



From Times Online

December 2, 2008

Green report: Reserva Amazonica (Inkaterra), Peru

Carolyn Fry

Sustainable plan?

Inkaterra has a culture, more than a specific Plan. Our Policy has been accepted by those who have put their funds in our doings, as the loan and grant from United Nations' Global Environment Facility, via The World Bank Group (IFC); and the grant from National Geographic Society, via ACEER. Both are understood to have been the first ever from the GEF and from NGS to a private Institution (Inkaterra Asociación, NGO).

Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica provides the funds for Inkaterra Asociacion to research, do inventories and conserve the area. Stewardship includes some 17000 Has. of Primary Forest under Inkaterra's title. Books have been published on research at Inkaterra, by Cornell University and by the Missouri Botanical Garden – information provided by Inkaterra.

Has it won any other awards/has it been certified?

The Latin America Travel Association has recently awarded IRA as the Best Jungle Lodge in S America. Formal environmental certification has not been applied for.

TIMES RECOMMENDS

- > The Green Spaces Travel Awards, 2008 - the winners
- > Britain's 12 best winter walks
- > The insiders' guide to bohemian Paris

TRAVEL SEARCH

DESTINATIONS | HOLIDAY TYPE



Select

Travel Directory

Search for a holiday

Enter keyword

e.g. Villa in Tuscany

FOCUS ZONE

Need to Know

Industry sectors news at a glance. Interactive heatmap, video and podcast

+9.582		
+5.199	+5.394	
+4.724	+1.888	
+7.209	+4.237	
+1.879	+7.84	
+1.882	+6.762	
+3.266	+8.41	

- > Need to Know
- > Business Travel
- > Social Entrepreneurs
- > More reports...
- > James Bond

CLASSIFIEDS >>

Has it won any other awards/has it been certified?

The Latin America Travel Association has recently awarded IRA as the Best Jungle Lodge in S America. Formal environmental certification has not been applied for.

Siting and design

Local materials and techniques have been used and local labour. Very little paint is used. All furniture is made on site with saw mill cut offs, which if not are burned.

The buildings are located next to the river - so in a natural opening in the forest - the buildings are inconspicuous as you approach from the river.

Room service

Towels and are cotton - not known if fairtrade/organic; Johnson biodegradable cleaning products; organic hand made products - I really liked the soap and shampoo that were in my chalet. They seemed to have very few ingredients and to be made from locally derived plant extracts (I think the shampoo was Hibiscus)

Energy conservation

Low-energy bulbs and only two per chalet. Other lighting is from Kerosene lamps



Select

TRAVEL COMMENT



“ Before boutique hotels and fancy villas, we all went camping in France. And that's what car-loads will do next year ” [More...](#)

Carolyn Boyd

> James Bond

CLASSIFIEDS >>

CARS JOBS

PROPERTY | TRAVEL

CARS

Saab 9-3
05/2005
£13,500

Bentley Continental
08/2008
£109,950

Aston Martin DB9 Cooper
2005 / 55
£59,500

[Car insurance](#)

Water conservation

They pump water from the (huge) Madre de Dios river. Water was not in short supply when I was there. Grey water recycling system used for the distant so-called gardens

Carbon offsetting

Since 1975, Inkaterra has been developing conservation programs to preserve the natural characteristics of the Amazon rainforest (helping to prevent global warming). These programs directly protect 12,000 hectares of private property, fixing 7,200 ton/CO2/ha/year. Furthermore, INKATERRA indirectly fixes more than 12,600 ton/CO2/ha/ year through its support for a variety of external conservation programmes – from the website.

Conservation and wildlife

A not-for-profit institution develops scientific, technological, social and cultural research in order to manage and protect the biodiversity of Peru's Andes and Amazon Rainforest, says the website. Studies have led to the classification of 362 ants species in one single place. New species of Hyla koechlini also found.

Contributions to Inkaterra's work can be donated through the 'Wish List' scheme. Thanks to donations, Inkaterra protects 30,000 acres of Amazon forest.

Social responsibility

Forged links with a local indigenous group - who I went to see. However, the group seemed quite hostile to visitors. I felt that Inkaterra had tried but the locals in this particular case were not that responsive..

Inkaterra owns the area where permanent facilities are built, the rest is 40 years title, renewable. Local people run most mid management positions – they have trained locals for 33 years. Now many work in other lodges, as they have acquired a permanent 'profession'.

Own guide training program, an indigenous medicinal plant garden run by local people. A butterfly garden also.

TIMES RECOMMENDS

- ▶ The Green Spaces Travel Awards, 2008 - the winners
- ▶ Britain's 12 best winter walks
- ▶ The insiders' guide to bohemian Paris

TRAVEL SEARCH

DESTINATIONS | HOLIDAY TYPE



Select

SEARCH

Travel Directory

Search for a holiday

Enter keyword

SEARCH

e.g. Villa in Tuscany

TRAVEL COMMENT



“Before boutique hotels and fancy villas, we all went camping in France. And that's what car-loads will do next year” [More](#)

Food

As much as possible is homegrown/reared.

What's it like to visit? Is it value for money? It is expensive but you get an experience that you would not get anywhere else - I felt that it was value for money for that reason. The accommodation was quite simple but very comfortable, the food was good, and the excursions were all very interesting. There was a good choice of excursions for all levels of mobility - and I felt that each of them provided an adventure. Essentially, you felt like you were in safe hands in what could be a dangerous environment if you got lost or were stung by something toxic...I also liked the fact that environmental issues were covered - for example, in the environment centre.

And finally finally.... What is the single most significant achievement you feel it has made regarding local people, the environment and/or conservation?

It educates people as to why the rainforest is vitally important, while demonstrating that local people depend on it and have to make their livings somehow. When people leave, they have a greater understanding of the Amazon rainforest than when they arrive - and will hopefully pass on this message.

Also, in preserving the 17,000 hectares of rainforest, Inkaterra is physically preventing CO2 emissions through avoided deforestation - which I think is also of great importance.

next year” [More...](#)

Carolyn Boyd

Post a comment

BEST READ FEATURES

- ▶ The insiders' guide to bohemian Paris
- ▶ Britain's 12 best winter walks
- ▶ Europe's 20 best Christmas markets
- ▶ Brits in Bangkok furious at lack of rescue
- ▶ The Times travel photo competition

TRAVELLER



Be inspired: exclusive gallery by Gusov

London

Head of International Programme

£49,229 - £62,035 pro rata
Charity Commission
London/Liverpool/Taunton

Project Director (m/f)

Alstom Power
Europe

Director Roles

Six Figure
Rolls Royce
Midlands/Europe

▶ Search more Jobs

Place your advert now

◀ PREVIOUS PAGE

Page 2 of 2

HIDE THE FORM

HAVE YOUR SAY