

## Amazon

### UPPER PERUVIAN AMAZON RIVER CRUISE

#### Why join this Voyage?

- A voyage into the headwaters of the Amazon exploring Pacaya-Samiria National Preserve where the Marañon & Ucayali Rivers meet the Amazon. Explore the diverse eco-systems of terra firma and varzea
- Daily guided excursions by boat allow you to explore the flooded forest, visiting ribereños communities; with a chance to walk, fish for piranha or swim while looking for wildlife and a variety of exotic birdlife
- Travel aboard the Delfin II, a small expedition vessel offering elegant accommodation, knowledgeable naturalist guides and excellent cuisine, a very intimate and graceful way to explore this remote region



#### Trip Summary

This in-depth voyage takes you from the city of Iquitos down the Amazon River and some of its major tributaries in the Marañon and Ucayali Rivers which border the Pacaya-Samira National Preserve. This reserve encompasses the largest area of flooded forest (Varzea) in the world. During the wet season (January - June) approximately 85% of the area is covered by water, making a voyage the only way to explore the region. The Amazon Basin contains a third of all animal species and one in five of all bird species; from the tiniest hummingbirds through to the great caracaras. While exploring some of the smaller rivers such as the Pucate, Yanayacu and Dorado you will hopefully encounter both pink and grey river dolphin, giant otters, a plethora of birdlife, sloths and monkeys. You will have chance to paddle through black water lagoons and also walk in regions of terra firma on the Marañon river. Along the rivers you will visit communities who are an integral part of the reserve, learning about their ancestral traditions.

# Itinerary



## Day 1 London/ Lima

Fly from London to Lima where you will spend the night in a local hotel.

## Day 2 Lima/ Iquitos/ Embarkation

Morning flying from Lima to Iquitos where you will be met and transferred for around 1 ½ hours to the riverside town of Nauta to embark the Delfin II.



## Day 3 Pacaya-Samiria Reserve

The Pucate River is one of three main rivers in the reserve. Explore this black water stream by tender, looking for parrots, macaws and perhaps monkeys, such as the Monk Saki with its gray and black body, naked face and long shaggy tail.

## Day 4 Pacaya-Samiria Reserve

Terra firma is one of the principal ecosystems within the Amazon Basin. Exploring the vegetation and wildlife, distinctly different from the seasonally flooded forests. For those not interested in hiking you can take the tender up-river to where the Ucayali and Marañon rivers merge to form the mighty Amazon River. Visit the Sapuena Village to learn about the life of the ribereños.



## Day 5 Pacaya-Samiria Reserve

Today we hope to find the giant Amazonian water lily, Victoria Regia, which grows in small lagoons known as “cochas”. Today’s walk offers excellent bird watching. At the junction of the El Dorado River, look for dolphins surfacing, iguanas lazing and sloths hanging in the upper canopy. We return to Delfin II after sunset in order to see nocturnal life along the river with spot lights.

## Day 6 Pacaya-Samiria Reserve

Sail further into the heart of the Pacaya-Samiria Nature Reserve. From December to May explore Atun Poza by tender, looking for lagoon egrets, herons, jacamars, ringed kingfishers and various raptors. If the river levels are sufficiently low, a short walk to a local community will be offered.

From June to November, hike through a rich ecosystem, passing through a classical tropical rain forest. Biologically, this kind of forest is one of the richest habitats on earth, supporting myriad species of plants and animals. Our goal is to reach the giant “ceiba” or kapok tree with its immense trunk diameter. By tender we depart for our furthest point in the journey, up the Pacaya River to Yanayacu Lagoon. This rainforest wilderness is home to red howler and capuchin monkeys, three-toed sloths and numerous species of parrot.



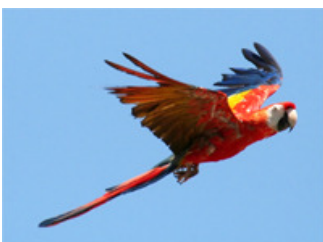
## Days 7 & 8 Pacaya-Samiria Reserve

Morning fishing for piranhas in a quiet lagoon. From January to July, rivers flood and lowland forests flower and fruit to coincide with this flooding, many fish, including piranhas, swim around the trees to feed on the fallen fruit. From July to December, we search for the shorebirds that appear only at this time of year. When the river is very low, huge white sandy beaches emerge and young, sometimes temporary river islands form, creating special ecosystems. Stop at Puerto Miguel Village to learn about their culture, traditions and folklore.



## Day 9 Nauta/ Disembarkation/ Iquitos/ Lima

After breakfast disembark and return to Iquitos by bus. In high water season travel by boat to the famous floating city of Belen and have lunch at a floating restaurant. In low water season before lunch we visit the Jenaro Herrera Research Center and their manatee rehabilitation program. After a tour of Iquitos fly to Lima and overnight.



## Day 10 Lima/ London

Fly from Lima to London on the overnight flight

## Day 11 London

Arrive back into the UK

## The Boat



### Delphin II

Built in Peru along traditional Amazon boat designs, she offers a very comfortable platform for exploring the upper reaches of the Amazon. The top deck has sofas, hammocks and chairs to relax with a good book or a pair of binoculars. The presentations with maps, large flat-screen plasma and digital technology are given up here, next to the bar along with a small library and the bridge.



The 10 suites have twin beds, which can convert to a king, a large view window, an easy chair and desk. En-suite bathrooms are very spacious with a large shower, separate toilet and sink area with complimentary organic sun block, insect repellent, body lotion, shampoo and conditioner.



The 4 Master Suites feature all of the amenities listed above plus oversized windows which provide incredible 90 degree views. The Master Suites on the Main Deck feature twin beds which can convert to a king and Upper Deck Master Suites have king size beds only. A number of suites can be connected for families travelling together.

The air-conditioned dining room's large windows provide wonderful panoramic views, all meals are served in a single seating with relaxed unassigned tables. Dishes will include sustainable products of the rain forest and sauces made with exotic regional fruits. Onboard there are two 10-person tenders – with individual seat cushions and plenty of leg room. Rain ponchos are kept handy in the skiffs and distributed if needed. Rubber boots are provided before an excursion if deemed necessary. Guests may swim directly from the tenders using the convenient swim ladder, weather permitting.

## Daily Activities



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

## Expedition Dates for 2012

### 2012

7 - 14 January  
14 - 21 January  
21 - 28 January  
28 January - 4 February  
4 - 11 February  
11 - 18 February  
18 - 25 February  
25 February - 3 March  
17 - 24 March  
24 March - 7 April  
7 - 21 April

21 - 28 April  
21 April - 5 May  
5 - 12 May  
12 - 19 May  
19 - 26 May  
14 - 21 July  
21 - 28 July  
15 - 22 September  
22 - 29 September  
29 September - 6 October  
6 - 13 October

13 - 20 October  
20 - 27 October  
27 October - 3 November  
3 - 10 November  
10 - 17 November  
17 - 24 November  
24 November - 8 December  
8 - 15 December  
15 - 22 December  
22 - 29 December

## Guide Price for 2012

### Cabin Type

(from guide price, quoted per person)

Suite	£3,700
Master suite	£4,350

### Includes

- Overnight pre & post voyage accommodation in Lima on a bed & breakfast basis
- 8-day voyage in twin/double suite based on full board and activities
- Bottled water while onboard

### Excludes

- All flights London - Lima - Iquitos 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

Passengers wishing to reserve their own cabin can with a single 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 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  
[sueg@steppestravel.co.uk](mailto:sueg@steppestravel.co.uk)