

AMAZON TRAILS PERU



EXPLORE THE MANU NATIONAL PARK

7 DAYS - in via Manu road & out via Colorado

leaves on fixed departures, group size: 4 - 7 persons

DAY 1: CUSCO - CLOUD FOREST - BAMBOO LODGE : Starting early from Cusco we begin our 8 hour journey by private minibus climbing up 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 colored 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 your guide will brief you about the activities of the following day.

DAY 2: BAMBOO LODGE - ATALAYA - HUMMINGBIRD 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 5 hours in a 15-meter motorized canoe down the Alto Madre de Dios River. Today we enjoy the changing landscape passing by the Pantiacolla mountains and have the opportunity to see wildlife along the banks of the river, such as Fasciated Tiger Herons, Skimmers, Kingfishers, Vultures, caimans and some of the 13 species of monkeys that live in Manu. In the afternoon we reach Hummingbird Lodge, where we spend the night (double rooms with private bath). Evening night walk to see insects, frogs, snakes etc.

DAY 3: HUMMINGBIRD LODGE TO ALBERGUE CASA MATSIGUENKA OR AGUAJE TENTED

CAMP/ MANU RIVER : Today we start early to continue our boat ride travelling into the Reserved Zone of Manu Park. We reach the mouth of the Manu River and after a stop at Limonal Park Station, where our permit is checked, we travel upriver into the heart of Manu. During this boat trip the scenery and wildlife viewing along the banks of the Manu River is fabulous. White Caimans (Caiman crocodylus) sunning on the beaches, turtles, capybara and plenty of colourful birds may be seen. And there is always the possibility of seeing larger animals such as Tapir and Jaguar. In the afternoon we arrive at Albergue Casa Matsiguenka or at Aguaje Tented Camp, where we spend two nights in double rooms (shared bathrooms & showers). Optional night walk after dinner.

DAY 4: EXPLORING COCHA SALVADOR AND OTORONGO / MANU PARK :

Today we start early for a day excursion to explore trails through virgin forest of the Reserved Zone of Manu Park. As a highlight we visit the beautiful oxbow-lake Cocha Salvador by catamaran looking for Giant River Otters (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) and to observe caimans, monkeys, hoatzins and other birds. In the afternoon we go for a walk on the trails of the opposite side of the river. We climb the 18 m observation tower overlooking Cocha Otorongo – an ideal place to observe birds. After a final walk through this biodiverse forest we return to Aguaje Tented Camp or to Albergue Matsiguenka, where we have the chance to meet the Machiguenga Indians. We can go for a night walk after dinner.

DAY 5: CASA MATSIGUENKA OR AGUAJE TENTED CAMP TO MAQUISAPAYOJ LODGE :

We start at first light to travel 6 hours down the Manu River. Dawn and dusk are ideal to see wildlife on the river banks. Capybaras, caimans, birds and with luck a jaguar may be seen. We make a short stop in Boca Manu village, the main settlement in Manu named after the confluence of the sediment rich Manu River with the wider Madre de Dios River. Further downriver we reach Maquisapayoj Reserve (Place of the Black Spider Monkey”), home to numerous monkey species, including the rare Tamarin Monkey and Monk Saki Monkey. After a short rest we go for a walk to the mammal salt lick, where we look for monkeys, deer and other animals who visit the lick. After returning to the lodge we explore the forest on a night walk to see insects, frogs and snakes. Night at Maquisapayoj Lodge (double rooms with private bathroom), optional night on the platform at the salt lick.

DAY 6: BIG MACAW CLAY LICK & MAQUISAPAYOJ TAPIR LICK :

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 the spotting scope we can see all the details of the birds. Breakfast at the blind. After the spectacle we travel upstream to return to Maquisapayoj. After a short break at the lodge we walk into primary rainforest for about 1 ½ hours to the Mammal Salt Lick, where we spend the night on an elevated platform (with mats and mosquito nets) to observe tapirs or other mammals during the night. Your guide will help spotting the tapir with a light. If you prefer you can spend the night in double rooms at the lodge close to the river.

DAY 7: TRAVELLING TO COLORADO AND BACK TO CUSCO:

After an early breakfast at the lodge we travel downriver by boat to Colorado (2 ½ hours), a small gold mining town. Together with the guide we take a car to Puerto Carlos (1 hour). We cross Rio Inambari to the small town of Santa Rosa, where our bus is waiting for us to drive back to Cusco. We travel on the paved Transoceanica through cloud forest and up to the Andes, with a spectacular view of the Ausangate Mountain in the afternoon. We arrive in Cusco in the evening; transfer to your hotel.



TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Professional naturalist guide in English, with binoculars & spotting scope, who has done 3 months conservation work in Manu Park
- Transport by private bus and private boat & car to Puerto Carlos
- Entrance fees to Cock of the Rock observatory & Tapir lick
- Entrance fees to Manu National Park, Salvador & Otorongo lakes
- Cook & all meals (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

* 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!



NOT INCLUDED:

- Binoculars (for rent at our office)
- Optional: entrance fee to the Macaw clay lick (90 US\$ p.p.)
- Optional: room with private bathroom at Casa Matsigenka (25 US\$ p.p. per night)
- Optional: daily meal with meat (25 US\$ p.p.)
- Alcoholic drinks, personal expenses etc.



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



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