



## **Treehouse Lodge Excursions**

### **1) Sunrise and Breakfast with Dolphins**

This is the perfect way to start your day in the Peruvian Amazon. About an hour before sunset we boat along the Yarapa and Ucayali rivers until you reach The Amazon River. Here we enjoy “breakfast in boat” while observing the world famous Pink and Grey River Dolphins of the Amazon during their morning feeding.

Enjoy the sunrise over the skyline of the Amazon rainforest.

If you’re feeling particularly adventurous you can jump in and swim with the dolphins. As with all excursions, there is always a chance to catch a glimpse of other types of wildlife such as sloths, monkeys, iguanas, and birds along the edges of the river.

### **2) Sunset on the Amazon with Dolphins**

This excursion is a guest favourite. Just before dusk we boat along the Yarapa and Ucayali rivers until you reach the Amazon proper. The world famous Pink and Grey river dolphins will start to appear near our boat while the sunset gives the perfect backdrop.

Take a moment to breathe in the freshest air on the planet. Listen to the sounds of the Amazon as we welcome the beginning of nightfall.

Just after sunset, we head back to the Lodge.

### **3) Swim In The Amazon River**

This is your opportunity to knock out a bucket list item by going for a swim in the Amazon. We travel down the tributaries to the main Amazon river with your private guide and navigator. We have as long as we want to enjoy a refreshing dip. If we’re lucky, a dolphin or two might appear.



When done swimming, we travel back towards Treehouse Lodge, observing any interesting flora and fauna along the way.

#### **4) Dugout Canoe Trip**

For centuries, river people have moved along the Amazonian rivers on dugout canoes. Even today, this mode of transportation is the best way to explore the creeks: navigating slowly, listening to the sounds of the jungle, and observing nature.

We can observe and take pictures of many species of birds that feed and make nests close to the river shores. Many species of primates such as brown capuchins, squirrel monkeys, and saddle backed tamarins are easy to spot. We may even be able to observe rare and elusive creatures, such as River Otters.

At some point, we stop and fish for piranha, using wooden poles, string and meat.

#### **5) Fish for Piranhas**

Travel by boat to one of the many great piranha-fishing spots in the area. Armed with a wooden pole, string, hook, and meat, we lower the bait into the water. When the piranhas strike (and they will!), simply lift up the pole. Don't worry, our guide will unhook the fish for us!

You can choose whether to catch-and-release, or ask the chefs at Treehouse Lodge to prepare the piranha as a side dish to your nightly meal.

#### **6) Blowdart Gun Workshop**

The natives of the Amazon rainforest have relied on blowgun hunting for hundreds of years. Known in Peru as *pucuna*, blowguns can be used by skilled hunters to hit animals from a distance of 18 - 27m (60-90 feet).



During this excursion we are mentored by a local villager on how to make our own blowgun. Take your time to craft your perfect blowgun and then feel free to practice throughout your stay and on your excursions.

## **7) Jungle Walk: Medicinal Plants of the Amazon**

The rainforest is like a green pharmacy where you can find many plants used to treat different diseases. You can find forest medicines for headaches, stomachaches, broken bones, hernias, and rheumatism – even for diabetes.

On this excursion, we explore through this greenery in search for some medicines found in each plant or tree, learning the secrets of the jungle and the relationship between plant and man; all the while bringing you closer to Mother Nature, protector of all the living organisms on our planet earth.

The Amazonian people are the preservers of knowledge passed from one generation to another. Before cutting a plant in preparation for extracting medicine, many medicine men ask permission of the protector of the forest; if they do not ask permission the medicine doesn't work.

## **8) Jungle Walk: The Giant Water Lilies of Oxbow Lagoon**

The Oxbow Lagoon hosts many species of aquatic plants such as the giant water lilies that can grow to 1.8m (6 ft) in diameter with flowers the size of cabbage.

We also observe the strangely-interesting *Hoatzin*, a bird that feeds exclusively on poisonous plants that it can keep in its crop for several hours.

Another species of bird we find on this amazon jungle walk is the *Horned Screamer* that is related to the goose family, and feeds on water lettuce and water hyacinth.

Lastly, though perhaps most fascinating, we should be able to spot the *wattled jacana*, nick-named 'Jesus Christ bird' because it appears to walk on water.



These are just a few of the many animals that live in this *varzea* forest.

### **9) Jungle Walk: Night Monkeys, Sloths, Hoatzins, and More**

Join this jungle walk to witness the only nocturnal monkey that can be spotted during the daytime. These primates make their homes in tree holes and, once located, can be seen sticking their heads out to take a peek.

We walk along a trail that runs close to an old tree where these night monkeys can be seen. They have a good sense of hearing, are very curious, and apparently evolved into nocturnal animals in order to avoid competition over food.

On this walk there is also a chance to spot other species of monkeys: owl monkey, pigmy marmoset, monk saki, squirrel, red howler, duski titi, wooly monkey, and tamarins.

### **10) Daytime Jungle Cruise**

Embark on an adventurous boat ride through the tributaries of the Amazon. We see abundant wildlife and nature in all of its glory while we search for Amazon River specialties such as Blue and Yellow Macaws, Wattled Jacanas, Trogons, Black Collared Hawk, Oropendolas, Yellow-Headed Caracara, and Tanagers, among others.

Your guide will also help spot sloths and monkeys in the trees above, as we cruise around the Yarapa and Cumaceba rivers.

### **11) Nighttime Jungle Cruise**

On the night excursion, we travel along the river, looking for wildlife using flashlights. The chances of spotting wildlife are good. We see creatures like:

- Beautifully-coloured frogs resting on the floating plants on the edges of the creeks.



- Fishing Bats that catch their prey using their talons like hawks, detected by sophisticated sonar.
- Potoos.
- Owls.
- Caimans (located by their red eyes) that venture through the dark to catch their prey.
- Kinkajoes that feed on fruits and berries. They are easy to see jumping from branch to branch on trees along the river.
- Opossum that feed on birds.

## **12) Nighttime Caiman Spotting**

Depart Treehouse Lodge on a motorized canoe along the Yarapa and Cumaceba rivers. The mysterious sounds of the jungle will be a highlight throughout the excursion.

Caimans are close relatives of the alligator that can be found throughout the Amazon rainforest. Like their crocodilian cousins, Caimans live near rivers and other bodies of water. Most caimans are around 2m (6 - 7 ft) long, but the largest species, the Black Caiman, can grow to a length of 4.5m (15 ft). The young caiman are much smaller and easier to find.

While the Caiman is hypnotized by the bright light, your canoe will slowly approach it until your guide is close enough to attempt to catch it with his bare hands and actually lift it out of the water for all to see. After closer viewing, the young Caiman is returned, unharmed, to the water.

## **13) Night Walk to See Insects**

Night time is a prime time for feeding. Once the sun sets, many creatures come out, some are the predators and others the prey.

On this night excursion, we see:

- Exotic beetles (rhinoceros and elephant species)



- Moths (sphinx and roschildia species).
- Lizards sleeping on the leaves.
- Owl Frog that makes holes in the ground. Amazonian people use the skin of this interesting anuran to make drums, but the owl frog protects itself from predators by releasing a milky liquid from its skin.
- Gladiator Tree Frog that makes its nest close to the water to keep it from potential rivals and attract females for mating.

At some point on the walk we turn off our flashlights and stay quiet, in order to let our senses adapt to the darkness, listening to the sounds of the rainforest. We try to identify what they are and where they come from.

At this moment, we truly appreciate the vastness of the Amazon Jungle with all its countless secrets.

#### **14) Treehouse Canopy Walk**

Treehouse Lodge offers the incomparable experience of observing the Amazon rainforest from the treetop canopies. On this excursion, we explore all of the canopy walkways and viewing platforms that dot the area of the Lodge.

Learn about the history and architecture of the lodge, while observing wildlife from 9 - 21 m (30 – 70 ft) above the jungle floor.

#### **15) Early Morning Bird Watching**

The best way to witness wildlife is by waking up early to the sound of hundreds of birds and monkeys. The suspension bridges are built to bring us closer to all the wildlife that exists around Treehouse Lodge.

We see many species of tanagers, toucans, parrots, parakeets, antbirds, antwrens, woodpeckers, and monkeys that come to feed on the fruit and insects found on the trees. There are species of birds that never venture closer to the ground because the



fruit they eat is found on the tree tops. Being closer to the canopy, it's easy to see the beauty of these species.

In only one early morning, we observe at least 50 species of birds, 20 of which are uncommon. The variety of wildlife in this type of *igapo* forest is outstanding.

### **16) Stargazing in the Amazon**

The Amazon rainforest has no distracting city lights and the sky is wide open. A popular excursion for astronomy buffs, it is breathtaking to stare upwards at millions and millions of twinkling stars.

Enjoy the serenity of cruising the tributaries of the Amazon as we look for the Southern Cross.

*NB. This excursion is weather dependant. Coordinate with your private guide for when a good night would be for this activity.*

### **17) Visit an Amazon Community**

Visit an Amazon community and interact with the river people who still preserve their traditions, ancient knowledge, and even language. We get to explore their homes made out of wood and palm trees to see how they live, what they cook, and the way they survive using the natural resources of the rainforest.

It is fascinating to see how they have adapted to coexist with their environment, sharing their space with countless insects, dangerous animals and poisonous plants that can be used to kill or cure depending on preparation.

They are skillful craftspeople and have a communal house where we can purchase their beautifully hand-crafted items made using materials found in the Amazon jungle.

### **18) Kayak the Amazon**



This is our chance to captain our own boat and see wildlife from a river perspective. Exploring the river by kayak allows one to explore the rivers and creeks without the noise of a boat engine. This creates a peaceful atmosphere and an ideal situation for spotting wildlife. Fauna to see includes beautiful birds, monkeys and river otters.

### **19) Visit a Monkey Island**

Visit an island near Treehouse Lodge that is home to multiple species of monkeys in the wild, as well as Coati.