

Flotel ORELLANA



ITINERARY "A" (Friday to Monday)

FRIDAY: Depart Quito by plane to Lago Agrio, headquarters of the oil industry in Ecuador. First, the beautiful, snow-covered Andean mountains. Then, the dense green jungle, criss-crossed by rivers and lakes. Upon arrival to Lago Agrio, our multilingual guides will meet and welcome you to the start of an unforgettable adventure. By motorcoach you will be taken to Coca, a small town located on the shores of the Napo river. The ride is quite interesting: it crosses the rivers Aguarico and Coca by ferryboat, the oil fields can be seen along the way, the ecuadorian pipeline runs parallel to the road, all in a setting of lush, tropical vegetation.

The Flotel Orellana rests now in front of you. Make yourself at home in your comfortable cabin, and put on some light clothes. A delicious lunch is waiting for you in the dining room, followed by a short introductory conference by the guides. Relax on the sun deck: the breeze will refresh you and the unique scenery will dissipate your daily tensions.

In the afternoon, water-level permitting, it's down the Napo river, cruising its beautiful waters with the Orellana. Upon arrival to our destination port, the adventure continues as we board our motorized dugout-canoes for a shore call to a native house. Here is your chance to observe the way of living and customs of the Napo shore inhabitants.

In the evening, a welcome cocktail will be offered by the Flotel's Captain in your honor. Meet your fellow Amazon explorer and the members of the crew. Dinner and conference about next day's program follows. Enjoy your favorite drink at the bar.

SATURDAY: After breakfast, via our dugout-canoes, head towards Pompeya island to visit the village and the Catholic Mission that exists there. The interesting anthropological museum with its unique collection of pieces of ancient and present cultures of the area will be visited. You can buy bows, arrows, necklaces and a variety of handicrafts. Be delighted by the beautiful, native-style church of the village.

Next, continue by dugout-canoes through the Napo river and then the Jivino river, one of its most beautiful tributaries, to disembark at Limoncocha. The "Jungle Bus" will take you to the "Lodge", a comfortable native-style construction located on the shore of the lake where the night will be spent. The overnight facilities of the "Lodge" are dormitory style. It has electricity, toilets, showers and a wide dining room. Limon-



cocha is a naturalist's paradise: the beauty of the scenery will completely absorb you. Lunch in the "Lodge" while enjoying the symphony of the jungle sounds.

In the afternoon, cruise through lake Limoncocha in our boat (have your bathing suit at hand) until we reach Santa Elena, where we will start a jungle hike through the Tropical Rain Forest. Upon arrival to Rio Blanco, if we are lucky, we will be able to catch some samples of the famous piranhas. Back to the lake to board our boat and cruise its waters observing the great variety of birds that live in its shores. More than 400 species have been recorded here. It's one of the largest concentrations of the world! Return to the "Lodge" for dinner and a briefing by the guides.

In the evening, come along with us on the boat for an alligator-observing trip. They come out at night and you can make some very nice close-up shots of them. Nature's peacefulness and quietness will encircle you in a unique experience. Return to the "Lodge" for overnight. The fascinating sounds of the jungle will keep you company while you rest.

SUNDAY: Nature will wake you up! It's birds, frogs, butterflies, crickets, insects and thousands of other creatures beginning their day. Optional early-morning boat trip for a new bird-watching adventure. After breakfast, back to the Jivino to board our dugout-canoes and head through the Napo for a new shore-call of the Tropical Rain Forest. The adventure continues with a fascinating walk through the exuberant vegetation and giant, centuries-old trees of the unspoiled Taraoa jungle. Your chance to swing from vines hanging from giant tree tops. Experience climbing our 200 feet-high observation tower for a fabulous, bird's-eye view of the jungle.

Back to the Napo and a quick ride in our dugout-canoes to "Hacienda Primavera".

There, a small but very interesting zoo



THE GREAT ADVENTURE

will let you see some species of the Amazonian animal kingdom. A delicious, typical lunch follows featuring exotic dishes prepared with authentic products of the area.

Return to the Flotel by mid-afternoon. Relax, enjoy a refreshing drink at the bar, and share your experiences with your fellow explorers. In the evening our guides will hold a new conference before your farewell dinner.

MONDAY: After breakfast, return to Coca to board our bus and head towards Lago Agrio to catch the return flight to Quito.

NOTES: Occasionally, due to operational reasons, the trip to the jungle will be via a direct flight Quito/Coca early in the morning.

For the same reasons, the return to Quito could also be via a direct flight Coca/Quito.

Since the operation in this area is subject to events beyond our control, such as the water level of the rivers, the air transportation, etc., these itineraries are subject to change without previous notice.

ITINERARY "B"

(Monday to Friday)

MONDAY: Same as Friday of Itinerary "A".

TUESDAY: After breakfast, head down the Napo river in our dugout-canoes towards Taraoa. There, it's into the Rain Forest for a fascinating walk through the exuberant vegetation and giant, centuries-old trees of the unspoiled Taraoa jungle. Your chance to swing from vines hanging from giant tree tops. Multicolored butterflies, tiny frogs, noisy birds flying overhead, giant ants, palm trees, banana leaves, orchids, bromeliads (in season), and much more. It's the real jungle coming alive! Then, something you will always remember: a climb to our 200 feet high observation tower for a fabulous, bird's eye-view of the jungle. Upon arrival to the Taraoa river, board our native canoes for a slow, peaceful drift paddling through its waters, observing new and varied flora and fauna. You may even experience fishing for piranha!

Reaching beautiful lake Taraoa, a picnic-lunch with refreshments will be served at our lakeside kiosko, while contemplating the magnificent view of the lake. Back to the Napo shore, it's via a natural, tree-trunk bridge, observing the always fascinating mysteries of the largest Rain Forest in the world. Return to the Flotel for a conference by our guides. Dinner on board.

WEDNESDAY: Same as Saturday of Itinerary "A", except that the visit to Pompeya island is done on Thursday. This allows you more time in Limoncocha to see the village and its dwellers, the installations of the Research Institute that operates there, or simply enjoy yourself swimming in the fresh waters of Limoncocha lake.

THURSDAY: Same as Sunday of Itinerary "A", except that the Taraoa jungle walk (You did it on Tuesday right?) is replaced by the visit to Pompeya island of Saturday of Itinerary "A".

FRIDAY: Same as Monday of Itinerary "A".





What to bring, what to wear

The Flotel Orellana operates near Coca, in the Upper Amazon Basin, about 1/2 degree south of the equator, where the climate is tropical. Average humidity is 90%. Temperature ranges from 70 to 95 degrees fahrenheit all year around. Average annual rainfall is 110 inches, heaviest in February and March.

Because of plane limitations, baggage allowance is restricted to 20 pounds. Bring comfortable, light weight cottons including a few long and short sleeved shirts and blouses, 1 or 2 pairs of jeans, an extra pair of socks and shorts. Tennies shoes are excellent for on board, but you'll need rubber or leather boots for the excursions. (We have plenty on board to loan you, but not in all sizes). Include a plastic rain poncho which, because of having more air circulation, is better than a raincoat. A rain hat is very useful. The sun near the equator is quite strong; don't forget a broadrimmed hat or a cap, sunglasses and plenty of sun lotion. Insect repellent is recommended (the bugs really aren't bad, but...). Binoculars for bird watching and animal spotting are excellent. Bring your camera along and, for the aficionado, a telephoto lens and a tripod. Buy more rolls of film than you think you'll need, and then buy some more. (You'll still run short). High-speed film is recommended. Don't forget your bathing suit! No formal dress is required on board: informality is the rule. Bring a few plastic bags for wet and dirty clothes as no laundry facilities are available. A flashlight can be very handy. Medical facilities are limited to first aid. If you need special medications, bring them in sufficient quantities. Malaria pills or vaccination is a good idea.

FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS:

FSB-MKT-MET-0030

General information

The Flotel Orellana is a flat-bottomed, 3-deck, first class floating hotel. It was built almost entirely in Ecuador and has been in operation since February of 1976. For the nautically minded, it's 130 feet long, 24 feet wide, moves at an average speed of 3 knots, and has a draught of only 4 feet.

The Flotel has nineteen 2-berth cabins, two 4-berth cabins, and one 6-berth cabin, all with private bath, shower and hot water. The double cabins are 7 feet by 10 feet, while the multiple cabins are slightly larger. All are fan-cooled and have plenty of drawers and enough hanger space. The dining room is also fan-cooled and has a seating capacity of 60 persons. The open-air, grasscovered Sun Deck with its lounge chairs and tables is located on the top deck. Next to it is the lounge where the conferences by the guides are held. From the bar you can purchase a wide variety of drinks. On the lower deck there's a small shop where you can obtain items you forgot or run out like film, repellent, ponchos, toilet items, plus souvenirs like t-shirts, handicrafts, post cards, etc.

Electricity on board the Flotel is 120 V-DC. Water, though it's treated, is not for drinking purposes, but there's plenty of bottled water available. The operating crew of the Orellana numbers 25 and almost all of them are Ecuadorians. The Flotel and the dugout-canoes are fully equipped with all lifesaving gear and equipment required by Ecuadorian laws.





**FLOTEL FRANCISCO
DE ORELLANA**

**METROPOLITAN
TOURING**

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