



TRIP ITINERARY

DISCOVERING EL DORADO AND ITS PROTECTORS

(9 days/8 nights)
Public Transportation (Boats)

The Amazon rainforest occupies 60% of the entire territory of Peru. The Amazon River begins its course towards the Atlantic Ocean a bit south of the city of Iquitos. Guided by a group of local fisherman, we will explore one of the most extensive and bio-diverse protected areas in Latin America, the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve. On this journey, we will begin to understand the fragile equilibrium that marks the lives of a fishing community that dwells immersed in the magic of this unique natural environment.

Day 1: Lima Iquitos

We will board a domestic flight in Lima to the jungle city of Iquitos, the largest city in the world that is only reachable by boat or air. Iquitos is located in the heart of the Amazon jungle, where the Amazon River begins its journey towards the Atlantic Ocean.

Reception at the airport, transfer to hotel.

Guided tour of Iquitos, which was an administrative and economic capital during the rubber boom. Orientation and preparation for tomorrow's journey.

Dinner in local restaurant (not included)

Overnight: Hotel

* Depending on the timing of your arrival flight from Lima, it is possible to eliminate this night in Iquitos and proceed directly to the Reserve, **if you are able to arrive on the first flight of the morning**; This will shorten the program by one day and one night.

Day 2: Iquitos - Requena: Public Launch

In the afternoon, we will leave from the Puerto Productores, ("Producers' Port) where our journey on the Amazon begins. We will navigate the Ucayali River, arriving the following day to the city of Requena. This portion of the journey takes place on a public launch, which is equipped with cabins that contain two to four beds each.

Meals: Breakfast in hotel, Box dinner on boat

Overnight: On Boat



Day 3: Requena – Manco Capac

Upon arrival in Requena in the morning, we will take a brief break and then board a private boat (approximately 5 hours with 40 hp motor) to the community of Manco Capac, the port of entry to “El Dorado,” where we will be welcomed by the associates of the local fisherman’s cooperative, Yacu Tayta, which means “Guardians of the Waters.” This is where we will spend the night in a community shelter. After dinner, we will meet with members of the Yacu Tayta, who will be our guides in the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve. From here on in, all daily meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) are included in the package.

Meals: B, L, D

Overnight: Refuge (communal lodging)

Day 4: Manco Capac – Cocha El Dorado

After breakfast, we will take a walk to the dock of Achong, an historical road cleared by the rubber extractors, from where we can observe the biodiversity in this incredibly beautiful corner of the Amazon, including birds and monkeys. We will also see a variety of plants and trees.

After two hours, we will arrive at the Community Vigilance Point of Achong. We have now entered the second largest protected area in Peru, which, thanks to the efforts of the local populace, is now a region rich in bio-diversity that boasts abundant flora and fauna.

At lunchtime, we will arrive at El Dorado Lake, which we will explore further by boat, observing the local animal and birds thriving in an area of amazing natural beauty.

We will get settled into the refuge and, in the afternoon, visit the Community Vigilance Point of Cantagallo, where we will meet with the associates of Yacu Tayta and learn about the activities the group engages in to promote the protection and conservation of the area’s resources. We will learn about the history of the group, and gain some understanding of why and how a group of local fisherman started this project to protect the Amazon jungle fifteen years ago

Meals: B, L, D

Overnight: Refuge



Day 5: El Dorado, Getting to Know the Lake and its Guardians

In the early hours of the morning, we can participate in subsistence fishing activities with the Yacu Tayta group

Afterwards, we embark on an excursion to discover “El Dorado” and its channels: it’s a lake that covers an area of over 300 hectares, and is populated by pink and grey dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis* and *Sotalia fluviatilis*), alligators, turtles, fish, an incredible variety of birds, and other protected species. We’ll explore the lake by speedboat or canoe.

Meals: B,L,D

Overnight: Refuge

Day 6: The Paiche (Arapaima Gigas), The Arahwana (Dragon Fish) and The Taricaya Turtle (Podocnemis Unifilis)

This day is dedicated to learning about and participating in the activities for protection and sustainable use of this area (program will vary depending on the season). In the afternoon, we will take a walk in the jungle, where we will learn about the local flora, including some medicinal plant species.

At night, we will have a nocturnal boat ride in your choice of a canoe or speedboat, to learn about the nightlife of the animals in the area.

Meals: B,L,D

Overnight: Refuge

Day 7: El Dorado – Manco Capac.

First thing in the morning, we will explore “Las Chontillas”, two small, mysterious islands that float in the middle of the lake. There are many intriguing legends about the islands, which are related among the local fishermen.

After lunch, we will take our leave of this incredible place, and return to Manco Cápac. On the way, we will pass Cocha Mauca, a unique eco-system in this region. This is a stop well worth making, due to the gorgeous view and the presence of a variety of animal species. We will return to the community of Manco Cápac and spend the night in the community.

Meals: B, L, D

Overnight: Manco Cápac community shelter



Day 8 Manco Capac- Requena – Iquitos

After breakfast, we will return by private boat (4-6 hours) to the city of Requena, where we will meet up with the public boat that will take us back to Iquitos. We will spend the night in rented cabins on the boat.

Meals are not included.

Meals: B

Overnight: Public Launch

* Travel times outside of the Reserve may vary from those indicated in the program, due to changing river levels.

Day 9 Iquitos

We arrive in Iquitos very early in the morning. We will be transferred to the hotel for day use. We will transfer to the airport when it is time to catch the flight back to Lima.

Overnight: None

Note:

This program is designed for groups of up to 8 people. Flexibility and travel experience are required, due to the transportation on public launch, and the length of the boat trips between Requena and Manco Capac.

**PRICES ARE ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS.
FOR INFORMATION AND PRICING PLEASE CONTACT US BY MAIL**

Price includes:

- Transportation by boat (departure and return) from Iquitos to Requena on public launch (shared cabins) and private transport by boat from Requena to Manco Capac
- Transportation to the interior of the Pacaya Samiria Reserve (motor boat, “peke peke” or a canoe depending on season and accessibility) as indicated in the program



- 5 nights in community shelter and refuge (2 nights in Manco Capac, 3 nights in El Dorado)
- 3 meals per day while in the Reserve (in Manco Capac and El Dorado)
- Staff during the entire trip (driver, navigator, local guides from Iquitos, administrators, cooks, and equipment porters)
- Entry permits for the Reserve
- Assistance to and from Iquitos
- Bilingual/ cultural mediator

Not included:

- Travel insurance
- Flight Lima-Iquitos-Lima
- Transport to and from hotel to harbor- terminal in the city of Iquitos
- Hotel in Iquitos
- Airport taxes
- Transfers not specified in program
- Laundry service
- Sodas and alcoholic beverages
- Tips for guides and drivers
- Everything that is not specified in the program

Useful Information for Travelers

Responsibility:

**We are not responsible for lateness, losses or other inconveniences caused by external events (such as strikes, natural events, civil disturbances)
Hours and programs may be changed depending on climatic and seasonal conditions.
Activities indicated in the program vary by season.**

Form of Payment

In Euros or USD, 50% of total upon confirmation of the reservation, non-reimbursable in case of cancellation. Balance must be paid before trip begins.



Suggested Equipment List

Comfortable clothing

Hiking shoes and rubber boots (which can be purchased in a market in Iquitos), sandals

High socks, long, comfortable pants (thick-weave)

Short and long-sleeved t-shirts or blouses

Swimsuit

Headscarf or kerchief

Towel for your stay in Manco Capac

We recommend you bring a backpack instead of a suitcase

Medications

Basic first aid kit (personal medications, pain-relief medicine, band aids, etc)

Sunscreen

Insect repellent (The pharmacies in Iquitos carry good insect repellants, however, the best protection against mosquitoes is proper clothing (see above) We recommend you also bring products to alleviate pain and itching from bites and stings; in Peru, we use Camphorated Alcohol (ask for *alcohol alcanforado* in the pharmacies

Anti-mite lotion, also available in Iquitos' pharmacies

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