



## VOYAGE ITINERARY

The following itinerary should be seen as an approximate guide only. Ours is an expeditionary voyage, not a programmed cruise. The rhythm of the river – its currents, tides and tropical climate - determines our daily schedule and our paddling opportunities.

### DAY 1: Iquitos, Peru.

Spend some time exploring this remote tropical outpost, the end of the road for 16th century conquistadors chasing gold, and 17th and 18th century missionaries saving souls. Perhaps visit the zoo or the local museum. In late afternoon, we board our comfortable expedition ship, Polar Pioneer, and settle in. The flying bridge affords commanding views of our departure and the majestic river, with the fascinating array of vessels that ply its waters. Once underway we are briefed about the kayaking program and begin our informative lecture series that helps unravel the mysteries of the Amazon.

Soft light and cooler temperatures enhance early morning and late afternoon explorations that are sometimes watched closely by exquisite pink dolphins. Paddling into secluded tributaries, the screech of macaws or howl of monkeys heralds a startling variety of wildlife. The local caboclo people, an attractive mingling of Indian, Portuguese and African heritage, welcome us to their idyllic villages and the forest they share with monkeys, sloths and other intriguing creatures.

The noon heat sees us retire to our air-conditioned ship for refreshing showers, cool drinks, lively lectures, lunch and welcome siestas.

### DAYS 2-3: Upper Amazon, Peru.

We spend time on the flying bridge watching for birds and other wildlife. We visit the villages of Huitoto and Bora Indians, where we may see traditional dances and barter for local handicrafts.

### DAY 4: Leticia, Colombia.

Yagua and Ticuna Indian handicrafts add colour to the bustling market town of Colombia's only Amazon port. On the waterfront, primitive pirarucu, one of the world's largest freshwater fish, are hoisted from boats.

### DAYS 5-8: Upper Amazon, Brazil.

Surrounded by tropical jungle, we thread a passage among fishermen, riverboats and families in wooden canoes.

We may explore:

- Rio Badajos, a tributary where we'll search for the Victoria amazonica waterlily, one of the world's largest flowers.
- Cuxi-Muni, a typical Amazonian village where the staple food manioc is grown and processed. We may try a spotlighting trip after dark from inflatable rubber Zodiacs.
- Lago Uara, a chance for paddling, fishing and swimming in a black water lake or jungle walks.
- Rio Jutai, a pristine place to swim, visit the town or look for cattleya orchids in the flooded black-water forest nearby.

### DAY 9: Manaus, Brazil.

The "Meeting of the Waters" – where the silt-laden Rio Solimoes and the clear, dark waters of the Rio Negro meet to form yellow and black whirlpools – heralds our approach to Manaus. The Opera House and other architectural wonders of this historic port town bear testament to wealth derived from the rubber industry in the late 1800s. Thriving markets abound with unusual river fish, colourful tropical fruits, medicinal roots and herbs. We may visit the interesting INPA Amazonian research centre.

### DAYS 10-14: Lower Amazon, Brazil.

As the river broadens our passage is assisted by the considerable current. We continue to watch the world go past from the flying bridge. Our excursions from the ship may include:

- Rio Pucurui, a tributary known for exotic flowers and magnificent birds, including green ibis, Amazon kingfishers and red-billed toucans.

- Rio Curua, where bird lovers delight in fork-tailed flycatchers and horned screamers, while red-handed howler monkeys prowl not far away.
- Parintins, a town best known for its outrageously flamboyant Boi Bumbá dance presentations.
- Alter do Chao, "the altar of earth", a beautiful white-sand beach and charming village along the Rio Tapajos where we may enjoy a scenic hill climb and a cooling swim.
- Lago Carauau, home to two species of freshwater dolphins, the small grey Tucuxi and the pink Boto.

DAY 15: Belém, Brazil.

We arrive in this busy Amazon port early in the morning and farewell our ship's staff and crew before returning to the outside world.

## PRICES

VOYAGE COST	
Triple Share	US\$4450
Twin Public Facilities	US\$5650
Twin Private Facilities	US\$6250
Mini Suite Private Facilities	US\$6750
Captain's Suite	US\$7250
PLUS KAYAKING SURCHARGE	US\$ 745 per person

The prices are per person for the cruise only, ex Iquitos.

Prices are quoted in US\$ and do not include airfares, accommodation or transfers before or after the cruise. Single occupancy is 1.5 times the twin share price.

### **KAYAKING SURCHARGE:**

This surcharge covers the cost of kayaking equipment (kayaks, paddles, life jackets, safety equipment) and the wage and travel expenses for the kayak guide.

## **MONEY MATTERS**

### **YOUR EXPEDITION COST INCLUDES:**

- Ship's accommodation. All public areas (bridge, outer decks, lounges and dining areas) are open to all passengers.
- All meals on board ship.
- Lectures, videos, slide and film shows and guide services.
- Medical services. There is a resident medical officer and well-equipped clinic on board.

### **YOUR TOUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- Flights, transfers and hotels before and after the voyage.
- Visa, passport and vaccination charges and airport departure taxes.
- Optional tours in towns or cities
- Laundry, postage, personal clothing, medical expenses, personal travel insurance and items of a personal nature such as bar charges and phone calls.
- Emergency evacuation charges.

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