

Kingfisher Tour Info

We offer spectacular and affordable fishing trips, specializing in Peacock Bass, in the Cuyabeno Reserve of Northeast Ecuador, a biodiversity hotspot in the Amazon basin. Due to the steep drop-off from the Andes Mountains, this basin area is incredibly rich in flora, fauna and fish diversity. The Cuyabeno Reserve contains a system of white and black water rivers with 14 beautiful lagoons created by lowland forest flooding, an ideal place for fishing especially in the dry season lasting from September to February. Common fish species found in the park include Peacock Bass (*Cichla monoculus*), Catfish (*Phractocephalus hemioliopterus*) (Red-tailed, Gray, White), Pacu, Paiche (*Arapaima gigas*), Bacalao (*Pellona castelneana*), Piranhas (*Serrasalmus* sp.), Corvina-Tsatsamu (*Plagioscion squamosissimus*), Dogfish (*Raphiodon vulpinus*), Tarayra (*Hoplias malabaricus*), Electric Eels and Stingrays. Responsible fishing and species conservation is extremely important to Kingfisher, and we are therefore currently conducting an investigation project for the evaluation and protection of fish species in the Cuyabeno National Reserve.

Tours can be arranged for 6 to 14 days with accommodations in rustic jungle cabins and/or camping on longer trips. Travel is in both 40 ft motorized canoes and fishing from paddle canoes, bass boat, or kayaks. In the narrow rivers of this wildlife reserve, anglers will also likely observe a variety of tropical species such as monkeys, toucans, parrots, anacondas, and pink river dolphins. Diego Monteros is both a licensed fishing and naturalist guide, allowing tours to be a fantastic combination of fishing and wildlife observation, and the privacy of our tours creates a special and customized trip according to your preferences.

Trip Details

Included in tour package:

Transportation from Lago Agrio to and within Cuyabeno Reserve

Use of paddle canoes, bass boat, kayaks

Accommodation

3 meals per day

Rain ponchos

Rubber boots

Tents/Camping gear

Some smaller dry bags available

Live bait

Fishing rods may be loaned

Not Included:

Personal fishing equipment: reels, line, bait

Larger dry bags/waterproof bags

Alcoholic beverages

Voluntary tipping

Sample 6 Day Trip Itinerary

Day 1

☐ Entrance into Cuyabeno national park. From the airport in Lago Agrio you will travel by truck 2 hours to the river entrance point where you will eat lunch. You will then enter a motorized canoe and travel approximately 2 hours into the reserve arriving at your lodge in the afternoon. There will be the option for either river mouth (Bocana) fishing for dogfish before dinner or night fishing for catfish.

Day 2

- ☐ Optional early morning fishing in a big lagoon in the area “la Hormiga” for Peacock Bass.
- ☐ 7:30am Breakfast
- ☐ 9am-11am Peacock Bass fishing in “Palma Roja”
- ☐ 1pm Lunch
- ☐ 2pm-4pm Peacock Bass, piranha, etc. in “Catolica”
- ☐ 7pm Dinner

Fishing from motorized canoe/paddle canoe/kayaks/bass boat

Day 3

- ☐ 7am Breakfast
- ☐ Full day trip up the river to the lagoon “Canangueno”, carry box lunch. Peacock Bass, Pacu (Serrasalmidea) fishing.
- ☐ 7pm Dinner at lodge
- ☐ Optional night fishing- Catfish.

Day 4-5 : 2 different options

- ☐ Day trip Option 1
- ☐ Optional early morning fishing
- ☐ 7:30am Breakfast
- ☐ Travel down the Cuyabeno River to Oxbow lakes near Puerto Bolivar area, fishing for Peacock Bass, Pacu, and others. Box Lunch.
- ☐ Return to lodge- 7:30pm Dinner

Day trip Option 2

- ☐ Optional early morning fishing
- ☐ 7:30am Breakfast
- ☐ Trip up river to Cocha larga & Macurococha Lagoons- Peacock bass, dogfish, piranha, and others. Carry box lunch.
- ☐ 7:30pm Dinner

Day 6

- ☐ 7:30 Breakfast
- ☐ 8am-10am Optional fishing

- ☐ 11am Departure from lodge
- ☐ 1:30pm Lunch
- ☐ Car ride back to Lago Agrio Airport

Accommodations

1. Rustic jungle lodges with private cabañas (cabins), comfortable beds with mosquito nets, bathrooms with running water, hammocks, and a common and dining room with traditional Ecuadorian meals and cold beer.
2. Choice of combining both lodging and camping in tents, including all tents and camping gear.

Getting to Camp/Arrival options

From Quito, flights can be arranged with Tame Airlines through Kingfisher for no extra charge.

- Monday through Friday: flights leave Quito at 9:20am arriving in Lago Agrio at 10:15am.
- Saturday flights leave Quito at 11:30am arriving in Lago Agrio at 12:25pm.
- Sunday flights leave Quito at 13:30pm arriving in Lago Agrio at 14:25pm.
- Return flights from Lago Agrio to Quito will leave at 4:20pm arriving at 5:15pm.

Round trip costs will be approximately \$150 per person depending on final taxes.

Another travel option is in bus with companies Trans esmeraldas or Express Baños from Quito to Lago Agrio 7-8 hours in duration costing \$8 each way. Night buses are available, arriving in Lago Agrio at 7am to start your tour the same day.

You will be picked up from the airport in the town of Lago Agrio, and travel in private truck about 2 hours to the entry point at the Cuyabeno or Aguarico River at the edge of the Cuyabeno Reserve. From there, you will board a motorized canoe and travel another 2-4 hours into the Cuyabeno reserve up the black water Cuyabeno River where the lodge is located. Arriving in the afternoon, you may have time for afternoon fishing, a couple hours to relax in the hammocks, drink a cold beer and explore before dinner!

Recommended equipment to bring

ORIGINAL PASSPORT

T-shirts fast drying material

Long-sleeved cotton shirts

Cotton socks (tall for rubber boots)

Shorts

Sandals or walking shoes

Light wind breaker or sweater

First aid kit/Pepto-Bismol
Swimming suit
Cap, Broad Brimmed Hat
Sunglasses with a strap
Insect repellent
Sun block (SPF 45)
Zip lock plastic bags
Camera and spare camera batteries
Flashlight (torch) with spare batteries
Alarm clock
Swiss Army Knife

* Extra pocket cash for beer, last minute necessities, tips.

☐ Note: Please bring only what you think you may need for the trip, you may arrange with your hotel in Quito to leave extra luggage and valuables.

Suggested fishing equipment

Rods: medium to heavy action (long handle) bass rods, should be at least 15 lb line weight and for big catch 70-100 lbs.

Line: We recommend the 80 lb 100% pure spectra braided line.

Lures: for peacock bass we recommend Rapala brands, 2.75-4 inches, shiny/metallic/yellow/orange coloring, floaters.

Wire leaders

Box Large Hooks (4X Strong Mustad)

Pliers (Hook Cutter, Split Ring)

Tackle Box

Boga Grip

The Cuyabeno River with an approximate width of 45 feet and depth of 15 feet along with the lagoons, allows fishing with both lures at the surface and middle surface, but little at depth due to abundance of tree branches under the water during the dry season. During the dry season, air temperatures start at 20 degrees Celsius in the morning and can reach 35 degrees in the afternoon.

Peacock bass fishing is most successful when using poppers, surface, middle level lures, Mr Frog fishing lures, Rapala, Blue fox and the colors of red, yellow, orange-white.

The following is a list of good lures plus other useful equipment:

www.alibaba.com

Rubber fishing baits

Mr. Frog fishing lure

Hard plastic fishing lures swimbait

Single hook frog fishing lures rubber baits TF04B

60mm Frog lure soft bait wholesale fishing lure

www.rapala.com

Rapala countdown minnows gray

Lure Retriever

Jointed deep husky jerk

Sinking magnum # 18

X rap walk lure white

Skiter pop

Rods we have to choose from (when borrowing):

20-50 pounds, Sturdy Stick Shakespeare

30-50 pound resistance power stick

6-15 pound resistance blue connoisseur rod

6-14 pound resistance black shimano rod

telescope rod

2-5 kg resistance yellow rod

6 -15 pound resistance, two parts fly fishing

second fly fishing rod

(all rods are between 1.5 - 3 meters)

Diego Monteros

Naturalist and Fishing guide