



The South American Specialists

## Amazon & Andes of Northern Peru



It would take a lifetime to “see” the Amazon. The best thing to do is to focus on one part of the Amazon and explore that really well. Peru is the source of the Amazon River and this is your chance to get an in-depth look into the people, plants and animals of this corner of the Amazon. Throw away all your preconceptions. This trip will surprise you at every turn. For example the average temperature in June is less than 80 degrees F. Worried about biting insects? No problem, this time of year you can wear shorts and tee shirt and not be bothered at all (hard to believe but true!).

We begin in the lowland Amazon Basin (Selva Baja).

You will need a sense of adventure. This is not a champagne and caviar cruise ship option, but we do get close and personal with the wild life by using local guides and non-motorized dugout canoes. Accommodation is in remote villages and jungle huts on stilts, clean and comfortable, but don't expect Wi-Fi! This is a peaceful and quiet way to see the animals of the Pacaya Samiria. With a maximum of 2 persons in a canoe, you will be free to relax and enjoy your guide point out the amazing wildlife, as you drift along. The narrow waterways mean that you are under the dappled light of the tree canopy most of the time. Sun bathing and waterhole swimming are an unexpected surprise.

Next we travel in the high Amazon (Selva Alta).

Selva Alta is called the “eyebrow of the Amazon. This mountainous area is still covered by rainforest and has historically been more habitable for humans, because of the more livable environment. Ancient cultures coveted this area as an alternative to the desert areas to the west and the flooded rain forest to the east. This trip is a mix of natural wonders with amazing birdlife, waterfalls (one of the world's highest) and the spectacular impressive mountain fortress of Kuelap. Archeologists are still discovering secrets in this remote and magical place. For this part of the tour we stay in well appointed lodges, do expect wifi!





**Tour Leader - Whitney Thurlow**

Whitney is an IFMGA qualified guide and lives in Wanaka New Zealand. He was previously the training officer for the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association and owner and chief guide for Aspiring Guides. Whitney's year is spent guiding in New Zealand, Italy, Norway and Peru. Originally attracted to Peru's Cordillera Blanca Mountains, he has spent the last 8 years exploring Northern Peru. His fascination for the "Selva" has lead him from the highland jungle down to the lowland rainforest of the Rio Huallaga.

## **Itinerary**

### **June 2017**

#### **Sat 3: Lima**

Arrive in Lima. Your guide will meet you in Lima and transfer you to the hotel for a nights rest to help settle in after a long flight. Lima is a fascinating city and you will have a chance to enjoy the local sights and meet the other trip members.

#### **Sun 4: Lima - Tarapoto - Yurimaguas (B,L,D)**

Transfer to the domestic airport for the 1.5 hour flight to the high Amazon town of Tarapoto. After a meal in a traditional restaurant, we take a 2 hour van ride to Yurimaguas. The drive takes you from the mountainous high Amazon to the low Amazon rainforest. The transition is dramatic as you drop down through steep canyons and jungle and get your first glimpse of the great Amazon basin. We will stop at Las Cataratas de Ahuashiyacu for a short walk to a beautiful waterfall and a swim. You will have the afternoon to check out Yurimaguas, a bustling river town, literally the end of the road. The town is alive with people and goods arriving and departing by river. Have a swim in the pool, your last taste of luxury before heading into the Selva.

#### **Mon 5: Yurimaguas - Lagunas (B,L,D)**

In the morning we board a "fast boat" for the 5 hour trip to the remote village of Lagunas. These long motorized vessels are the only means of transport and receiving goods. It is a fascinating glimpse of river life as you pass the isolated villages. Lagunas is a small village with one paved road and electricity is available only in the evening. Accommodation Hostal Eco is basic but clean with a private bathroom in each room. Don't expect nightclubs and discos! As night falls and the sounds and smells of the rainforest take over, you know you are not in Kansas anymore.

#### **Tue 6: Pacaya Samiria (B,L,D)**

The massive Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve is the largest protected area in the floodable Amazon rainforest. To protect the amazing variety of wildlife it is only possible to visit with a registered guide. In the morning we meet our river guides and transfer to dugout canoes. With two guides and two clients in each canoe there is plenty of room to relax and stretch out. The boats are surprisingly stable and the guides are masters at maneuvering the craft through the jungle. Using only paddles (no motors at all), is the best way

to view the wildlife. Paddling on the slow moving narrow stream in the flooded rain forest is a unique experience and one you will never forget. There is an abundance of wildlife around every bend. In the afternoon we arrive at Gloria, a large bungalow on stilts, our accommodation for the night.

### **Wed 7: Pacaya Samiria (B,L,D)**

Things move slowly in the Amazon and after a relaxing breakfast we travel further into the reserve. You can expect the unexpected with monkeys providing the soundtrack. Otters and comic looking sloths are your constant companions. Evening brings a new bungalow on stilts with a beautiful pool for swimming and a hammock to relax in.

### **Thur 8: Pacaya Samiria (B,L,D)**

Just when you think you have seen it all, you discover pink river dolphins and paiche, an air breathing fish that grows up to 3 metres long! The guides conduct a night time excursion to show you snakes and crocodiles, not nearly as scary as it sounds!

### **Fri 9: Pacaya Samiria (B,L,D)**

With the sounds of Howler Monkeys ringing in our ears, we go for a walk where the countless species of giant trees go forever. Egrets, ducks, tucans, taricaya (turtles), macaws, majestic paiches, squirrel monkeys, brown monkeys, black monkeys and Yellow Tailed Woolly Monkeys are in abundance. Spend overnight in a Refugio on stilts.

### **Sat 10: Pacaya Samiria - Lagunas (B,L,D)**

Today is a combination of paddling, with a walking tour of the reserve. Discover medicinal plants and animals living deeper in the jungle. At the end of the day we return to Lagunas and Hostal Eco.

### **Sun 11: Lagunas – Yurimaguas - Tarapoto (B,L,D)**

Departure at 5am to Yurimaguas via fast boat. Arrival at 11.30am in Yurimaguas. Transfer to Tarapoto.

Arrive at Tarapoto and transfer to Pumarinri.

Take an evening-night walk in the surrounding forest, looking for poison dart frogs, herpetofauna and owls. Overnight at Pumarinri Lodge.

### **Mon 12: From the Amazon to the Andes (B,L,D)**

Have breakfast with an early departure towards the Andes. Travel by boat along the Huallaga and Mayo rivers, with some birdwatching on the way. Eat a boxed lunch. Cross the Alto Mayo forest and arrive in time to see the sunset in front of the Gocta Falls, in the heart of the Peruvian northern Andes. Have dinner. Overnight at Gocta Lodge.

### **Tue 13: Gocta Waterfalls (B,L,D)**

From Gocta Lodge there's an amazing view of the waterfalls and the trail leading to them is even more breathtaking. It's a two hour hike (each way), crossing Andean orchards and a lush gallery forest. The Gocta Falls straddle the void between the towering Andes Mountains and lush Amazon rainforest, and offers one of the world's most sublime spectacles. They are reported as the 3rd highest in the world. Though the climate is tropical and the jungle dense, the cataracts are still 2,000 meters above sea level.

Lunch at the lodge, enjoy a free afternoon, followed by dinner.

Overnight at Gocta Lodge.

### **Wed 14: Kuelap Fortress (B,L,D)**

Start driving along the Utcubamba valley, between bromeliads and cacti. At Tingo, start the climb to Kuelap,

crossing traditional Andean villages, finally reaching fortress at 3,000m.

The fortress of Kuelap is a walled city associated with the Chachapoyas culture built in 6th century AD. It consists of more than four hundred buildings surrounded by massive exterior stone walls.

Guided visit to Kuelap archaeological site.

Lunch at the village of Maria. Return to Gocta Lodge, followed by dinner.

Overnight at Gocta Lodge.

#### **Thur 15: The marvelous spatuletail & the Alto Mayo (B,L,D)**

Have breakfast with an early departure towards the lowlands. The first stop is at the Marvelous Spatuletail Visitor's Centre, where you will be able to watch this amazing hummingbird amongst many other colourful species. Second stop at Moyobamba to visit an orchid botanical garden. Enjoy a boxed lunch. Before reaching Tarapoto there is a stop at Quiscarrumi Bridge to see the Oilbirds. Dinner.

Overnight in Tucan Suites Hotel

#### **Fri 16: Tarapoto – Lima (B)**

Transfer to Tarapoto's airport for your flight to Lima in time for onward connections.

**Cost:** NZ\$3890 per person

#### **Inclusions:**

All accommodation in comfortable hotels & lodges share twin/double (Lima & 11-16 June), basic camps & lodges 4-11 June .

Transportation throughout. River transport. Entry fees to parks & reserves. Guiding both by us and some local guides. All meals as stated each day ( B=breakfast,L=lunch,D=Dinner). Transfers to and from airports

#### **Exclusions :**

International flights from New Zealand to Peru & internal airfares to/from Tarapoto. Any visas required (none for NZ/US/UK/Australian passport holders). Alcoholic drinks. Medical requirements. Insurance. Tips. Personal requirements, souvenirs etc.

#### **Airfares:**

We will provide a separate quotation for the airfares. Often the airfares Lima-Tarapoto -Lima can be included as part of the international ticket with LATAM

#### **Reservations:**

Registration form available from Latin Link

**Latin Link Adventure**  
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