
Expedition Cruises
in the Greatest
Wilderness
on Earth
MOTOR YACHT TUCANO
BRASIL

The best way to truly experience the Amazon? An *Expedition Cruise*

The Amazon is the greatest wilderness on earth, a continent-size ocean of green full of astonishing plants and animals. What is the best way to experience the wonders of this magnificent environment? It depends entirely on the way that you travel. We know, having worked in the Amazon for thirty years, that the very best way is by an *expedition cruise*.

So What Makes for an Expedition Cruise?

(1) Exploration - *We Go Farther, Deeper*
We explore deep into a UNESCO World Heritage site - the only boat! Our guests have experiences that few ever will...

(2) Small Groups
Our groups are small, usually just eight people per guide. This is the *only way* to fully experience this great reservoir of life.

(3) Our Guides
The deep skill of our naturalists help us observe the bizarre and beautiful creatures of this wild wilderness.

(4) Excursions, Active - Exploring
We are explorers! We have many excursions every day. By launch, walking in the forest, silently paddling in kayaks, fishing for piranhas, swimming in refreshing water, or just strolling through a small, remote, and unspoiled village, we engage in the beauties of the rainforest.


Brown Capuchin Monkey

(5) Comfort and Elegance
On *The Motor Yacht Tucano*, travelers enjoy wonderful cuisine, elegant staterooms, and a stylish comfort in the far reaches of remote rainforest.

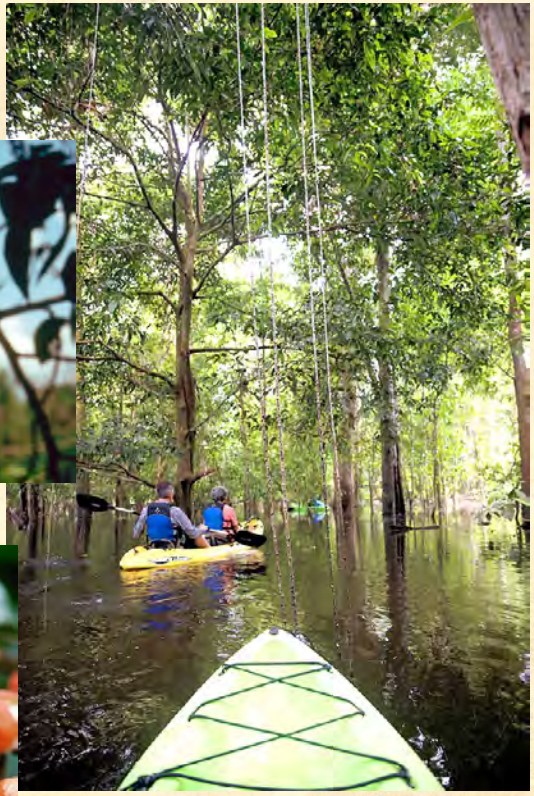
(6) Style, Brasil! - There's nothing like It!
Discover your inner Brazilian! It's fun, passionate, friendly, and relaxed. Just mix in lush vegetation, wildlife, and stunning scenery, and the result is poetry....

(7) Companions in Adventure
Our travelers are the best. They are of every age, nationality, and background but they share a love of nature and a passion for the romance, the beauty, and the delights of the Amazon - just as we do.

(8) Sustainable
We try to preserve the place that thrills and inspires us. Our goal is to make the *M/ Y Tucano* the most sustainable ship in the entire Amazon.

Two Exceptional Voyages in the Amazon

We operate two different exploratory voyages, one that is six nights long and one that is four. Both are *expedition cruises*, both are comfortable, and both offer an extraordinary experience in the greatest wilderness on earth.



Into the Wild Amazon *(4 Nights)*

This cruise has an exploratory itinerary with many active excursions. We venture into wilderness areas to observe the flora and fauna and also the culture of the Amazon rainforest. Our course takes us into the southern part of a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site and our travelers experience the essence of the Amazon in a short period of time. We also visit homesteads or small villages to see what life is like living on the edge of this great wilderness. *(See page 4.)*



Three Toed Sloth

Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon *(6 Nights)*

This is the most adventurous and exploratory cruise operated in the Amazon. We venture far into the rainforest wilderness in search of exotic flora and fauna as well as magnificent wilderness. With our small groups and skilled naturalist guides we journey into uninhabited rainforest where the only sounds we hear are the calling of animals and the wind in the trees. Because of the exploratory nature, the small groups, and the skilled guides, this expedition cruise has become known as the most ambitious and authentic cruise in the entire Amazon. *(See page 6.)*



The Guarana Plant

Into the Wild Amazon
Expedition Cruise - 4 Nights

This expedition cruise captures the spirit and essence of the Amazon in a relatively short amount of time. Over three and one half days we walk in the forest, explore in our launches, and visit local communities along the edges of this wild and largely uninhabited river.

This is an active experience with three or four excursions off the vessel every day. Early in the morning we divide into small groups in our launches or kayaks and we glide along quiet channels among giant rainforest trees draped with vines and orchids. The silence is broken only by the rustling of leaves by Squirrel Monkeys feeding or by the occasional piercing shriek of a Screaming Piha bird. During the day we walk in the forest and sometimes visit a small community. Some nights we search for nocturnal creatures in our launches out in the star-filled darkness.

On lazy afternoons we may fish for the famous Amazon resident, the Piranha, some of whom we may see again on an appetizer plate. Our cruises focus not only on the rainforest, but also on the culture of the people who live in this vast wilderness. We visit small fishing villages perched on the river bank where the traditional life is still guided by the rhythms of the rise and fall of the river. We also visit the homesteads of families who make and grow almost everything they need.

On the last day of the voyage we travel to the *Encontro das Aguas*, the confluence of the world's two largest rivers: The *Amazon River* and the *Rio Negro*. The last evening of the cruise we will coast along one of the greatest ports in the world, the *Porto de Manaus*. At our farewell dinner we will have the opportunity to reflect on our extraordinary experience and offer a toast to one of the most remarkable places on Earth.



Jacob's Ladder Vine



Caiman - the Amazon's Crocodilian

Itinerary Sketch - 4 Nights

Into the Wild Amazon

Expedition Cruise

Day ❶ About mid-day, we depart Manaus and voyage north on the Rio Negro. We voyage this afternoon through one of the world's largest island systems, the Anavilhanas Archipelago.

Day ❷ Today there will be several daily excursions into the rainforest during from the early morning and well into the night.

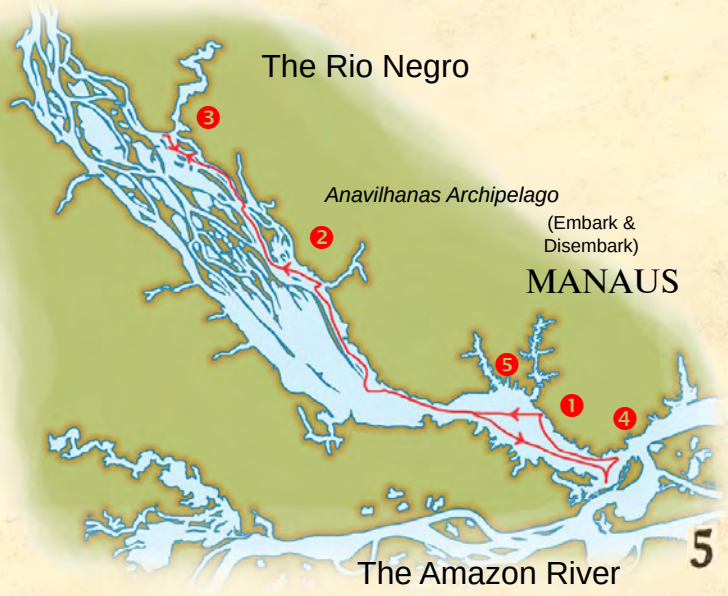
Day ❸ We will have several excursions into the forest by foot, launch and kayak during the day. Tonight we travel downstream toward the Amazon River.

Day ❹ After morning excursions, we voyage to the meeting of the world's two greatest rivers: the Amazon River and The Rio Negro. In the evening we cruise upstream on the Rio Negro.

Day ❺ Early morning we disembark.

Please note that, because our cruises are exploratory expedition voyages, we adapt the vessel course to weather and river level conditions to maintain an interesting cruise. The itinerary must be considered approximate. But this does not diminish the cruise, instead it allows us to improvise and seek interesting places to explore.





Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon

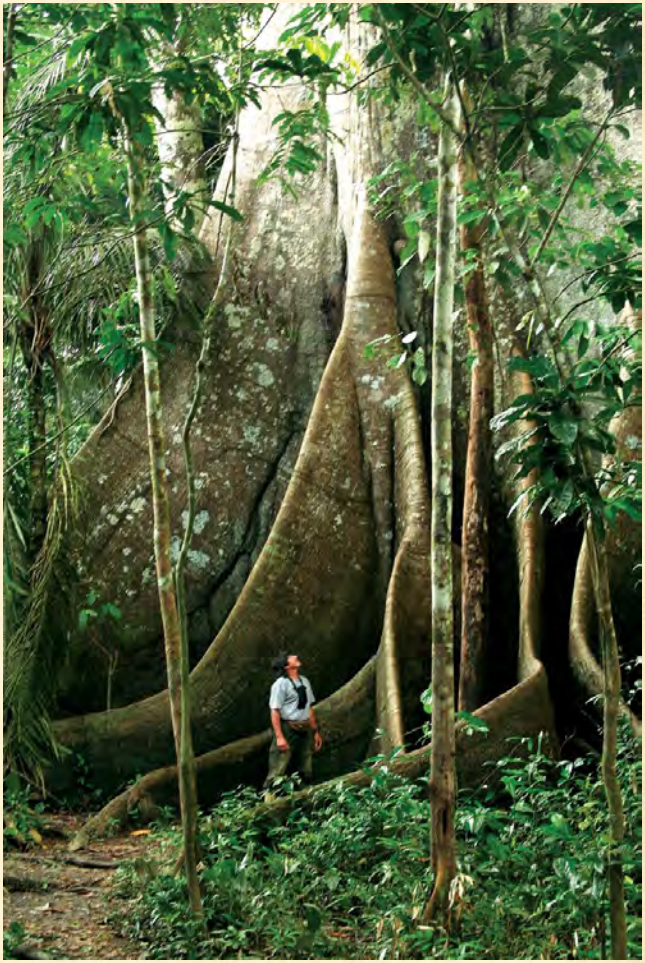
Expedition Cruise - 6 Nights

This cruise explores far, far into the rainforest. We voyage to some of the most untouched wilderness in all of the Amazon. The cruise begins in Manaus, Brasil, and over six full days and six nights we voyage far up the least inhabited major river in the Amazon, the Rio Negro. We have many excursions during the day and sometimes at night to explore the depths of this wild region. The *Motor Yacht Tucano* explores a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site and we go farther into the wilderness than any other voyage in the entire Amazon. This is the quintessential expedition cruise of the Amazon.

We have many excursions every day including walks in the forest, scouting of the small streams using our electric powered launches, or optionally exploring by kayak. 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 while scouting the river's edge. In the evenings we have a brief discussion about the creatures that we observed and the extraordinary ways in which the plants and animals have evolved to live in this ancient rainforest. Some nights we explore 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 Jaueperi, about 200 miles from Manaus, Brasil. 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 *Encontro das Aguas*, the confluence 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 *Rio Negro* do not readily mix and the two rivers flow side by side for many miles.



Itinerary Sketch - 6 Nights

Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon

Expedition Cruise

Day ❶ Depart Manaus, Brasil and voyage north on the Rio Negro to the Rio Apuaú

Day ❷ Today we explore the giant lake inside a river island, Lago Turia

Day ❸ We should arrive and scout the Lago Buriti this morning and evening.

Day ❹ River depth permitting, today we scout the Rio Jaueperi - navigation permitting! We are exploring!

Day ❺ This afternoon we turn the vessel bows to the southeast and explore different regions on our course toward the Amazon River.

Day ❻ Cruise the Amazon River and the Encontro das Aguas, the confluence of the Amazon River and The Rio Negro.

Day ❼ Return to Manaus, disembark early morning.

Please note that because our cruises are exploratory expedition voyages, we adapt the vessel course to weather and river level conditions to maintain an interesting cruise. The itinerary must be considered approximate. But this does not diminish the cruise, instead it allows us to improvise and seek interesting places to explore.



Howler Monkey

The Motor Yacht Tucano - *Ideal Spaces to Relax and Observe the Rainforest*

The *Motor Yacht Tucano* is comfortable, sophisticated, and very well suited to exploring the Amazon wilderness. The vessel has the elegant style of a classic yacht and is a modern and fully certified commercial cruise vessel. On the *M/Y Tucano,* we travel in comfort but are not insulated from the rainforest. We remain focused on the flora and fauna of this magnificent wilderness. The voyage is quite active and we spend most of every day exploring the forest on foot, by kayak, or in our boat's launches.

The *M/Y Tucano* is designed specifically to explore the Amazon in the most thoughtful and sustainable way. The ship offers plenty of space to spread out and contemplate the wonders of nature.

Comfortable and Private Staterooms

All of the staterooms on *M/Y Tucano* are outside staterooms and have lots of windows. All are air-conditioned and have full private bathrooms. Some staterooms can accommodate three persons. While some stateroom categories are smaller than others, they are all bright, airy, and comfortable.

Since the corridors on the *M/Y Tucano* are on the inside of the vessel, the staterooms offer privacy. We can leave our curtains open to the awe inspiring vistas of the Amazon.





Yellow Category Stateroom

A Generous Salon

From this large space, at the front of the vessel and filled with windows, we are treated to fantastic vistas of the wilderness around us.



Spacious Observation Deck

This top deck 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.



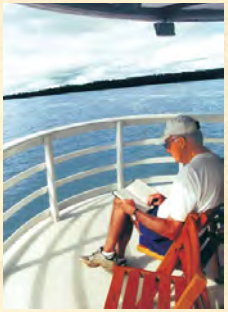
Dinner is Served!

On the *M/Y Tucano* we serve a great variety of delicious Brasilian dishes. There are fresh vegetables and fruits along with Amazon fruit juices. We are always treated to a wonderful dessert!



Promenade Balcony

This broad balcony faces forward and is a serene spot to relax as the vessel navigates along the deeply forested shore. It can be a good place to observe monkeys jumping from one vine to another and pink dolphins leaping into the air.



Stateroom Categories

Our cruises are quite active and we spend much of our time off the vessel exploring the forest, but when we are on board, the *M/Y Tucano* offers travelers a sense of comfort and elegance that complements the intensive exploratory experience. With over seventy large windows, the vessel is bright and airy.

The staterooms and the salon are air-conditioned and have the elegant raised wood panelling of a classic yacht. In the deck plans below, this symbol:  = windows. There are lots of them!



Blue Category Stateroom



Yellow Category Stateroom

Three Categories of Staterooms



Named after the colors of Brasil, the staterooms on the *Motor Yacht Tucano* all are outside with large windows, private baths with showers, and air-conditioning.

Yellow Category: The five double staterooms in this category are large and have beds side by side. They are numbered #3, #4, #5, #6, and #0. Stateroom #0 has a queen size bed and a single bed.

Green Category: The staterooms, 1#, #2 and #7, can be configured as double staterooms with above and below berths with single size mattresses. They are smaller than the Yellow staterooms, but have lots of windows.

*Blue Category: T*he staterooms, 1#, #2 and #7, can be configured as singe staterooms with a single twin-size mattress.

Deck Plans - Motor Yacht Tucano

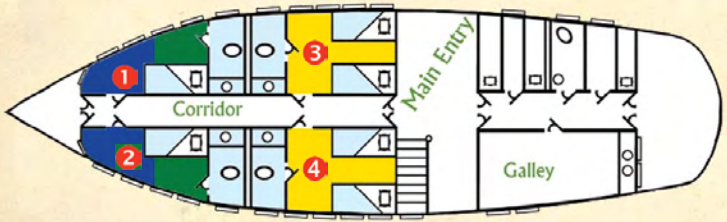


Middle Deck



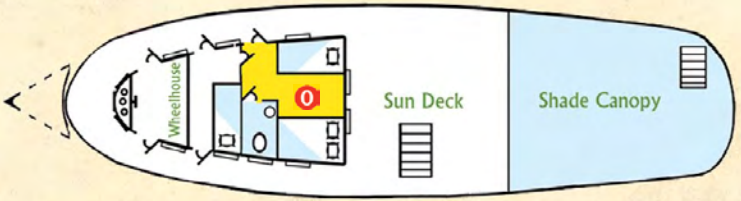
Staterooms 5 and 6 are Yellow category doubles and have two beds side by side. Stateroom 7 can be configured as a Blue category single stateroom or as a Green category double stateroom. Green cabins have bunk beds!

Main Deck



Staterooms 1 and 2 can be configured as Blue category single staterooms or Green category double staterooms. Green cabins have bunk beds! Staterooms 3 and 4 are Yellow category doubles and have two single beds side by side.

Observation Deck



On this deck there is only one stateroom, number 0, which is a Yellow category. This stateroom has a queen bed and a single bed and can accommodate three travelers. It is a large stateroom with many windows, but has a smaller bathroom.

Sustainability

The *Motor Yacht Tucano* endeavors to operate the most sustainable cruises in the Amazon. The vessel was designed with three systems to increase our sustainability: solar power, waste management, and pollution control.

Solar Power: There are two separate solar equipment assemblies on board the *M/Y Tucano*. One of them, to heat water, consists of solar-water panels for our sinks and showers. The other consists of solar-electric panels which generate electricity for our launch motors and many other uses on board.

Waste Management: All of our rubbish waste and recyclable material is returned to Manaus, Brasil. Where possible, we avoid disposable packaging.

Energy Efficiency: The basic ship functions such as lighting, cooking, and launch propulsion are functional without fossil fuel generated electricity. As part of our sustainability plan, there are many detailed operations procedures in place to reduce our carbon footprint.

Best Practices: We have very elaborate procedures in place to ensure that we do not disturb the natural environment that we cherish and to avoid disturbing the lives and cultures of the people we meet on expedition.

National Geographic Adventure magazine recommended our Amazon cruises as among the "*Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth*". Their criteria are education, sustainability, quality of service, and spirit of adventure. Thanks Nat Geo!



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ADVENTURE BEST ADVENTURE TRAVEL COMPANIES on Earth

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Amazonastur Empresa Estadual de Turismo

BRASIL