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## A Taste of the Amazon by Ellen Clark

Posted on March 19, 2015 By Guest

Just the mere mention of the Amazon and my mind races to the darkly intriguing, mysterious and exotic.

I envision a steamy lush jungle setting that is home to everything from huge slithering snakes to fantastic bird life and from chattering monkeys to large black crocodiles. It has been on my got-to-go list for eons so, when a chance for a two day stay in the Peruvian part of the Amazon came my way, I jumped at it.



image

After a plane ride, a bus ride and a boat ride, we arrived at Inkaterra Hacienda Concepcion, our home for the next couple of days. Adjacent to the lower Madre de Dios River region of Tambopata National Reserve, it's part of a tropical rainforest, characterized by high annual rainfall, dense plant growth and warm temperatures. It is said that two-thirds of the world's plant and animal species make their home in these jungle regions, with many more waiting to be discovered.

After lunch Carlos, one of the lodge's naturalist guides, took us out on a nature walk. He educated us about some of the local flora and fauna, while we watched chattering monkeys swing from the trees high about our heads. Before dinner we went for a boat trip in the hopes of seeing one of the illusive alligator-related black caiman. Unfortunately they weren't appearing for us, but we did get an introduction to the blinding thunderstorms typical of the region.

Back at the lodge we sipped pisco sours and chose the next morning's tour. A number of people opted

for the 4-mile hike to Sandoval Lake. Since mud was promised, participants were outfitted with knee-high Wellington rubber boots and told to show up the next morning at 6:30 sharp. I've slogged through knee-deep mud before and had no interest in doing it again, so I opted for a canoe ride around the lodge's small private lake where I could photograph bird life.

Turned out the hike was not 4 miles, but more like 6, and the mud was even more impressive than advertised. I was very happy with my choice and with the photos I managed to shoot during our paddle around the lake.

By afternoon the rain had started again, but that didn't stop us from our final Amazon adventure, taking the



much talked about canopy walk. Dressed in ponchos we climbed up one of the 115 foot observation towers and proceeded to cautiously navigate the 7 swaying bridges, outfitted with special cables and lateral mesh, that hung suspended over the forest floor. Not much beats walking amongst the tree-tops in the Peruvian Amazon. A fitting finale to my first, but hopefully not last, trip to the fabulous Amazon.

A widely published travel writer and photographer, Ellen Clark calls Los Angeles home when she's not

pursuing her love of travel and adventure. Her trip to the Peruvian Amazon, though short, fulfilled a longtime dream.

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Posted by Barbara Beckley

March 19, 2015

I loved this article. Fabulous pictures and descriptions—a lifetime adventure.

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