

AMAZON TRAILS PERU



EXPLORE THE MANU BIOSPHERE RESERVE

6 DAYS - in & out via the Manu road

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 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.

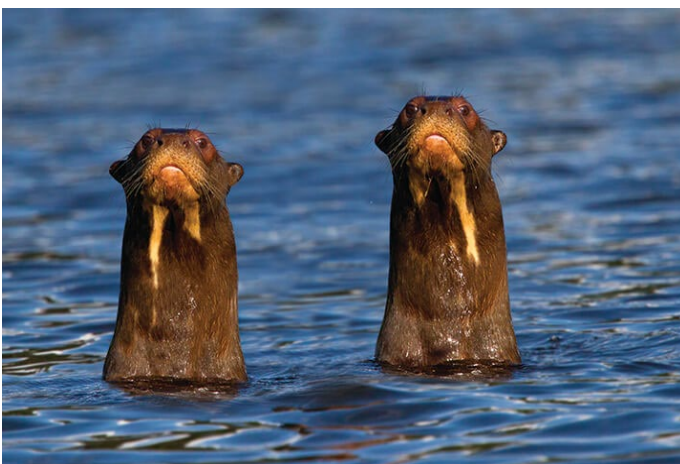
DAY 2: BAMBOO LODGE TO ATALAYA & AMAZONIA LODGE : After an early breakfast we continue with our minibus: we pass the village of Pilcopata and cross the river of the same name to get to the small port of Atalaya (550 m). On the way we stop for some walks to observe birds and to visit a local orchid garden. Before reaching Atalaya we enjoy a great view of the river basin from a lookout point. At the port we embark on a 20 minute journey in our 15 m - motorized canoe down the Alto Madre de Dios River to reach Amazonia Lodge. This place is famous for its birdlife, especially for hummingbirds which can be observed near the lodge. In the afternoon we walk on the trails and visit a nearby lake, where we can observe the abundant birdlife such as Horned Screamer, Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Pale-eyed Blackbird and different Antbirds and Antwrens. In the evening we can go caiman spotting at the river or go on a night walk. We spend the night at Amazonia Lodge (double rooms).

DAY 3: PARROT CLAY LICK & BOAT TRAVEL TO BLANQUILLO & BLANCO LAKE: At dawn we travel downriver by boat to the parrot clay lick. This is a special place on the river bank where parrots, parakeets and small macaws, including the Chestnut fronted Macaw and the rare Blue headed Macaw, come to eat minerals, which they need for digestion. After the natural show we have breakfast and we navigate for about 6 hours 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, or Fitzcarrald, the main village of Manu. In the afternoon we reach 'Cocha Blanco' (Blanco Lake). After a short hike we reach the oxbow-lake which we explore silently 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. We spend the night at Blanquillo Lodge or Maquisapayoj (double rooms). Optional night walk to see insects frogs and snakes.

DAY 4: 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 silently explore the lake and 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. Afterwards we travel upstream to Maquisapayoj Lodge. In the evening we can visit 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 will help spotting the tapir with a light. If you prefer you can spend the night in a room at the lodge (dwb).

DAY 5: TRAVELLING UPRIVER ON RIO ALTO MADRE DE DIOS TO DORADO LODGE OR PANTIACOLLA LODGE: Today we can go on a morning hike through the forest looking for monkeys, like Emperor and Saddle backed Tamarin, and birds. Then, we aboard our boat to travel upriver on Rio Madre de Dios. During our boat ride we always look for animals like capybara or caimans on the shore. If time allows, we can make a stop to have a swim. Arriving at Pantiacolla Lodge we explore the trails to look for Black Spider and Red Howler Monkeys, Capuchin Monkeys and birds and with a little luck we may even spot a tapir. We spend the night at Pantiacolla Lodge or Dorado Lodge. Our guide takes us on a night walk after dinner.

DAY 6: PANTIACOLLA LODGE – CLOUD FOREST - CUSCO : After breakfast we take the boat to travel back upriver to the port of Atalaya. Here our minibus 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, monkeys, insects and butterflies along the roadside and stop whenever we spot animals. We reach Cusco in the evening, transfer to your hotel.



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



TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Pre- departure Briefing
- Professional, English speaking naturalist guide, with binoculars & spotting scope who has done min. 3 months conservation work in the Manu Reserve
- Transport by private bus and private boat from Atalaya & back and return to Cusco
- Entrance fee to Cock of the Rock observatory
- Entrance fees to Tapir lick and Blanco & Camungo lakes & tower
- Cook & all meals (mainly nutritious vegetarian food*), drinks & drinking water
- Overnight in Lodges & 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 to macaw clay lick (+ 80 US\$ p.p.)
- Alcoholic drinks, personal expenses etc.
- Optional: meals with meat every day: + 20 US\$ p.p.

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



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