

## Amazon

### LUXURY PERUVIAN AMAZON RIVER CRUISE

#### Why join this Voyage?

- Voyage deep into the heart of the Amazon basin exploring the diverse ecosystems of the Marañon and Ucayali rivers of the Pacaya Samiria Reserve, a flooded forest spanning more than 5 million acres
- Daily excursions with local guides who know the area intimately from its medicinal plants to its exotic beasts, birds and reptiles. Visit local communities where you will learn about their subsistent lifestyle
- Travel in style aboard 2 of the most luxurious Amazon boats which offer unparalleled first class accommodation, service, food & all the 5\* comforts you wouldn't usually expect in the heart of the jungle



#### Trip Summary

This luxury Amazon cruise aboard the M/V Aqua or M/V Aria will transport you comfortably into the Pacaya Samiria Reserve, located deep within the Amazon rainforest at the headwaters of the Amazon River basin. Pacaya Samiria is one of Peru's most well preserved havens for Amazon wildlife, plants and birds. Enter a world filled with vibrant coloured parrots, playful monkeys, graceful hawks, stealthy herons and millions of butterflies. With the hope of seeing the endangered pink Amazon dolphin, three toed sloth, howler monkey and giant otter. These state-of-the-art vessels allow you to experience the heart of the Amazon without compromise on comfort. Watch the Amazon slip by from your large air-conditioned suite with its magnificent panoramic windows, while enjoying gourmet meals and complimentary high quality wines.

# Itinerary



## Day 1 London/ Lima

Fly from London to Lima where you will overnight.

## Day 2 Lima/ Iquitos/ Embarkation

Early afternoon you will fly from Lima to Iquitos where you will be met & transferred to the boat for embarkation and begin your voyage into the Amazon.

## Day 3 Tahuayo River/ Charo Lake/ Yacapana Islands

This morning you will travel from the Amazon through the Huaysi short-cut canal to explore the Tahuayo black water river looking for birdlife. At Charo Lake try your hand at piranha fishing. In the afternoon visit the Yacapana Islands, known locally as the "Iguana Islands," because of the large number of Iguanas that live here.

## Day 4 Marañon River/ Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve (Yanayacu-Pucate)

This morning take a jungle walk in primary forest, with a visit to one of the villages sustainable resource management projects. In the afternoon and early evening cruise the backwaters in search of mammals, birds and reptiles.



## Day 5 Yucuruche Lake/ Birthplace Of The Amazon/ Puerto Prado/ Nauta

In the morning travel by skiff along the Ucayali River to Yucuruche Lake to see the world's largest aquatic plant, the Giant Water Lilies or "Victoria Regias". At Puerto Prado village meet native Cocama Indians who will share their culture, traditions and folklore with you. In the afternoon take a leisurely walk through the town of Nauta, the oldest town in the state of Loreto. This village, founded in the 1930's, is very important to the local river communities, as it is the port where they come to sell their produce.



## Day 6 Ucayali River/ Magdalena Village/ Puinahua Canal

Early morning exploration of the Ucayali River, the Amazon's largest tributary looking for three-toed sloths, iguanas, orioles, horned screamers and many other birds. After breakfast walk through the village of Magdalena, a small community of ten families. This afternoon cruise the Ucayali River, meet native "balseros", or fishermen, who will demonstrate their skill and let you see their catch, hopefully including a type of "armoured" catfish with a shell-like skin.



## Day 7 Puinahua River/ Hatum Posa Lake/ Pacaya River

Take a morning jungle walk near Hatum Posa Village, meet the native people living by subsistence farming, learning how they cultivate wild plants and trees. There is a wealth of fruit trees and medicinal plants hidden in the jungle, the source of many of the world's pharmaceutical products. In the late afternoon explore Yanayacu Lake and as night falls, you will hear the cacophony of the Amazon rainforest as the nocturnal wildlife comes alive.



## Day 8 Pacaya River/ Puinahua Village

Visit the dolphin feeding spots along Pacaya River and after an optional village visit and final fishing opportunity; begin sailing downstream back toward Iquitos.

## Day 9 Disembarkation/ Iquitos/ Lima

There will be a final visit to one of the villages and a guided tour of Iquitos before boarding the late afternoon flight to Lima where you will spend the night.



## Day 10 Lima/ London

Fly from Lima to London on the overnight flight.

## Day 11 UK

Arrive back into the UK

## The Boats

### M/V Aqua



Built in Peru in 2007 the M/V Aqua offers a distinctly luxurious option to voyage deep into Amazonia. Built with the style of a traditional Amazon vessel but offering boutique 5 star accommodation, with panoramic windows, air conditioning and large lounge areas. The MV Aqua has brought a hitherto new level of comfort to Amazon voyages.



There is a choice of 8 Suites measuring 230 square feet or 4 Master Suites measuring 240 square feet. All suites feature twin beds that can be converted to a king-sized bed, en suite sitting area, well-appointed bathroom with shower, toilet, sink, cabinet, hairdryer and a basket of toiletries providing hot water around the clock.



Fine dining meals are served with complimentary wines in the dining room on deck two with panoramic views of the Amazon. All non premium brand drinks are included within the cost of the voyage. There is a large observation deck and lounge area with sofas and an indoor bar and boutique. She is equipped with 3 aluminium launch boats with a capacity of 8 passenger and guide. The ship is crewed by 17 staff including a paramedic, plus 3 English-speaking naturalist guides.

### M/V Aria



Built in Peru in 2010 the M/V Aria is a larger sister ship to M/V Aqua and she offers a first class service deep in the Amazon. As with the Aqua, she is built along the lines of a traditional Amazon vessel to provide 5\* boutique style accommodation, with panoramic windows, air conditioning and even larger lounge areas.



All 16 suites offer floor to ceiling windows, with air conditioning a sitting area and en-suite facilities. Some suites can be interconnecting for families if required.



Fine dining meals are served with complimentary wines in the dining room offering panoramic views of the Amazon; all non premium brand drinks are included within the cost of the voyage. There is a large observation deck and sundeck with sofas and an outdoor jacuzzi, indoor bar and boutique. She is equipped with 4 aluminium launch boats with a capacity of 8 passenger and guide. The ship is crewed by 24 staff including a paramedic, plus 4 English-speaking naturalist guides.

## Daily Activities



- Guided walks through the rainforest
- Cruising by skiff looking for wildlife
- Visits to local villages and river communities
- Piranha Fishing

## Expedition Dates for 2012

**M/V Aqua**  
Departs every Saturday for a 7 night voyage

**M/V Aria**  
Departs every Friday from the April 2011 for a 7 night voyage.

*\* Shorter 3 & 4 day voyages are also available onboard both the M/V Aqua & the M/V Aria*

## Guide Price for 2012

### Cabin Type

(from guide price, quoted per person)

	M/V Aqua	M/V Aria
Suite / First Deck Suite	£4,095	£4,325
Master Suite / Second Deck Suite	£4,325	£4,550

### Includes

- pre & post voyage accommodation in Lima
- 8-day voyage in Twin/double suite based on full board and activities
- All drinks with the exclusion of premium brands

### Excludes

- All flights London - Lima - Iquitos return
- Travel insurance, vaccinations & visas (if required)
- Gratuities on board
- Souvenirs and 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

Passengers wishing to reserve their own cabin can with a supplement of approximately 50% of the cruise cost.

## 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 £1,275 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 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, 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 Peru further, we would be delighted to help and can arrange tailor-made extensions throughout the country, including the lost city of Machu Picchu, Cusco and the Sacred Valley, Lake Titicaca, Arequipa and the Colca Canyon or the northern highlights around Trujillo and Chiclayo including, Chan Chan, Sol y La Luna and Sipan. For those looking for more wildlife then the Galapagos Islands is an ideal option and a distinct contrast. For full details of these or help with any other ideas please contact us for a comprehensive quote and advice.

## Want to discuss this trip?

Please call **Sue** or **Alex** 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 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 to Antarctica, Spitsbergen, Russia and the Canadian Arctic, the Amazon, Baja California and the Yukon. I hope to go in search of Grizzly Bears in Alaska next.

Sue is Country Director for Steppes Voyages [sueg@steppestravel.co.uk](mailto:sueg@steppestravel.co.uk)