



## **FOUR-NIGHT ITINERARY LOW WATER SEASON (June-November)**

### **Day 1: Tuesday ARRIVAL/NAUTA/EMBARKATION/MARAÑON RIVER**

3:30 p.m. Flight from Lima LP 382  
In just an hour and 45 minutes you will be in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon region.

5:15 p.m. Arrival  
Your guides await you, as your flight from Lima glides in for landing at Iquitos International Airport. After you've claimed your luggage, you will board an air-conditioned bus for your journey to the river.

5:40 p.m. Transfer to Nauta's main wharf  
Enjoy a scenic one-and-a-half hour drive through the Peruvian countryside to the small village of Nauta. You will be traveling along the only road out of town . . . and it only goes as far as Nauta.

7:10 p.m. Check-In  
From the moment you step on board, you will enjoy the M/V Aqua's atmosphere of low-key luxury. As you settle into your handsomely appointed, over-sized suite, you will feel the vessel begin to move; the beginning of one of the great adventures of your life. Stand on the Upper Deck to take in the view, as the M/V Aqua leaves Iquitos behind.

Over the next four days, you will also sail along the largest tributaries of the Amazon, as well as the mighty Amazon itself. You are embarking on a spectacular adventure, to a place visited by only a few of the most experienced world travelers.

8:00 p.m. Safety Drill and Briefing on the Upper Deck  
Before dinner we will perform a routine safety drill. Then it's into the air-conditioned lounge, where you will learn about life onboard, and will have the first of the nightly briefings about your adventure to follow. You will meet the naturalist guides and the cruise director, who will use video, photos, and maps to explain the details of your journey into the Amazon.

8:30 p.m. Welcome Dinner  
Sit down, relax, sample some fine South American wine, and enjoy the truly world-class cuisine, created by Executive Chef Pedro Miguel Schiaffino, whose restaurant, Malabar, is one of the best in all of the Lima. Schiaffino's recipes, with the imaginative use of local products – fruit, fish, spices – make every meal a delightful adventure. (The menu always offers choices, including a vegetarian option.) Toast the beginning of a beautiful journey.

Perhaps enjoy a nightcap on the Upper Deck, under the stars, before retiring.

### **Day 2: Wednesday UCAYALI RIVER/MAGDALENA VILLAGE/PUINAHUA CANAL**

6:30 a.m. Ucayali River Exploration  
We will board our skiffs just as the giant sun rises above the jungle. As we move down the Ucayali River, the Amazon's largest tributary, your naturalist guides will point out an amazing variety of wildlife, particularly active in the early hours of the day. Keep your eyes out for three-toed sloth hanging from tree limbs, for prehistoric-looking iguanas, and for a multitude of birds . . . orioles, horned screams, the list is long and varied. Then it's back to the vessel, for a sumptuous breakfast.

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Jungle Walk to Magdalena



After breakfast we stroll through the village of Madgalena, a small community of just ten families. After you meet the people, including lots of lively and curious children, your naturalist guides will lead you through the jungle to a beautiful lake that is home to the world famous Victoria Regia giant water lily. Have your cameras ready to capture this once-in-a-lifetime sight.

12:00 p.m. Return to the M/V Aqua  
Cool towels and chilled fruit juice await you, as you step out of the skiffs.

12:30 p.m. Lunch  
After lunch, why not enjoy a siesta in the air-conditioned comfort of your suite? .

4:00 p.m. Ucayali Exploration and Puinahua and Discovery Tour  
You will continue along the majestic Ucayali River by skiff, enjoying the opportunity to see and meet native balseros, or fishermen. They will demonstrate their skill and let you see their catch—including a type of “armored” catfish with a shell-like skin. You will have at least one chance to sample this delicious local fish at dinner aboard the M/V Aqua. We are also likely to spot, and have an opportunity to photograph, the “banana balsero” rafts, loaded with hundreds of clusters of bananas en route to market. Keep your binoculars ready to get an up-close look at woodpeckers, parrots, macaws, and toucans.

6:30 p.m. Return to the M/V Aqua

8:00 p.m. Dinner  
Enjoy another gourmet meal. Afterwards, why not sit out on the Upper Deck to study the vast canopy of stars, shining so brightly, because there is virtually no electric light to compete with them.

### **Day 3: Thursday** **PUINAHUA RIVER/HATUM POSA LAKE AND PACAYA RIVER**

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Jungle Walk Near Hatum Posa Village  
On this walk, your guides will introduce you to native people doing subsistence farming, and will tell you how they learned to cultivate wild plants and trees to earn farm income. As your adventure takes you deep into the primary forest, your guides will also show you the wealth of fruit trees and medicinal plants hidden in the jungle—and will reveal some of their secrets.

11:30 a.m. Return to the M/V Aqua

12:30 p.m. Lunch  
After lunch, it's nice to just watch the world go by through the over-sized windows in your suite.

3:30 p.m. Pacaya River Exploration, Plus Night Trip from Ranger Station No. 1 to Yanayacu Lake  
In the late afternoon, we will take our skiffs along the Pacaya River, journeying toward the scenic Yanayacu Lake. There you can view the abundant life that is hidden in the deep rainforest.

We have chosen this time of day to give you the chance to see the late afternoon activity of the rainforest animals, including fluffy saki monkeys, capuchin monkeys, and the easy-to-spot howler monkeys. As the sun sets, listen for the loud, ferocious-sounding warning signals made by the howler monkeys, as they mark their territories.

When night falls, you will hear the second movement of the Amazon rainforest symphony, as other nocturnal animals send their shrill calls across the tree tops. We will use our special spotlight torches to locate night creatures, including, perhaps, huge caimans.

7:30 p.m. Return to the M/V Aqua



Tonight the vessel will be docked by the No. 1 Ranger Station in Pacaya Samiria National Park.

8:30 p.m. Dinner

After dinner, perhaps enjoy Peru's famous Pisco sours on the Upper Deck.

**Day 4: Friday**  
**PACAYA RIVER / PUINAHUA VILLAGE VISIT**

6:30 a.m. Pacaya Exploration; Breakfast on the Skiffs

Back on the river as the sun rises, you will see a treasure trove of wildlife, including parrots, macaws, toucans, and many kinds of monkeys—as well as some “surprise” species that you have never seen before. Enjoy a “bag breakfast” of light sandwiches and fresh juice. Since we will stop near a popular dolphin feeding spot, you will see quite a show as you enjoy your meal.

After breakfast, armed with poles and bait, we will take you to a special place on this fish-rich river, where you will catch some of the more than 3,000 species of tropical fish that live in the Amazon Basin. The key target will be piranhas, the small carnivorous fish with a fearsome reputation—considered a good food source by the locals.

11:00 a.m. Return to the M/V Aqua

As our journey nears its end, your luxurious home away from home starts to sail back down the river ward Iquitos. It isn't over yet, however. A new adventure awaits you this afternoon.

12:30 p.m. Lunch

4:00 p.m. Native Village Visit

This pleasant optional afternoon excursion, will take you to a riverside village – home to a friendly group of fishermen and farmers, and their families. Your guide will translate for you, as you interact with the local people.

5:30 p.m. Return to the M/V Aqua

We will sail downstream all night, as we make our way to Iquitos, and your onward flight.

8:00 p.m. Farewell Dinner

Just minutes after being in the wilderness, surrounded by monkeys and birds and the other wildlife of the rainforest, you will find yourself sitting down to a final gourmet feast in the ship's dining room

9:00 p.m. Crew Presentation

Tonight, the Cruise Director will introduce some of the crew members you haven't yet met on the trip, but who have worked behind the scenes to give you an unforgettable experience. There may even be a bit of musical entertainment!

**Day 5: Saturday**  
**ARRIVE IN IQUITOS CITY/CHECK-OUT AND DISEMBARK AT THE MAIN WHARF/CITY TOUR AND TRANSFER TO THE AIRPORT**

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Morning Excursion – The excursions today will depend on the level of the river. If weather and time permits, this will be the last opportunity to see how people live along the Amazon, as we travel by skiff through Iquitos' lively riverside community of Belen. Here, where the houses and shops actually float on the river during some months, you will see the bustling food market for all the Peruvian Amazon. All local inhabitants throughout the region sell and purchase goods here.

Some groups may instead take a short skiff ride to visit the Boras indigenous community, on the



Momon River. The Bora tribe only emerged from deep inside the rainforest more than 30 years ago. They have a powerful commitment to maintaining their traditional culture. We will see them perform some of their most colorful dances for you.

11:00 a.m. Return to the M/V Aqua  
You have time to pack and prepare for the next stage of your journey.

12:00 p.m. Light Lunch  
Please leave your packed luggage in your cabins, to be transferred to the bus, before coming to lunch.

1:15 p.m. Disembarkation/City Tour/Manatee Rescue Center/Transfer to the Airport  
Your afternoon in the remote city of Iquitos, accessible only by river or air, will not disappoint. This bustling town, complete with a house built by Gustave Eiffel, was once a rich center of the rubber industry. En route, we will visit the Manatee Rescue Center, where biologists and volunteers care for endangered Amazon manatees that conservation authorities have seized from local people and fishermen. Biologists will give a presentation about the project and its efforts to help these helpless mammals. You will also see how the manatees are cared for and are prepared for re-introduction into their natural habitat. Finally, we will stop at the San Juan Amazonian Indian Market, for a last chance to shop for local crafts.

4:30 p.m. Check-in at Iquitos International Airport  
Your guides will help you with check-in, and will stay with you until you board your flight back to Lima.

5:50 p.m. Your Flight Departs for Lima LP 383

*Note: All itineraries are subject to change, due to weather and other conditions. All times indicated are approximate, and are also subject to change.*