



Traveler's Guide to Touring the Amazon

DESTINATION & TOURISM LAUREN BREEDLOVE FEBRUARY 26, 2020



Amazon River, Peru. (Photo by Lauren Breedlove)

An Amazonian Adventure

The Peruvian Amazon sounds like a remote destination that isn't the most accessible for travelers to reach. But, with [LATAM airlines](#) and [Inkaterra](#) Hotels, it's very possible to venture into one of the world's most infamous rainforests to experience what the Southern Peruvian Amazon has to offer. From floating down the Madre de Dios river to your jungle hut home base and trekking amongst ancient trees to viewing colorful plants and insects and

searching for an elusive family of otters, this is an endeavor of a lifetime. Oh, and listening to the howler monkeys, that too.

Exploring this area of the Amazon can be a reality for a true nature-centric adventure in a place you've only seen in the movies. Let these photos guide and inspire you...cue the rainforest soundtrack.



Amazon Plane View, Peru. (Photo by Lauren Breedlove)[🔗](#)

Getting There

Travelers can fly direct from Lima or [Cusco](#) to Puerto Maldonado via [LATAM airlines](#), one of Latin America's leading airline groups that has also been recognized for sustainable efforts. The views from the plane of the Amazonian rivers snaking through the lush, green landscape is your exciting preview of the adventure to come. Upon landing in Puerto Maldonado, travelers will then be greeted by an Inkaterra representative to begin your transfer to the Amazon wooden canoe boats via air-conditioned van. The transfer takes approximately one hour total, depending on which property you're staying on. It may take a smorgasbord of transportation methods to reach this region, but remote destinations are called "remote" for a reason.



Puerto Maldonado, the Amazon, Peru. (Photo by Lauren Breedlove)

Boating the Amazon

Consider your [bucket list](#) checked from the moment you set foot in one of these boats. This will likely be one of your first boots-on-the-ground 'pinch me' moments...you're floating in a wooden canoe down the Madre De Dios (a tributary of the Amazon river) to your Peruvian rainforest abode. Other than your transfer to one of the Inkaterra lodging properties, these boats will be your main form of transportation as there are little to no roads. You can choose to hop aboard for small group [excursions](#) as well, such as a sunset and twilight river cruise, canopy walkway, or hiking.



Inkaterra Hacienda Concepcion, the Amazon, Peru. (Photo by Lauren Breedlove)

Lodging

There are three Inkaterra properties that offer sustainable eco-lodging in the Tambopata region of the Amazon to choose from, depending on your travel style. [Inkaterra Hacienda Concepcion](#) is one of National Geographic's Unique Lodges of the World and the most luxurious of the three, with a set of private cabanas on what used to function as a cacao and rubber plantation. The new spa and spacious main dining and lounge house with wifi make the transition to your rainforest stay an easy one.

[Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica](#) is another eco-lodge property a touch further downriver, with cabanas and approximately 540 bird species to lull you to sleep at night. The [Inkaterra Field Station](#) is the most rustic of the three properties, with basic cabanas in the midst of the conservation initiatives. This option is popular with researchers, students and nature-loving volunteers.



Cocoa fruit, the Amazon, Peru. (Photo by Lauren Breedlove)

Local Fruits

Trekking through the Amazon with a local guide will expose you to knowledge and the opportunity to taste the unique local crops that grow in the region...like cocoa! Marvel at 300-year-old trees as you stroll through natural history accompanied by the diverse sounds of the rainforest. Guides will point out the various forms of life thriving in this region of the world...and there are *a lot*. This part of the Amazon is one of the most bio-diverse regions.

Other than cocoa fruit, medicinal plants, "walking trees" and brazil nuts are just some of the highlights when taking one of the many trails that leave right from the lodge.

Fun fact: brazil nuts have the protein equivalent to two chicken legs!



Caterpillar, the Amazon, Peru. (Photo by Lauren Breedlove)

Rainforest Life

Guided trekking through the on-site trails at each property will have you encountering locals of the insect, animal, flora and fauna kind. Spot colorful critters while exploring one of the lodge's trails, or on your excursion into Tambopata National Reserve. If you're lucky, you'll experience a fly-by of the electric blue butterfly, a stunning sight of grace as it dances through the rainforest air.

Fun fact: Peru has approximately 3,500 species of butterflies.



Lake Sandoval, the Amazon, Peru. (Photo by Lauren Breedlove)

Lake Sandoval

Lake Sandoval is one of the unique excursions to explore the Southern Peruvian Amazon by boat. The lake is home to anacondas, piranhas, electric eels and likely anything else you can think of from the movies. Paddle with a knowledgeable guide to the music of the rainforest. Once you reach the vast lake, you begin your search for the elusive giant river otter while getting a glimpse into the daily routines of local birds like the macaw, along with the red howler monkeys.



Otters in Lake Sandoval, the Amazon, Peru. (Photo by Lauren Breedlove)

River Otters

There is one furry family that lives on Lake Sandoval, a beautiful, protected oxbow lake teeming with life. The lake's most famous residents are a family of eight giant river otters, and if you're lucky, you'll spot them. If you do, you've seen something that most people haven't, and that won't be around forever. Watch quietly as they play in the water and fish as you absorb this amazing wildlife moment.



Monkey in the Amazon, Peru. (Photo by Lauren Breedlove)

Rainforest Wildlife Watching

The sound of rustling branches and playful squirrel monkeys will entice you to look up in the Amazon rainforest. It's possible to watch these curious animals for hours as they are very entertaining as they use the palm forest as transportation and jungle gym (literally). In addition to squirrel monkeys, there are several other species you may see (or hear!) during your time in the Amazon. Capuchins, titi monkeys, tamarins and, of course, the very vocal howler monkeys, are all hanging out in the area (also literally).



Canopy Walkway, Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica, Peru. (Photo by Lauren Breedlove)

Treehouse Slumbering

For an even more unique experience, consider sleeping directly in the treetop canopy...in a treehouse. A night spent in the rainforest will have you channeling your inner Tarzan. This experience is on the pricier end, but it may be worth it as you enjoy breakfast overlooking the tree canopy with its highly bio-diverse animal life. If you don't want to splurge on a treehouse slumber, it's possible to visit the canopy walkway bridges for an incredible up-close experience in the Amazon. Walk a series of seven hanging bridges, observe the canopy from platforms and two towers, all while feeling like a kid again.

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