

## Tambopata-Research-Center

### Program 1: Refugio Amazonas and Tambopata-Research-Center

6 days / 5 nights – start: every day

#### Day 1: Arrival in Puerto Maldonado and boat ride on the Tambopata river

• Upon arrival from Lima or Cusco, we will welcome you at the airport and drive you to our Puerto Maldonado headquarters. While enjoying your first taste of the forest in our gardens we will ask you to pack only the necessary gear for your next few days, and leave the rest at our safe deposit. This helps us keep the boats and cargo light.

• *Puerto Maldonado to Tambopata River Port.* Skirting Puerto Maldonado, we drive 20 kilometers to the Tambopata River Port, entering the Native Community of Infierno. The port is a communal business.

• *Tambopata River Port to Refugio Amazonas.* The two and a half hour boat ride from the Tambopata Port to Refugio Amazonas will take us past the Community of Infierno and the Tambopata National Reserve's checkpoint and into the buffer zone of the conservation unit.

- Boxed Lunch.
- *Orientation:* Upon arrival, the lodge manager will welcome you and brief you with important navigation and security tips.
- Dinner.
- *Caiman searches.* We will be out at the river's edge at night, scanning the shores with headlamps and flashlights to catch the red gleams of reflection from caiman eyes.
- Overnight in Refugio Amazonas.

#### Day 2: Canopy-Tower, Brazil nut, Tambopata-Research-Center



been built upon high ground, therefore increasing your horizon of the continuous primary forest extending out towards the Tambopata National Reserve. From here views of mixed species canopy

• *Canopy tower:* A thirty minute walk from Refugio Amazonas leads to the 25 meter scaffolding canopy tower. The tower has

flocks as well as toucans, macaws and raptors are likely.

- Breakfast.
- *Brazil nut trail and camp:* A few minutes hike from



the lodge is a beautiful old growth patch of Brazil Nut forest that has been harvested for decades (if not centuries) where the precarious remains of a camp used two months a year by Brazil Nut gatherers can still be experienced. We will be demonstrating the whole process of the rain



forest's only sustainably harvested product from collection through transportation to drying.

• *Refugio Amazonas to Tambopata Research Center.* Four and half hours by boat from Refugio Amazonas, in the pristine heart of the reserve, lies the Tambopata Research Center. One and half hours into our boat journey, as we cross the confluence with the Malinowski River, we will leave the final traces of human habitation behind. Within the 700 000 hectare uninhabited nucleus of the reserve, sightings of capybara, caiman, geese, macaws and other large species will become more frequent.



- Boxed Lunch.
- *Orientation.*

Upon arrival, the lodge manager will welcome you and brief you with important navigation and security tips.

• *Overlook Trail:* A three to five kilometer hike will lead us to overlooks commanding magnificent views of the Tambopata winding its way into the lowlands. The forest on this trail, regenerating on old bamboo forest, is good for Howler Monkey and Dusky Titi Monkey.

- Dinner.
- *Macaw Project Lectures:* After dinner scientists will provide an in depth look at the biology of macaws, their feeding habits, the theories for clay lick use, their breeding and feeding ecology, population fluctuations and the threats to their conservation.

- Overnight in Tambopata Research Center.

## Day 3: Tambopata-Research-Center

• *Macaw Clay Lick*: On most clear mornings of the year dozens of large macaws and hundreds of parrots congregate on this large river bank in a raucous and colorful spectacle which inspired a



National Geographic cover story. Discretely located fifty meters from the cliff, we will observe Green-winged, Scarlet and Blue-and-

gold Macaws and several species of smaller parrots descend to ingest clay. Outings are at dawn when the lick is most active.

• Breakfast.

• *Floodplain Trail*: This five kilometer trail covers the prototypical rain forest with immense trees



criss-crossed by creeks and ponds. Amongst the figs, ceibas and shihuahuacos we will look for Squirrel, Brown Capuchin, and Spider Monkeys as well as peccaries. The Tambopata Research Center is located within this habitat.



• Lunch.  
• *Pond Platform*: Ten minutes upriver from the lodge is a tiny pond with a platform in the middle. It is a

great place to spot waterfowl such as Muscovy duck, sunbittern and hoatzin along with the woodpeckers, oropendolas, flycatchers and parakeets that call this pond their home.

• Dinner.

• *Night walk*. You will have the option of hiking out at night, when most of the mammals are active but rarely seen. Much easier to find are frogs with shapes and sounds as bizarre as their natural histories.

• Overnight in Tambopata Research Center.

## Day 4: Tambopata-Research-Center

Time off to relax and enjoy the lodge surroundings, wander off on your own, try out a new trail, or repeat your favorite activity.

• Breakfast.

• *Terra Firme Trail*: An entirely different habitat characterized by smaller, thinner trees atop hills and slopes is covered by this five kilometer trail. Saddleback tamarins are frequently found here. As we walk near the limits of the swamp we will also keep our eyes open for rare tapir tracks.



• Lunch.

• *Palm Swamp*: A thirty minute hike from TRC brings us to the palm swamp. Dead aguaje palms serve as nests to red-bellied and blue-and-gold macaws. An elevated boardwalk and scaffolding tower allow for eye level observation of the macaws as they fly in and out of their nests.

• Dinner.

• Overnight in Tambopata Research Center.

## Day 5: from Tambopata Research Center to Refugio Amazonas

• Breakfast

• A three and a half hour boat ride brings us to Refugio Amazonas.

• Boxed Lunch.

• *Condonado Oxbow Lake*: A forty minute hike takes you Condenado Lake. You paddle canoes around the lake looking for lakeside wildlife such as hoatzin and caiman, hoping to see the otters which are infrequently seen here. You will also be rewarded with overhead sightings of macaws.



• Dinner.

• *Tambopata National Reserve Lecture*. Nightly lectures prepared by the staff of Refugio Amazonas cover conservation threats,

opportunities and projects in the Tambopata National Reserve.

• Overnight in Refugio Amazonas



## Day 6: Boat transfer to Puerto Maldonado

• Breakfast.

- Transfer from Refugio Amazonas to Tambopata River Port.
- Transfer from Tambopata River Port to Puerto Maldonado Headquarters.
- Transfer to Airport.

*Boat Transportation.* All the boats are 20 foot long, roofed canoes with 55 hp outboard motors. Daily arrivals and departures from every port are scheduled to meet every airline's arrival and departure with a maximum two hour wait.

## **Program 2: Refugio Amazonas and Tambopata-Research-Center**

5 days / 4 nights – start: every day

Itinerary like Program 1 without day 4.

*Note:* Depending on the weather conditions, the season or any other inconvenience could be necessary to modify the activities.