



PROJECT DOSSIER

Reconnaissance Expedition

Quito (Ecuador) to Iquitos (Peru)

Departure date: October 2001

Arrival date: November 2001

Cost: UK£2,020 plus US\$820 local payment.



A unique opportunity to travel into totally uncharted territory, to discover the amazing flora and fauna of the Amazon jungle, and to spend time with the Huaorani Indians, one of the most remote and nomadic tribes left on earth.

Please note this is a reconnaissance expedition which requires all to have a sense of exploration, flexibility and most of all a willingness to accept that events en route will invariably be unpredictable.

The Aim

To travel from Quito by raft, boat and foot into the Amazon basin and across the recently opened border to Iquitos.

The Proposed Route

Days 1-9: Quito - Coca

Arrival, pre departure meeting and preparation in Quito. From Quito by local transport past Papallacta and to Baeza where we start the rafting. Eight days of white water rafting on the Quijos river with mile after mile of class IV to IV+ rapids and spectacular jungle scenery.

This section also includes portage around the 145m high San Rafael Falls.

Days 10-19: After a rest day in Coca, we drive south to the Shiripuno River. This is Huaorani Indian territory. We will navigate down this river on board dugout canoes, stopping at Huaorani settlements en route and doing short treks into the virgin rainforest with Huaorani indians as our guides. We plan to spend several days exploring the Shiripuno and Cononaco rivers, home to fresh water dolphins, jaguars, tapirs, monkeys, anacondas. We will then trek from the Cononaco river to the upper Yasuni river. Four days of walking and sleeping in the heart of one of the most untouched areas of the Amazon using Huaorani indians as porters and guides.

Days 20-27: Navigation down the Yasuni river and visit to Lake Jatun-Cocha. Arrive at Nuevo Rocafuerte on the Rio Napo, and cross the border into Peru. We will spend several days exploring some of the small tributaries which flow into the Napo and visiting local indian tribes before arriving in Iquitos.

Physical Demand

In order to undertake this project you will need to be of higher than average fitness. You should also be a competent swimmer. You must be aware that for much of this project we will be in some extremely remote places, with no access to medical facilities. As well as this, the heat and humidity of the Amazon basin and the totally nomadic conditions in which we will be living can take their toll.

Group Size

Maximum 12 (not including guides).

Transport

Local transport, river rafts, dugout canoes, jungle longboats and on foot.

Accommodation

Mainly camping. Hotels in Quito, Coca and Nuevo Rocafuerte (one night each).

Food

Three meals a day will be provided throughout the trip. Meals in Quito and Coca are NOT included.

Local Customs

Some of the areas we travel through will be totally devoid of people but we will also be travelling through Huaorani Indian territory. Understandably, the Huaorani feel sensitive about the possible effects of tourism and it is therefore essential to remember that WE are the visitors, and to show respect to local people at all times.

Equipment Supplied

All rafting equipment (including wetsuits for the upper section of the Quijos), all cooking and camping equipment including tents, comprehensive expedition medical kit.

What you need to Bring

A sleeping bag, sleeping mat and mosquito net, a medium sized backpack and a daypack. Personal clothing, strong footwear, water bottle, personal medicines (including water purification tablets), toiletries etc. No specialised equipment is necessary – you probably already have most of what is needed. A complete suggested clothing list is included in the pre-departure information supplied at the time of booking.

Passports and Visas

You will need a passport which is valid for no less than six months after the end of the expedition. Visas are not required for most nationalities for either Peru or Ecuador but visa requirements can change regularly so you should check with Encounter or your agent in good time before the start of the trip.

Medical and Vaccinations

All vaccination requirements and medical recommendations are detailed in the pre-departure information sent out on booking.

Insurance

You must have personal Travel Insurance to cover Adventure Travel and it must cover all aspects described on page 60 of our present brochure. Please bring a copy of your policy with you to the pre departure meeting. If your policy does not cover this minimum level then Encounter will not accept responsibility for the consequences.

Personal Spending Money

There won't be much to spend it on! You should allow approx US\$15 per day for meals in Quito and in Coca. Aside from this, you should budget for drinks, snacks and souvenirs. US\$60 per week should be ample.

Arriving and Leaving

There will be a pre-departure meeting at our Quito hotel at 1800 hours the evening before the project departure date.

Included in Expedition Cost

From day one in Quito to finishing day in Iquitos: All transport, food (except in Quito and Coca), camping equipment and supplies, accommodation (including 3 nights in hotels), rafting equipment, entrance to San Rafael Falls and Yasuni National Park.

How to Book

To ensure a place on this project, please read the declaration and complete the booking form on page 63 of our present brochure. You will be required to send a deposit to Encounter or your agent. Upon receipt of your deposit and completed booking form your place will be confirmed. You will then be sent a pre-departure pack, including details regarding visas, vaccinations etc.

Interesting Reading

Amazon Wildlife Insight Guides
The Rivers Amazon Alex Shoumatoff
Eva Luna Isabel Allende
South American Handbook 2000

Since much of the area we will be travelling through is 'unchartered', most guidebooks will only be of use for the first section of the trip.

The information in this dossier has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However, it is subject to change and does not form part of the contract between the client and Encounter Overland Ltd.