Join us on a trip to what biologists call the “green paradise” of the Amazon forest. Within this region, there exists exceptional national parks and reserves that contain the best wildlife viewing experiences in the Amazon. The Field Museum in Chicago has documented that this pristine region of the Peruvian Amazon has the highest diversity of mammals and trees in the world. The bird life is also outstanding, with 550 species recorded.

We will stay at one of the top wilderness lodges in the world, as well as at the Tahuayo River Research Center, both run by Amazonia Expeditions. Our group will have the opportunity to assist in the ongoing primate studies on the Center’s grid trails. The trail grid developed by Yale University covers 52 miles spread over 1000 acres. It is the largest trail grid offered in the Amazon and is considered the best hike in the Amazon for viewing primates in their natural environment. Their facilities also offer the longest zip line in the Amazon Basin providing unlimited possibilities to view and study the jungle canopy.

Established in 1981, Amazonia Expeditions has earned an outstanding reputation and has the most experience of any eco-tour company working in the western Amazon. Outside Magazine has consistently chosen the lodge as one of the top 25 wilderness lodges in the world. For the past three years (2007, 2008 and 2009) National Geographic Magazine has also honored Amazonia Expeditions as one of the best travel companies worldwide.

Escorted by: Sharon K. Schafer, Skydance Studio, Boulder City, NV

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Explore The Amazon: Trip Itinerary

Flights
23 Oct
International flight arrives-Lima

24 Oct
LanPeru 372 depart Lima 7:50am arrive Iquitos 9:30am

31 Oct
Iquitos-Lima in the evening
or with Andean extension it would be Iquitos-Lima-Cusco
04 Nov Cusco-Lima in the afternoon

For protection against problems with airlines or other travel problems we recommend that you purchase travel insurance.

Land Itinerary
Excursions are described in detail on websites www.perujungle.com and www.peruandes.com
Note meals provided.  B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner

Oct 23
After clearing customs in Lima Airport / Transfer Hotel Melodia

Oct 24
We will be met in the hotel lobby at 5:30am and back to the airport
Fly to Iquitos.
After clearing baggage security in Iquitos Airport, transfer to the port of Iquitos
Speedboat transfer up the Amazon, then the Tahuayo tributary to our lodge.
Afternoon and evening excursions
B, L, D

Oct 25-26
Guided excursions in and around the Tamshiyacu-Tahuayo Reserve.  Every day your guides will discuss a selection of activities that you can sign up for.  Among activities that you can select are: canoeing in rivers, lakes and flood forest, hiking in a variety of different ecosystems, boating, wildlife viewing and photography, visit native villages, have a session with a native shaman, learn about native culture, canopy exploration on ziplines (longest canopy zipline in the Amazon), swimming with pink dolphins, fishing for piranha, etc.
B,L,D

Oct 27-29
To Amazon Research Center lodge, ARC. Hiking conservation trail grid (85km over 500 hectares, largest trail system in the Amazon) where some 40 troops of primates representing 12 different species are being habituated, canoeing or swim in Dolphin Lake, etc.  Exploring the Area de Conservacion Regional Comunal de Tamshiyacu-Tahuayo (ACRCTT), shown to have the greatest mammal and tree diversity of any site studied in the Amazon; also boasting 763 different species of birds.  B,L,D
Oct 30
Return to main lodge
Native market in the afternoon
B,L,D

Oct 31
Boat to Iquitos
Transfer to the airport
Fly to Lima
B,L

Optional extension to Andes: Trip Itinerary

Connect to flight to Cusco
Afternoon brief walking tour of Cusco
Cusco Hotel Casa Andina [www.casa-andina.com] B, L

Nov 1
Full day guided excursion in the Sacred Valley of the Incas, including Ollantaytambo Inca Citadel and the native bazaar at Pisaq. Hotel Sonesta Posada del Inca [www.sonesta.com/sacredvalley] B,L

Nov 2
Transfer to train station; Vistadome train to Machu Picchu. Guided interpretation of the ruins, Royal service. Buffet lunch in Sanctuary Lodge. Afternoon optional climb up Wayna Picchu or hike to the gate of the sun (Inti Puncu).
El Sanctuario Hotel [www.santuariohotel.com] B, L

Nov 3
Return to Machu Picchu
Afternoon Vistadome train departs late afternoon to Cusco
Hotel Casa Andina
[www.casa-andina.com] B, D

Nov 4
Morning visit to Sacsayhuaman National Park
Afternoon transfer to airport
B, L