

After leaving Quito, our main means of transportation were public buses.





The buses were fairly modern and at certain stops, local vendors would ride along for a stop or two selling food or other goods.



Views along the route from the Andes highlands to  
and from the Amazon basin could be spectacular.





The amount of farm production on steep inclines virtually  
“in the clouds” was impressive.





The crops varied based on elevation and farm slope.





At one point on the bus ride, Alejandro explained that this was the Ozogoché Lakes area and every year in September they have a festival associated with Plover bird suicides. These birds migrate from Canada and Alaska to southern South America and those that feel too weak to complete the journey stop at the Ozogoché Lakes area to die "en masse" by the thousands. What better time for an indigenous Quichua people to have a festival.





For the next three days, we stayed in the indigenous Shiripuno community in the Amazon jungle basin.





After arriving in Tena, we got fitted for our rubber "hiking boots".





The rubber boots were necessary, but could be a challenging fit.





To get to the Shiripuno jungle lodge, we left the small town of Misahualli in motorized canoes on the Napo river.





Motorized canoes were a common transportation method.





These canoes could transport all kinds of things including this pool table.





It actually took two canoes working in tandem to get the pool table afloat.





Loaded-up and almost ready to go.  
Shari, risk assessment insists on a life jacket.





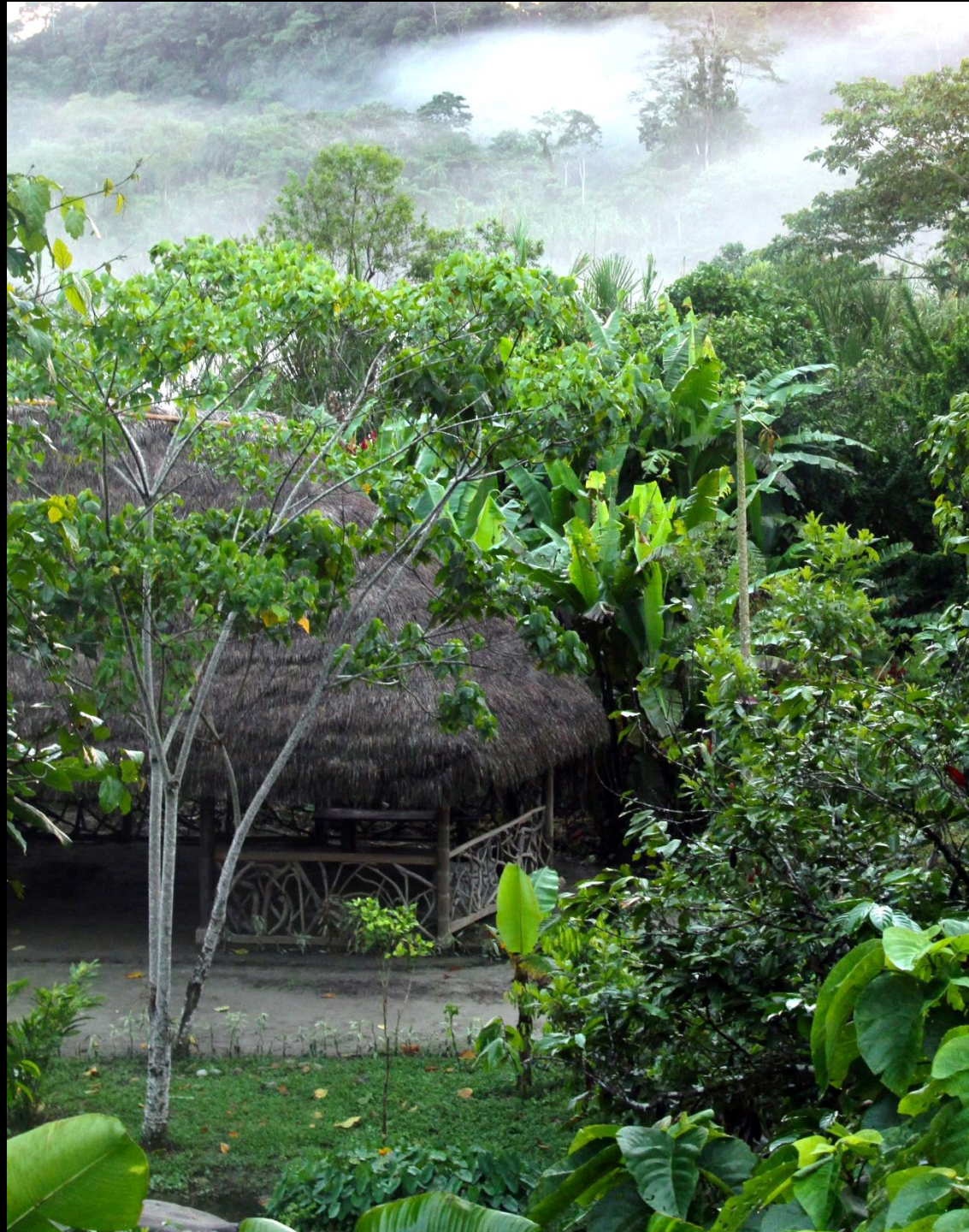
The canoe ride to the jungle lodge took only about 15 minutes, but certainly was a different way to get to your lodging.



Kyle



The Shiripuno Lodge is located close to the river surrounded by the jungle.





The Shiripuno Jungle Lodge consisted of thatched houses with group accommodations.





Our group's housing was atop a small hill. Each room had several small beds covered with mosquito netting and a single common bathroom area.





The facilities were rustic, but recognizable for Kentuckians.





You could see the river from our hut's balcony.





The covered dining room area.





A banana leaf served as our place mats at dinner.





Today's lunch was chicken, yuca (cassava), rice and salad served on a banana leaf.





The vegetarian option replaced the chicken with hearts of palm.





In the morning, you could see smoke rising from the kitchen hut.





Food was cooked on an open fire within the protective thatched hut.





The cooking area.





A large kettle about to be placed on the cooking fire.





Our group got the chance to cook their own fish for lunch.





The fish was tilapia wrapped in banana leaves.





Fish ready to have the leaves  
folded into a fish cooking packet.





The wrapped fish were placed on a frame above the cooking fire.





The group was invited to dance along.





The basic dance moves involved the men thrusting a small spear and the women making a food serving gesture with the Chíncha bowl.

Marianna was passing around a wooden bowl containing Chíncha a shared fermented drink made from corn, yuca and sometimes potato.

