

What is Sacha Lodge?

Sacha is an all-inclusive Lodge located on a private reserve in the Ecuadorian Amazon Basin. It offers deep jungle programs for those people who wish to view wildlife in its natural habitat and learn about the ecosystems of the Neotropics from naturalist and native Kichwa guides.

How big is Sacha Lodge reserve?

Sacha's reserve comprises 2000 hectares (5000 acres) of tropical rainforest, making it the largest private reserve in the Ecuadorian Amazon region.

How do I get to Sacha Lodge?

The journey to Sacha begins in Quito, Ecuador's capital city. From here, a 30-minute flight takes you over the Andes Mountains' majestic snow-covered peaks and down over 8500 feet (2600 meters) into the Amazon Region. The flight destination is the port town of Puerto Francisco de Orellana, locally known as Coca, where you will be met by a bilingual guide and taken to a private dock. Here we will pause for a snack and to use the rest rooms before boarding our covered motorized canoe for a 2-hour, 50-mile (80-kilometer) trip down the sediment-rich waters of the Napo, the largest river in Ecuadorian Amazonia.

Upon arrival to Sacha's reserve, a 30-minute walk on a raised boardwalk will lead you to Pilchicocha Lagoon. Here, native paddlers will await you with dugout canoes to carry you across the lake to your final destination.

How is a typical day at Sacha?

A typical day at Sacha begins at sunrise or earlier, in order to take advantage of the cool morning hours when the rainforest's animals are most active. Each group may decide on its own wake-up and breakfast time, as well as the difficulty and duration of their morning outings. In the afternoon, visits begin at around 3:00 and often continue into the evening, when the nocturnal insect and frog chorus begins.

Which are Sacha's highlights?

- The Canopy Walkway: Unique to Ecuador, and probably one of only a few in the world (275 meters long/1000 ft. long, and 36 meters/120 ft. high).
- Lake Pool: in the black waters of Pilchicocha lake, protected by protective mesh.
- Canopy Crane: A high ride up 150 feet (45 meters) above the forest floor into the canopy.
- Butterfly House: Breeding area and flying room with a diversity of local butterfly species.
- Kapok Tower: 45 meters/140 ft high and built around an enormous Kapok tree.
- Canoe excursions through flooded forest ecosystems.

How big are the groups for the excursions?

To assure a personalized experience, groups for excursions are limited to 6 guests.

* If a group traveling together does not want to be split, we can have up to 8 guests in one group. However, to improve the chances of wildlife sightings we do not recommend groups of more than 6.

* Private guides are available upon request at an additional cost.

How is the weather like?

Amazon weather is unpredictable. A sunny day can turn into a thunderstorm in a matter of minutes during any time of the year. July is usually the rainiest month of the year, but in August what's known as "fluctuation season" begins. In other words, weather patterns vary greatly between August and early December. Then, in January the "dry" period begins. However, in the rainforest the "dry" period is sometimes wetter than some people are used to at home.

Do I have to bring rubber boots?

We provide all of our guests with rubber boots and rain ponchos for walks, so they'll be ready at all times.

When is the best time to visit?

Any time of the year is good to visit Sacha Lodge. Regarding animal sightings, there are times of the year when the local fauna tends to be seen a bit more often: In the Ecuadorian Amazon, the rains usually begin to become a bit more frequent (after the dry season) in March. So, in late March, April and May, trees tend to produce more fruit. In response to the production of food, in turn, many species of monkeys and fruit-eating birds begin their reproductive cycles and are more active. So, sightings of these animals can be a bit more common during those months. However, do not plan a trip based on this! The main factor in spotting animals is just pure luck, and as nature is unpredictable anything may happen at any time of the year - just like with the weather.

Do I need any vaccinations for visiting Sacha Lodge?

It is not mandatory to have a yellow fever (or any other) vaccination to visit Sacha Lodge.

It is always advisable to consult your physician about health measures and vaccinations before travelling to a foreign country. Although Sacha is well-isolated from local populations and tropical diseases are extremely rare here, during your stay in Ecuador you may pass through areas of slightly higher risk. Please note that your trip to Sacha will bring you from Quito, which is located at almost 9000 feet (2850 meters) above sea level, to the lowland tropical rainforest region at less than 900 feet (300 meters) above sea level. Please take any medication you may need with you, as the selection of medicines in our first-aid kit is limited.

How much should I tip?

Please note that we do not consider tipping an obligation. However, if you wish to do so, please ask for suggested tipping guidelines

In an attempt to reduce cash handling, credit card payment is preferred for tipping. Sacha Lodge distributes the collected staff tipping amount equitably and directly to each employee at the end of every month. Guides tipping will be credited directly to their accounts individually to each one.

Do you have referential prices for extra expenses made at the lodge?

Water, coffee and tea are always available at the Lodge. Other non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks are not included nor is the laundry service. These expenses have to be paid at the Lodge the night before check-out. The prices below are referential and are subject to change:

- Laundry: Prices go from US \$ 1.00 to US \$ 3.00 per piece of clothing.
- Drinks:
 - Soft drink: \$3
 - Beer: \$ 5
 - Cocktail: \$12,50
 - Spirit: \$12.50
 - Bottle of Red Wine: From \$ 25

How can I pay for the extra expenses made at the lodge (drinks, gift shop and/or laundry service)?

In an attempt to reduce cash handling, credit card payment is preferred for bills and tipping. We accept cash, credit and debit.

How many species of birds have been recorded?

Over 600 bird species have been recorded in Sacha Lodge's reserve.

Who are the indigenous people of the lower Napo region?

The settlements directly bordering the Napo River are primarily Kichwa communities. The Kichwa language is derived from Quechua, still in wide use in native communities of Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

What does Sacha do with its garbage?

All organic waste is composted onsite. Inorganic waste is shipped upriver to Coca.

What does Sacha do with its grey water?

Grey water passes through an onsite ozone treatment system before being released into the environment.

