

Refugio Amazonas

Refugio Amazonas is ideal for three night outings. It takes over three hours to get there from Puerto Maldonado and most of your first afternoon is spent on the river. Therefore, you should spend at least three nights at Refugio Amazonas to have time to fully explore the surrounding primary forest. The extra two hours of travel time are well paid in increased possibilities to encounter wildlife (the further from Puerto Maldonado, the less people there are, the less pressure on wildlife there is). Refugio Amazonas offers all of Posada Amazonas' activities with one great addition: an authentic Brazil nut trail and camp.

Program 1:

3 days / 2 nights

Day 1: from Puerto Maldonado to Refugio Amazonas

- Upon arrival from Lima or Cusco, we will welcome you at the airport and drive you ten minutes 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 this 1.3 million hectare 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: Refugio Amazonas

- *Canopy tower:* A thirty minute walk from Refugio Amazonas leads to the 25 meter scaffolding canopy tower. A bannistered staircase running through the middle provides safe access to the platforms above. The tower has 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 flocks as well as toucans, macaws and raptors are likely.



- *Breakfast.*

- *Farm Visit and Ethnobotanical Garden:* Five minutes downriver from the lodge lies a farm owned and managed by charismatic Don Manuel from the neighbouring community of Condenado. He grows a variety of popular and unknown Amazon crops – just about every plant and tree you see serves a purpose. He has also identified and cultivated many of the medicinal plants used in the region in a little backyard garden.

- *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.

- *Lunch.*

- *Condenado 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.*

- *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 Refugio Amazonas*

Day 3: from Refugio Amazonas to Puerto Maldonado

- *Breakfast.*
- *Transfer to Pto Maldonado and the airport.*

Program 2:

4 days / 3 nights

Day 1: from Puerto Maldonado to Refugio Amazonas

Lika Program 1.

Day 2: Refugio Amazonas

- *Breakfast.*
- *Sachavacayoc Oxbow Lake:* A two hour hike takes you to Sachavacayoc Lake. You will then paddle around the lake in a catamaran, searching for the resident family of five giant river otters (seen by about 30% of lake visitors) and other lakeside wildlife such as caiman, hoatzin and horned screamers. We hike out at dawn – when otters are active. Don't forget the two hour return hike! For those who do not want to take the long hike Condénado Lake, thirty minutes from the lodge, is an option.
- *Lunch.*
- *Farm Visit and Ethnobotanical Garden:* Five minutes downriver from the lodge lies a farm owned and managed by charismatic Don Manuel from the neighbouring community of Condénado. He grows a variety of popular and unknown Amazon crops - just about every plant and tree you see serves a purpose. He has also identified and cultivated many of the medicinal plants used in the region in a little backyard garden.
- *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.
- *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 Refugio Amazonas*

Day 3: Refugio Amazonas

- *Breakfast.*
- *Parakeet clay lick:* A fifteen minute boat ride and sixty minute walk from Refugio Amazonas is a parakeet clay lick. From a blind you will see parakeets descend on most clear days to ingest the clay on a bank. Species such as Dusky headed and Cobalt winged Parakeet descend at this clay lick.

We visit the lick at

dawn, when parrots are most active or in midmorning or early afternoon, when they are active.



- *Mammal clay lick:* Twenty minutes walking from Refugio Amazonas is a peccary clay lick. These wild rain forest pigs show up in herds of five to twenty individuals to eat clay in the late morning. Chances of spotting them are around 15%, but well worth the short hike. Other wildlife also shows up including deer, guan and parakeets.

- *Lunch.*
- *Canopy tower:* A thirty minute walk from Refugio Amazonas leads to the 25 meter scaffolding canopy tower. A bannistered staircase running through the middle provides safe access to the platforms above. The tower has 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 flocks as well as toucans, macaws and raptors are likely.
- *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 4: from Refugio Amazonas to Puerto Maldonado

- *Breakfast.*
- *Transfer to Pto Maldonado and the airport.*