



EL MONTE CLOUDFOREST ECOLOGE

Visit EL MONTE and feel the lushness of Tropical Cloud Forest! See firsthand the moss-covered trees, crystal clear streams, spectacular orchids, exotic birds - awaken to the symphony of forest noises. Experience Cloud Forest with all your senses, an ecosystem not widely known by name but could be described as the Garden of Eden or Paradise Found.

LOCATION

Mindo is a town, a river and an area. Actually, the area is quite large, and El Monte is located pretty much in the central part of this area, about 3 kilometers from the town of Mindo on the Rio Mindo and all three are located on the western slope of the Andes. Also, at 1,300 meters above sea level we are at the mid-point elevation between the highland Quito area and the coast.



ACCOMMODATION

Guests at El Monte stay in private cabanas alongside the crystalline Rio Mindo. Each cabana has a comfortable bathroom complete with a full-size tub and unlimited hot water, plus separate areas for socializing and sleeping.

The design of all the cabanas, and the main house, is original and very functional considering the mild climate, lack of strong winds and local construction materials that blend nicely with the landscape and river.



SERVICES & FACILITIES

Arrival to El Monte Sustainable Lodge is by "tarabita" or hand pulled cable car. The cable car gives us a sense of privacy from the outside world, while providing access to El Monte and the buffer zone to the Mindo-Nambillo Protected Reserve.

The main house includes the kitchen and dining table, game area, bar - plus two open "fogatas" or fire pits. The majority of the house is open, with nice views of the garden and surrounding forest. Birding is often exceptional here, with Golden-headed Quetzal, Pale-Mandibled Aracari, Choco Toucan seen regularly - not to mention tons of tanagers, flycatchers, foliage gleaners and others.

The kitchen at El Monte is all open, so you are welcome to watch the guys cook, bake, or make bread, soy milk, tofu and chocolate. The guys have become excellent at making healthy food taste good. A lot of the salads, greens and other vegetables, as well as some fruits, come fresh from our garden.

Local Ecuadorian dishes are incorporated in our International menu.

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