



CLEAN BREAKS

500 NEW WAYS TO SEE THE WORLD

JUNGLE LODGES

The Amazon Rainforest is the stuff of dreams: there are iridescent butterflies the size of your hand, deafening waterfalls that cascade into emerald pools, indigenous tribes who hunt with blowpipes, and as many different kinds of exotic plants and birds as you'll find anywhere on earth. The remoteness of most jungle lodges means they have to be self-reliant for electricity, food and water, and many now organize guided treks that promote conservation of the jungle's biodiversity. They also bring much-needed income to remote communities and provide visitors with an insight into their struggle with logging and oil companies. Below are our ten favourites.

345 Sani Lodge, Ecuador

Ten lakeside, thatch-roofed *cabañas* owned and operated by the Sani Isla community in a wildlife-rich corridor of rainforest between the Cuyabeno Reserve and the Yasuni National Park. Fredy is the general manager, Manuel the chef, and Domingo and Guillermo will take you to see some of the region's 1500 species of trees, five hundred species of tropical birds and thousand species of butterflies.

🌐 www.sanilodge.com; ☎ +593 2255 8881.

347 Napo Wildlife Center, Ecuador

Owned by the Añangua Quichua community, this luxury lodge on the banks of the Napo River supports the conservation of 200 square kilometres of Yasuni National Park – a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and the largest tract of tropical rainforest in Ecuador. There are several clay licks near the lodge where you can see parrots and macaws, and a short trek away is a 36m-high canopy tower that will get you closer to toucans as well as spider and howler monkeys. 🌐 www.napowildlifecenter.com; ☎ +44 (0) 800 032 5771.

346 Yachana Lodge, Ecuador

This one is for chocoholics. Yachana ("Place of Learning"), surrounded by 17 square kilometres of protected forest, is where Yachana Gourmet cacao (🌐 www.yachanagourmet.com) is grown. Here you can learn how chocolate is made from freshly picked cacao beans, go river swimming, or join jungle treks with indigenous guides to nearby waterfalls and Yachana villages.

🌐 www.yachana.com; ☎ +593 2252 3777.

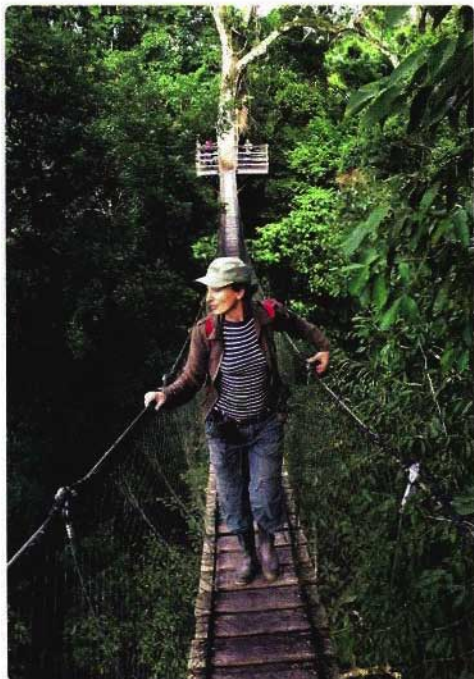
348 Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica lodge, Peru

Come to this luxury lodge in the Tambopata National Reserve if you like your creature comforts: hot showers, "terracotta exfoliates", robes and rubber slippers are the order of the day here. Various excursions are available, including guided treks with professionally trained guides to a canopy walkway, Lake Sandoval and a nearby indigenous farm belonging to the Ese Eja community. 🌐 www.inkaterra.com/en/reserva-amazonica; ☎ +44 (0) 800 458 7506.

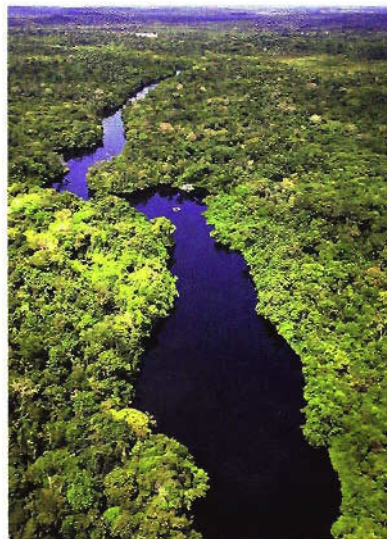
349 La Selva Ecolodge, Ecuador

Owned by an American (he rents the land from the indigenous community of Pilche), La Selva is one of the longest-running lodges in Ecuador, so expect a well-polished service; the food and

Rope bridge at Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica Lodge, Peru



accommodation are first-class. Birding – led by local guides – is popular and you can try your hand (no pun intended) at piranha fishing. @laseivajunglelodge.com; ☎+593 2254 5425.



350 Refugio Amazonas, Peru

A good choice for families. Children aged 6–12 can go on short jungle trails where they'll learn to follow a map and take

part in a treasure hunt for “the lost Brazil nut” Refugio Amazonas is run by Peruvian ecotourism company Rainforest Expeditions, in collaboration with the indigenous Ese-Eja community of Infierno in the Tambopata National Reserve. It is part of three interlinked lodges: Posadas Amazonas is the easiest to access, while the more intrepid can travel upriver (2.5 hr) from Refugio Amazonas to the Tambopata Research Centre – home to the world's largest macaw lick. @www.perunature.com; ☎+51 1421 8347.

351 Iwokrama, Guyana

See conservation in action at the headquarters of the International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development, which in collaboration with the Makushi people, manages 3700 square kilometres of the Iwokrama Forest in central Guyana. The field station has five cabins, but you can also stay in basic satellite camps throughout the forest, including one that is 500m from the 30m-high Iwokrama canopy walkway. @www.iwokrama.org; ☎+592 225 1504.

352 Cristalino Jungle Lodge, Brazil

The focus at Cristalino is on learning about the riches of the rainforest from local guides – especially about birds and butterflies. And no wonder: the lodge's private reserve is home to six hundred bird species, a huge variety of butterflies and moths and some unusual wildlife,

including jaguars, harpy eagles, capybaras and agoutis. A room in a dormitory starts from US\$135 full-board per person per night, including transfers and activities, but for those with deeper pockets there are private bungalows (US\$198–\$298) with ceiling fans, double beds and private outdoor rest areas. @www.cristalinolodge.com.br; ☎+55 6635 127 100.

353 Amazonat Jungle Lodge, Brazil

One of the most accessible jungle lodges, Amazonat is two hours by road east from Manaus international airport, in a 50-square-kilometre private reserve. The owners run treks deep into the jungle and include courses on jungle survival. @www.amazonat.org; ☎+55 1199 872 498.

354 Chalalán Lodge, Bolivia

Conservation International's flagship community-run ecolodge in the Madidi National Park is managed and staffed by the indigenous Quechua-Tacana people. Learn from them about the medicinal qualities of plants and go on boat trips on the River Tuichi to see caimans, turtles and peccaries. @www.chalalan.com; ☎+591 (0) 3892 2419.



(Clockwise from top left) In the swing of things at Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica Lodge, Peru; Cristalino River; Spider monkey