in the region, to learn of their customs and way of life. Return to the lodge for lunch. In the afternoon, try your hand at paddling an indigenous canoe on the Aguarico River. The evening meal is served and a farewell cocktail for those on the 4-day tour.

**Day 4 (4 day tour):** After breakfast, departure for **Seguayas** to visit the local shaman who will lead a small hike revealing secrets of jungle life, medicinal plants and their uses. Lunch is at the lodge. In the afternoon, canoe up the **Shushufindi River** for an excellent opportunity for bird-watching. The evening meal is served along with a farewell cocktail time.

**Day 5 (5 day tour):** Early breakfast and departure for **Chiritza** by canoe and then by bus to **Lago Agrio** to catch the flight back to **Quito**.

All prices are subject to change without notice.

3 nights/4 nights - \$ \$412.35

4 nights/5 days - \$463.53

PO Box 310, Mills, WY 82644 USA; 800.322.3577; +1.307.235.0683; FAX +1.903.887.8526

EXPLORER VENTURES (USA) LTD

www.explorerventures.com

info@explorerventures.com