

Peru Amazon Tambopata Wildlife Experience



Amazon rainforest – amazing wildlife – charming lodges –
Oxbow lake – sea-kayaking – mountain biking - canopy tower – great wildlife

Travel into the depths of the Tambopata Reserve in the Peruvian Amazon.

Actively explore the surrounds of the Refugio Amazonas lodge.

Enjoy the remoteness of the Tambopata Research Centre.

See the world's largest parrot clay lick.

Kayak the Tambopata River, mountain bike through the jungle, climb into the rainforest canopy.



Blue and yellow macaws at the Tambopata clay lick.



Holiday Itinerary



Day 01 | Amazon | Refugio Amazonas lodge

Fly to the Peruvian Amazon (*flights not included*). From the airport you are taken to the lodge offices where you can shed unnecessary luggage and travel on with a relatively light load.

Travel a bumpy road to the banks of the river.

Along the way guides take time to introduce themselves as you will be together for the next few days.

Snacks are handed out which are made from local produce, these include brazil nuts, plantain chips and a somewhat unusual soft drink – a slightly acquired taste in our opinion but when in Rome...

The boat trip lasts about three hours up the Tambopata River leaving behind all obvious signs of settlement.

The boats are comfortable and an ideal opportunity to look for wildlife along with your guides.

Lunch is served on board, usually in a banana leaf.

You should arrive at around dusk. There is actually no

sign of the lodge from the river, just a set of wooden steps leading up from the water's edge into the jungle.

The lodge is built on higher ground, away from any standing water. This means that, despite the lodge being pretty much entirely open, there are few insects.

Raised walkways lead from the main lodge building towards the 32 rooms spread over four wings.

Amazingly enough, the simple but very comfortable en suite rooms have one open wall facing the jungle so you really do feel close to nature.

Beds have very good box style mosquito nets which are tucked in for you each night.

The entire complex is lit at night by paraffin lamps, once these go out you use candles, or use your torch!

After supper, walk back down to your boat to look for caiman along the riverbank. (b,l,d)

Day 02 | Amazon | discover the Amazon

Whilst here in the jungle you have a menu of excursions available to you throughout each day.



Enjoy a unique experience sea-kayaking in the Amazon.

Questions? Ready to book? Call us on **01273 676 712**

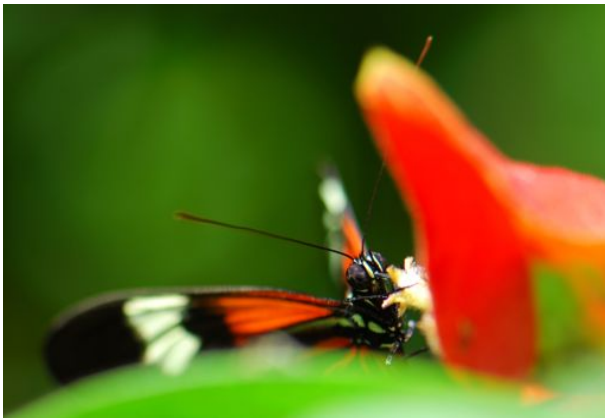
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Travelling the Tambopata River to the lodge.



Look out for wonderfully colourful butterflies.



Comfortable but simple rooms in the Amazon, note the lack of one wall.

All excursions are led by one of a dedicated team of lodge guides, many of whom are from the local communities based around the Tambopata River.

Usually there is an early start as the best times of day to see wildlife is invariably sunrise, sunset and nighttime.

You can effectively choose how much or how little to do on any given day so you should read the following as a suggested range of activities rather than a set itinerary.

This morning you should have time to climb the 25-metre canopy tower before breakfast.

A staircase leads you up this wired metal structure to a platform just above the level of the rainforest canopy.

From the top you can watch the sunrise over the Amazon, hear the howler monkeys' slightly spooky call and see parrots and toucan.

After breakfast a few minutes hike from the lodge bring you to the beautiful old growth patch of Brazil Nut forest that has been harvested for decades (if not centuries) where the precarious remains of a camp used two months a year by Brazil Nut gatherers can still be experienced.

We will be demonstrating the whole process of the rain forest's only sustainably harvested product from collection through transportation to drying.

Thereafter, take the boat from Refugio Amazonas for a four hours boat ride to your next lodge.

In the pristine heart of the reserve, lies the Tambopata Research Center.

One and half hours into our boat journey, as we cross the confluence with the Malinowski River, we will leave the final traces of human habitation behind.

Within the 700,000 hectare uninhabited nucleus of the reserve, sightings of capybara, caiman, geese, macaws and other large species will become more frequent.

During the afternoon a three to five kilometer hike will lead you to overlooks commanding magnificent views of the Tambopata winding its way into the lowlands.

Commitment to the environment

The environmental credentials of the lodge are very impressive. The lodge is integrated into its surroundings in almost every way imaginable.

The staff are largely sourced from the tiny local Condénado and Infierno communities.

There is an impressive programme of training which means that your guide may well have started as a pot-wash in the kitchen before working and training his way up the ladder to being a guide.

This tends to give the lodge a very friendly, almost familial feel.

The lodge is placed within a 200 hectare 'buffer zone' on the edge of the Tambopata Reserve. It is working hard with the local Brazil nut farmers to include them in the benefits from eco-tourism, thereby encouraging their participation in conservation.

The actual structure is built from wood brought in from upriver – essentially they would sit on the river banks until a fallen tree passed by and would drag it to the lodge for use in the construction.

Otherwise, materials are largely palm fronds, wild cane and clay from the surrounding area.

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Refugio Amazonas lodge.



Breakfast at the TRC. Watch out, Macaws will steal your toast!

The forest on this trail, regenerating on old bamboo forest, is good for Howler Monkey and Dusky Titi Monkey.

Then go back to your lodge to dinner and follow scientists providing you an in depth look at the biology of macaws, their feeding habits, the theories for clay lick use, their breeding and feeding ecology, population fluctuations and the threats to their conservation. (b,l,d)

Day 03 | Amazon | **stunning wildlife**

On most clear mornings of the year dozens of large macaws and hundreds of parrots congregate on this large river bank in a raucous and colorful spectacle which inspired a National Geographic cover story.

Discretely located fifty meters from the cliff, we will observe Green-winged, Scarlet and Blue-and-gold Macaws and several species of smaller parrots descend to ingest clay.

Outings are at dawn when the lick is most active.

After breakfast enjoy a five km trail that covers the prototypical rain forest with immense trees criss-crossed by creeks and ponds.

Amongst the figs, ceibas and shihuahuacos look for Squirrel, Brown Capuchin, and Spider Monkeys as well as peccaries.

At the beginning of the afternoon, replicating the daily work of macaw researchers, climb a 30m high tree with a rope, harness and belay.

From this vantage point we will have a macaws eye view of the forest.

This demanding exercise is perfectly safe and requires no previous experience.

After dinner you will have the option of hiking out at night, when most of the mammals are active.

Much easier to find are frogs with shapes and sounds as bizarre as their natural histories. (b,l,d)

Day 04 | Amazon | **sea-kayaking in the river**

This morning experience kayaking through the jungle.

This activity does not require any previous experience.

After a few practice strokes with our kayaking guide, you will be ready to navigate the Tambopata at a natural pace for a few hours.

Wildlife sightings increase in quality – the silent kayaks do not intimidate.

Afterwards we transfer you back to Refugios Amazonas Lodge where we will bring you to a farm owned and managed by charismatic Don Manuel from the neighbouring community of Condenado.

He grows a variety of popular and unknown Amazon crops - just about every plant and tree you see serves a purpose.

Later, a Ethnobotanical trail tour will show you a variety of plants and trees that are used by the local population with at least the same variety of purposes.

And then you will learn more about the medicinal (and other) uses of Ajo-Sacha, Yuca de Venado, Uña de Gato, Charcot-Sacha, Para-Para, among several others.

After dinner, nightly lectures will be prepared by the staff of Refugio Amazonas and will cover conservation threats, opportunities and projects in the Tambopata National Reserve. (b,l,d)

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Canoeing down the Tambopata River.



Looking down on the Tambopata Research Centre from the canopy.

You can book your trip to the Tambopata Research Centre with Pura Aventura by calling 01273 676 712.

Alternatively, ask one of our experts to tailor a more complete holiday to South America for you.

You can combine this experience with the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca, Colca Canyon, Arequipa, the Galapagos Islands, Iguassu Falls & Rio de Janeiro.

Day 05 | Amazon | Oxbow lake

This morning set off early to walk to an oxbow lake. When you get there you paddle on a canoe or a catamaran around the lake hoping to see some of the resident giant river otters. These rare creatures grow to about two metres long.

You will hopefully also see caiman, hoatzin and horned screamers.

If you are feeling less adventurous then there is a lake much closer to the lodge, a 30-minute walk, where you can see great wildlife though not the giant otters.

Before lunch enjoy the forest from a different perspective, and get on a mountain bike.

Our ride begins 10 minutes from the lodge, and then loops 10 kilometers through mature forest and numerous creekbeds.

The muddier it is, the more fun you will have!

At the beginning of the afternoon a 2km trail will bring you along the Tambopata River.

You will be able to clearly distinguish a Terra Firme Forest from a Secondary Forest after this walk, as the trail crosses both habitats.

Resting on the benches we can witness the Tambopata on its unhurried journey across the lowland rainforest.

Go back to your lodge for your last night in the rainforest. (b,l,d)

Day 06 | Travel | fly back to UK

After breakfast, we retrace our river and road journey back to Puerto Maldonado and then the airport.

Depending on airline schedules, this may require dawn departures. Again, we quote flights separately on this holiday. (b)

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Holiday Information

Pura Handpicked

This experience is about providing an overview of life in the Amazon rainforest.

Stay three nights within the Tambopata National Reserve to explore a variety of habitats around the Tambopata Research Center.

Different habitats means different kinds of flora and fauna.

Not to forget the largest known macaw claylick lies less than a kilometre from the lodge.

This 6 days holiday trip in Peru Amazon has been chosen for the quality of wildlife, the guides and the location.

The lodges chosen by the Pura team are comfortable without being 'fancy'.

Your holiday is carefully paced to allow you time both to stretch yourselves and just to relax and enjoy time in this absolutely fascinating place.

How active?

The focus of this experience is on an active exploration of the Amazon.

You can also do basically the same trip but without the adventure activities so do contact us for details if you like the sound of the surroundings but not necessarily the activities.

None of the activities requires previous experience. You should know how to ride a bike of course.

In general you will find that activities happen early and late in the day with long period around lunchtime dedicated to relaxation in hammocks, reading, playing chess or backgammon.

How comfortable?

Refugio Amazonas is a charming 32 bedroom lodge, well placed immediately adjacent to the Tambopata National Reserve. It is located in the buffer zone of the Tambopata National Reserve.

Rooms are set along four walkways so rows of 8 rooms sit together. Walls are made of sticks effectively so air can pass through. The wall facing the jungle isn't there – just a balustrade. The interior walls do not meet the high roof – again to allow air to flow along the length of the building.

In short it is very much a work of traditional architecture which is very well suited to this environment.

There isn't much in the way of noise privacy.

Beds are very comfortable.

At night staff tuck in mosquito nets to make sure you have a good nights' sleep.

The complex only has power at certain times of day, at night everything is lit by paraffin lamps which are extinguished at bedtime. Not really sure when that is but it's usually pitch black by about 6pm so lights out is probably at about 9pm.

Rooms do have en suite bathrooms with flush loos and showers. Water tends to be tepid/warm which is what you want in the hot jungle.

The central building at the Refugio is a really quite impressive two storey thatched, open sided platform. There is a bar in the middle and the restaurant.

The Tambopata Research Center is very similar to the Refugio in the style of room and concept though it is a little more basic, as you would expect being so remote.

Rooms do not have en suite bathrooms but instead there is a walkway at the end of the lodge complex with six bathrooms. The style of these bathrooms is pretty much identical to those in the Refugio Amazonas.

The bathrooms are kept very clean so in fact many people prefer to have the loos not en suite.

There are macaws in the trees surrounding the lodge. In fact there are usually macaws in the eaves of the building.

In fact you may find one on your shoulder at breakfast!

How independent?

The guides you will meet are biologists, tourism professionals, or community members.

Unless noted otherwise, our guides speak English.

We assign guides at 6:1 ratio in Tambopata Research Center.

This means groups smaller than 6 people will be merged with other groups under one guide.

When should I go?

The lowland rainforests of Tambopata lie far enough south of the Equator to provide a cooler, drier winter season between May and October.

The general weather conditions, are warm and humid. In Tambopata the average daytime high temperature is between 24° and 31°C and the average nighttime low is between 20° and 24°C.

Nevertheless between May and September, cold fronts from Argentina can sweep into southwestern Amazonia and push daytime highs down to 9°C and the nighttime lows to 5°C.

Thus, during that season always be potentially prepared for cold and drizzle.

During the rainy months of November through April, always be prepared for heavy rain that can continue for hours or days. Around 80% of the annual average 3,000 mm rainfall occurs during this season.

Prices and departures

Prices	Please contact us on 01273 676 712 or info@pura-aventura.com for latest prices.
Price includes	All activities, accommodation, meals, transfers and guiding.
Not included	Flights, tips, personal expenses.

Prices are per person based on two sharing.

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