

M/V Aqua

Amazon River Explorer Cruise - 4 Nights
December - May (High Water) Itinerary

Day 1:

Tuesday

ARRIVAL/NAUTA/EMBARKATION/MARAÑON RIVER

5:00 p.m. Arrival

Your guides await you, as your flight from Lima glides in for landing at Iquitos International Airport. After you've claimed your luggage, you will board an air-conditioned bus for a scenic one-and-a-half hour drive through the Peruvian countryside to the small village of Nauta, where the M/V Aqua lies at anchor, awaiting your arrival.

7:30 p.m. Check-In

Take a few moments to settle into your over-sized suite before dinner. Over the next four days, you will sail along several tributaries of the Amazon, as well as on the mighty river itself. You are embarking on a spectacular adventure, to a place visited by only a few of even the most experienced world travelers.

8:00 p.m. Safety Drill and Briefing on the Top Deck

Before dinner we will perform a routine safety drill. Following that, your Cruise Director and Guides will give a brief orientation talk about life on board, where you will go and what you will see on your Amazon journey.

8:30 p.m. Welcome Dinner

Meet your fellow travelers at your first onboard dinner. Peruvian cuisine is considered one of the world's best. Here it is presented with a touch of European flair, and a vegetarian dish is always available. Raise a glass of fine South American wine to toast the beginning of a beautiful journey, then look out the window and watch the river go by as you experience your first wonderful meal aboard the M/V Aqua.

Perhaps enjoy a nightcap on the Upper Deck, under the stars, before retiring.

Day 2:

Wednesday

CAYALI/YANALLPA/DORADO RIVERS/PACAYA SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE

1

7:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:00 a.m. Yanallpa River Expedition

This morning we will board the skiffs to explore this amazing black water stream, part of the vast Amazon

flooded forest. Your guides will tell you about the rainforest and its dynamic life, as we explore what scientists call a “gallery forest,” because of its narrow vegetation, creating a tunnel of leaves. As we float through this tunnel, it is easy to spot parrots, macaws, and fluffy monk saki monkeys, very close to the skiff.

10:30 a.m. Return to the M/V Aqua

12:30 p.m. Lunch

4:00 p.m. Dorado River Exploration and Night Excursion

This afternoon we will take a magical journey through the “Mirrored Forest,” seeing towering trees reflected in the black water river, while spotting dozens of enchanting parrots, blue-yellow macaws, and a great variety of primates and sloths enjoying nature unperturbed by our presence. As we make our way back to our vessel, you will also have the chance to see caimans and frogs and fishing bats.

7:30 p.m. Return to the M/V Aqua

8:00 p.m. Dinner

Day 3:

Thursday

PUINAHUA RIVER/HATUM POSA LAKE/PACAYA RIVER

6:00 a.m. Hatum Posa Lake Expedition

This morning we will rise early to cruise this beautiful and intricate ox-bow lake. As we follow its shore, we will almost certainly surprise several kinds of monkeys and many types of birds, including terns, neotropical cormorants, egrets, herons, hawks, and our favorite horned screamers. We will also take the skiff into other black water lakes linked to this huge lake in the flooded forest.

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Jungle Walk Near Hatum Posa Village

On this walk, your guides will introduce you to native people doing subsistence farming, and will tell you how they learned to cultivate wild plants and trees to earn farm income. Deep in the primary forest, your guides will also show you the wealth of fruit trees and medicinal plants hidden in the jungle.

11:00 a.m. Return to the M/V Aqua

12:30 p.m. Lunch

4:00 p.m. Pacaya River Exploration, Plus Night Trip from Ranger Station N°1 to Yanayacu Lake

In the late afternoon, we will take our skiffs along the Pacaya River, journeying from Ranger Station No. 1 toward Yanayacu Lake, where you can see the abundant life that is hidden in the deep rainforest. We have chosen this time of day to give you the chance to see the late afternoon activity of the rainforest animals, including fluffy monk saki monkeys, capuchin monkeys, and the large, easy-to-spot howler

monkeys. As the sun sets, listen for the loud, ferocious-sounding warning signals made by howler monkeys marking their territories. When night falls, you will hear the second movement of the Amazon rainforest symphony, as other nocturnal animals send their shrill calls across the tree tops. As we take the skiffs back to the M/V Aqua, we will use our special spotlight torches to locate night creatures, including, perhaps, huge caimans.

7:30 p.m. Return to the M/V Aqua

8:00 p.m. Dinner

Day 4:

Friday

PUINAHUA/PACAYA RIVERS AND CAROCURAHUAYTE LAKE

6:30 a.m. Pacaya Exploration and Breakfast Aboard the Skiffs

Back on the river as the sun rises, you will see a treasure trove of wildlife, including parrots, macaws, toucans, and many kinds of monkeys—as well as some “surprise” species that you have never seen before. Enjoy a “bag breakfast” of light sandwiches and fresh juice. Since we will stop near a popular dolphin feeding spot, you will see quite a show as you enjoy your meal.

11:00 a.m. Return to the M/V Aqua

From this point, we will start sailing down river, toward Iquitos.

12:30 p.m. Lunch

3:30 p.m. Carocurahuayte Lake/Fishing Trip

This afternoon, we will travel to this splendid “hot spot” lake, where you will be certain to catch some of the more than 3,000 species of tropical fish that live in the Amazon basin. Our key focus will be on piranhas, those small, carnivorous fish with a big reputation for being scary.

6:30 p.m. Return to the M/V Aqua

Once we are back onboard, the ship will continue its journey down stream, sailing toward Iquitos through the night.

8:00 p.m. Farewell Dinner

Leaving the peace and beauty of the jungle behind, we will enjoy our final dinner together, swapping stories about the wonderful experiences shared on the river.

9:00 p.m. Crew Presentation

After dinner, your Guides will introduce some of the crew members that you have not yet met, but who have been busy with the “behind the scenes” work that has helped to create a seamless experience.

3

Day 5:

Saturday

ARRIVAL IN IQUITOS/CHECK OUT AND DISEMBARK AT THE MAIN WHARF/CITY TOUR/TRANSFER TO THE AIRPORT

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Last Skiff Trip (optional)

For those who want some last moments on the Amazon, your guides will take you out on the skiffs to grab some special, last-minute photos of the wildlife that you have seen along the river.

10:00 a.m. Return to the M/V Aqua Sadly, it's time to finish packing. Please leave your packed suitcases in your suite for pickup before going to lunch.

12.00 p.m. Light Lunch

12:40 p.m. Disembarkation/City Tour/Transfer to the Airport This afternoon, we will take you on a tour of Iquitos, once a glorious city in the days of the rubber boom. Later, we will stop at the San Juan Amazonian Indian Market, for a last chance to shop for local crafts.

4:00 p.m. Check-in at Iquitos International Airport Your guides will help you with check-in, and will stay with you until you have boarded your flight back to Lima.

5:30 p.m. Your Flight Departs for Lima

All itineraries are subject to change, due to weather and other conditions. All times indicated are approximate, and are also subject to change.

Note: All itineraries are subject to change, due to weather and other conditions. All times indicated are approximate, and are also subject to change.