

SEVEN-NIGHT ITINERARY (AQUA AMAZON) HIGH WATER SEASON (December–May)

Day 1: Saturday IQUITOS/AMAZON RIVER

6:00 p.m. Embarkation and Check-In

From the moment you step on board, enjoy the AQUA AMAZON's low-key luxury. As you settle into your handsomely appointed, generously proportioned suite, you will feel the vessel begin to move – the beginning of one of your life's great adventures. We suggest you stand on the Upper Deck to take in the view, as the AQUA AMAZON leaves Iquitos behind.

Over the next seven days, you will also sail along the two largest tributaries of the Peruvian Amazon, the Ucayali and the Marañon, as well as on the mighty Amazon itself. You are embarking on a spectacular journey to a place visited by only a very few of even the most experienced world travelers.

7:30 p.m. Safety Drill and Briefing on the Upper Deck

Before dinner we will perform a routine safety drill. Then it's into the air-conditioned lounge, where you will learn about life on board, and will have the first nightly briefing about your next day's Amazon adventure. You will meet our naturalist guides and your cruise director, who will use video, photos, and maps to introduce the details of your journey deep into the Peruvian Amazon.

8:00 p.m. Welcome Dinner

Sit down, relax, sip fine South American wine, toast the beginning of a beautiful journey and enjoy the innovative Amazonian cuisine, created by our Executive Chef Pedro Miguel Schiaffino, whose restaurant, Malabar, is the one of Lima's top ranked dining experiences. Schiaffino's imaginative use of local products – fruit, fish, spices – makes every meal a delightful adventure. (The menu always offers choices, including a vegetarian option.)

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

Day 2: Sunday AMAZON RIVER / YARAPA RIVER / NAUTA CAÑO (PACAYA SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE)

6:30 a.m. Amazon River Expedition

Wake up early to watch the sunrise for the first time on the Amazon River, a first, dramatic glimpse of your upcoming adventures. Return to the AQUA AMAZON

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

Our sumptuous daily breakfast buffet features a wide variety of dishes, plus Peruvian specialties and fresh fruit juices.

8:30 a.m. Yarapa River Exploration and Fishing in Moringo Lake

This morning you will board our comfortable skiff to sail from the Amazon River to the Yarapa River. Life jackets, ponchos, rubber boots, and fresh water are always available in our private boats. As you float down the Yarapa, past the occasional fishermen paddling in their canoes, keep your binoculars ready to spot wildlife: terns, tropical songbirds, black collared hawks and sloth share this wonderful world with us. Upon our arrival at Lake Moringo, use your hooks to try to catch some of the ferocious piranhas and other fish species. As you fish, trained naturalist guides will tell the story of the lake and its inhabitants.

11:30 a.m. Return to AQUA AMAZON

Cold towels await you back aboard the AQUA AMAZON. As the ship continues down the Amazon River, you have free time to rest or take a nap before lunch.

12:30 p.m. Lunch
Enjoy a light lunch in our dining room with air conditioning.

3:30 p.m. Lecture in the lounge by our naturalist guides.

4:00 p.m. Excursion to Nauta Caño
Nauta Caño is part of the Pacaya Samiria Reserve, also known as the Forest of Mirrors due to its dark lagoons, which reflect the scenery. In this area we will observe toucans, macaws, and iguanas, among many other species. In this area we may observe and hear toucans, macaws and iguanas. As we head back to the AQUA AMAZON, you will enjoy one of the most incredible sunsets reflected in the black water of the flooded forest.

7:30 p.m. Return to AQUA AMAZON
Before dinner, sip a pisco sour on the upper deck at dusk

8:00 p.m. Dinner

Day 3: Monday
MARAÑÓN RIVER / YANAYACU – PUCATE RIVER (PACAYA SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE)

6:30 a.m. Yanayacu – Pucate River Excursion with Breakfast
This morning, we visit the Yanayacu - Pucate River in Pacaya Samiria National Reserve. On the black water river you can observe the vibrant flora and fauna while looking for macaws and several species of primates like the capuchins and squirrel monkeys as well as the famous Amazon River dolphins, either pink or gray. Amazonian people hold the belief that these dolphins possess the magical power to turn into men and women of great beauty. We will enjoy a light breakfast on board, consisting of homemade baked goods, hot coffee and fresh juice. We stop near a quiet place where you will see and hear quite a show put on by Mother Nature while you enjoy your meal.

11:00 a.m. Return to AQUA AMAZON

12:30 p.m. Cooking Lesson

13:00 p.m. Lunch

4:00 p.m. Marañon Exploration and Walk Along the Casual trail.
We sail along the Marañon River, watching the different species of flora and fauna as we approach the Casual community where we will hike on land. Here you will see a plethora of wildlife, so keep your binoculars ready to observe tanagers and orioles as well as various reptiles and amphibians. Keep an eye out for the beautiful and eye-catching but poisonous frogs along this fascinating trail, as well as trees and medicinal plants.

6:00 p.m. Return to AQUA AMAZON

7:00 p.m. Crew Presentation

8:00 p.m. Towards the Birth of the Amazon River and Dinner
While you dine, we continue our journey upstream, toward the headwaters of the Amazon River, where the Ucayali and Marañon Rivers merge.

Day 4: Tuesday

BIRTHPLACE OF THE AMAZON / VILLAGE VISIT / NAUTA CITY

7:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:00 a.m. Travel Briefing

8:30 a.m. Birthplace of the Amazon

This morning, the AQUA AMAZON skirts the edge of the vast Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, a flooded forest covering five million acres at the headwaters of the Amazon basin. Get up early to see one of the great spectacles of the Southern Hemisphere: the sun rising over the origin of the Amazon River. Here, the junction of two major tributaries, the Ucayali and the Marañon, form one of the greatest waterfalls in the world – certainly this is nature at its most captivating. Your morning excursion will be accompanied by abundant bird song, as you glide in our small boats past large-billed terns, laughing falcons, exotic short-tailed parrot, and dozens of other vibrantly hued birds.

9:00 a.m. Village Visit

We will travel by boat to a community located along the Marañon River, where you will meet and interact with local villagers in this remote part of the world and learn about their traditions and folklore. Walk around with our naturalist guides to see how Aqua Expeditions works with these communities to improve their natural resource management. You will also have the opportunity to shop for local handicrafts directly from the artisans.

11:00 a.m. Return to AQUA AMAZON

12:00 p.m. Lunch

3:30 p.m. Visit to the City of Nauta

This afternoon, we will visit the town of Nauta, founded in 1930. Nauta is the main point where villagers from around Amazonia come to sell the products they harvest in their rural communities. We'll walk around Nauta to gain insights into the life of these coastal peoples. We will also visit the local fresh market, with your guides on hand to point out the different fish caught by the fishermen of Amazonia, and all types of indigenous fruits.

Later, you may explore the Lupunillo or Marayali Creek, a tributary of the Marañon River.

6:00 p.m. Return to AQUA AMAZON

7.30 p.m. Dinner

Meet new passengers who have signed on for the four-night trip, and enjoy your gourmet meal as we start our journey along the Marañon River.

Day 5: Wednesday

UCAYALI RIVER / YANALLPA RIVER / DORADO RIVER / PACAYA SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE

7:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:00 a.m. River Expedition Ucayali / Yanallpa

This morning, board the skiffs to explore a fascinating black water stream, part of the vast Amazon flooded forest within the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve. Your guides will tell you about the jungle as we explore what scientists call a "gallery forest," because of its dense vegetation that creates a tunnel of leaves. As we explore this type of riparian vegetation, watch above for parrots, macaws, and fluffy monk saki monkeys.

11:30 a.m. Return to AQUA AMAZON

12:30 p.m. Lunch

3:30 p.m. Lecture in the lounge by our naturalist guides.

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

This afternoon we take a magical journey through the "Jungle of the Mirrors," where towering trees are reflected in the dark river. We move on to the Dorado River where you may observe enchanting parrots, macaws and a variety of primates, unperturbed by our presence. As we make our way back to the AQUA AMAZON, you may see alligators, frogs and fishing bats.

7:30 p.m. Return to AQUA AMAZON

8:00 p.m. Dinner

Day 6: Thursday

PUINAHUA RIVER / PACAYA RIVER / PACAYA SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE

7:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Full Day Expedition Along The Pacaya River

This morning we will undertake a full-day excursion along the Pacaya River, observing and exploring the flooded forest of this vast region of the Peruvian Amazon. You will sail among a wide variety of wildlife, birds including large parrots, macaws, herons and storks and many species of primates like the capuchin, howler and squirrel monkeys, who can be very funny. We will have the opportunity to visit some of the most beautiful lakes in the protected reserve and to meet some of the friendly local people who take care of the reserve's natural resources. Our nature guides will discuss Aqua Expeditions involvement in the natural resource management of Amazonia. We will eat a picnic lunch en route and on our return, we can see the famous Ceiba tree, the highest in the Amazon.

5:30 p.m. Return to AQUA AMAZON

7:30 p.m. Dinner

Option 2: Exploring the Pacaya and Puhinahua / Dolphin Expedition

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Pacaya River Exploration and Piranha Fishing

This morning you will board our comfortable boat to sail and explore the Pacaya black water river. Life jackets, ponchos, rubber boots, and fresh water are always available in our boats. As we sail, the occasional fisherman will paddle past in their homemade canoes. Keep your binoculars ready to spot terns, tropical songbirds, black hawks, monkeys and sloths necks that share this enchanted place with us. After our arrival at a particular point, you may use your hooks to try to catch some of the ferocious piranhas of the Amazon. As you fish, trained naturalist guides will tell the story of the lake and its inhabitants.

11:30 a.m. Return to AQUA AMAZON

12:30 p.m. Lunch

4:00 p.m. Dolphins Along the Puhinahua River

During this expedition, we'll be keeping our eyes out for two different kinds of freshwater dolphins but especially the unusual pink dolphins found in the Amazon River. We'll also spot arboreal lizards, iguanas and look up to catch a glimpse of some of the area's 200 bird species.

6:00 p.m. Return to the AQUA AMAZON

8:00 p.m. Dinner

Day 7: Friday
UCAYALI RIVER / CLAVERO LAKE / AMAZONAS RIVER

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Clavero Lake Canoeing and Swimming
We sail on to Lake Clavero where villagers paddle in their traditional dugout canoes. You may wish to swim in the lake's calm waters and visit the community to interact with our Amazonia neighbors who will be pleased to welcome you.

10:30 a.m. Return to the AQUA AMAZON
From this point, start sailing downstream toward Iquitos.

12:00 p.m. Cooking Lesson

1:00 p.m. Lunch

3:30 p.m. Lecture in the lounge by our naturalist guides.

4:00 p.m. Village Visit
We sail along the great Amazon River, observing the flora and fauna, then stop at a riverside community that actively conserves the forest's natural resources and their own ancestral customs.

6:30 p.m. Return to the AQUA AMAZON
Once back on board, the ship will continue its journey down stream, sailing toward Iquitos through the night.

7:00 p.m. Meet in the lounge with our naturalist guides for the Crew Presentation
The guides will introduce some of the crew members whom you may not have met, who worked "behind the scenes" to ensure your memorable trip has been filled with countless exceptional experiences.

8:30 p.m. Dinner

Day 8: 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. Travel briefing

9:00 a.m. Morning Excursion
Depending on the weather, we will tour the flood zone that borders the city of Iquitos and observe the houses and shops that actually float on the Itaya River for several months of the year. Then we will visit the traditional market of Bellavista Nanay, bordering the Nanay River, to see products from the Peruvian Amazon including exotic snacks like the Amazon Caterpillar. Called "Suri," these caterpillars live in the palm trees and are considered a very appetizing snack for Amazonia people, even in the city.

11:00 a.m. Return to the AQUA AMAZON

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

1:15 p.m. Disembarkation / City Tour / Manatee Rescue Center / Transfer to the Airport

This afternoon, we will take you on a tour of Iquitos, glorious city in the days of the rubber boom. Visit the Manatee Rescue Center, a kind of animal orphanage for Amazonian manatees to rescue, rehabilitate and release them back into the wild. Later, we stop at the Amazonian Indian Market San Juan, where, you may wish to shop for local crafts before leaving.

Guides will help with check in at the airport and stay with you until you have boarded your flight back to Lima.

