

# AMAZON TRAILS PERU



## EXPLORE THE MANU BIOSPHERE RESERVE

**7 DAYS - bus in & out via the Manu road**

**leaves on fixed departures, group size 3 - 6 persons**

**DAY 1: CUSCO - CLOUD FOREST - BAMBOO LODGE** : Starting early from Cusco we begin our 8 hour journey by private minibus climbing to the high mountain area at 3900 m (13,000 ft). After a short stop in Ninamarca, to see the pre-Inca cemetery, and the colonial village of Paucartambo, we descend the eastern slopes of the Andes through cloud forest with lush vegetation (ferns, orchids, bromeliads etc.) We enjoy spectacular views of the Andes and can see wildlife such as our national bird: the bright red Cock of the Rocks (*Rupicola peruviana*) showing his mating dance. Brilliantly coloured Tanagers, Quetzals, Trogons and Hummingbirds can be seen and possibly the first monkeys, such as Woolly Monkeys. In the afternoon we arrive at Bamboo Lodge (900m), where we spend the night (double rooms & private bathroom). After dinner briefing with your guide.

**DAY 2: BAMBOO LODGE - ATALAYA - MAQUISAPAYOJ LODGE** : After an early breakfast we continue with our minibus: we pass the village of Pilcopata and cross the river of the same name to get to the small port of Atalaya (550 m). On the way we stop at a local orchid garden. We also go on a walk along the road to look for monkeys and birds. From Atalaya we navigate for about 7 hours in our 15-meter motorized canoe down the Alto Madre de Dios River to get to the lowland rainforest. Today we enjoy the changing landscape and have the opportunity to see wildlife along the rocky banks of the river, such as Fasciated Tiger Herons, Kingfishers, Skimmers, Vultures, caimans and some of the 13 species of monkeys that live in Manu. On the way we stop in Boca Manu, the main village of Manu, with typical houses. In the afternoon we arrive at Maquisapayoj Lodge ("Place of the Black Spider Monkey"; double rooms with private bathroom). Evening night walk to see insects, frogs, snakes etc.

**DAY 3: MACAW CLAY LICK (BLANQUILLO) & CAMUNGO LAKE AND TOWER :** At daybreak we take the boat to the big macaw clay lick in Blanquillo. From a platform we have an excellent view to observe flocks of colourful macaws (*Ara chloroptera*, *Ara macao*), parrots and parakeets congregating to eat the clay, which is essential for their digestion. Looking through our spotting scope we can see every detail of the birds. Breakfast at the blind. Later we explore some of the trails in Blanquillo to see more species of monkeys and birds. After lunch we visit Camungo oxbow lake: here we take a catamaran to observe Giant River Otters (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) and different varieties of birds. Nearby we have the opportunity to climb a 42 m observation tower to get a great canopy view and observe birds, such as toucans. In the afternoon we travel upstream to return to Maquisapayoj. After a short break at the lodge we walk about 1½ hours through primary rainforest to the mammal salt lick of the reserve. To have the best chance to observe animals - especially the tapir - we spend the night on an elevated platform (with mats & mosquito nets). Your guide helps spotting the tapir with a light. If you prefer you can spend the night in your room at the lodge.

**DAY 4: BLANCO LAKE (BLANQUILLO) & MAQUISAPAYOJ TAPIR LICK :** At dawn we return to the lodge to have breakfast. Afterwards we travel downriver to visit 'Cocha Blanco' (Blanco lake). After a short hike we reach the oxbow-lake which we explore by catamaran to look for the family of Giant River Otters that lives here. We enjoy the beautiful setting at the lake and we look for monkeys (e.g. Red Howler Monkey), caimans and different varieties of birds. Back in Maquisapayoj we have the chance to hike on other trails looking for Emperor and Saddle backed Tamarin monkeys, Monk Saki monkey and birds such as Pavonine Quetzal, Hoatzin and Manakins. With a little luck we may also see a sloth or anteater. We can visit the salt lick in the afternoon to look for monkeys, guans or deer and you can spend another night on the tapir platform. Otherwise we spend the night at Maquisapayoj Lodge and can go for a night walk.

**DAY 5: EXPLORING MAQUISAPAYOJ AND TRAVELLING UPRIVER :** If you are keen on seeing more animals we can go for a walk at first light and then have breakfast. Later we explore some trails to look for Black Spider and Red Howler Monkeys, White and Brown Capuchin and birds. The guide also explains about important plants, ants etc. In the afternoon we travel upriver for about 3 hours to Hummingbird Lodge. On the way we stop in Boca Manu, or Fitzcarrald, where we can meet people from different ethnic groups and also see boat builders. Later we walk on some of the trails near Hummingbird Lodge and also go on a night walk. It's a good area to see birds, especially hummingbirds. Night at the lodge (double rooms & private bathroom).

**DAY 6: TRAVELLING UPRIVER ON RIO ALTO MADRE DE DIOS TO AMAZONIA LODGE :** Today we aboard our boat early to travel upriver making our way back towards Cusco. During our boat ride we always look for animals like capybara or caimans on the shore. If time allows we can make a stop at Aguas Calientes (hot springs) to have a swim or we can visit Machuwasi Lake, to see some more animals. In the afternoon we arrive at Amazonia Lodge, where we may explore some of the trails (if we arrive early) and spend the night (double rooms). Our guide takes us on a night walk after dinner.

**DAY 7: AMAZONIA LODGE – CLOUD FOREST - CUSCO :** After breakfast we take the boat back to Atalaya. Here our bus is waiting for us for our return trip through the cloud forest and over the Andes back to Cusco. Travelling through the cloud forest we can look for birds, insects and butterflies along the roadside and stop whenever we spot animals. We reach Cusco in the late afternoon, transfer to your hotel.



## TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Professional naturalist guide in English, with binoculars & spotting scope who has done 3 months conservation work in the Manu Park
- Transport by private bus and private boat
- Entrance fee to Cock of the Rock Observatory
- Entrance fees to Tapir lick, Blanco & Camungo lakes & tower
- Cook & all food (mainly nutritious vegetarian food\*), drinks & drinking water
- Overnight in lodges and on the tapir observation platform
- First Aid Kit, extractor (for venom)
- Radio communication
- Rubber boots



## NOT INCLUDED:

- Binoculars (for rent at our office)
- Optional: entrance fee to the Macaw clay lick (90 US\$ p.p.)
- Private bathroom at Amazonia Lodge (12 US\$ p.p.)
- Alcoholic drinks, personal expenses etc.
- Optional: meals with meat every day:+ 25 US\$ p.p.

\* We support local farmers and buy regional products. Large areas of tropical rainforest are being destroyed for soya and oil palm plantations. Soya is used to produce animal food to industrial livestock farming. - We want to help protect the rainforest. You can also help!



All fotos seen on our website and in our programs have been taken on our Manu tours.



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