

The Great Amazon River Expedition

Explore the World's Largest Rainforest on a Private Voyage to the Amazon Headwaters





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Trip Details:

Days 9 Days / Year-Round

Price From \$8995 (+Air)

The Great Amazon River Expedition

Explore the World's Largest Rainforest on a Private Voyage to the Amazon Headwaters

As the riverboat chugs its way up the chocolate-colored channel, fringed with dense rainforest, the primeval depths of the Upper Amazon beckon. Our focus is the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve at the mighty river's headwaters, a 5-million-acre mosaic of flooded and dry forest, islands and tea-colored creeks laden with tannins. Containing some of the greatest biodiversity on Earth, it shelters the largest wildlife populations in the Amazon Basin. Explore by excursion boat and on foot, looking for pink river dolphins, monkeys, sloths, macaws and butterflies. Lagoons covered in giant lily pads teem with fish and caiman, while scores of marsh birds hunt from shore. Visit local villages, and learn about conservation challenges as we follow hundreds of miles of Amazon tributaries aboard a deluxe ship built for exploring the river system's farthest reaches.

Trip Highlights

Journey all the way to the tributary headwaters to explore Peru's Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, a vast protected realm of exceptional biodiversity

Travel in air-conditioned comfort aboard our chartered riverboat—generous en suite cabins have panoramic windows for private nature viewing

With expert naturalist guides, scout for jungle wildlife like scarlet macaws, sloths and monk saki monkeys, and look for rare pink river dolphins



Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Lima, Peru

Day 2

Lima / Iquitos / Nauta—Embark Ship / Marañon River Cruising

Day 3

Pahuachiro Creek / Fundo Casual Trail / Nauta Caño Creek

Day 4

Amazon Natural Park / Pacaya Samiria National Reserve

Day 5

Ucayali & Marañon Confluence / Yarapa River / San Jose de Paranapura

Day 6

Belluda Caño Creek / Dorado

Day 7

Pacaya River / Supay Cocha

The Great Amazon River Expedition Itinerary

Explore the World's Largest Rainforest on a Private Voyage to the Amazon Headwaters

Day 1: Lima, Peru

Arrive in Lima, where our local representative meets you at the airport to transfer you to our hotel. Our location near the airport provides convenient access for tomorrow morning's flight to Iquitos. Enjoy dinner on your own this evening.







Itinerary At A Glance

Day 8

Ucayali River / Marañon River— Amazonas Village Visit

Day 9

Nauta—Disembark / Iquitos / Lima / Depart

Day 2: Lima / Iquitos / Nauta—Embark Ship / Marañon River Cruising

From Peru's capital, we fly east across the spine of the Andes to land in Iquitos. Accessible only by air or water, this once-booming rubber town is now one of the largest cities in the Amazon Basin. Transfer to Nauta, a small riverside town on the banks of the Marañon River, one of the major tributaries of the Upper Amazon. Here, we board our deluxe riverboat, the *Delfin II*, chartered exclusively for Nat Hab guests. Cruising slowly upstream, bound for the Amazon headwaters, enjoy panoramic views from the open-air top deck and sip cocktails made with regional fruits and Pisco, Peru's famous national brandy, as our Expedition Leaders provide an overview of the journey ahead. These legendary waters, known as the "river sea," thrum with small boats heading to market, while the skies overhead are animated with birdlife. Once darkness falls, head back topside to look for stars overhead in the tropical night sky.

Day 3: Pahuachiro Creek / Fundo Casual Trail / Nauta Caño Creek

Early risers are rewarded with abundant bird and animal life on a morning skiff excursion along Pahuachiro Creek. We set out at sunrise, when wildlife is most active in the tropics. The blackwater creek, while clear, is the color of dark tea, an effect of the tannins deposited by rich vegetation along the banks. Along this small tributary, we frequently observe a variety of monkeys including squirrel, monk saki and brown capuchin, as well as a host of birds: large-billed terns, laughing falcons, blue-gray tanagers, snowy egrets, horned screamers, tiger herons, short-tailed parrots, parakeets and perhaps the flashy scarlet macaw. It's important to know at the outset, though, that the prolific wildlife of the Amazon is skilled at hiding: It takes an expert eye to locate animals sheltered by the dense vegetation. That's where our seasoned guides come in! After breakfast, explore the Fundo Casual trail, walking deep into the forest in search of sloths, birds and more. Look closely for brightly colored poison dart frogs, leafcutter ants and other intriguing small creatures along our path.

Cruising on to Nauta Caño Creek, we explore marshes, side streams and oxbow lakes along this small river while searching for many different birds and animals. We may even spy a three-toed sloth nestled in a cecropia tree. As the sun sinks below the canopy, an exciting adventure awaits: a chance to witness the transformation of the rainforest at nightfall. An orchestra of sounds evolves as nocturnal creatures awaken, with crickets and night birds providing a percussive rhythm. In the darkness, our guides use powerful spotlights to search for wildlife. Black caiman, frogs, common potoo, black-crowned night heron, pauraques, spectacled owls and nighthawks are commonly spotted along the banks, while fishing bats swoop down to scoop fish from the water.





Day 4: Amazon Natural Park / Pacaya Samiria National Reserve

This morning, stop at Amazon Natural Park for a rainforest stroll. Serenaded by the wildlife symphony coming from the dense vegetation, we scout for capybara, howler and titi monkeys, tapirs, sloths and a wide range of birds. The terra firma forest is filled with layers of fascinating flora, including walking palms and trees festooned with epiphytes. Later this afternoon, as we travel farther up the Marañon River, options for exploration await. With six double sit-on-top kayaks, plus open skiffs, choose your mode for investigating a virtually unvisited section of Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, where the Yanayacu and Pucate rivers meet. Established in 1982 to preserve the exceptional biodiversity of the northern Amazon wilderness, this 5-million-acre sanctuary is Peru's largest protected area. Giant kapok and strangler fig trees along the banks shelter a multitude of wildlife, and our Expedition Leaders explain the various micro-ecosystems found here in one of the most pristine parts of the reserve. After dark, head up to the top deck to listen to the symphony of night sounds in the forest.

Day 5: Ucayali & Marañon Confluence / Yarapa River / San Jose de Paranapura

Awaken in the confluence of the Ucayali and Marañon rivers where they join to form the main stem of the mighty Amazon River. We explore the confluence on an early-morning skiff ride. Back on board for breakfast, we cruise into the Ucayali River to reach the mouth of a remote tributary of the Upper Amazon, the Yarapa River. Once there, board skiffs or kayaks to watch for colorful birds such as the plum-throated cotinga, and look for pink and gray river dolphins that sometimes slice gracefully through the water alongside us. These freshwater cetaceans are highly social, friendly and intelligent. According to local lore, the dolphins turn into humans during celebrations to steal handsome men or pretty women from their villages.

Later, we disembark for a short skiff ride to San Jose de Paranapura, a riverside village where we meet Indigenous residents whose culture has been present here for centuries. At the arts and crafts market, we can purchase items that support the community and empower women artisans. Sales indirectly help preserve local fauna, since income generated decreases the pull of illegal hunting. We also visit with the prestigious local shaman, known throughout the region as a healer and spiritual guide for residents living throughout the area's remote reaches. Learn the uses for various medicinal plants sourced from the largest pharmacy in the world—the Amazon rainforest—then return to the *Delfin II* for dinner.





Day 6: Belluda Caño Creek / Dorado River

This morning we visit Belluda Caño Creek near Yanallpa, home to the Ribereño people, Indigenous dwellers in the rainforest for centuries. This small tributary is a prime location to look for pink river dolphins. Plying the water in open skiffs, we have a chance for close encounters with these rare creatures, if we're lucky. In the forest canopy above, look for saki monkeys foraging for their next meal in small family groups. Navigating small waterways off the Dorado River inside the Pacaya Samiria Reserve, we are immersed in the verdant recesses of the world's largest rainforest. As we glide slowly along, search for birds such as snail kites, festive parrots, olive-spotted hummingbirds, wood creepers and endangered scarlet macaws. Squirrel monkeys move in large, noisy troops overhead while iguanas laze in the sun. At every turn, our guides reveal the secrets of the rainforest, helping us spot creatures we would never see on our own, given the amazing camouflage of so many masterfully adapted species. After dark, scan the riverbanks from our skiffs for spectacled caiman, frogs, owls and capybara, the world's largest rodent. Keep an eye peeled, too, for owl monkeys—the world's only nocturnal monkey—resting in the forest canopy in preparation for their next forage.

Day 7: Pacaya River / Supay Cocha

This morning, we reach the Pacaya River at the heart of the Pacaya Samiria Reserve. This vast flooded landscape, known as the "mirrored forest," covers 10,000 square miles at the headwaters of the Amazon and is home to Peru's greatest concentration of wildlife. We set out to explore this emerald realm of trees, vines, streams, lagoons and islands. Overhead, look for macaws, black-collared hawks, prehistoric hoatzin birds and capuchins, and listen for red howler monkeys with their eerie call that reverberates through the canopy for miles. We begin to get a sense of the layered richness of the reserve's mixed habitats: its 85 lakes are home to 250 fish species, while it protects 132 species of mammals (most are very elusive), 150 reptile and amphibian species, and 450 different kinds of birds. The reserve also contains the largest variety of flora in Peru, including huge bromeliads and 22 orchid species. This afternoon, take another skiff or kayak excursion into Supay Cocha, a lagoon teeming with fish. Watch for troops of squirrel monkeys, sloths and plenty of birds, including black- and white-tailed trogons and paradise tanagers.





Day 8: Ucayali River / Marañon River—Amazonas Village Visit

On a morning skiff excursion along one of the tributaries of the Ucayali River, we hope to observe egrets, herons, hawks and long-legged neotropical cormorants fishing for breakfast, as wattled jacanas compete for food with spiders, and grasshoppers and butterflies hop and flutter along the edges of freshwater swamps and marshes. In the afternoon, we return to the Marañon River upstream from the confluence to visit Amazonas village. The residents are part of the Cocama ethnic group—the original inhabitants of this part of the world. During our visit, we learn about the natural dyes that the women of the village use to dye handicrafts made from rainforest materials such as palm fibers, roots, seeds and tree bark—items we can purchase from the local craft market at the end of our visit. We also meet other community members who share with us their roles in village life. Back aboard the ship, head up to the observation deck for a last night of stargazing under black Amazon skies.

Day 9: Nauta—Disembark / Iquitos / Lima / Depart

Disembark in Nauta this morning, then, en route to Iquitos, stop for a tour of Acuario del Amazonas—the Aquarium of the Amazon—a research center helping to preserve the biodiversity of the Peruvian Amazon through the study and conservation of more than 300 species of ornamental fish. Ideally located in an area where natural springs flow year-round, the center is dedicated to creating a long-term balanced ecosystem that enhances the environment and serves the local economy. Through ongoing education and hands-on training, local fishermen learn to establish and maintain sustainable ornamental fish aquaculture, while local citizens about conservation principles and practices. We then fly together to Lima. For your convenience, we have booked overnight hotel rooms at a comfortable airport hotel. Relax in your own private space until your overnight flight home, or take advantage of the opportunity for a full night's stay and depart the following morning.

Please Note: This itinerary is meant as a guideline and can change due to weather conditions, internal flight schedules and river water levels. On some occasions, these conditions may require us to deviate from our intended itinerary, in which case we will provide the best available alternative. And we'll make a great adventure of it!







Accommodation Details:

Delfin II

Zafiro

Wyndham Grand

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/south-america/amazon-river-cruise/accommodations

The Great Amazon River Expedition Accommodations

Explore the World's Largest Rainforest on a Private Voyage to the Amazon Headwaters



Dalfin II

Incorporating sustainably sourced rainforest materials in its construction, this deluxe ship offers a constantly changing panorama of the Amazon river system, with expert naturalist guides on board.



Zafiro

A 164-foot luxury river cruise ship that blends modern elegance with the design of traditional Amazon expedition vessels and features air-conditioned suites, gourmet regional cuisine and sustainable practices.



Wyndham Grand

New in 2025, this sophisticated five-star hotel is seamlessly integrated into Lima's international airport, just a short walk from the terminal via a covered walkway.





What Makes Our Amazon Expedition a Cut Above the Rest?

Exploring the Amazon rainforest is an entrancing adventure for any nature lover. This vibrant ecosystem is also one of Earth's most threatened. That's why WWF, our conservation travel partner, is focusing some of its most important work on protecting this globally important environment. Here are some key reasons to choose Nat Hab as your exploration partner in the Amazon:

The Finest Vessel on the River

You won't find a riverboat of higher quality. The *Delfin II* is custom-designed for navigating the Amazon and its tributaries. Built in a classic style distinctive to this region and beautifully finished with contemporary comforts, this small ship features generous cabins with panoramic windows for surveying the passing rainforest and wildlife.

- A Maximum of 28 Guests for a More Intimate Experience
 While some Amazon ships carry 100 passengers or more, the *Delfin II* offers a much more personalized experience. We charter the ship exclusively for our travelers. Its compact size means we can tie up at the bank to easily embark small skiffs for excursions to observe wildlife at close range. We also meet with local *ribereño* people in riverside villages along our route in an authentic and non-commercialized context.
- Cruise all the Way to the Amazon Headwaters

 Amazon itineraries vary—compare carefully. Our main focus is the largest protected realm in Peru (and second largest in the entire Amazon Basin), the WWF-supported Pacaya Samiria National Reserve. This 5-million-acre wetland at the headwaters of the mighty river is replete with wildlife—you won't find a richer experience of rainforest biodiversity.
- The Best Guide-to-Guest Ratio You'll Find

 While the ship operates with three local naturalist guides on every voyage, we also travel with two Nat Hab Expedition Leaders, whose expertise and depth of knowledge in the Amazon greatly enhance your interpretive experience. Our Amazon guides average at least 10 years' experience in the region, and that means they'll be able to help you spot elusive wild creatures that are otherwise virtually invisible in the rainforest's shadowy depths. Your Expedition Leaders also provide an added level of service and personalized attention. Read our Expedition Leader bios and traveler comments regarding the quality of our renowned leaders.





- Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Superior Amazon Cruise

 Natural Habitat Adventures offers an exclusive guarantee, which clearly states that we will meet the lofty expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company.
- Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey
 We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home.
 Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since
- Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner

 Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our adventures, World Wildlife Fund—the world's leading environmental conservation organization—has named Natural Habitat Adventures as its worldwide travel partner, a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices: From \$8995 (+Air)

Group Size: Limited to 28 Travelers

The Great Amazon River Expedition Dates, Pricing & Info

Explore the World's Largest Rainforest on a Private Voyage to the Amazon Headwaters

2025 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Oct 11, 2025	Oct 19, 2025	\$8995 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Nov 22, 2025	Nov 30, 2025	\$8995 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Nov 29, 2025	Dec 7, 2025	\$8995 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II, Special Climate Change Trip
Dec 27, 2025	Jan 4, 2026	\$8995 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II, Habitat Club Pricing Available

2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jan 3, 2026	Jan 11, 2026	\$9495 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Jan 31, 2026	Feb 8, 2026	\$9495 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Feb 7, 2026	Feb 15, 2026	\$9495 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II, Habitat Club Pricing Available
Feb 14, 2026	Feb 22, 2026	\$9495 USD (+internal air)





Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices: From \$8995 (+Air)

Group Size: Limited to 28 Travelers

Departure	Return	Notes
		Aboard Delfin II, Habitat Club Pricing Available
Mar 7, 2026	Mar 15, 2026	\$9495 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Apr 4, 2026	Apr 12, 2026	\$9495 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
May 2, 2026	May 10, 2026	\$9495 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Jun 6, 2026	Jun 14, 2026	\$9495 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Jul 4, 2026	Jul 12, 2026	\$9495 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Jul 11, 2026	Jul 19, 2026	\$9495 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Oct 24, 2026	Nov 1, 2026	\$9495 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Oct 31, 2026	Nov 8, 2026	\$9495 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Nov 21, 2026	Nov 29, 2026	\$9495 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Nov 28, 2026	Dec 6, 2026	\$9495 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Dec 26, 2026	Jan 3, 2027	\$9495 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
2027 Den:	artures	

2027 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jan 2, 2027	Jan 10, 2027	\$9795 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Jan 15, 2027	Jan 23, 2027	\$9795 USD (+internal air) Aboard Zafiro
Jan 30, 2027	Feb 7, 2027	\$9795 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Feb 6, 2027	Feb 14, 2027	\$9795 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Mar 6, 2027	Mar 14, 2027	\$9795 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Mar 19, 2027	Mar 27, 2027	\$9795 USD (+internal air) Aboard Zafiro
Apr 3, 2027	Apr 11, 2027	\$9795 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Apr 16, 2027	Apr 24, 2027	\$9795 USD (+internal air)





Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices: From \$8995 (+Air)

Group Size:Limited to 28
Travelers

Departure	Return	Notes
		Aboard Zafiro
May 1, 2027	May 9, 2027	\$9795 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
May 14, 2027	May 22, 2027	\$9795 USD (+internal air) Aboard Zafiro
Jun 11, 2027	Jun 19, 2027	\$9795 USD (+internal air) Aboard Zafiro
Jul 3, 2027	Jul 11, 2027	\$9795 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Jul 10, 2027	Jul 18, 2027	\$9795 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Oct 23, 2027	Oct 31, 2027	\$9795 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Oct 30, 2027	Nov 7, 2027	\$9795 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Nov 20, 2027	Nov 28, 2027	\$9795 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Nov 27, 2027	Dec 5, 2027	\$9795 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II
Dec 10, 2027	Dec 18, 2027	\$9795 USD (+internal air) Aboard Zafiro
Dec 25, 2027	Jan 2, 2028	\$9795 USD (+internal air) Aboard Delfin II





Pricing

See https://nathab.com/south-america/amazon-river-cruise/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

- ➤ Trip price includes: Accommodations aboard our private luxury Amazon ship, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s), local guides and boat crew, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through lunch on final day, local beer and house wine with lunch and dinner on board, some gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, room at the Lima airport hotel on final day (may also be used for overnight stay free of charge), all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.
- > Internal air cost includes: All flights within the itinerary (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

Important Information About This Trip

This trip spends a full week exploring the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, the largest protected area in Peru at 8,000 square miles. Located at the headwaters of the Amazon River where the two major tributaries meet to form the mighty main river, the remote region is home to some of the densest populations of wildlife in the entire Amazon rainforest, including threatened or endangered species such as pink river dolphin, blue-and-yellow macaw, owl monkey and three-toed sloth. Few Amazon expeditions offer this much time or depth in the reserve.

Please Note: This itinerary is meant to be a guideline. Activities may vary at different times of year according to water level and conditions.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least \$250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.





Getting There & Getting Home

Arrival: Arrive in Lima anytime on Day 1. **Departure:** Depart from Lima after 6 pm on Day 9.

Generally, international flights depart Lima in the late evening.

We can best serve you if our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk makes your reservations, as we are intimately familiar with the special requirements of this program and can arrange the most efficient travel. Please call us at 800-543-8917. Note that while we offer you the best possible rates available to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may find special web rates or better fares online.



Extension Details:

Machu Picchu & the Sacred Valley \$6995

Galapagos Discovery: The Nat Hab Experience \$8395

The Great Amazon River Expedition Extensions

Explore the World's Largest Rainforest on a Private Voyage to the Amazon Headwaters



Machu Picchu & the Sacred Valley

Unveil centuries of layered history as explore Peru's Lost City of the Incas on an in-depth encounter with this remarkable archaeological phenomenon—plus the rich Inca heritage of the Sacred Valley

\$6995 (+air)



Galapagos Discovery: The Nat Hab Experience

Small-group adventures aboard your choice of private yachts, led by our outstanding naturalist guides and photography pros. Snorkel and swim with sea lions, sea turtles and penguins on this incomparable nature odyssey.

\$8395 (+air/park fees)





Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than \$6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus \$175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.