



Napo Wildlife Center

DAY 1: Quito to Napo Wildlife Center

This morning you will make your way to the Quito Airport's national departure terminal, where a representative of Eco Tours will meet you. They will assist you with check-in for departure. This is a 25 to 35 minute flight that takes you east over the Andes to the town of Francisco de Orellana (known locally as Coca). You will be going from the heights of Quito, at an elevation of almost 10,000 feet in the mountains, down to the headwaters of the Amazon Basin at just 820 feet above sea level! Upon arrival in Coca, you will be assisted with your luggage and driven through town to the motorized canoe. This boat is powered by two 55 horsepower engines, is covered to protect you from the elements and is equipped with life jackets that you are required to wear. Here you begin your journey on the Napo River, Ecuador's largest Amazon tributary. As we travel downriver, we will have the chance to see a number of birds, including Large-billed and Yellow-billed terns, a variety of hawks and maybe even an Amazonian Umbrella bird!

After approximately two hours, we will arrive at the Yasuni Biosphere Reserve, in which the Napo Wildlife Center is located. Transfer to smaller, dugout canoes and your bilingual guide will paddle you up a small stream as you enjoy the array of wildlife in the lush rainforest surrounding you. At the end of the paddle, Napo Wildlife Center awaits you across Añangu Lake. You will be able to settle into your cabin, and there might even be time for a late afternoon group walks. L, D

DAY 2:

On your first morning your guides will take you to two of the most accessible clay licks in Ecuador, both within the 82-square mile Napo Wildlife Center reserve. Travel back down the stream to the first lick, near the Napo River, where activity kicks off early in the morning. Watch brightly colored parrots arrive by the hundreds to eat the clay that detoxifies certain seeds and nuts they eat. Mealy and Orange-winged as well as Blue-headed parrots squawk and flap as they all vie for the best clay-eating position. A specially designed viewing blind allows for proximity and complete concealment so you can even have a coffee while the birds are performing their morning ritual.

When the activity at the first lick dies down, head over to the second lick, located in the forest. Here, Cobalt-winged Parakeets, Orange-Cheeked Parrots and Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlets fly down to the ground at the entrance to a small cave to eat the clay and sip water from a pool. Birds

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begin arriving here in the late morning, so you can have lunch in the viewing blind as you watch the spectacle. Napo Wildlife Center in a private bungalow. B, L, D



DAY 3:

Take a canoe or catamaran out on pristine Añangu Lake. Giant otters inhabit the lake and surrounding streams, and you may encounter a family fishing in the morning or resting in the afternoon. You may see a 12-foot-long Black Caiman cruise across the lake, and you will see many birds and monkeys in the trees around you from the prehistoric-looking Hoatzin to Monk Sakis and Spider Monkeys.

Explore the forest trails around the lodge area with your guide. Rich terra firma rainforest, this area is filled with wildlife, including the golden-mantled tamarin, found only on the south side of the Napo. With extraordinary luck, you might even spot a Jaguar or a Tapir! B, L, D

DAY 4:

Today you will have the opportunity to revisit some of your favorite places and get another glimpse (or the first glimpse) of any of the following animals: woolly and spider monkeys, golden mantle tamarins, giant otters, possibly a manatee that has been spotted twice this year. Napo Wildlife Center in a private bungalow. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included. B, L, D

DAY 5:

Napo Wildlife Center to Quito

We depart early in the morning for Coca to catch the Icaro flight. On arrival you will take a taxi to your hotel. B

Please note that the program may vary slightly so as to maximize your wildlife sightings, depending on the reports of our researchers and experienced naturalist guides based at the lodge.