

AMAZON RAINFOREST EXPERIENCE

Rainforest Journey Through Napo, River Life, Kichwa Knowledge & Amazonian Landscapes

(4D / 3N)

*Brought to you by Maquita Impact-Based DMC
Where Travel Creates Equity*

THE EXPERIENCE

This Amazon Rainforest Experience offers a refined and experience-driven way to enter the Ecuadorian Amazon through Napo, one of the country's most accessible rainforest gateways. The journey is centered around Shandia Lodge and integrates forest trails, river navigation, community life, local gastronomy, medicinal plants and Kichwa cultural practices into a comprehensive Amazonian experience.

The journey maintains the essential spirit of a classic rainforest experience: nature walks, aquatic landscapes, night exploration, cultural exchange and time spent within the community. At the same time, each activity is given a stronger sense of place through Maquita DMC's long-standing community network in Napo, where the rainforest is experienced through meaningful local encounters, dialogue with knowledgeable Kichwa leaders, traditional food practices, river life, handicrafts and ancestral knowledge.

The result is an Amazon experience that feels immersive, well-paced and deeply meaningful. It is designed for travelers seeking a distinctive rainforest journey that balances comfort, accessibility and authentic local connection, while benefiting from the territorial relationships and fair-trade standards that Maquita provides as added value.

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1: Quito – Scenic transition from the Andes into the Amazon – Shandia Lodge – Traditional welcome – Community bike ride – Guayusa upina with local Kichwa leaders – Accommodation.

Day 2: Shandia Lodge – Orchid garden – Butterfly-rich forest walk – Waterfalls and natural pools – Chakra visit – Chicha de yuca workshop – Accommodation.

Day 3: Shandia Lodge – Women-led community-based ecotourism project – Chocolate workshop – Maito cooking experience from chakra to table – Dialogue with local women leaders – Guided night walk through the rainforest and Jatun Yacu river area – Accommodation.

Day 4: Shandia Lodge – Kichwa river setting – Canoe navigation to Kamak Maki – Community-based ecotourism and wildlife rescue center – Amupakin ancestral medicine center – Traditional lunch – Return to Quito.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Quito – Scenic Transition into the Amazon – Shandia Lodge – Community Bike Ride – Traditional Gathering

The journey begins in Quito with a land transfer toward the Amazon region, following one of Ecuador's most remarkable geographic transitions. In only a few hours, the route leaves the Andean highlands behind and descends into a warmer, greener and more humid landscape. This gradual change becomes part of the experience itself, revealing how Ecuador's size and geography allow travelers to move from mountain scenery into rainforest territory within the same day.

Upon arrival at Shandia Lodge, the group is welcomed with a traditional drink, marking the first moment of connection with the Amazon. The arrival feels like an entrance into a new rhythm: the forest, the river, the community and the climate begin to frame the days ahead.

After lunch at the lodge, the afternoon continues with a relaxed bike ride through Shandia community. This light and accessible experience introduces the place in an informal and close way, allowing travelers to move through community paths while observing daily life, local spaces and the natural surroundings.

In the evening, after dinner, not included, the day closes around the ancestral fireplace, known as the tulpa, with local Kichwa leaders, sharing the traditional guayusa gathering practice, guayusa upina. This moment brings warmth and meaning to the arrival: a quiet conversation, a traditional drink and a first connection with the people, stories and forest atmosphere that shape the experience.

Accommodation: Jungle lodge (Tena)
Meals: L

Day 2: Shandia Lodge – Orchid Garden – Butterfly-Rich Forest Walk – Natural Pools – Chicha de Yuca Workshop

After breakfast at Shandia, the day begins with a light-to-moderate walk along the Pimpilala Trail, a forest route known for its abundance of butterflies, especially the blue morpho. The trail introduces the rainforest through movement, color, humidity and sound, allowing travelers to experience the forest gradually and at an enjoyable pace.

The walk continues through a landscape where small details become part of the experience. An orchid garden along the route offers a closer look at the diversity of Amazonian plant life, while the path leads through a sequence of

small waterfalls and natural water drops that build toward the main area of the trail.

The route then reaches the Yani natural pools, where the experience shifts from walking to direct contact with the water. Travelers can swim, rest or simply enjoy the freshness of the Amazon in a natural setting. This moment adds balance to the day, combining soft adventure with time to absorb the environment at an easy rhythm.

The group returns to Shandia for lunch. In the afternoon, the focus moves from the forest trail to the community's forest garden, known as the chakra, where local products are seen directly at their source. The visit reveals how food, daily life and territory are closely connected in the Amazon.

The day closes with a participatory workshop on the traditional Kichwa fermented yuca beverage, chicha de yuca, prepared using local techniques. The activity is simple, direct and memorable: travelers learn through practice, understanding how this traditional drink is connected to hospitality, food culture and community life. Dinner, not included, and overnight at Shandia Lodge.

Accommodation: Jungle lodge (Tena)
Meals: B, L

Day 3: Shandia Lodge – Women-Led Community-Based Ecotourism Project – Maito Cooking Experience – Rainforest Night Walk

After breakfast at Shandia, the journey continues by land to Sinchi Warmi, a women-led community-based initiative where food, culture and local leadership are experienced through practical and welcoming activities. This day brings the Amazon to the table, connecting ingredients, preparation, memory and conversation.

The experience begins with a chocolate workshop using local cacao. Travelers are introduced to the process in a clear and sensory way, understanding cacao as part of an Amazonian food system linked to the forest garden, local families and community work.

The journey then continues with a traditional leaf-wrapped Amazonian dish, maito. The activity begins with the collection of ingredients in the chakra, allowing travelers to understand how the meal starts in the territory itself. From there, the preparation becomes a shared process, leading to a typical lunch built step by step from local knowledge and local products.

After lunch, there is time to speak with the women of Sinchi Warimi. This moment gives the day a more personal dimension, allowing travelers to hear about their path, their daily life and the way the initiative has become part of their community story. The encounter opens a space for listening, exchange and understanding.

Later, the group returns to Shandia Lodge for dinner, not included. Before resting, a guided night walk opens another side of the rainforest. The route crosses a short but expressive section of forest, enough to experience how the Amazon changes after dark: sounds become clearer, movement becomes subtler and the forest feels more awake.

The walk continues across a hanging bridge and toward an island in the Jatun Yacu River, where travelers can observe how the river's rhythm changes as the day fades. The return to the lodge completes one of the most atmospheric moments of the experience, closing the day with the forest at night as the final memory.

Accommodation: Jungle lodge (Tena)

Meals: B, L

Day 4: Shandia Lodge – Kichwa River Setting – Canoe Navigation – Kamak Maki – Amupakin – Return to Quito

After breakfast at Shandia, the final day begins early with a land transfer to Puerto Misahuallí. From there, the route continues by canoe to Kamak Maki, adding an essential river experience to the journey. The navigation introduces the river as a natural corridor of movement, connection and daily life in the Amazon.

Kamak Maki is a community-based ecotourism and animal rescue center where forest care, cultural memory and wildlife protection come together. During the visit, travelers walk through the project and learn about its relationship with the surrounding forest, medicinal plants and conservation work.

The experience also includes a museum space with Kichwa instruments and objects related to hunting, cooking, clothing and daily life. This adds cultural depth to the visit, showing how tools, practices and knowledge have historically connected people with the territory.

Another important part of the visit focuses on the spaces created to protect local wildlife affected by hunting, illegal trafficking and other threats. This gives the day a conservation dimension, showing how a community initiative can respond to real environmental challenges while keeping the experience close, understandable and grounded.

After leaving Kamak Maki by land, the route continues to Amupakin, a Kichwa ancestral medicine center known for preserving knowledge related to medicinal and spiritual practices. Upon arrival, travelers receive a collective welcome and take part in a collective or individual spiritual cleansing practice, symbolically preparing them to leave the Amazon with a sense of renewal.

A brief walk through Amupakin's forest gardens, known as chakras, introduces the idea of the rainforest as a living pharmacy, where plants, care and ancestral knowledge remain closely connected. Lunch is served at Amupakin before beginning the return journey to Quito.

On the way back, a stop is made at a local products shop for a small farewell drink tasting and a short comfort stop. Arrival in Quito marks the end of an Amazon experience that combines forest, river, community, food, knowledge and conservation in a complete and accessible rainforest journey.

Accommodation: None

Meals: B, L

✓ PROGRAM INCLUDES

- Private transportation
- National bilingual tour guide (English/Italiano/Deutsch/Français - Spanish)
- Accommodation according to itinerary:
 - 3 nights in Shandia Lodge (Tena)
- Meals according to itinerary
 - (B = Breakfast / BL = Box Lunch / L = Lunch / D = Dinner)
- Entrance fees and activities included:
 - Traditional welcome drink at Shandia Lodge
 - Community bike ride in Shandia
 - Traditional guayusa gathering practice, guayusa upina, with local Kichwa leaders
 - Pimpilala Trail
 - Orchid garden visit
 - Yani natural pools
 - Community forest garden, chakra, visit in Shandia
 - Traditional Kichwa fermented yuca beverage, chicha de yuca, workshop
 - Sinchi Warmi chocolate workshop
 - Traditional leaf-wrapped Amazonian dish, maito, cooking experience
 - Dialogue with women from Sinchi Warmi
 - Guided night walk in Shandia
 - Canoe navigation to Kamak Maki
 - Kamak Maki community-based ecotourism and animal rescue center
 - Amupakin ancestral medicine center visit
 - Collective or individual spiritual cleansing practice
 - Brief forest garden, chakra, visit at Amupakin
 - Farewell drink tasting at local products shop

✗ PROGRAM DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Personal expenses
- Tips

💰 RATES PER PERSON (USD)

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Rates	2 - 3 pax	4 - 6 pax	7 - 9 pax	10 - 15 pax
NET	USD 760,00	USD 640,00	USD 470,00	USD 445,00
GROSS	USD 1.015,00	USD 850,00	USD 630,00	USD 595,00

Note: Rates for 2 to 3 passengers include a guide/driver, while rates for 4 passengers or more include a guide and a driver

COMMERCIAL CONDITIONS SUMMARY

Currency

USD. All payments must be received net of bank fees.

Payment Terms

Booking type	Commercial rule
FIT standard	No payment required for blocking before 90 days. Confirmation requires 30% deposit 60 days before travel. Final balance is due 45 days before travel.
Groups / tailor-made	No payment required for blocking before 120 days. Confirmation requires 40% deposit 90 days before travel. Final balance is due 60 days before travel.
Last-minute bookings	45 days or less: 100% at confirmation.

Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be received in writing. Charges apply to the total confirmed booking value.

Time before departure	FIT standard	Groups / tailor-made
91+ days	0%	0%
90–61 days	0%	25%
60–45 days	30%	50%
44–31 days	70%	50%
30 days or less / no-show	100%	100%

Note: Non-refundable services may apply

Key Conditions

- Prices subject to availability at booking
- Non-refundable components override general policies
- Changes may generate additional costs
- Services confirmed upon payment

Force Majeure

- Recoverable funds will be refunded net of supplier costs.
- Alternative arrangements will be proposed whenever possible.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

- The itinerary may be adjusted due to operational, weather-related, or safety conditions to ensure a smooth and responsible travel experience.
- Wildlife observation depends on natural conditions and cannot be guaranteed.