

FOUR-NIGHT ITINERARY AQUA AMAZON LOW WATER SEASON (June - November)

Day 1: Tuesday ARRIVAL/NAUTA/EMBARKATION/MARAÑON RIVER

5:00 p.m. Arrival

Your guides await you, as your flight from Lima glides in for landing at Iquitos International Airport. After you've claimed your luggage, you will board an air-conditioned bus for your journey to the river.

5:40 p.m. Transfer to Nauta's main wharf.

Enjoy a scenic one-and-a-half hour drive through the Peruvian countryside to the small village of Nauta. You will be traveling along the only road out of town . . . and it only goes as far as Nauta.

7:10 p.m. Check-In

From the moment you step on board, enjoy the AQUA AMAZON's low-key luxury. As you settle into your handsomely appointed, generously proportioned suite, you will feel the vessel begin to move – the beginning of one of your life's great adventures. We suggest you stand on the Upper Deck to take in the view, as the AQUA AMAZON leaves Iquitos behind.

Over the next four days, you will also sail along the two largest tributaries of the Peruvian Amazon, the Ucayali and the Marañon, as well as on the mighty Amazon itself. You are embarking on a spectacular journey to a place visited by only a very few of even the most experienced world travelers.

8:00 p.m. Safety Drill and Briefing on the Upper Deck

Before dinner we will perform a routine safety drill. Then it's into the air-conditioned lounge, where you will learn about life on board, and will have the first nightly briefing about your next day's Amazon adventure. You will meet our naturalist guides and your cruise director, who will use video, photos, and maps to introduce the details of your journey deep into the Peruvian Amazon.

8:30 p.m. Welcome Dinner

Sit down, relax, sip fine South American wine, toast the beginning of a beautiful journey and enjoy the innovative Amazonian cuisine, created by our Executive Chef Pedro Miguel Schiaffino, whose restaurant, Malabar, is the one of Lima's top ranked dining experiences. Schiaffino's imaginative use of local products – fruit, fish, spices – makes every meal a delightful adventure. (The menu always offers choices, including a vegetarian option.)

Perhaps sip a nightcap on the Upper Deck, under the stars, before retiring.

Day 2: Wednesday UCAYALI RIVER / YANALLPA RIVER / EL DORADO / PACAYA SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE

7:00 a.m. Breakfast

Our sumptuous daily breakfast buffet features a wide variety of dishes, plus Peruvian specialties and fresh fruit juices.

8:30 a.m. Ucayali River Exploration and Walk Along the Yanallpa Riparian Forest

This morning, board the skiffs to explore a fascinating black water stream, part of the vast Amazon flooded forest within the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve. Your guides will tell you about the jungle as

we explore what scientists call a "gallery forest," because of its dense vegetation that creates a tunnel of leaves. As we explore this type of riparian vegetation, watch above for parrots, macaws, and fluffy monk saki monkeys.

We will also have the opportunity to hike the Yanallpa Gorge, watching the forest and the animals that can be found along the way.

11:30 a.m. Return to AQUA AMAZON

12:30 p.m. Lunch

3:30 p.m. Lecture in the lounge by our naturalist guides.

4:00 p.m. Ucayali Exploration and Dorado Night Exploration

This afternoon, cruise the majestic Ucayali River and Dorado River, giving you the chance to meet the local fishermen who will demonstrate their skills and let you see their catch - including catfish armored with a shell-like skin - en route to the market in the small town of Requena. You can't help but notice their photogenic "rafter banana" boats, loaded with hundreds of bananas, drifting down the river.

We move on to the Dorado River where you may observe enchanting parrots, macaws and a variety of primates, unperturbed by our presence. As we make our way back to the AQUA AMAZON, you may see alligators, frogs and fishing bats.

6:30 p.m. Return to the AQUA AMAZON

7:30 p.m. Dinner

Day 3: Thursday

PUINAHUA RIVER / PACAYA RIVER / PACAYA SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE

7:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Full Day Expedition Along The Pacaya River

This morning we will undertake a full-day excursion along the Pacaya River, observing and exploring the flooded forest of this vast region of the Peruvian Amazon. You will sail among a wide variety of wildlife, birds including large parrots, macaws, herons and storks and many species of primates like the capuchin, howler and squirrel monkeys, who can be very funny. We will have the opportunity to visit some of the most beautiful lakes in the protected reserve and to meet some of the friendly local people who take care of the reserve's natural resources. Our nature guides will discuss Aqua Expeditions involvement in the natural resource management of Amazonia. We will eat a picnic lunch en route and on our return, we can see the famous Ceiba tree, the highest in the Amazon.

5:30 p.m. Return to AQUA AMAZON

7:30 p.m. Dinner

Option 2: Exploring the Pacaya and Puhinahua / Monkey and Dolphin Expedition

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Pacaya River Exploration and Piranha Fishing

This morning you will board our comfortable boat to sail and explore the Pacaya black water river. Life jackets, ponchos, rubber boots, and fresh water are always available in our boats. As we sail, the occasional fisherman will paddle past in their homemade canoes. Keep your binoculars ready to spot terns, tropical songbirds, black hawks, monkeys and sloths necks that share this enchanted place with us. After our arrival at a particular point, you may use your hooks to try to catch some of the ferocious piranhas of the Amazon. As you fish, trained naturalist guides will tell the story of the lake and its inhabitants.

11:30 a.m. Return to AQUA AMAZON

12:30 p.m. Lunch

4:00 p.m. Dolphins Along the Puhinahua River

During this expedition, we'll be keeping our eyes out for two different kinds of freshwater dolphins but especially the unusual pink dolphins found in the Amazon River. We'll also spot arboreal lizards, iguanas and look up to catch a glimpse of some of the area's 200 bird species.

6:00 p.m. Return to the AQUA AMAZON

8:00 p.m. Dinner

Day 4: Friday

UCAYALI RIVER / VILLAGE VISIT / CLAVERO LAKE

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Exploring the Ucayali River and Village Visit

This morning we sail on the great Ucayali River, observing the flora and fauna along the way. We visit a riverside community known for actively protecting their forest's natural resources and practicing their ancestral customs. We head back to the AQUA AMAZON, watching for iguanas and examples of the area's 200 species of birds.

11:00 a.m. Return to AQUA

From this point, start sailing downstream toward Iquitos.

12:00 p.m. Cooking Lesson

1:00 p.m. Lunch

4:00 p.m. Canoeing and swimming in Clavero Lake.

We sail on to Lake Clavero where villagers paddle in their traditional dugout canoes. You may wish to swim in the lake's calm waters and visit the community to interact with our Amazonia neighbors who will be pleased to welcome you.

6:00 p.m. Return to AQUA AMAZON

Once back on board, the ship will continue its journey down stream, sailing toward Iquitos through the night.

7:00 p.m. Meet in the lounge with our naturalist guides for the Crew Presentation

The guides will introduce some of the crew members whom you may not have met, who worked "behind the scenes" to ensure your memorable trip has been filled with countless exceptional experiences.

8:30 p.m. Dinner

Day 5: Saturday

ARRIVE IN IQUITOS CITY/CHECK-OUT AND DISEMBARK AT THE MAIN WHARF/CITY TOUR AND TRANSFER TO THE AIRPORT

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Travel briefing

9:00 a.m. Morning Excursion

Depending on the weather, we will tour the flood zone that borders the city of Iquitos and observe the houses and shops that actually float on the Itaya River for several months of the year. Then we will visit the traditional market of Bellavista Nanay, bordering the Nanay River, to see products from the Peruvian Amazon including exotic snacks like the Amazon Caterpillar. Called "Suri," these caterpillars live in the palm trees and are considered a very appetizing snack for Amazonia people, even in the city.

11:00 a.m. Return to the AQUA AMAZON

Sadly, it's time to finish packing. Please leave your packed suitcases in your suite for pickup before going to lunch.

12.00 p.m. Light Lunch

1:15 p.m. Disembarkation / City Tour / Manatee Rescue Center / Transfer to the Airport

This afternoon, we will take you on a tour of Iquitos, glorious city in the days of the rubber boom. Visit the Manatee Rescue Center, a kind of animal orphanage for Amazonian manatees to rescue, rehabilitate and release them back into the wild. Later, we stop at the Amazonian Indian Market San Juan, where, you may wish to shop for local crafts before leaving.

Guides will help with check in at the airport and stay with you until you have boarded your flight back to Lima.

Note: All itineraries are subject to change, due to weather and other conditions. All times indicated are approximate, and are also subject to change.

