

## Amazon

### EXPEDITIONARY AMAZON RIVER CRUISE

### Why join this Voyage?

- The most authentic, in-depth expedition available of the world's mightiest river system, voyaging deeper into this rainforest wilderness than any other vessel for a full examination of Amazon ecology
- Daily guided excursions exploring the forest, tributaries and local communities, experiencing the areas' unparalleled diversity. With a chance to see monkeys, pink river dolphin & a wide variety of exotic birdlife
- Travel aboard a small (max. 18 passengers), comfortable, traditional Amazon riverboat, renowned for its highly knowledgeable naturalist guides, flexible itineraries, diverse excursions and great cuisine



### Trip Summary

Undertake an in-depth, off-the-beaten track river journey into the heart of the Amazon Basin on this explorative 8-day Amazon voyage aboard the small and intimate *MY Tucano*. Venturing deeper into this vast tropical wilderness than any other boat, you'll explore pristine areas far up the least inhabited and visited river in The Amazon, the Rio Negro, within the new Central Amazonia Biological Corridor, one of the world's largest protected rainforest areas. Travelling in a small group of typically just 15 - 18 passengers and led by experienced and knowledgeable local naturalist guides, you're guaranteed a very intimate, authentic Amazon experience. Covering four very distinct rainforest environments, with up to four daily excursions including canoe trips, forest walks and visits to river communities, this is far from an ordinary tourist cruise.

# Itinerary



## Day 1 London/ Sao Paulo

Depart London on the evening TAM Airlines flight to Sao Paulo, flying overnight.

## Day 2 Sao Paulo/ Manaus

Depart Sao Paulo on the TAM Airlines flight to Manaus, capital of Amazonia region. Overnight in this bustling, vibrant city. *Optional* city tour (not included in price)



## Day 3 Manaus/ Embarkation

Early morning embarkation of your expeditionary vessel, *The Tucano* and depart upstream on the Rio Negro. The morning will be spent cruising through the world's largest river island system, the Anavilhanas Archipelago. There is a good chance of observing both grey and pink river dolphins and a large collection of exotic birds.

## Day 4 & 5 Rio Negro

For the next 2 days head upriver away from Manaus in a north-westerly direction, far up The Rio Negro. Explore the forest by foot or in launches, go for swims in the cleanest water in the world, visit local settlers living deep in the forest and spend a great deal of time searching for and observing the greatest collection of wildlife on earth. Weather permitting park take in a night excursion to observe nocturnal creatures and experience the noises of the night.



## Day 6 Rio Jauaperi

Arrive at an extraordinary river called the Rio Jauaperi and spend the day in this unspoiled and lovely rainforest area. Hopefully take a night paddle here.



## Days 7 Rio Negro

Today, proceed down the south-western bank of the Rio Negro looking out for wildlife. Walks and explorations of the forest continue including a visit to ruined rubber plantation.



## Day 8 Novo Airão

Today, visit the village of Novo Airão. Walk through the streets and marvel at how the 19th Century lives on in this remote corner of the World. Travel through the night to the confluence of the Amazon and Negro Rivers.

## Day 9 Meeting of the Waters/ Manaus

This morning visit the Lago Janauari Ecological Park, where the thick brown water of the Amazon flows swiftly through the forest. This area is rich with life and you are almost guaranteed to see monkeys. Travel onwards to the "Encontra das Aguas" (Meeting of the Waters) where the world's two largest rivers, The Amazon and The Negro, join in a turbulent maelstrom. In the evening return to Manaus and overnight on board the boat.



## Day 10 Manaus/ Sao Paulo/ London

After breakfast disembark. Afternoon or evening transfer to the international airport to depart Manaus on the TAM Airlines flight back to London.

## Day 11 London

Arrive back into the UK

Important Note: This itinerary is for guidance only. Programmes may vary depending on local navigational and weather conditions. They are changed regularly to keep this interesting for the passengers, guides and the villagers that are visited. In order to take advantage of opportunities that arise, such as wildlife sightings, flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises.

## The Boat



*The Tucano* was built in 1997 in the traditional style of the steamboats that once navigated the Amazon in the late 19th century, also benefiting from modern day comforts and a shallow draft to access narrow channels. She underwent major refurbishment in 2003 and has an annual overhaul to maintain her high standards. Trips on *Tucano* are not luxury cruises, but comfortable expeditionary voyages with a focus on the forest and its magnificent wildlife.



All the cabins have an outside view and are spacious. There is one double cabin and the rest are all twins, with the choice of either two lower berths or bunks. All cabins have individually controlled air conditioning, opening windows with insect screens and private bathroom facilities. There is ample deck space for wildlife viewing or relaxing in one of the hammocks. The Salon is at the front of the boat affording splendid views of the rainforest throughout the day. The forward balcony allows views to the front and into the treetops. From beneath the sun canopy you can see the world's greatest collection of birds and the occasional monkey cavorting in the branches.



*The Tucano* is equipped with two launches which are deployed for exploratory cruises and landings for walking tours. All trips will be accompanied by experienced local guides who will conduct impromptu lectures in the field, explaining the flora and fauna you observe. Please note passengers must be able to get in and out of small boats and walk comfortably for up to two hours at a time in the forest. Excursions aren't mandatory and the group splits into two parties for those who prefer a shorter excursion.

## Daily Activities



- Guided walks through the rainforest
- Canoe trips looking for wildlife (early morning, day and night)
- Visits to local villages and river communities
- Swimming (water level dependent, most likely July - December)
- Piranha Fishing

## Expedition Dates 2012

17<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> Mar  
31<sup>st</sup> Mar - 7<sup>th</sup> Apr  
14<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Apr  
28<sup>th</sup> Apr - 5<sup>th</sup> May  
12<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> May  
2<sup>nd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Jun  
16<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> Jun  
30<sup>th</sup> Jun - 7<sup>th</sup> Jul  
14<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Jul  
28<sup>th</sup> Jul - 4<sup>th</sup> Aug

11<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> Aug  
25<sup>th</sup> Aug - 1<sup>st</sup> Sep  
15<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep  
29<sup>th</sup> Sep - 6<sup>th</sup> Oct  
13<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Oct  
27<sup>th</sup> Oct - 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov  
10<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> Nov  
24<sup>th</sup> Nov - 1<sup>st</sup> Dec  
8<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Dec  
22<sup>nd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> Dec

Note: These are all **Saturday - Saturday** departures

## Guide Price for 2012

### Cabin Type

(guide price quoted per person)

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Twin cabin with bunks	£2,275
Twin cabin with lower berths	£2,475

#### Includes

- Transfers in Manaus
- Overnight pre-voyage accommodation in Manaus
- 8-day voyage in twin cabin based on full board
- Bottled water while onboard

#### Excludes

- All flights London - Manaus return
- Travel insurance, vaccinations & visas (if required)
- Gratuities on board
- Other drinks on board & any items of a personal nature

Please note that these prices are a **guide only** and subject to exchange rate fluctuations and fuel surcharges.

### Single Supplement

For those solo travellers willing to share with another same sex passenger no single supplement is charged. Passengers wishing to reserve their own cabin can for a supplement of 50% of the twin with bunks cruise cost.

### Triple Cabins

Three cabins can be turned into Triples for family groups, this will be charged at the twin with bunks rate but you will be located in a cabin with lower berths.

### Discounts for Children

Children 12 years or under at the time of travel who share a room with an adult are eligible for a 50% discount off the cost of the voyage, subject to availability. Children should be a minimum of 8 and prepared to sit/walk quietly.

### Flight Inclusive Packages

We can offer a fully inclusive package from the UK to include international and internal flights as per the suggested itinerary above, from £1,000 per person depending on choice of airline. The advantage of booking the whole trip through Steppes Travel is you will then benefit from full ATOL cover.

### Important: Amazon Expectations

It is important that prospective travellers understand that the reality of Amazonia is that the animals are well hidden and that while there is not a large density of wildlife, there is a large diversity. Having said that, in the course of a voyage we typically see up to 100 different species of birds, 2-4 species of primates, 5-10 other species of mammals and 5 or more species of reptiles and amphibians. It is important for travellers to understand that this trip is not focused on the large mammals, but rather on a much more full examination of Amazon ecology generally, focusing on the many environments within the Amazon and how animals, plants, insects and the local peoples fit into this framework.

### Pre or Post Amazon Extensions

For those travellers wishing to take the opportunity to explore Brazil further, we can arrange tailor-made extensions throughout the country, including Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, The Pantanal, Iguazu Falls or a relaxing beach resort.

### Want to discuss this trip?

Please call **Sue** on **01285 880981** for more details or to check boat availability



Having spent the best part of 5 years on my “gap year” working in travel seemed the natural progression. I am most at home travelling to remote wilderness areas of the globe. With a life-long passion for wildlife I love to get up close either by kayak or on foot. My travels have taken me to all seven continents. Most recently travelling to the Russian Far East along the Chukotka coast and up to Wrangel & Herald Islands, where I was lucky enough to encounter 105 bears. I have also voyaged to Spitsbergen, Antarctica, the Canadian High Arctic and Baja California’s Sea of Cortez on expedition vessels, along with sailing the Amazon Basin and paddling down the Yukon. I hope to go whale and bear watching in Alaska next.

Sue is Country Director for Steppes Voyages  
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