



# THE ACHUAR PEOPLE TERRITORY IN THE ECUADORIAN AMAZON

With Amy McGuire and Daniel Koupermann  
September 7th to the 16th, 2024

**Day 1, Sep 7th: Arrive to Quito**, transfer to a EB Hotel, 8 minutes from the airport

**Day 2: Sep 8th: Quito-Puyo:**

We will travel south through the "Avenue of the Volcanoes." If the weather is clear, we will see the volcanoes: Antisana at 18,874 ft. (5,753mts.), Sincholagua at 16,069 ft. (4,898 mts.), Pasochoa 13,776 ft. (4,199mts.), Rumiñahui at 15,459 ft. (4,712mts.) and Cotopaxi National Park, the home of the tallest active volcano in the world at 19,347 ft. (5,897mts). This route allows us to see and learn firsthand about the Andean volcanoes.

We will get to Baños in the base of Tungurahua volcano and the beginning of the gorges, to access to the Amazon forest from the Andes Mountains, we will keep descending through a lush Cloud Tropical Forest until 3000 feet above sea level. We will stay in a Hotel El Jardin for a good rest. At 5 pm we will participate in a cleansing ceremony with Maria Juana and Tarquino, mother and son, healers from the north Ecuador of the Andean tradition. The purpose of this is release anything we will not need for a deep and sincere experience in the Amazon



### **Day 3: Sep 9th Puyo-Kapawi**

We will fly in a small aircraft over the Amazon forest, and have the opportunity to contemplate the immensity of one of the most pristine primary forest. Landing on the airstrip in the Achuar community of Kuzutkau which is located on the shore of the Capawari River, we will then travel downstream in a motorized canoe to Kapawi Eco-Lodge.

After getting settled we will do an introductory hike in the rainforest visiting a giant Kapok tree to meditate and introduce our self to this grandfather and to the Amazon forest.

Kapawi Eco-Lodge Due to the isolation and lack of hunting in this area, there are wonderful possibilities for viewing wild life: howler monkeys, macaws, marmosets, tamarind monkeys, an incredible variety of bird life, and possibly, the pink dolphin. Kapawi Lodge is a project that now

belongs to the Achuar Nation. It was built through an alliance with a private tourism corporation in Ecuador. The corporation invested \$1.7 million US dollars, without buying the land, and with the obligation to give back the Lodge (and the business for the Lodge) to the Achuar after 15 years. This happened in 2011, now the Achuar are the owners and operators of this community-based tourism project.

### **Day 4: Sep 10th Kapawi**

The Lodge offers many varied options: jungle hikes (for all levels), night hikes, bird watching (every morning), and wildlife viewing, cultural experiences with the Achuar, kayaking, canoeing, tubing and swimming. Most activities include an Achuar guide who will provide information about the wildlife, plants and trees of the forest. The system of trails open for hiking offers a variety of ecosystems: terra firma

forest (small hills that have never flooded); varzea (forest which floods seasonally); igapos (forest which is always flooded). We will explore the river/ lake system and small tributaries of the Capahuari River, a beautiful river where the lodge is located. Here it is possible to see pink dolphins (fresh water river dolphins), and float with the easy current near the Lodge.

Today we will hike in primary forest (easy 3 hours hike) and learn about palm trees and medicinal plants. We will have lunch in the forest. Then we will kayaking in the Capahuari River back to the lodge.

#### **Day 5: Sep 11th Kapawi**

Wayusa tea at 4:00 am in the river hut in the lodge with our Achuar friends, to share dreams. The Achuar group of people is a "dream sharing" culture. For them their dreams rule their daily life. They do the Wuayusa ceremony every morning their whole life. It is a moment to share dreams among each other, also to transmit the oral tradition, to teach the children how to make baskets, fishing nets, and ceramics, and to relate stories and ensure that their customs and rituals are carried on.

Another important function of the Wuayusa ceremony is to provide the time and space for important negotiations, solution of conflicts, decisions about alliances and political arrangements, and other important issues that affect the entire community. The Achuar people were pacified at the end of the sixties. They continue to keep strong in their ancestral traditions and way of life which they maintain with determination and courage.

After breakfast, we will fast all day and prepare ourselves for the NATEM ceremony with an Achuar Uwishin (Medicine Man).

We will visit an Achuar community to learn about their environment, their culture, gastronomy and their everyday life. In

addition, they are very curious people and will want to hear all about us.

Then we will hike (easy) in the forest until a waterfall, for a purification bath and as part of the preparation for tonight NATEM ceremony. Taish an Achuar old Shaman will offer Tobacco ceremony as a cleansing, receiving the benefit and strength energy of the Waterfall and the inspiration from the forest and their beings. If the weather conditions are favorable we will camp in the waterfall to be guided by the sounds and energies of the forest and the medicine plant of power. (Optional to ingest the medicinal plant).

#### **Day 6: Sep 12th Kapawi**

Today we will have the time and space to integrate our experience. We will also can swimming and floating down stream in the river - very relaxing! There is a good possibilities to swim with the pink dolphins.

#### **Day 7: Sep 13th Kapawi – Shell – Luna Volcan SPA**

We will fly again over the pristine Amazon forest for 45 to 55 minutes to Shell. Then we will drive for 50 minutes to Luna Volcan a nice lodge & SPA in a very quiet place at 6400 feet above sea level, surrounded by a nice mountains and views. Rest, laundry, SPA. It is a good place for the transition to reintroduce ourselves into the noisy world.

#### **Day 8: Sep 14th Luna Volcan SPA**

It is a day to integrate the experience and to rest and enjoy the SPA and gardens of this beautiful place. We will offer as an optional activity the visit to the picturesque town of Baños and see its church dedicated to the matron The Holly Water Madonna. Nice shops and food market.

**Day 9: Sep 15th Luna Volcan - Quito:**

After breakfast we will have a closing circle and ceremony. Then we will leave to visit on the way back to Quito the Pujili Indigenous market, have lunch in the colonial Hacienda La Cienega, to head out to EB Hotel very close to Quito's airport.

Also you can connect with an international flight after 7 pm today if you prefer.

Note: If the passengers will like to stay couple of nights to visit Quito, we will drop them in the hotel they will choose. We recommend Cultura Manor Boutique Hotel.

**Day 10: Sep 16th Transfer UIO airport for your international flight.**

**Price per person:**

**Based on 10 to 12 persons: \$4,050 per person (double occupancy)**

**Single occupancy supplement: \$750**

**A deposit of \$1000 will reserve your space.**

**Second payment of \$2050 is due May. 06th 2024.**

**The balance of \$1000 is due July. 06th 2024.**

**Reservations:** All reservations are subject to availability. For information about how to reserve your space and make your deposit for the journey, please contact Linda Leyerle at lleyerle@aol.com. In Ecuador it is not possible to reserve rooms, flights, etc. without a copy of the traveler's passport. Linda will give you details about how to send a copy to us. Time is of the essence so please respond as soon as possible if you are interested in this journey.

**Cost includes:** Private Aircrafts in the Amazon, private tour bus or van for travel during the journey, all meals, hotels, tips

for restaurants and hotels, water during meals, local guide and/or community leaders to share history and cultural information. Amy McGuire and Daniel Koupermann assistance during all the journey.

**Cost does NOT include:** Roundtrip airfare to Quito, Ecuador, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages, healing with the Amazon shaman (\$80), tips for the indigenous guide (\$40), Kapawi Lodge staff (\$80) and private bus driver (\$25), personal items, souvenirs.

This journey is for individuals ready to have an educational/experiential experience. Persons with physical or psychiatric challenges may find this journey too difficult or uncomfortable.

**We recommend a visit with your doctor at least 6 weeks in advance of departure. No immunizations are required unless you will be entering Ecuador from a country with Yellow Fever – in which case you will need a Yellow Fever immunization certificate and be prepared to show proof.**

No visas are required for most people entering Ecuador (US, Canadian, UK, EU, Australia and New Zealand citizens). If you have questions about this, please let Linda know. **Your passport must be valid at least 6 months after the date of your departure from Ecuador (March 16, 2025).**

Once you have reserved your space, we will send you more information – packing lists, info about the country, etc. You will be fully prepared for the journey. Also, Linda is always available by email for any questions or concerns – whatever they may be.

**Cancellations & Refunds:** Due to availability of space on our journey and the

time required to process trip reservations,  
**payments will not be refundable after  
May 06th, 2024.**

We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance in order to protect yourself in case extenuating circumstances force you to cancel your trip. There are many different options available on-line.

**Responsibilities:** ANDEAN PATHS reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a participant at any time, and to make changes in the itinerary whenever deemed necessary for the comfort, convenience, and safety of our participants, and to cancel a journey at any time. In the event a journey is cancelled, ANDEAN PATHS shall have no responsibility beyond the refund of monies paid to it by program participants as listed. By registering, the participant agrees that neither ANDEAN PATHS nor their affiliates shall be liable for any damages, loss or expense occasioned by any act or omission by any supplier providing services to any program participant. Reasons that Andean Paths might cancel a program include, but are not limited to, issues around safety due to impassable roads, protests in Ecuador, or similar unforeseen events.

We are available to address any questions, concerns or comments.

**By Andean Paths ©**