

› INKATERRA ◁

AUTHENTIC NATURE TRAVEL IN PERU
SINCE 1975



USER'S GUIDE - TAMBOPATA

Arainforest is an expansive territory with high annual rainfall, very dense plant growth, and a relatively warm temperature. It is natural habitat for two thirds of the world's plant and animal diversity, and it is believed that there are hundreds of millions more species yet to be discovered in this environment.

The Tambopata National Reserve—adjacent to Inkatererra Reserva Amazonica, Amazon Field Station by Inkatererra and Inkatererra Hacienda Concepcion is one of the few easily accessible virgin tropical rainforests in the world. The reserve, with its 274,690-hectare (678,774-acre) area, is known for its mega biodiversity as well as its magnificent natural landscapes. Puerto Maldonado, known as the “Capital of Biodiversity,” is the largest city of the Tambopata Region. Overlooking the confluence of the Tambopata and Madre de Dios rivers, Puerto Maldonado is 400 meters (1,312 feet) above sea level, 650 km (404 miles) away from Cusco.

Though the rainforest is known to host a vast number of species, animals tend to hide away from human presence, making opportunities to observe them variable and unpredictable. Nevertheless, the region's diverse plant life offers an endless opportunity for discovery; the lakes and wetlands invite exploration, and the varied rainforest ecosystems hold the promise of new insight and understanding.

The richness of the Amazon Basin creates a spectacular scenario for bird watching and other eco-friendly activities. Some 590 different bird species, including toucans, tanagers, flycatchers and colorful macaws, have been sighted around the reserve. Due to the region's tropical climate it is common to observe exotic insects. Tropical rainforests have been called the “earth's lungs” as these are essential for oxygen production and carbon sequestration. The rainforest has also been called the “world's largest pharmacy,” because of the many natural medicines found there.

For a complete and updated list of animals and recent sightings please visit our website www.inkatererra.com.

ARRIVAL AND TRANSPORT

A 20-minute flight from Cusco brings you to Puerto Maldonado Airport, where the Inkaterra staff will greet you. Luggage not needed during your rainforest stay can be stored at the Inkaterra headquarters in Puerto Maldonado, located near the airport. Following a 10-minute bus transfer to the port, you will board a motorized dugout canoe for your trip to your selected property. The journey down Madre de Dios River allows travellers to appreciate the spectacular scenery that will be part of the rainforest experience. Transportation by boat is also provided upon your departure.

EXPERIENCE PACE

Relaxed, moderately paced, nature & ecological walks within the Nature Reserve with some boat rides along the river. Some activities/excursions may be physically demanding, and require hiking. Agility required for visiting the jungle. Not recommended for wheelchair or other mobility aids.

HEALTH

The US Travel Advisory for Peru usually recommends yellow fever shots and malaria-preventive medication for tourists travelling to rainforest regions. Please consult your doctor at least a month before visiting the Amazon Basin. No cases of yellow fever or malaria have ever been reported on our properties.

Water: Inkaterra uses filtered river water that can be used for showers but is not safe to drink. Bottled drinking water is provided to all guests. For the convenience of our travellers, our properties have water containers.

WEATHER AND WHAT TO WEAR

The weather is tropical, with an average temperature of 32°C (89° F), ranging from 25°C (77° F) to 42°C (107° F). The hotter season usually ranges from December to March and comes with frequent afternoon rainfall. Between June and September you may need some warmer clothing, since occasional "friaes" or Patagonia Cold Fronts can reduce the temperature to 10°C (50°F). Cool comfortable cotton clothes are required to counter the heat while sweaters and jackets may be handy at night. See Equipment and Luggage.

Visitors must anticipate the extreme heat and humidity of the jungle by finding out the exact weather condition at the time of travel in order to be ready with clothing and accessories.

PACKING LIST:

- Long pants and long sleeve shirt made from light, breathable, quick-dry material
- Good water resistant trekking shoes
- Raingear (back-up gear is a good idea)
- Binoculars
- Canteen
- Sun block, sun hat, sunglasses and sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- A converter (voltage is 220). The hotel has a limited number of converters available
- Contact lens solution and an extra set of contact lenses or glasses
- Don't forget your camera and/or video camera (we recommend a waterproof case), and, if it is not digital, bring plenty of film!*
- Extra batteries. Thank you for considering that Peru does not have a battery recycling project. Please take your used batteries with you, or leave them at the Ecocenter.

**Note: Activities such as filming, photography and/or sound recordings in Natural Protected Areas for commercial use with professional equipment, is prohibited.

EQUIPMENT AND LUGGAGE

It is important that you bring only necessary clothing and equipment to the lodge in your carry-on luggage. Due to weight and space limitations on the boat, passenger luggage is limited to 10 kg. (22 lbs.) per person. Additional luggage will be kept in our storage at Puerto Maldonado.

COMMUNICATION/TELEPHONE

There is limited telephone access and no mobile phone coverage at the lodge. In case of emergency the Guest Service Department can contact the office in town via radio.

CURRENCY/FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The official currency is the Nuevo Sol (PEN) divided into 100 céntimos. Inkaterra accepts major credit cards. There are no facilities to exchange Travelers' checks; travelers are advised to have cash (in Soles) on hand as foreign currency exchange is limited. It is advisable to exchange to Soles before going to the lodge, though payment is accepted in both US Dollars and/ or in Soles. ATMs are available only in main cities.

INKATERRA HOTELS

INKATERRA RESERVA AMAZONICA

Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica is located on the steep banks of Peru's winding Madre de Dios River, in a private ecological reserve deep in the Amazon Basin Rainforest. Guests enjoy a delightful combination of simplicity and luxury. Our 35 lantern-lit, palm-thatched cabañas, designed in the fashion of local Ese' Eja-style huts, are appointed with comfortable beds swathed in mosquito netting, log chairs, and a writing table, plus umbrellas, lanterns, and a complete set of our own natural toiletries. Every room has a spacious siesta porch with hammocks. Every suite and superior room is equipped with fans, hot water, and limited electricity. We do not have internet access, but in case of an emergency, please contact your host.

INKATERRA HACIENDA CONCEPCION

Inkaterra Hacienda Concepcion was rebuilt in the wooden Amazonian hacienda style, providing a fresh but stylish environment with 25 independent cabañas in the property, and 6 rooms in the Casa Grande, which was originally built in the fifties. Guests will live an Amazonian experience surrounded by an array of wildlife and native flora. The design combines wooden rainforest classic hacienda looks and furniture, with modern, casual features as to enjoy a comfortable, fresh but stylish environment. The Casa Grande boasts high ceilings with traditional hand-woven crisneja (*Geonoma deversa*), a fishtail palm leaf, thatched roofing and a spacious dining area decked out with locally-crafted, warm natural-coloured furnishings made of reclaimed lumber. Every room has a spacious siesta porch with hammocks. Every room is equipped with fans, hot water, and limited electricity. We do not have internet access, but in case of an emergency, please contact your host.

AMAZON FIELD STATION byINKATERRA

A knowledgeable experience for scientists, students, volunteers and eco-conscious travelers, Amazon Field Station byInkaterra welcomes guests to be part of diverse research and conservation projects overseen by NGO Inkaterra Asociación. Interactive excursions include a Palmetum with the most complete sample of native palms; a bio-orchard with crops nurtured with ancestral agroforestry techniques; a bird banding station; and a motion-sensitive camera trap system to study wildlife in hotel grounds, such as ocelots, giant armadillos, tapirs, peccaries and tamanduas. With four cabanas and two large pavilions, Amazon Field Station byInkaterra houses an Eco-Center and a lab for native flora and fauna analysis. Every room is equipped with fans, hot water, and limited electricity. We do not have internet access, but in case of an emergency, please contact your host.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Inspired by the tropical flavors of the Amazon region, meals and beverages at the Inkaterra hotels are prepared with fresh local ingredients. All meals include a variety of proteins, salads and fruits, as well as a selection of homemade breads. We also offer vegetarian meals and a children's menu, upon request. Meals are served in the main dining room, where you can also enjoy complete bar service. (Drinks not included in room-rates).

SECURITY

At our properties, all rooms and *cabañas* have a locked drawer in case any traveler wants to secure any valuables. Nonetheless, we suggest that you leave valuables in your locked suitcases. Inkaterra Resserva Amazonica has a safe deposit box located inside the gift shop. At Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica and Amazon Field Station byInkaterra, rooms and *cabañas* have no locks. Inkaterra will not be responsible for the loss or misplacement of the travelers' personal belongings. The lodge relies on security guards onsite 24 hours a day.

SUGGESTED READING

In addition to the info available on our website <http://www.inkaterra.com>, we have also selected a list of links that may be of interest to you:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puerto_Maldonado

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/2007/dec/30/peru.green>

http://www.boston.com/travel/getaways/latinamerica/articles/2007/08/12/seeing_and_saving_perus_rain_forest_firsthand/

