



The Peruvian Amazon has one of the densest concentrations of ocelots in the world. PHOTOGRAPH BY  
CHARLIE HAMILTON JAMES

## Peruvian Amazon

**WHY GO NOW:** Welcome to the jungle

Amazon rain forest covers more than half of the country of [Peru](#). “We have low jungles, high jungles, cloud forests, flooded forests, vast swamps, waterfalls, jungle ruins, creepy isolated mountain peaks, and even the world’s largest documented thermal river—the Boiling River of the Amazon,” says Peruvian geothermal scientist and National Geographic Explorer Andrés Ruzo. “One of my favorite things here is the blending of cuisines and cultures,” Ruzo says. “Chefs are exploring the wilds of the jungle for the next bold flavor.” Lima top chef Pedro Miguel Schiaffino has teamed up with river cruise operator [Aqua Expeditions](#) to support sustainable fishing practices in the Pacaya Samiria Reserve, where the *Aria Amazon* sails. Creating northeastern Peru’s roadless Yaguas National Park in 2018 spared millions of acres of Amazon wilderness from development; it should be ready for tourists soon.

**GO WITH NAT GEO:** Walk through the treetops 98 feet above the ground on the [Inkaterra Canopy Walkway](#), built in partnership with National Geographic and the [World Bank](#).

