

# The Amazon



*Expedition Cruises*

on the

**Motor Yacht Tucano**

# Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon

## Expedition Cruising in the Greatest Wilderness on Earth

*Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon* is different from all other cruises offered in the Amazon, it is an “expedition cruise”. Our small groups explore far into the forest where we are able to see creatures that are hidden to other visitors. We explore some of the most untouched rainforest in all of the Amazon. Our expedition cruise is the only vessel that explores far into the world’s largest Amazon reserve: *The Central Amazon Ecological Corridor*. Within this reserve are tens of thousands of square miles of uninhabited wilderness with the creatures that have made the Amazon the object of myth and legend.

The expedition cruise begins in Manaus, Brazil and over seven full days the Motor Yacht Tucano navigates far upstream on the Rio Negro [pronounced NAY-GRO]. In the daytime and often at night we seek out the wildlife that still lives in the world’s greatest of wilderness. There so few settlers that the exotic creatures of the rainforest still roam this trackless forest.

The amazon voyage on the M/Y Tucano is active. Together with our naturalist guides we get out into the forest and explore -- we are not confined to the vessel. There are daily walks in the forest and we explore in our launches the small streams that wind their way through into the uninhabited interior. Some days we swim off deserted beaches in water as pure and clean as rainwater and we are always treated to the lovely vistas of wild rainforest that stretches as far as the eye can see.

On our excursions into the forest we observe magnificent plants of every imaginable shape and size. We listen to the exotic calls of birds and mammals and watch them from a forest trail or

### Definition:

**“Expedition Cruise”**  
(ëks´-pe dsh-en krooz)

**A discovery cruise that explores far into the wilderness to observe plants and animals and the natural environment. In small groups with skilled naturalist guides, participants experience the wilderness in the most authentic way possible.**

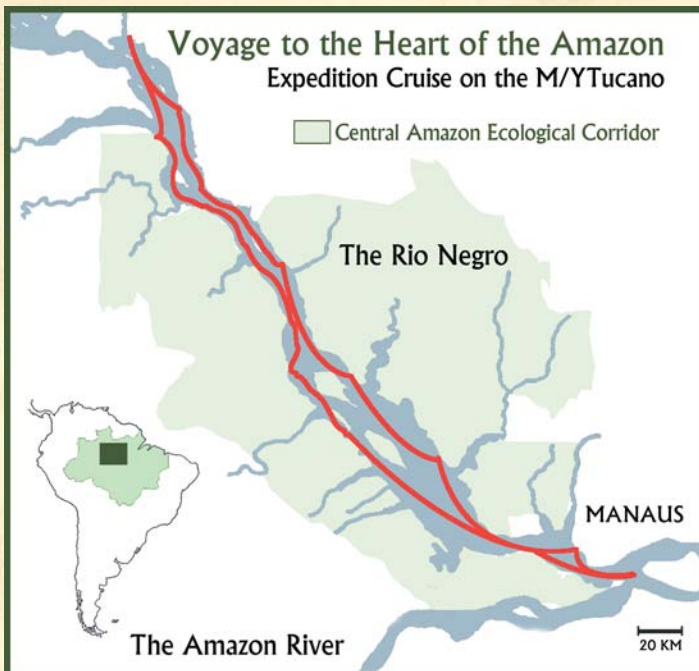
while scouting the river’s edge in our launches. In the evenings we have a brief discussion about the creatures that we observed during the day. Some nights we explore the river’s edge in our launches and with spotlights we see caiman, close relatives of crocodiles.

Our basic navigation plan is to voyage upstream Northwest on the Rio Negro as far as a major river called the Rio Jauerperi, about 200 miles from Manaus, Brazil. Along the way we explore many small tributaries where the forest is wild and undisturbed. Our journey takes us to many different rainforest habitats which allows us to see a great diversity of wildlife.

On the last day of the voyage we travel to the “*Encontra das Aguas*”, the meeting of the waters of the world’s two largest rivers: The Amazon River and the Rio Negro. The light colored water of the Amazon and the dark water of the Negro do not readily mix and the two rivers flow side by side for many miles. We explore the beautiful and fabulously rich environment where these rivers meet and visit the *Lago Janauari Ecological Park* which lies in a wedge-shaped delta that divides these two storied rivers.

### The Rio Negro Region

The Amazon covers an area near in size to the continental United States and it is still almost entirely covered with primitive tropical forest. Within this vast watershed, the Rio Negro drains over 300,000 square miles, fully ten percent of the entire Amazon basin. There are only a few small settlements large enough to be considered towns. It remains a true wilderness. Beyond the tangle of vines and limbs along the river banks are hundreds of thousands of square miles of primitive forest. *Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon* explores this remarkable region.



Red Howler Monkey



Oswaldo on the Rio Apuaú

### Local Villages

An important feature of the program is our visits to the homes of deep forest settlers. We linger to talk with them about what their lives are like living on the edge of this vast trackless forest. A walk through their gardens is always interesting and we marvel at their pioneer skills and self sufficiency. All deep forest settlers gather plants for medicines and we talk with them about which plants they collect and their uses.

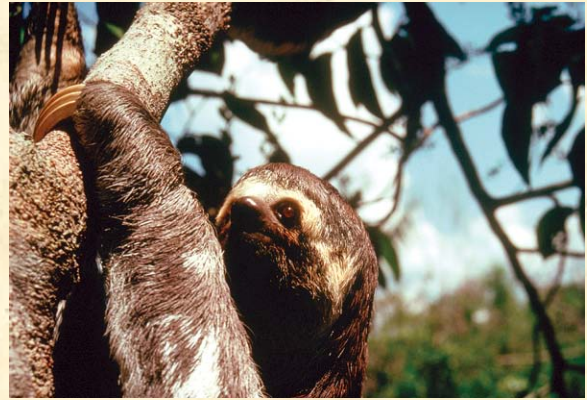
On the voyage we explore several kinds of rainforest including the strange and beautiful flooded forest known by Amazon Indians as the *Igapó* [ee-gah-poh]. In the igapó, the dark water seasonally floods into the trees, sometimes for miles. Orchids and bromeliads cling to the limbs of overhanging trees, which are home also to many fishing birds and iguanas. We will also explore the other two kinds of rainforest of the Amazon: the tall *Terre Firme* forest and the fantastically rich *Varzea* forest. We will see amazingly colorful birds, magnificent rainforest trees draped with vines and carpeted with orchids, and occasional monkeys chattering and cavorting in the tree branches.

### The Daily Schedule

Since we are exploring, the daily schedule varies, but our days have a basic outline of activities. We get up with the sun every morning and either search in our launches for birds and wakening howler monkeys or we walk in the forest.



Morning Launch Excursion



Three Toed Sloth

Mid-morning we return for a full Brazilian breakfast. After some relaxation we go again for another excursion.

At around noon the vessel gets underway and we travel until the late afternoon which is when most animals come out again to feed. During the middle of the day many guests choose to observe the forest and the spectacular vistas from the observation deck, while others take a nap before our afternoon activities. About two hours before sunset we embark on an excursion to some other place of interest. In the evenings we have an informal talk about what we may expect to see the following day. Some evenings, from the comfort of our launches, we spot wildlife with powerful searchlights.

### Time Also to Relax and Have Fun

We see and do a great deal in the forest, but there is also plenty of time to relax and have fun during the trip. We swim in some of the cleanest water in the world. The Rio Negro is almost identical to rainwater. We also spend some time fishing to see what glides in the depths. Almost everyone can catch a piranha! Every afternoon we have hors-d'oeuvres on the observation deck and are treated to a magnificent sunset. At night guests often go to the top deck to marvel at the constellations of the Southern Hemisphere and the millions of stars visible in the dark sky of the Amazon. Because we are in such an interesting place with exceptional guides, the days are full and exciting.

### The Motor Yacht TUCANO

The M/Y Tucano is a very comfortable expedition vessel. Though not a luxury craft, the expedition vessel is designed so that our guests can be at ease, focus on nature, and have fun at the same time. Our days are spent in lighthearted humor and enjoyment of being in such a spectacular place.

*Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon* has an active program, but it is also a relaxing vacation. The Tucano is also an ideal place to rest, read a good novel, and soak in splendid vistas. The stillness and the peace of the wilderness is a memory that many travelers enjoy for years after the voyage.

## Itinerary:

### Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon

**Day 1** This morning all guests board the vessel the Motor Yacht Tucano and depart upstream on the Rio Negro. Through the morning we will cruise through the world's largest river island system, the Anavilhanas Archipelago. From the observation deck we scan the magnificent tangle of vegetation at the water's edge. By mid-afternoon the vessel has gone beyond the frontier of settlement and entered a wilderness area. Both shores are covered by dense rainforest. Though we cannot predict what we will see, we have a good chance of observing pink river dolphins and a large collection of exotic birds. Most certainly we will be treated to magnificent forest vistas and the spectacular trees themselves. In the late afternoon we embark in the launches and hunt for wildlife. We may also go for a swim in some of the world's most clean and refreshing water. (LD)

**Day 2** Early this morning we explore the rainforest along the waters edge in our launches. We should hear and perhaps see howler monkeys along with a morning serenade of toucans. After breakfast we go for a walk in the forest where we will get a good start on understanding the flora and fauna of the tall rainforest. Around midday we return for lunch and the vessel will get underway, perhaps stopping at a place to swim. In the late afternoon we will again explore the forest in our launches and listen to the sunset chorus of birds and frogs. (BLD)

**Day 3** This morning there will be an early exploration of the waking forest. We will keep our eyes open for monkeys... on most trips we see them often. We return for breakfast followed by either a walk in the forest or an excursion in the launches. M/Y Tucano will travel during the middle of the day and we stop in the afternoon for an excursion. Tonight the vessel may travel a bit more as we marvel at the night sky crowded with stars. (BLD)

**Day 4** After our two morning excursions Tucano will navigate along the heavily forested shore, scouting for wildlife. We may stop for a visit at a settler's home carved out of the forest. In the early afternoon we will be near an extraordinary river called the Rio Jaueperi. We will scout along the shoreline for some of the extraordinary creatures found only in this unique environment. Weather permitting we will do a night excursion to observe nocturnal creatures. (BLD)

**Day 5** Today we depart the Rio Jaueperi and head downstream on the Rio Negro exploring a new collection of rainforest habitats. In the daytime we will continue to scout in our launches and walk in the forest, and at night we will continue our hunts for nocturnal wildlife. (BLD)

**Day 6** After a walk in the forest we cross to the West bank of the Rio Negro, exploring as we go. We will stop at the substantial boat building village of Novo Airão. As we walk through the streets we'll marvel at how the 19th Century thrives in this remote corner of the globe. Tonight the M/Y Tucano goes downstream to arrive by morning near the confluence with the Amazon River. As we glide through the starry darkness this is a good night to sip the national drink of Brazil, the "Caipirinha" and perhaps try a Samba on the top deck. (BLD)

**Day 7** This morning we explore the Lago Janauari Ecological Park where seasonally the thick brown water of the Amazon flows swiftly through the forest. This area is usually a very good place to observe wildlife. Around midday the vessel will travel to the "Encontra das Aguas" a stark several mile long line where two of the world's largest rivers, the Amazon and the Negro, join in a turbulent maelstrom. Here the dark water of the Negro runs beside the opaque brown water of the Amazon. In the afternoon we scout one of the hidden streams in the area to try to see more of the Amazon's beautiful and bizarre creatures. Tonight we will have a farewell dinner and prepare for an early departure in the morning. (BLD)

**Day 8** In the morning, after a hearty breakfast, all guests disembark from the M/Y Tucano. (B)

Meal Codes: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Please note that the day to day schedule must be considered approximate. The exact order of the days and specific features may be altered due to navigational and other scheduling considerations.

Degree of Difficulty: Good health is necessary. While guests can have a quite enjoyable trip by simply staying on board the M/Y Tucano and participating in launch excursions, participants in our walks in the forest must be able to comfortably walk for two or more hours at a time. There are several daily excursions off the vessel, and many guests will choose to participate in some but not all of them. The vessel is air-conditioned in the middle of the day and during the night.



Dugout Canoe Travel

# Booking Details

## Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon

### Expedition Cruises on the M/Y TUCANO



#### Where the Trip Begins and Ends

**Embark:** On Day 1, passengers meet our guide at 07:00am in the reception area of the Hotel Tropical, Manaus, Brazil.

**Disembark:** On Day 8, passengers disembark at the Hotel Tropical at 08:00am. It is possible by prearrangement for guests to disembark the evening prior to the last day to catch early morning flights.

**2012 Cruise Dates:** Jan 07-14, Jan 21-28, Feb 04-11, Feb 18-25, Mar 03-10, Mar 17-24, Mar 31-Apr 07, Apr 14-21, Apr 28-May05, May 12-19, Jun 02-09, Jun 16-23, Jun 30-Jul 07, Jul 14-21, Jul 28-Aug 04, Aug 11-18, Aug 25-Sep 01, Sep 15-22, Sep 29-Oct 06, Oct 13-20, Oct 27-Nov 03, Nov 10-17, Nov 24- Dec 01, Dec 08-15, Dec 22-29

**2013 Cruise Dates:** Jan 05-12, Jan 19-26, Feb 02-09, Feb 23- Mar 02, Mar 09-16, Mar 23-30, Apr 06-13, Apr 20-27, May 04-11, May 18-25, Jun 08-15, Jun 22-29, Jul 06-13, Jul 20-27, Aug 03-10, Aug 17-24, Aug 31 - Sep 07, Sep 21-28, Oct 05-12, Oct 19-26, Nov 02-09, Nov 16-23, Dec 21-28

#### 2012 Cruise Rate, per passenger, double occupancy

Green Category Cabins: \$3,100usd

Yellow Category Cabins: \$3,400usd

#### 2013 Cruise Rate, per passenger, double occupancy

Green Category Cabins: \$3,250usd

Yellow Category Cabins: \$3,600usd

**Prices Include:** Prices are per person, double occupancy. Price includes accommodations, guided excursions, and meals as indicated in the itinerary. Prices and itineraries are subject to change without notice. Bottled water served free of charge. On joining the group on Day One, passengers board the vessel on a short walk from the lobby of the Hotel Tropical, Manaus.

**Prices Do Not Include:** Not included are airfare, airport transfers, visa fees, soft drinks or alcoholic beverages, or items of a personal nature.

**Single Travelers:** No single supplement is charged if a single traveler is willing to share a cabin with another passenger. Passengers that request single accommodations pay a single supplement of 50% of the Green Category cruise cost. Single accommodations on the cruise may not always be available. The single cabins are the smallest on the vessel.

**Discounts for Children:** On regular departures children 12 years and under who share a room with an adult are eligible for a discount of 50% off the Cruise Rate, subject to cabin availability.

**Cabin Categories:** All of the cabins on TUCANO are outside cabins with large windows, private baths with showers, and air-conditioning. There are two categories of cabins. Yellow Category cabins are the larger cabins and have beds side by side. The Green Category cabins are smaller and have above and below berths.

**Yellow Category Cabins:** The five cabins in this category are large and have beds side by side. They are numbered 3, 4, 5, 6, and 0. Cabin "0" has a queen size bed beside a single bed.

**Green Category Cabins:** The four cabins in this category have above and below berths with a single size mattress above and a single sized mattress below. These are cabins numbered 1, 2, 7, and 8. These cabins are significantly smaller than the Yellow cabins. But they are nonetheless comfortable outside cabins with large windows, private bathrooms, and air-conditioning.

**Triple Cabins:** Some of the cabins on the M/Y Tucano can accommodate three travelers. This is helpful for families. These are cabins "3" and "4" where a third narrow bed can be placed between the single beds and cabin "0" which has a queen size bed and also a single bed. There is no discount for triple occupancy; passengers pay the double rate

**Airport Transfers:** Airport transfers are at additional expense.

**Hotel Nights:** We strongly recommend that passengers spend one night in Manaus in a hotel prior to the cruise. On request, we can book reservations at the five star Hotel Tropical where the Motor Yacht Tucano embarks passengers. Check-in time is 12:00pm.

**Family Departures:** All of our trips are family friendly, but the scheduled "Family Departures" include some additional activities suitable for children. These departures are enjoyable for adults as well as children.

**Optional City Tour of Manaus:** A three hour tour of Manaus is available the day following the cruise. The tour consists of a visit to the boisterous *Mercado Municipal* of Manaus and the *Teatro da Amazonas*, the famed Opera House of the Amazon. Included are the services of an English speaking guide, entrance fees and transportation.

# ★ The Motor Yacht TUCANO ★

## Ideal Spaces to Relax and Observe the Forest

Our trips are quite active and we spend most of our time off the vessel exploring the forest, but when we are on board, the Motor Yacht Tucano offers plenty of space to spread out and contemplate the wonders of nature. With over seventy large windows, the vessel is bright and airy. The cabins and the salon are air-conditioned and have elegant raised wood panelling in the style of the 19th Century steamers that cruised these majestic rivers.



### ▲ Large Observation Deck

The top deck is open and has a large shade canopy. It is a wonderful place to spot wildlife or soak in the vastness of the Amazon. There is space to catch some sun and watch the Macaw parrots screeching across the afternoon sky.

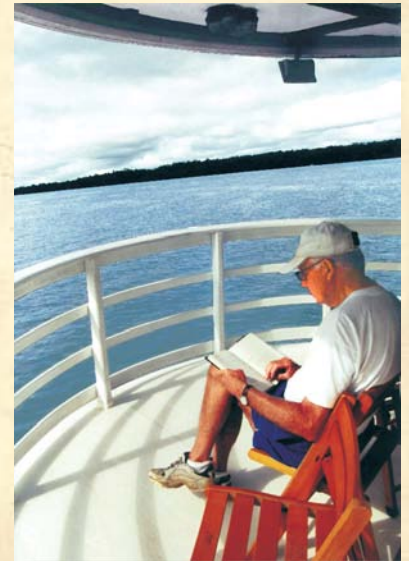
### ▲ A Generous Salon

From this large space, filled with windows and situated at the front of the vessel, we are treated to fantastic vistas of the wilderness around us. Meals are served here and we have a library of choice books on Amazon wildlife.



### ▶ Middle Balcony

This wide balcony faces forward and is a serene spot to relax as we wind our way along the forested shore. It is also a good place to observe monkeys jumping from one vine to another and pink dolphins leaping into the air.




### ▶ Comfortable and Private Cabins

All of the cabins on Tucano are outside cabins and have lots of windows. Each cabin is air-conditioned and has a private bathroom. Since the corridors are on the inside of the vessel, the cabins offer privacy and we can leave our curtains open to the awe inspiring vistas of the Amazon. A third small bed can be added to some cabins in order to accommodate three persons.



# The MOTOR YACHT TUCANO

The Motor Yacht Tucano is designed to offer an experience that is comfortable, intimate, efficient and fun. The vessel is not a luxury vessel, but then the best way to experience the Amazon is to dive in and embrace the environment - to experience to the fullest the exotic sights and sounds of this greatest wilderness on earth. The Motor Yacht Tucano is specifically designed to do just that. In the deck plans below, this symbol:  = windows. There are lots of them!



Yellow Cabin


## Cabin Categories

All of the cabins on TUCANO are outside cabins with large windows, private baths with showers, and air-conditioning. There are two categories of cabins. Yellow Category cabins are the larger cabins and have beds side by side. The Green Category cabins are smaller and have above and below berths.

### Observation Deck

On this deck there is only one cabin, number 0. This cabin has a queen sized bed and a single bed so it can accommodate three travelers. It is a large cabin but has a smaller bathroom than the other cabins.




 Yellow Category Cabins: The five cabins in this category are large and have beds side by side. They are numbered 3, 4, 5, 6, and 0. Cabin "0" has a queen size bed beside a single bed.

Triple Cabins: Some of the Yellow Category cabins can accommodate three travelers. This is helpful for families with children. In cabins "3" and "4" a narrow bed can be placed between the single beds.

### Middle Deck

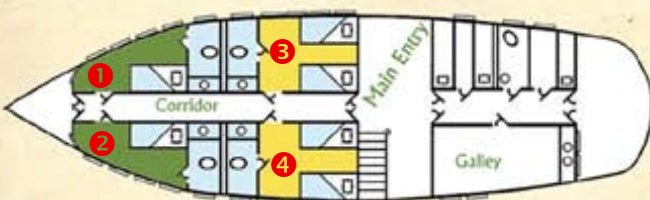
Cabins 5 and 6 have single size beds which can be placed together to form a queen size bed. Cabins 7 and 8 have bunks with a single size mattress above and below.



 Green Category Cabins: The four cabins in this category have above and below berths with a single size mattress above and a single sized mattress below. These are cabins numbered 1, 2, 7, and 8. These cabins are significantly smaller than the Yellow cabins. But they are nonetheless comfortable outside cabins with large windows, private bathrooms, and air-conditioning.

### Main Deck

Cabins 1 and 2 have bunks with a single size mattress above and below. Cabins 3 and 4 have single size beds which can be placed together to form a queen size bed.



Salon / Dining Room

# Why Choose Our Cruise on the Amazon?

## *The Motor Yacht Tucano Experience*

### Expedition Cruise

The trips on the Motor Yacht Tucano are very different from other Amazon cruises, they are “expedition cruises”. This means that our small groups go far into the wilderness in search of the wildlife and that is hidden to most visitors. *Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon* is the most thorough and authentic exploration of the Amazon rainforest available. Our group size is kept small, our guides are skilled naturalists, we visit the most interesting places, and the vessel the Motor Yacht Tucano is specifically designed to offer comfort while exploring the farthest reaches of this natural paradise.

### Small Groups Are Essential

On *Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon* we accept a maximum of only 18 passengers. In a small group it is much easier to stay focussed on nature and get the very most out of our journey. Larger groups make it hard to see wildlife. Several times a day we make excursions into the forest in our launches and on forest walks. On these excursions we divide into still smaller groups, each with a naturalist guide. In a small group our guides can satisfy the curiosity that makes travel worthwhile. Our voyage is the opposite of mass tourism; each departure is an extraordinary exploration where we experience the wild nature of the Amazon that is hidden to most visitors.



Broad Beach Along the River

### We Spend More Time Exploring

Because the region where we operate is one of the most uninhabited of the entire Amazon, on the afternoon of the very first day we enter wilderness rainforest. No time is wasted in traveling great distances to find natural forest. Our voyage enables our guests to spend quite a lot of time in the natural forest which is the best way, and really the only way, to successfully observe wildlife.

### Highly Skilled Guides

Our naturalist guides are some of the very best in the Amazon. Their knowledge of flora and fauna help us to observe and understand the secrets of the forest. They not only help us find wildlife, but they also share their knowledge of the astonishing habits of these fabulous creatures of the rainforest. One of the great pleasures of visiting the rainforest is not to just observe the creatures, but also to learn their feeding habits, how they reproduce, and how they fit into this magnificent environment. Because our guides grew up in the forest, they have endless stories to tell about life in the greatest wilderness on Earth.



### We Visit Pristine Rainforest

Our trips take place in one of the least inhabited parts of the Amazon, in the State of Amazonas, Brazil. The rainforest here is some of the most pristine in all of the Amazon basin and here all the creatures for which the region is famous still thrive. We especially explore the smaller tributaries where wildlife is still abundant. The vessel M/Y Tucano was designed to offer comfort to our passengers but also to navigate the isolated rivers that are inaccessible to most other vessels. *Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon* is an extraordinary exploration which is for many passengers truly the trip of a lifetime.

