

SOUTH AMERICA - ECUADOR AMAZON EXTENSION | LA SELVA LODGE



INTRODUCTION


A stay at the luxurious La Selva Lodge is an experience that will be banked amongst your life-time highlights. Tastefully appointed, spacious and incredibly comfortable, this ecolodge is nestled amongst virgin Amazonian rainforest in Ecuador, home to the most diverse set of species on the planet. Your multi day stay is an adventure from the very beginning as you are transferred from the high altitudes of Quito down into the the Amazon basin and deep into the rainforest, to a secluded lake and the comfort of La Selva lodge. You'll be greeted by friendly and knowledgeable staff who will look after you for the entirety of your stay.

There are a multitude of trails around the lake on which your guides will take you to spot a plethora of local wildlife, be sure to look for the smaller creatures as well as the large as they are all fascinating in their own way. You'll also spend time on canoes exploring the lake and surrounds, you'll climb to the top of the canopy to spot some of the many exotic Amazonian birds and visit the local village to learn about life in the lungs of our planet, the Amazon.

The food at La Selva is second to none, created from local produce, the chef's stop at nothing to showcase their talents and there's nothing better after a day exploring the Amazon than to kick back with a cocktail and marvel at the sight before you, as the lodge offers uninterrupted views of pure, raw, incredible nature.

The La Selva Experience

Located within Ecuador's YasunÃ Biosphere Reserve and on the borders of the famous YasunÃ National Park â one of the most biodiverse areas of the planet â La Selva Amazon Ecolodge belongs to one of the first rainforest lodges in Ecuador. The main lodge and restaurant are the perfect spots to observe local birds or other wildlife while socializing with other visitors or simply relaxing with a cocktail. Typical Ecuadorian meals with local ingredients mixed with international dishes will be served to you while you settle back in your chairs and enjoy scenic views of the lake or surrounding forest. You will be accommodated in stylish, breezy and comfortable suites where you can

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admire the lake view while relaxing in a hot tub or rainforest shower. Make use of one of our kind spa or try one of intimate yoga sessions on the jetty with a water view. Explore the rainforest from up close with one of the provided activities including canoeing, kayaking, walking, climbing or visiting native communities while accompanied by a knowledgeable English-speaking naturalist guide.

Highlights:

Star Gazing: The night sky above La Selva is perfect for watching constellations. Skilled guides will help you out with identifying the constellations.

Kayaking: La Selva is one of the most biodiverse areas on the planet, there are thousands of exotic species waiting for you to discover right outside of the door. Borrow one of provided kayaks from the dock and start your journey alongside jungle shores. You'll have the opportunity to see monkeys, Hoatzins and many tropical rainforest birds.

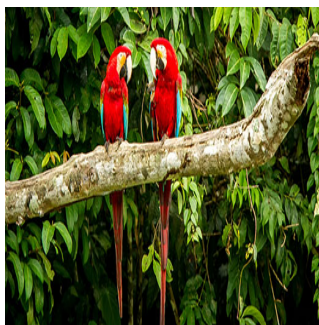
Amazon Observation Tower: Is 35 meters up from the forest floor. It's settled into the branches of a giant kapok tree, allowing you to observe life in the nearby forest canopy. From here, many different species of birds, insects, and monkeys, as well as different types of flowers can be seen. The tower offers countless chances for photography, filming and bird watching. The tower is located a 15-minute walk from the lodge. Skilled guides will accompany you to the observation in the morning or the afternoon.

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DAY 1: Return Flight Quito-Coca

You will be met by our representative at check in who will assist you on your 30 minute flight to Coca. On arrival in Coca you will then board a motorized canoe which will take you two hours down the scenic Amazon toward La Selva's dock. On the way you will be able to see your first glimpse of the Amazon Rainforest where you can appreciate the houses and way of living of the local people as they go on about their daily routines by the riverside. NOTE: On arrival at Coca your main luggage will be handled by staff and meet you at La Selva. If you wish to take any personal items please pack them into a small backpack for the canoe journey.



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DAY 1: Welcome to the Amazon

After a 30-minute flight to Puerto Francisco de Orellana “El Coca”, our representative will transfer you by private transportation to the city’s main dock at the Napo River. The next two hours will be on a motorized canoe heading down river on what will be the beginning of an unforgettable experience in the tropical rainforest, the Amazon. At the end of the motorized canoe ride, you will be dropped off at La Selva’s main dock and your first close encounter with the rainforest begins and the final leg of the trip to the lodge will be completed in a paddle canoe. The only thing you must take care of during this part of the trip is your carry-on and camera equipment, all other luggage will be transported by La Selva staff. The manager will be waiting to greet you with a refreshing juice, snacks, and a short briefing with general information about your stay at La Selva Lodge. This afternoon you will start with an introduction to the rainforest. One of our naturalist guides will give you some basic information about the tropical rain forest, Amazonia and the operation of La Selva Lodge. The idea is to begin the activities with some background information about the amazing place in which you have just arrived. There will be time for an exploration before dinner - You may undertake the Matapalo Trail: This trail was given the Spanish name of the famous Strangler fig (Ficus sp), one of many remarkable trees that you can find on this short walk. Mahogany trees over 400 years old can be seen and your guides will share their knowledge of the flora and fauna. Due to the time of day there is great natural light and the diurnal and nocturnal animals are beginning their daily transitional activities. ** Please note; Monday - Saturday are La Selva's normal operational days. If arriving or departing from the lodge on a Sunday, this will incur an additional cost. Please speak to your travel consultant for more information.



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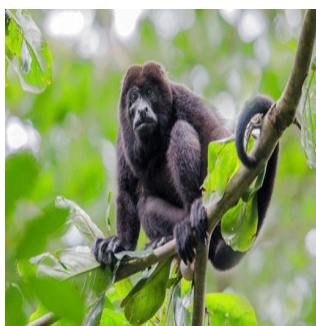
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DAY 2: Discover Amazon Trails

La Selva Lodge have a set of activities daily which are subject to change depending on the day, time of year and the guides decisions based on the group’s interests and the organised operations. The excursions below are a good guide on what you can expect from day to day: In the morning you may visit the rainforest canopy tower. After a 20 minute walk you reach the tower, this amazing construction will allow you to climb 120 feet above the forest floor and enjoy some of the most amazing scenery. Your Naturalist and Native guides will help you spot colourful birds including toucans, tanagers and parrots and with luck, the famous howler monkeys or a sloth. On the way back from the tower there is the option of taking the Tucaneta Trail where your Native Guide can show you some of the medicinal plants still in use today and your Naturalist guide will provide you with interesting information on the ecology and natural history of the Amazon. In the afternoon you may undertake the Charapa Trail. This trail goes on for about an hour beginning at the lodge and ending by the edge of the lagoon. It is a great loop where different mammals, monkeys and birds can be seen that tend to come closer to the lagoon at this time of the day looking for food. It is also perfect for witnessing an Amazonian sunset from the water in the canoe. Early this evening before dinner, you may embark on a night Canoe Ride, with the help of a spotlight your guides will take you around the lagoon via canoe looking for nighttime wildlife. This is also a great opportunity for star gazing.




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DAY 3: Discover Amazon Trails

La Selva Lodge have a set of activities daily which are subject to change depending on the day, time of year and the guides decisions based on the group’s interests and the organised operations. The excursions below are a good guide on what you can expect from day to day: This morning you will set off to see the spectacular Parrot Clay Lick and Mandi Wasi. You will make your way back to the Napo River and take a motorized canoe ride to the clay licks, one of the most fascinating displays of the wild world. Hundreds of parrots and parakeets gather here to eat the mineral rich soil, an important part of their diet. Binoculars are essential to really capture the moment. After the clay licks, we will take you to experience our Cultural Activity. An Amazonian Kichua woman will welcome you at their community center to share their life of the Kichua’s in the Amazon. This is special because it is part of the Amazon you do not find on the maps and provides the special and unique opportunity to really get to learn more about the people of the Amazon. This afternoon you can enjoy the Coto Trail. It is a fantastic walk that takes off from the lodge to the edge of the Garzacocha Lagoon. In the afternoon the light from the sun will come from behind most of the time, making this walk an amazing experience and the perfect opportunity to enjoy the beauty of this amazing forest. Groups of black-mantled tamarin monkeys can be spotted on this walk and some of our groups have even seen tapirs too. Your Naturalist Guide is going to explain about all the different creatures that can be found, and our Native Guide will show you some of the medical plants that they have been using for thousands of years. A canoe ride back to the lodge makes a great ending for this activity. During any free time you have, in-between activities you can use our kayaks, swim in the lagoon, have a massage or just relax in your room.



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DAY 4: Departure Day


In accordance with your briefing the night before, you will have an early wake up call, breakfast and departure from the lodge. The lodge staff will assist you with your checked luggage and the motorized canoe ride will head upstream back to Coca, where our representatives will take you to the airport to help you with your checked luggage and boarding passes.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Jungle Lodge
Inclusions	<p>Flights from Quito to Coca in Economy Class return (pricing subject to change) Transfers from Coca Airport to/from the Lodge Transportation in the Amazon Accommodation with all meals Guided excursions Bilingual naturalist guide Rain Poncho and Rubber Boots will be provided during your stay at the Lodge</p> <p>Exclusions International flights Personal expenses Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Beverages Any items not mentioned as included</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	<p>Prices are based on per person, twin share. Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.</p>
Price Dependent upon	Seasonality, availability and currency fluctuation.

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SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

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We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

La Selva has a strong environmental commitment. The lodge does not rely on air conditioning rather using natural ventilation, it uses waste water systems and all local produce and staff are employed. While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore remain culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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