

Amazon Rainforest Workshops



Day 1 - USA / Lima

Day 2 - Lima / Iquitos / Explorama Lodge

At the Iquitos Airport, meet your Peruvian naturalist guides. Travel by open-air bus through Iquitos and visit the bustling city market. Watch vendors sell papaya, plantains, chili peppers, crated chickens, handmade potions and aromatic oils while local children play throughout the market. After a 1 ½ hour boat ride to Explorama Lodge, settle into the lodge and attend a brief orientation to prepare for the first rainforest walk along the Bushmaster trail.



Day 3 - Explorama Lodge

Each morning, have the opportunity to go birding in an area with over 600 identified species of birds and then enjoy a buffet style breakfast. Spend the morning at the Amazon Culture and Craft Fair. Participate in roof thatching, pottery making or basket weaving, sample local foods, construct and use a blowgun and much, much more.

After lunch, visit Nancy Dunn's library, Centro de Conocimiento Compartido and stop by the Yanomono clinic and meet Linnea Smith, a U.S. physician who abandoned her U.S. medical practice to serve the indigenous people of this region. In a nearby Yagua Village, enjoy bartering for handcrafted items. In the evening, take a walking or boat tour to search for night creatures.



Day 4 - Explorama Lodge / ExplorNapó Lodge

After breakfast, travel 1 ½ hours by boat downriver on the Amazon and up its largest Peruvian tributary, the Napo River. Keep a watchful eye on the river bank for sloth and other wildlife sightings. From the Napo River, follow the Sucusari River to ExplorNapó Lodge.

Upon arrival, take a short hike to the **ReNuPeRu Ethnobotanical Garden** for a session with the resident Shaman who caretakes the medicinal plants of the garden. Take a tour of the garden and identify plants that are used for important medicines, food, spices, building materials, dyes for handicrafts, and insect repellants.

After lunch, spend the afternoon fishing for piranha or catfish, and looking for the elusive Pink River Dolphin in the Napo tributaries. Enjoy the day's biggest catch with a fish fry for dinner. After dinner, take an evening boat trip to find night creatures and sleeping birds.

Day 5 - ExplorNapo / Amazon Conservatory of Tropical Studies (ACTS)

This morning, take the rainforest trail from ExplorNapo for an all day visit to the Amazon Conservatory of Tropical Studies (ACTS.) Along the trail, pass through primary forest and rolling terrain. Upon arrival, experience the ACTS ¼ -mile canopy walkway, an extensive, multi-level system of aerial platforms and pathways at a height of 100+ feet. At this canopy level, visitors and scientists from around the world study this amazing biome. Peer into a bromeliad tank to see a microclimate, where the overlapping leaves of the plant absorb nutrients from the water collected in its basin, frogs and insects lay their eggs, tadpoles and damselfly nymphs mature, and other aquatic microorganisms live. See weather-monitoring stations that gather data on temperature and rainfall and is used to understand the plant growth and flowering as well as other rainforest phenomena.

After lunch, enjoy a short hike to see a leaf-cutting ant colony and return later in the afternoon to the walkway for a sunset view of the canopy. As darkness falls, take a brief night hike in search of bioluminescent fungus that light up the ground beneath you.

Day 6 - ACTS / Ceiba Tops Resort

After the morning rainforest hike, board boats for a return trip up the Amazon River. Enroute, make a stop to visit Caesar, a sugar cane farmer and see how he uses horsepower to crush his cane and collect juice for molasses and rum making. Arrive at Ceiba Tops Resort at the end of the day for a hot-water shower and ride down the popular water slide into a refreshing swimming pool. Watch the sky for scarlet, blue & gold macaws and explore trails that surround Ceiba Tops in this protected part of the forest.

Day 7 - Ceiba Tops Resort

Today, participate in a ½-day service project with the Ribereños people. Experience a welcome ceremony as recognition of your contribution to the village. Exchange songs and praises, and begin any number of activities including: painting a school, planting palm/fruit trees or a vegetable garden, constructing and painting a fence around school property, palm thatching the roof of a shelter or creating ecological or community signs. Share a lunch of local food and perhaps play soccer and volleyball. Leave the community with a huge sense of gratitude and respect for the lives of the people of the Amazon. Plan for wrap-up ceremonies and the celebration of an exciting week.

Day 8 - Overnight Ceiba Tops Resort / Lima / USA

In the morning, take a short walk to the giant Ceiba Tree and then visit Monkey Island's conservation project. See up to seven species of monkeys in their natural environment. Ten species of bananas and fruit trees are grown on the island to provide food for the monkeys.

In the afternoon, reflect upon experiences in the Amazon and prepare to say good-bye to rainforest companions. Transfer to the Iquitos airport for the flight to Lima in time for an overnight return flight to the U.S.A.