

Inkaterra | CondeNastTraveller.com | 22 February 2024 | VPM: 2,593,231 | PR Value: \$194,492

# Condé Nast Traveller

## Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica, Peru

Reviewed by [SOPHIE KNIGHT](#)

*Embrace jungle life in one of Peru's most exquisite Amazon hideouts*











*Inkaterra Hotels*

## **Why book Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica?**

For a fully immersive Amazon experience. You'll fall asleep to the sound of the nocturnal jungle critters and awaken to the squawk of the early-rising parrots – all within the comfort of your eco-luxury wooden cabana.

## **Set the scene**

The only way to reach the reserve is by boat. Arrive in the small Peruvian city of Puerto Maldonado and board the reserve's wooden boat for a picturesque 45-minute journey downstream to the hotel's dock – deep in the [Amazon rainforest](#). The hotel sits within a 42,008-acre private ecological reserve opposite the well-maintained Tambopata National Reserve. Cabanas and lodges are made solely of wood with palm roofs that camouflage into the jungle's palette. Navigate the grounds on the wooden stepping stones or head deeper into the wilderness with a guide to admire and learn all about the flora and fauna surrounding you.

## The backstory

Jose Koechlin founded Inkatera, [Peru](#)'s largest eco-tourism and conservation initiative, in 1975. With several hotels across the country, they aim to educate guests and locals on [sustainability](#) while preserving Peru's rich natural landscapes and biodiversity. Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica does just this. Guests stay within the rich biodiversity on site and dive deep into the rainforest to learn about the mammals, reptiles and insects that run the jungle. Excursions are included in your stay and run throughout the day, from a trip to witness parrots licking clay at 4am to caiman spotting on the river banks after nightfall.

Guides' knowledge of the terrain is encyclopaedic. Head guide Javier answered every question while spotting camouflage creatures only an expert's eyes would pick up on. Have a question about ants? He'll teach you about the ant life cycle and how it differs from species to species.

On arrival, you'll also plan your excursion itinerary. We loved canoeing on Lago Sandoval to spot otters, bird watching in the creek, wading through the canopy tree top on a wooden swing bridge and most of all, the night walk through the jungle with a spotlight to spot nocturnal species in their natural habitat – we saw tarantulas, frogs, monkeys, camels, bats and plenty of birds.

## The rooms

Thirty-six cabanas and suites stand on stilts built from all-natural materials, dotted around the rainforest retreat (note that cabins sleep two, so you'll need to rent more than one for a family trip). They all follow a similar layout, with an inside-outside feel. Wood and window exteriors made of mesh allow for ample light and airflow. Bifolding doors divide the sleeping quarters and the terrace. Beds are enormous, taking up most of the room, dressed in white cotton and draped with white netting to stop mosquitos. You'll spend most of your downtime on the terrace once you've kicked off your muddy [boots](#), lounging on hammocks that look upon the Madre de Dios river. Suites are huge and worth booking for a special occasion. They have a plunge pool, an outside rain shower and deck chairs for a break in the sun.

## Food and drink

Stays include three daily meals, and dining occurs in the main lodge. The day begins with a breakfast buffet of pastries and exotic fruits before three-course lunches between 12.30pm and 3pm. Traditional and Western options are available, and all are freshly prepared – the beef tenderloin cooked in a sauce was a firm favourite. Supper is taken by candlelight with the rest of the reserve and is a chance to get out of your waterproof jungle attire and dress up for the evening. The menu changes daily, usually featuring a local fish, a meat option and a vegetarian dish. Make sure you don't miss the happy hour that takes place daily from 6pm.

### **The service**

You'll get to know the friendly staff and guides who take groups out for excursions up to three times a day very well. Most are young and excited to work at such an established hotel in the Amazon. They live onsite and stay for months before heading home for a season. The hotel manager, previously an ex-guide at the hotel, is effusive about working here.

### **Eco effort**

Conservation is a huge part of the hotel's ethos. Expect reusable bottles on arrival, recycling bins onsite dividing natural waste plastics and paper, fresh ingredients sourced from the hotel's private farm, and set blackout periods as the lights turn off for a short while during the day and the evening. In addition, there's an onsite training site that hosts local schools, educating them on the biodiversity of the rainforest and teaching them about tourism and the hospitality industry.

It's also worth mentioning there's no WiFi – [digital nomads](#) and tech addicts, be warned. Life without Instagram and emails is pure bliss for a few days. Disconnection from the world is another way the hotel replicates an authentic Amazon experience. However, don't panic; you can connect to the staff's office if you desperately need WiFi.

### **Accessibility for those with mobility impairments**

Due to the nature of the terrain, there isn't currently access to those with reduced mobility. However, depending on the mobility impairment, the team can work on specific accommodating requirements and provide you with an adapted program.

## **Is it worth it?**

Totally. If you're a nature enthusiast, this will be the most epic adventure right in the midst of it all. What's more special than that is encountering plenty of endemic animals in their natural habitat.

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