



7-DAY CLASS III+/IV+ ITINERARY (NAPO VALLEY) \$1100 per person Plus Equipment Rental. Based on a group of 4+ paddlers. (Double Occupancy – 2 persons/room). Single supplement adds \$150

This year we are offering a cataraft, inflatable kayak, and hardshell trip for **advanced** rowers/paddlers. On our Advanced Whitewater Trip you can expect to run some of Ecuador's best Class III to IV+ runs in the Napo Valley (Archidona) and the Quijos Valley (Baeza). What could be better than a week of **challenging** whitewater in a tropical paradise? Some of these runs are very challenging and have **legitimate Class IV+ rapids**, some of the rapids would be considered Class V in our USA guidebooks.

These are small-group (6-8 people max) trips for people that **bring their own equipment** down with them. You will be responsible for bringing your own equipment (cataraft, raft, paddle cat, IK, or kayak) and personal gear (PFD, helmet, skirt, paddle). Rafts, inflatable kayaks and kayaks are available to rent locally at additional cost if you cannot bring your own equipment. One complete cataraft package may also be available to rent. Personal gear is also available to rent for an additional charge. Most of the rivers on this trip are for **advanced paddlers/rowers only** with difficult rapids that will challenge your rowing/paddling ability. Every day on the river, we will be accompanied by an experienced local kayaker who will take pictures and provide support, as well as the catarafts that provide additional safety for advanced paddlers.



We'll stay at the beautiful Pacha Eco Lodge Glamping-Hotel with internet, hot showers, glamping cabins with king beds, restaurant, and a safe place for your equipment. The glamping cabins are beautiful, perched above the Rio Misahualli. Each cabin is private so that the occupants can stay in their own space with a small private terrace. Bathroom/shower facilities are located in a separate building on the sprawling estate. The grounds are planted with native vegetation and include a chakra where some of the food is grown. There may be up to two rooms with private bath available for an additional charge to upgrade. Breakfast and Dinner will be provided at the hotel and lunches will be provided on the river. The restaurant has a spectacular view of the surrounding hills/mountains and the Rio Misahualli below.

If there are Covid-19 regulations and restrictions, they will be enforced for the safety of participants and those around them. To minimize the potential for Covid-19 infection, the group will travel as a "pod" with limited interaction with others outside the hotel.



There are a number of Class III to Class IV+ rivers/sections in the area to choose from depending on the prevailing weather, so we will adjust according to suitable water levels for the group. The hotel base is close enough to allow options in both the Napo and Quijos valleys. Possible rivers/runs include:

Napo Valley (Tena)	Quijos Valley (Baeza)
Jatanyacu (Class III)	Quijos - Baeza to Borja (Class III+/IV)
Lower Jondachi/Hollin (Class III+/IV)	Quijos - El Chaco (Class IV)
Upper Misahualli (Class III+/IV+)	Quijos - Bombon (Class III+/IV)
Middle Anzu (Class III)	Upper/Middle Cosanga (Class IV)
Middle Jondachi (Class IV+)	Lower Cosanga (Class IV/IV+)
Piatua (Class IV/IV+)	Oyacachi (Class IV/IV+)
Upper Anzu (Class IV/IV+)	

SAMPLE ITINERARY

*Please note that this is a sample itinerary, actual trips may be different due to changing water levels and the ability level of the group. In Ecuador many of the rapids are rated lower (and more realistically) such that the Class III+ El Reten section on the Misahualli may feel more like Class IV to you depending on the water level. Some sections of the Jondachi and the Piatua are more difficult and have some rapids

that would be rated Class V in an American guidebook. We will take this and the groups paddling/rowing abilities into account when determining which rivers to run.



Pre-Trip: Travel and arrive to Quito airport. Most flights arrive at night. You will need to stay in one of the airport hotels or arrange for airport pickup by one of the hotels in Tababela. If you arrive in Ecuador a day or more before the trip and want to check out the city of Quito, you will need to make your way to Tababela the night before the trip to facilitate meeting with the group and transport. Hotels and meals before the trip are not included, but we can recommend some places to stay in Tababela.

Day 1 (Sunday): A private van/truck will pick the group up around 10 am (exact time to be confirmed) and you'll be transported over the 13,000 foot Papallacta Pass and drop down into the Amazon Basin. On the way, check out views of the Class V Rio Papallacta and Class IV+ Rio Quijos. Pacha Eco Lodge is located 3 hours from Quito. Once here, we will get you set up in your glamping cabin or Pacha Room with private bath. Then you can discover our self-guided trails around the property. For today's lunch you can try a delicious local dish prepared with fresh ingredients. Today we will set all the gear and boats to be ready! If time allows, we will paddle the El Reten section of the Rio Misahualli (Class III+) in the afternoon. This gives everyone a chance to make sure their equipment is ready for the challenging whitewater ahead. Finally, tonight an amazing welcome dinner will be waiting for you in the restaurant. Cold cerveza too!

Day 2 (Monday): Today we'll stick close to our base at Pacha and run some sections of the upper Rio Misahualli. There are several access points within minutes of Pacha and we can take out at the beach below Pacha or continue down a bit further to Capoa. The upper Misahualli is classic Ecuadorian creeking and can be difficult with oars due to the low volume and technical boulder-choked rapids. From San Francisco (or even higher up) to Cotundo, the rapids are tight and technical and the gradient is steep, making for challenging Class IV/IV+ whitewater. There is a tricky 2-3 meter drop in this section as well. The Cotundo and El Reten sections are less steep than the upper sections, but still have numerous fun Class III+ and IV rapids that are technical in nature. If the water is up, these sections can

be very difficult, but if the Mis is too high, we may be able to run some of the smaller tributaries like the Inchillaqui or Calmitayacu.



Day 3 (Tuesday): We head to Mondayacu where the locals will come running to chase the trucks down to the trailhead in order to carry our boats into the lower Jondachi River. We'll hike with our own gear. Once we reach the river, the group can enjoy a side excursion to the "Gran Canon" while the boats are being inflated. This is one of the premiere Class III/III+ jungle runs in the area. This run is very remote and has beautiful waterfalls spilling into the river, not to mention fun rapids. After joining the Rio Hollin, the volume increases substantially and there are a number of fun pool-drop rapids, including the infamous "Wafflemaker" (Class IV). At the take-out in Santo Domingo de Hollin, we are only a short drive from Pacha and a hot shower before drinks and dinner.



Day 4 (Wednesday): Today we are off to the Rio Piatua. This is technical Class IV/IV+ creeking with clear water and smooth granite boulders. The upper section is full on Class IV/IV+ and comes at you fast. The lower section is a classic mix of Class III+ boulder gardens with occasional harder rapids. The flow in the Piatua can change VERY quickly and we may have to find an alternate. After the river, we may grab a snack of “Volqueteros” at the Cabanas Piatua before heading back to Pacha. If they are open, we can stop at Tsatsayacu on the way back to Tena for some locally grown cacao and delicious chocolate ice cream.



Day 5 (Thursday): Today we'll take a break and relax at the lodge, go for a hike or bike ride, or explore the local area with one of the locals from Archidona. If people wish, we can paddle a fun, scenic Class II stretch of the Rio Misahualli downstream of the lodge into Tena.

Day 6 (Friday): Today is a big day on the Rio Quijos, putting in Bridge 4 or at the Sardinas Grande and running the El Chaco, and Bombon sections. In the El Chaco section, there are powerful Class IV/IV+ pool-drop rapids like El Toro and a spectacular mini gorge where the columnar basalt has been twisted in several directions. Once we reach the confluence with the Oyacachi (there are some sticky holes here!) we enter the Bombon section where the rapids ease a bit (Class III-IV). Bombon has more pool drop rapids with one rapid of note. “Curvas Peligrosas” is an S-turn with big boils at the top and a couple of big holes at the bottom. Below Curvas, there is another beautiful, but short basalt gorge. The last rapid, Chuchaqui (meaning hangover) has a great wave train. We'll get back to Pacha in time for dinner.



Day 7 (Saturday): After another delicious breakfast, pack up your gear to get ready to travel back to Quito. A private van/truck will transport the group back to Quito, with a stop to enjoy the Papillacta hot springs (\$9 per person). We shoot for leaving Pacha before noon, so you can enjoy the hot springs with an evening drop-off at the airport. We can drop you off at a hotel near the airport for a flight out the next day; however, you'll need to book the hotel yourself and arrange transport to the airport.



Post-Trip: Travel and arrive to USA. Many flights out leave very early in the morning, so you may want to book a hotel near the airport or one of the hotels in Tababela with airport drop-off. Hotels and meals not included. We can recommend some places to stay in Tababela.

All This for \$1100 per person (plus gear rental if you don't bring your own) based on a group of 4 paddlers.

Trip cost includes:

- Transport from Tababela to Archidona and from Archidona to Quito Airport
- Local shuttles to and from rivers
- Lodging at Pacha Eco Lodge (6 nights)
- All meals while at Pacha
- Support kayaker/photographer on all river days
- Porters to carry gear to the Rio Jondachi
- River/community entrance fees

Trip cost does not include:

- Flights to/from Ecuador
- Hotels/meals pre- and post-trip
- Entrance fees to side excursions (e.g., Papallacta Hot Springs)
- Alcoholic beverages
- Gratuities for the safety kayakers/drivers
- Rental of equipment or personal gear – rafts kayaks, and inflatable kayaks are available to rent

Are you a single, couple, or can't get a group of 4 together? We can accommodate you! For trips with less than 4 people, the cost is \$1300 per person (add \$150 if a single, not sharing a room). We will do our best to combine small groups on the same dates so that everyone gets the group price. If airport pick-up/drop-off cannot be coordinated with multiple groups, each **group** (1-4 people) will pay an additional **\$160 per group** each way for this service. That is why we recommend arriving in Ecuador the day before and getting a hotel at the airport or in nearby Tababela.

Additional charges for upgrades and add-ons:

- Upgrade to 6 nights in the Pacha Room with private bath with two people (\$180/person)
- Single supplement for people unwilling to share a cabin (\$150); \$320 for single in Pacha Room
- Extra day of lodging and meals without boating (\$60 per person); \$85 if single not sharing room
- Extra day of boating with lodging, meals, and support kayaker/photographer (\$150 per person); \$175 single if not sharing a room

Trips are currently scheduled for November 27-December 3, 2022; January 8-14, and January 22-28, 2023. Book now and have a great trip before Christmas or to start off 2023 in style! There is a special trip scheduled for December 11-17 with a two-day add-on until the 19th to accommodate a Swiftwater Rescue Course where you will receive your ACA Level 4 certification. This trip is geared towards Class III boaters looking to step up to Class IV and costs \$1420 per person. If your group would like different dates, contact Neil (gearhead@golightoutdoors.com) to see if other dates are available.

Booking a Trip: Contact Neil with your desired trip from the scheduled dates. Once the dates and number of people are set, you will be required to pay a \$400 per person deposit to hold the dates and reserve the rooms. Worried about cancellations? We recommend purchasing travel insurance when booking so you are covered in the event of cancellation due to illness.

Cancellation Policy: \$400 per person deposit required to reserve booking. If you cancel more than 60 days prior to the trip, you will receive a full refund. If you cancel between 60 and 30 days prior to the trip, you will receive a refund of \$350. If you cancel 30 days or less prior to trip, no refund will be given.

Want to spend more time in Ecuador and boat even more rivers in different areas? We can do that for you! Contact Neil with your desired trip length and he will do his best to get you on the rivers.

Does this sound too challenging for your group? Check out our Class III-III+ itinerary, it is sure to please!

