

Peru – Amazon River Cruise



Trip Summary

Explore the wildlife-rich rainforest and hidden waterways of the Peruvian Amazon in the most intimate, impressive way possible: by upscale private riverboat. Choose the time of year for your excursion between the Amazon River's two seasons: the high water season (November through May) and the low water season (June through October). Traveling to Peru in either season offers rich rewards, fabulous sites, amazing opportunities to view plant and animal life, and hot weather with some rainy days here and there. Cruise along one of the most famous rivers in the world while staring up at a black, star-studded sky. Relax in your luxurious, oversized suite with views of the Amazon right before your eyes. Come explore all that Peru has to offer!

High Water Itinerary (November through May)

Day 1: Iquitos / Nauta / Embarkation / Amazon River

After arriving at Iquitos International Airport, you will be met and shuttled through the Peruvian countryside to the small village of Nauta (1.5 hours) • In the afternoon, we will set off on our first skiff excursion to visit the birthplace of the Amazon • Board the *Aria Amazon*, your upscale river cruise boat and home for the next four nights • Take a tour of your vessel as your experienced crew help you settle into your cabin • Set sail as dusk falls, enjoying a local Pisco Sour, made from a Peruvian grape brandy • Before dinner, everyone on board will perform a routine safety drill, and then enjoy a brief orientation, learning about the wildlife you will see in the days to come, as well as the history and geography of the Amazon basin • Dinner is a feast of traditional Amazonian/ Peruvian cuisine, created by Executive Chef Pedro Miguel Schiaffino • Before bed, kick back on the observation deck under a star-lit Amazonian sky • *Overnight Aria Amazon (D)*

Day 2: Yanallpa River / Dorado River

This morning we will board the skiffs to cruise the Yanallpa River, an amazing black water stream part of the vast Amazon flooded forest • As we explore what scientists call a "gallery forest" because of its narrow vegetation creating a tunnel of leaves, keep your eyes open for parrots, macaws, and fluffy monk saki monkeys • Disembark to walk deep into the Amazonian rain forest on the lookout for dozens of enchanting parrots, blue-yellow macaws, and a great variety of primates and sloths • Later, we board the skiffs again to cruise along the El Dorado River for a dusk excursion in search of exotic nocturnal wildlife and with extraordinary stargazing • *Overnight Aria Amazon (B, L, D)*

Day 3: Pacaya River / Ucayali River / Tapiche River

The rewards of our early start today are plentiful, including a breakfast picnic accompanied by jungle symphony and fishing along the black waters of the Pacaya River • After lunch, we venture out by skiffs on the Ucayali River alongside the banana boats transporting their jungle products to the port of Requena, keeping an eye out for pink river dolphins • Focus our hi-tech telescope on the night sky to identify the planets and constellations • *Overnight Aria Amazon (B, L, D)*



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Day 4: Clavero or Yarapa River / Amazon River

Choose to go jungle walking, canoeing, kayaking or swimming on the black water Yarapa or Clavero River in the morning • Visit a remote Amazonia village in the afternoon • This evening before dinner, we will gather to introduce you to some of the crewmembers whom you may not have met, working "behind the scenes" to ensure your countless exceptional experiences aboard the *Aria Amazon* • *Overnight Aria Amazon (B, L, D)*

Day 5: Iquitos / Manatee Rescue Center / Airport

At the Bellavista Nanay morning market along the Nanay River, sample exotic snacks from the Peruvian Amazon like 'Suri', Amazon caterpillars that are considered especially appetizing • Return to the your vessel for breakfast and to pack up • Before saying goodbye, we will make one last truly memorable stop at the Manatee Rescue Center, a very special kind of animal orphanage for Amazonian manatees • We will also visit San Juan craft market on route to the airport • *No overnight (B, L)*

Low Water Itinerary (June through October)

Day 1: Iquitos / Nauta / Embarkation / Marañon River

We will meet at Iquitos International Airport then journey together by air-conditioned vehicle through the Peruvian countryside to arrive at our Nauta Lounge in time for lunch, or we will serve a box lunch en route depending on the flight arrival time • In the afternoon, we will set off on your first skiff excursion to visit the birthplace of the Amazon • At 6:00pm, we will board the *Aria Amazon* • Settle into your generously proportioned suite as you begin one of life's greatest adventures • Following a routine safety drill and introduction to our naturalist guides, we gather for innovative Amazonian cuisine created by our Executive Chef Pedro Miguel Schiaffino, whose restaurant, Malabar, is the one of Lima's top ranked dining experiences • *Overnight Aria Amazon (D)*

Day 2: Ucayali River / Pacaya River

Boarding our skiffs, we start the day like Amazon River dwellers, cruising along the Ucayali River • As the farmers and fishermen go about their business, we search for pink river dolphins in the pristine waters • Later in the day, we return to the skiffs, to ride along the black waters of the Pacaya River at dusk, searching for the mysterious wildlife that come out after dark and with extraordinary stargazing • *Overnight Aria Amazon (B, L, D)*

Day 3: Pacaya River / Ucayali River / Tapiche River

The rewards of our early start today are plentiful, including a breakfast picnic accompanied by jungle symphony and fishing along the black waters of the Pacaya River • After lunch, we venture out by skiffs on the Ucayali River alongside the banana boats transporting jungle products to the port of Requena, keeping an eye out for pink river dolphins • *Overnight Aria Amazon (B, L, D)*

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Day 4: Clavero Lake / San Jose de Sarapanga Forest

Choose to go jungle walking, canoeing, kayaking or swimming on the black water Yarapa or Clavero River in the morning • Come afternoon, take a short jungle walk in the San Jose de Sarapanga forest and see the unforgettable giant water lilies • This evening before dinner, we will gather to introduce you to some of the crewmembers whom you may not have met, working "behind the scenes" to ensure your countless exceptional experiences aboard the *Aria Amazon* • *Overnight Aria Amazon (B, L, D)*

Day 5: Nauta / Manatee Rescue Center / Airport

This morning, we will visit the local fresh market with your guides who can identify the day's catch by the fishermen of Amazonia and the region's exotic fruits • Return to the Aria for breakfast and to pack up • Before saying goodbye, we visit the Manatee Rescue Center, a kind of animal orphanage for Amazonian manatees to rescue, rehabilitate and release them back into the wild • We will also visit San Juan craft market on route to the airport • Lunch or box lunch is included, depending on the exact departure flight time, which can vary • Other local activities may be included as well, according to our recommended flight schedule • *No overnight (B, L)*

** This trip is run in partnership with Aqua Expeditions.*

***Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures and Aqua Expeditions.*



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Activities

Hiking – 1 to 3 mile jungle hikes (easy).

Boating – Guided skiff cruises through the jungle, looking for wildlife.

Fishing – Equipment and instruction provided.

Discovery – Crowned by the towering Andes and tucked between the Amazon and the Pacific, Peru offers a captivating mix of adventure, nature and history. Sail deep into the Amazon on a river cruise learning about the exotic flora and fauna along the way. Explore a section of this 4,000 mile long river, making sure to stop and drop a line in for a few of the 3,000 species of fish that call the Amazon home. Search for toucans, parrots, and blue-yellow macaws – just a few of the 20% of the world's birds that call the Amazon rainforest home. Delight in the taste of Peru's national drink, Pisco Sour, made up of Peruvian Pisco, lime juice, syrup, ice, egg white, and bitters. Search in the trees for the easy-to-spot Howler Monkey, the loudest animal in the world, whose howl can be heard for three miles through dense forest. Did you know that Iquitos, Peru, encircled by rivers and rainforests, is the largest city with no roads connecting to the outside world? Discover the rich eco diversity of the largest reserve in Peru. Learn all about the rare manatee, a mammal that can grow up to 13 feet in length and weigh 3,500 lb and its plight with humans, boats, and habitat degradation. Come explore the Amazon of Peru with the experts in adventure travel!

Our Partner – Aqua Expeditions

Austin Adventures is proudly offering this trip in conjunction with Aqua Expeditions. Aqua Expeditions is a Peru luxury tour operator and the first adventure travel company to introduce five-star luxury cruises on the Amazon River in Peru. The launch of Aqua Expeditions in 2007 fulfills the dream of founder and CEO Francesco Galli Zugaro. Galli Zugaro, who previously worked with a boutique cruise tour operator in the Galapagos Islands, has long dreamed of taking guests to one of the world's most beautiful and remote regions – the Amazon River in Peru. This tour operator operates its first custom built luxury cruise ship, the *Aria Amazon* year round, sailing on 7, 4 and 3 night itineraries - from and to - Iquitos, Peru and taking travelers on a luxurious journey to the sources of the Amazon, the remote Pacaya Samiria Reserve, and beyond with outstanding wildlife viewing and shore excursions into the Amazon rainforest and jungle.

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Distinctive Accommodations

Nights 1 – 4: *Aria Amazon*

The 147-foot-long, *Aria Amazon* is the first true luxury cruise ship on the northern Amazon River in Peru and was custom built for Aqua Expeditions by Peruvian architect Jordi Puig in 2011 to offer an extraordinary level of comfort for their guests.

The *Aria Amazon* can accommodate a maximum of 32 cruise ship guests plus crew. This luxury cruise ship is the perfect size to sail along the Amazon River, providing extremely comfortable lounge, dining and sleeping accommodations and modern navigation technologies and standards for cruise ship travel and safety on the water.

The *Aria Amazon's* sixteen oversized cruise ship suites feature en suite sitting areas and generous outward-facing picture-windows with panoramic Amazon River views. Each of the handsomely decorated, air-conditioned cruise ship suites measure 250 square feet. Four of these suites can be interconnected, to cater to families.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions as indicated by itinerary are included. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).

Choosing Which Season is Right for You

Two key points to remember, as you choose between visiting Peru and the Amazon River in the high water season (November – May) or during the low water season (June – October): there will be some rain whichever season you choose, and you will see spectacular wildlife and plant life, whether you go in the wetter or in the drier season. The Amazon basin is as rich and lush and green as it is because it gets an abundance of rain (12 feet a year on average). In a typical year, the Amazon River rainforest experiences 200 rainy days, which means that there will be days of heavy rain even in the low water season.

If seeing glorious high watered forest and getting close-up looks at lots of birds and mammals (and enjoying a slightly cooler temperature) sounds attractive, then the November to May season might be your best choice. (Remember: Despite being the “rainy” season, the Amazon only gets about 10% more rain than falls in the low water season).

If jungle hikes, seeing exotic migratory birds perch on trees as they pass through Amazonia, still having the chance to see monkeys and other mammals, and going on great fishing expeditions top your list, you might be happier choosing the warmer, low water season.



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Arrival and Departures

An Aqua Expeditions representative will meet you upon arrival at the Iquitos International Airport in the baggage claim area and transportation to Nauta will be provided (1.5 hour transfer by private vehicle). Nauta is where you board the *M/V Aqua*, for 4-night itineraries. On Day 5 transfer to Iquitos International Airport. Your guides will help you check in and will stay with you until you board your flight back to Lima.

Trip Price

Starting at \$5,400 per person

Trips Length

5 days/4 nights

2019 Dates

Departing weekly; call for availability

Host City

Iquitos, Peru
Airport code: IQT

Reservations & Availability

800.575.1540

*There are 3,000 species of tropical fish
that live in the Amazon Basin*

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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$750 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some International and Custom programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 1-800-575-1540

Phone: 1-406-655-4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: info@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

You may also book your AA adventure with your preferred travel professional. We accept Visa, MasterCard and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy, air-conditioned suite with panoramic windows and private bath.
- All meals while on board the *Aria Amazon*.
- Fully trained, bilingual, professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Any necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- All excursions.
- Transfer to/from vessel when arriving on recommended flights.
- Beverages (non-alcoholic, wine and beer).
- Austin Adventures T-shirt and luggage tags.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Pacaya Samiria entrance fee.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Guide & crew gratuities.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air tickets to and from Iquitos, Peru.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Boutique purchases and personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.



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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you.

Minimum Age

The minimum age to travel on board the Aria Amazon is 7 years old. Families are welcome.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 121 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less \$300 per person

Cancellation 91-120 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less \$750 per person is refunded

Cancellation 0-90 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.