



## **THREE-NIGHT ITINERARY HIGH WATER SEASON (December–May)**

### **Day 1: Friday IQUITOS/AMAZON RIVER**

3:30 p.m. Flight from Lima LP 382

In just an hour and 45 minutes you will be in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon region.

5:15 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 your journey to the river.

5:40 p.m. Transfer to Iquitos' Main Wharf.

There the M/V Aria awaits you.

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

From the moment you step on board, you will enjoy the M/V Aria's atmosphere of low-key luxury. As you settle into your handsomely appointed, over-sized suite, you will feel the vessel begin to move – the beginning of one of the great adventures of your life. Stand on the Upper Deck to take in the view, as the M/V Aria leaves Iquitos behind.

Over the next seven days, you will also sail along the largest tributaries of the Amazon, as well as the mighty Amazon itself. You are embarking on a spectacular adventure, to a place visited by only a 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 onboard, and will have the first of the nightly briefings about your adventure to follow. You will meet the naturalist guides and the cruise director, who will use video, photos, and maps to explain the details of your journey into the Amazon.

8:00 p.m. Welcome Dinner

Sit down, relax, sample some fine South American wine, and enjoy the truly world-class cuisine, created by Executive Chef Pedro Miguel Schiaffino, whose restaurant, Malabar, is the one of the best in all of Lima. Schiaffino's recipes, with the imaginative use of local products – fruit, fish, spices – make every meal a delightful adventure. (The menu always offers choices, including a vegetarian option.) Toast the beginning of a beautiful journey.

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

### **Day 2: Saturday AMAZON/YANAYACU/YACAPANA/YARAPA**

6:30 a.m. See the Sun Rise Over the River

Be up early to catch your first glimpse of the majestic Amazon River, as you watch the sun rise over this green world filled with wonderful wildlife. This initial contact with Amazonia is only a brief sampling of what the rest of your journey will hold.

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

Our sumptuous daily breakfast buffet features a wide choice of traditional breakfast egg dishes, plus Peruvian specialties, and fresh-squeezed juices, made from tropical fruits you've never tasted before.



9:15 a.m. Explore the Yacapana Isles

Locals call the Yacapana Isles the “the Isle of the Iguana” thanks to the great number of these reptiles, resembling tiny dinosaurs, which inhabit them. Amazonian beliefs state that if you touch an iguana, you will develop some of its characteristics and, as no one wants to look like one of them, these animals are well protected. We will pass very close the islands aboard the launches, giving you an opportunity to take good photos of the flora and fauna that we are able to observe along our route. We will also have the opportunity to go fishing for the infamous piranhas with our naturalists.

11:45 a.m. Return to the M/V Aria

While the boat continues its journey along the Amazon River, you will have free time to rest or take a siesta before lunch.

12:30 p.m. Lunch

Enjoy a light lunch in the air conditioned dining room.

4:00 p.m. Expedition to the Yarapa River

As the sun sets, you will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see and photograph both gray and pink freshwater dolphins. The people of the Amazon believe that these dolphins turn into humans to steal handsome men or pretty women from their villages during celebrations. Once the sun sets and the jungle is dark, we begin our search for caiman, frogs, and different kinds of nightlife.

7:30 p.m. Return to the boat

Before dining, we recommend drinking a pisco sour as an aperitif on the top deck, while watching the sunset.

8:00 p.m. Dinner

### **Day 3: Sunday**

#### **UCAYALI/YANALLPA/DORADO RIVERS/PACAYA SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE**

7:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Visit to the seasonally-flooded forests of Yanallpa

This morning you will explore with our guides the Yanallpa Stream looking for wildlife such as the bald uakari monkey, squirrel monkeys, saddleback tamarin monkeys, sloths and many other species. We will observe the trees which grow in these seasonally-flooded areas and our guides will explain the natural mechanisms through which the vegetation withstands the water during these months.

11:30 a.m. Return to the M/V Aria

12:30 p.m. Lunch, followed by a siesta

4:00 p.m. Excursion to watch Monkeys and Dolphins

On this trip, you will be able to appreciate the different types of freshwater dolphin, including the rare pink dolphins found along the Ucayali River. We recommend that you bring your binoculars as there will also be opportunities to observe some species of birds, among which the macaws stand out, as well as a spectacular sundown. Depending on how the evening progresses, you will be able to watch nocturnal wildlife on the Dorado River, especially the caimans. Sometimes, our guides attempt to capture some of these ancient reptiles and you will have the opportunity to take photos.

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

8:30 p.m. Dinner



**Day 4: Monday**

**BIRTHPLACE OF THE AMAZON/PUERTO MIGUEL VILLAGE/IQUITOS**

7:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:00 a.m. Birthplace of the Amazon

This morning, the M/V Aria skirts the edges of the vast Pacaya-Samiria Reserve, a flooded forest covering five million acres at the headwaters of the Amazon basin. Rise early and be on your skiffs at 8:00 a.m. to view one of the great spectacles of the Southern Hemisphere: the sun rising over the birthplace of the Amazon River. Here—where the union of two major tributaries, the Ucayali and the Marañón, form the world's greatest waterway—nature is at its most dramatic. Your dawn excursion will be accompanied by abundant bird song, as you glide in small boats past river banks populated by large-billed terns, laughing falcons, gray tanagers, sandpipers, five kinds of parakeets, the exotic short-tailed parrot, and dozens of other birds.

8:30 a.m. Puerto Miguel Village

We will travel by skiff to Puerto Miguel native village, where the local people will extend you a very warm welcome. With your guide acting as interpreter, you can talk with them about their way of life along the river. And of course, no one has to interpret the kids' bright smiles. It is also a wonderful opportunity to buy small handicrafts. On the way back to the M/V Aria, we will navigate on a small connector canal between the Ucayali and Marañón Rivers, where you will have a chance to see the world's largest aquatic plant, the giant water lilies or "Victoria Regias." Have your cameras at the ready.

11:40 p.m. Lunch

Share a last lunch with your fellow passengers, before preparing for your onward journey.

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

Before we head for the airport, we will take you to visit the Manatee Rescue Center, where biologists and volunteers care for endangered Amazon manatees that conservation authorities have seized from local people, including fishermen. Biologists will give a presentation about the project and its efforts to help these helpless mammals. You will also see how the manatees are cared for and are prepared for re-introduction into their natural habitat.

4:30 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.

5:50 p.m. Your Flight Departs for Lima LP 383

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