



WALKS WORLDWIDE

The Walking Holiday Specialists

ADVENTURE DOSSIER FOR:

AMAZON RAINFOREST EXPERIENCE INCLUDING TAMBOPATA MACAW LICK

5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS

(PTO MALDONADO – REFUGIO AMAZONAS- TAMBOPATA RESEARCH CENTRE
MACAW LICK – REFUGIO AMAZONAS – PTO MALDONADO)

The Tambopata National Reserve and the adjacent Bahuaje-Sonene National Park, is home to over 20,000 plant species, over 900 species of birds (more than all the species in the continental USA), 91 mammals, 1230 butterflies, 127 amphibians and reptiles, and much more. It is also a haven for the Amazon's largest, most spectacular and most endangered predators - the Jaguar, the Giant Otter, the Harpy Eagle and the Black Caiman. A visit to our well appointed jungle lodges in the excellent lowland rain forest of the Tambopata National Reserve is one of the best ways to see some of the world's best rain forest wildlife that is available in a short, economical stay. Six species of monkeys inhabit the surrounding forest, a family of Giant Otters are regularly seen fishing in a nearby ox-bow lake, a large flooded palm grove harbours hundreds of Red-Bellied macaws, and at nightfall Black Caimans, the rarest of the crocodylians, head out into the lake to fish. This trip combines two great lodges – Refugio Amazonas and Tambopata Reserach Centre – The only lodge located beside the World's largest Macaw lick where most mornings one can expect to see literally thousands of macaws, parrots, parakeets and other birds (and occasionally mammals) gorging on the salts in the nearby cliff face - a truly unbelievable sight. By travelling so deep into the Tambopata National park, the wildlife viewing potential is increased and capybaras, tapirs, anteaters, peccary and ever jaguars have been seen en route to and on the fantastic trail system that surrounds this truly unique lodge.

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1: TO JUNGLE LODGE

Upon arrival from Cusco, we will welcome you at the airport and drive you ten minutes to our Puerto Maldonado headquarters. While enjoying your first taste of the forest in our gardens we will ask you to pack only the necessary gear for your next few days, and leave the rest at our safe deposit. This helps us keep the boats and cargo light. Our guides are biologists, tourism professionals, or community members. Unless noted otherwise, our guides speak English. We assign guides at 6:1 ratio in Tambopata Research Centre. This means groups smaller than 6 people will be merged with other groups under one guide. The two and a half hour boat ride from the Tambopata Port to Refugio Amazonas will take us past the Community of Infierno and the Tambopata National Reserve's checkpoint and into the buffer zone of this 1.3 million hectare conservation unit. On route we will enjoy a box lunch.

Upon arrival, the lodge manager will welcome you and brief you with important navigation and

security tips. Tonight we can enjoy an optional Caiman searches. We will be out at the river's edge at night, scanning the shores with headlamps and flashlights to catch the red gleams of reflection from caiman eyes. Overnight in Refugio Amazonas. (,BL,D)

DAY 2: Very early in the morning we set off for a thirty minute walk from Refugio Amazonas leads to the 25 meter scaffolding canopy tower. A bannistered staircase running through the middle provides safe access to the platforms above. The tower has been built upon high ground, therefore increasing your horizon of the continuous primary forest extending out towards the Tambopata National Reserve. From here views of mixed species canopy flocks as well as toucans, macaws and raptors are likely. On return to the lodge we will have breakfast. Afterwards, a few minutes hike from the lodge is a 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. We then return to the river for the four and half hours by boat journey into the pristine heart of the reserve, and so to our base at 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. En route we will enjoy a Boxed Lunch. Upon arrival, the lodge manager will welcome you and brief you with important navigation and security tips. In the afternoon, a three to five kilometre hike will lead us to overlooks commanding magnificent views of the Tambopata winding its way into the lowlands. The forest on this trail, regenerating on old bamboo forest, is good for Howler Monkeys and Dusky Titi Monkeys. After dinner, scientists will provide 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. Overnight in Tambopata Research Center (B,L,D)

DAY3: Macaw Clay Lick: 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 colourful 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. We return to the lodge for Breakfast

In the morning we can enjoy the Floodplain Trail: This five kilometre trail covers the prototypical rain forest with immense trees criss-crossed by creeks and ponds. Amongst the figs, ceibas and shihuahuacos we will look for Squirrel, Brown Capuchin, and Spider Monkeys as well as peccaries. TRC is located within this habitat. We return for lunch and in the afternoon we can head to the Pond Platform - Ten minutes upriver from the lodge is a tiny pond with a platform in the middle. It is a great place to spot waterfowl such as Muscovy duck, sunbittern and hoatzin along with the woodpeckers, oropendolas, flycatchers and parakeets that call this pond their home. After dinner we can enjoy a night walk. You will have the option of hiking out at night, when most of the mammals are active but rarely seen. Much easier to find are frogs with shapes and sounds as bizarre as their natural histories.

Overnight in Tambopata Research Center. (B/L/D)

DAY4: After Breakfast we transfer down river from the Tambopata Research Center to Refugio Amazonas. This take roughly three and a half hour boat ride and en route we will enjoy aBoxed Lunch. In afternoon a forty minute hike takes you Condorado Lake. You paddle canoes around the lake looking for lakeside wildlife such as hoatzin and caiman, hoping to see the otters which are infrequently seen here. You will also be rewarded with overhead sightings of macaws. after dinner there are nightly lectures prepared by the staff of Refugio Amazonas cover ing conservation threats, opportunities and projects in the Tambopata National Reserve. Overnight in Refugio Amazonas (B/L/D)

DAY5: After breakfast we retrace our river and road journey back to Puerto Maldonado, our office and the airport in time to check in for our onward flight. Depending on airline schedules, this may require dawn departures. (B)

Boat Transportation. All our boats are 20 foot long, roofed canoes with 55 hp outboard motors. Daily arrivals and departures from every port are scheduled to meet every airline's arrival and departure with a maximum two hour wait.

DEPARTURES:

Daily as extension to your main trek- Subject to availability

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Rainfall in the Tambopata National Reserve is around 2500 – 3500 millimetres per year, with most rainfall occurring in the rainy season months from November to April. The average temperature in the National Reserve is 28° C (82° F), with daily highs of 34° C (94° F) and nightly lows of 22° C (72° F). During the dry season cold fronts from the South Atlantic (frijas) occur every month or so, with daily temperatures dropping as low as 16° C (59° F) and nightly temperatures to 13° C (55° F).

SUGGESTED KIT LIST:

The jungle is hot, sweaty and full of insects, to keep the strong sun and the biting bugs at bay we recommend you stay covered up at all times.

- Long sleeved light-weight shirts and trousers for day hikes
- Clean set of long sleeved, light weight shirt & trousers for evenings
- Boots for walking in the day (Wellingtons in rainy season Nov-April)
- Change of shoes or sandals and socks for evenings
- Rain coat
- Fleece jacket
- Peaked hat
- Sunglasses / lenses with retaining string
- Binoculars
- Camera & spare film
- Water bottle
- Head torch
- Suntan lotion & After sun-
- Insect repellent & After-bite
- Sun-hat with retaining string for boat rides
- Personal toiletries and medication

PLEASE NOTE:

Guests should arrive in clothes that they do not mind getting slightly dirty or wet, and should wear footwear that is suitable to walk on a rain forest trail. Sun cream, insect repellent, hat and waterproof clothing should be carried in hand luggage and kept accessible for the journey to the lodge.

It is not necessary to bring all of your luggage with you to the jungle lodge. You will enjoy your trip more if only the essentials are brought. **WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND YOU PREPARE YOUR DAY PACK A DAY BEFORE YOUR TRIP. YOUR MAIN BAGGAGE CAN BE LEFT IN OUR STORE ROOM AT OUR OFFICE IN PUERTO MALDONADO.**

Important: Though we have never heard of anyone contracting yellow fever anywhere in Peru or neighbouring countries it is still highly recommended. This vaccination, which is valid for 10 years, must be administered **AT LEAST 10 days** before the guest's arrival in Peru, Vaccination cards are no longer required on arrival at the airport in Puerto Maldonado.

INCLUDED: All transfers to and from Pto. Maldonado airport to Jungle lodge by bus, boat and canoe. Three nights full-board at Jungle lodges and full guided service throughout. All meals as indicated (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner), Please state any special dietary requirements on booking.

NOT INCLUDED: Return flights (please contact us for a flight quotation), bar bill, personal expenses, tips. Excess baggage charges and additional nights at the lodge in case of flight cancellations

AND LASTLY PLEASE NOTE

Our Jungle Lodge is in a remote and rarely visited part of Peru and we believe our clients should be aware that the remoteness that makes this trip so very special could also cause certain problems. Thus, whilst our agent endeavors to minimise the chances of anything unexpected happening, it has to be noted that no itinerary can or should be rigidly adhered to. This is the very nature of adventure travel and we expect our clients to be prepared for delays and slight alterations in our programmed events.

You should also be aware that adventure travel, jungle boats and general travelling in remote areas such as Southern Peru, does carry with it certain inherent risks that you, the client, will have to assume. You will have to take out adequate **travel insurance** to cover these risks and any costs incurred as a result of internal flight cancellations.

The majority of dietary and medical requirements can be catered for, but we must be notified of these at the time of booking. Obtaining the correct vaccinations and visas required for Peru is the responsibility of the clients'.

In case of flight cancellation:

1. If the flight Cusco to Puerto Maldonado is cancelled owing to bad weather or maintenance of the aircraft, then you will forfeit the first night in the lodge. No refund can be given and you will be responsible for the costs of the additional night in Lima or Cusco.
2. If the plane is cancelled Puerto Maldonado to Lima you will need to pay for any additional costs incurred during this extra night and boat transportation.

Price £595 per person, based on a min of 2 people on twin share basis, excluding internal flights

Internal Flights: Guide price approx £175 per person (please contact us for a quotation)

