



## PERU

### AMAZON CRUISE ABOARD THE M/V AQUA Luxury Natural History Voyage

DURATION : 7 days / 6 nights  
SEASON : Year round  
DEPARTURES : Guaranteed with a minimum of 2 participants  
TRIP RATING : Easy/Moderate River Cruise & Nature Tour, Grade (I) - This active, soft adventure includes a 7-night cruise and 2-3 hour hikes on occasionally unmaintained rainforest trails plus sightseeing on motorized boat excursions.

2009 DATES : On request every week subject to availability.

#### INTRODUCTION :

The mystique and allure of the Amazon beckons those who are fascinated with the natural world. The Peruvian Amazon is home to the most biologically diverse wildlife on earth with 293 species of mammals; over 3,000 species of colorful, tropical birds and butterflies; myriad insects, reptiles and amphibians; and waters rich with an abundance of fish and aquatic wonders such as the pink river dolphin. Over 25,000 plant species have been identified in Amazonia, and it is hypothesized that at least that many remain as yet undiscovered.

This voyage takes us deep into the heart of the world's greatest wilderness through an ever-changing vista of lush tropical rainforest. Our elegant riverboat, the new M/V Aqua, plies these waters with comfort and grace, affording superb wildlife viewing from her observation deck. The twelve air-conditioned modern suites feature panoramic windows, private bath, and en suite sitting areas. Following daily excursions we return to gourmet meals paired with vintage South American wines. Some nights, after dinner, we have the opportunity to partake in night expeditions to experience the nocturnal wildlife that inhabits the region. We begin the journey in Iquitos after a spectacular flight over the Andes from Lima. Navigating upriver on the mighty Amazon, we explore several of its tributaries on the way to Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve. Our expert naturalist guides accompany us on daily excursions aboard small, motorized boats or on trails through the rainforest. The guides' ability to spot wildlife is uncanny, though by the end of our journey we'll be astounded at our own prowess. We visit *riberños* (river dwellers) in their villages, experience sustainable resource management projects, meet local subsistence farmers, go fishing for piranha, and seek out rare plants and animals such as the world's largest aquatic plant, the giant water lily. Following our expedition we return to Iquitos for a brief city tour, then fly back to Lima and connect home.

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### DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

#### DAY 01 (MON): LIMA

Guests arriving this evening to Peru's capital city, Lima, are met at the airport and transferred to the elegant JW Marriott Hotel in the coastal suburb of Miraflores.

#### DAY 02 (TUE): LIMA/IQUITOS/AMAZON RIVER

After breakfast, the morning is at leisure to explore the upscale Miraflores district and the Larcomar shopping promenade. Lunch is on your own to try a typical seafood meal such as ceviche at one of several gourmet restaurants in this part of the city. In the early afternoon we are picked up at the hotel and transferred to the airport's Domestic Terminal where we have assistance checking in for our 1.75-hour flight over the Andes to Iquitos. We are met at the airport and board an air-conditioned private vehicle for a scenic 1.75-hour drive through the Amazon rainforest to Nauta. After boarding the riverboat and settling into your spacious suite, you will join those already on board for a welcome dinner. Tonight, enjoy a nightcap as we cruise slowly up the Amazon, the stars above present an incredible spectacle of both northern and southern constellations. (B,D)

#### DAY 03 (WED): UCAYALI RIVER/MAGDALENA VILLAGE/PUINAHUA CANAL

Our day begins by exploring the Amazon's largest tributary, the Ucayali River. This area is home to the slow-moving three-toed sloth, iguanas, orioles and horned screamers. Following breakfast we walk through the village of Magdalena, a small community of ten families, meeting lots of lively and curious children. We continue on to a beautiful jungle lake, home to the Victoria Regia giant water lilies. After lunch onboard we cruise the majestic Ucayali River, where we have the chance to see and meet native *balseros*, or fisherman, demonstrating their skill and their catch. We should see a type of "armored" catfish, with a shell-like skin, which they are taking to the market in the village of Requena. Along the way we will see "banana balsero" rafts loaded with hundreds of clusters of bananas heading for the same market. We enjoy dinner back on the riverboat. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 04 (THU): PUINAHUA RIVER/HATUM POSA LAKE

Our day begins with a jungle walk near Hatum Posa Village, where our guides will introduce us to native people doing subsistence farming. After learning how they cultivate wild plants and trees, we delve deep into the primary forest to see the wealth of fruit trees and medicinal plants hidden in the jungle. We return to the M/V Aqua for lunch and a mid-day break. This afternoon we take the skiffs along the Pacaya River, viewing the abundant life that is hidden in the deep rainforest. We may see saki, capuchin, and the easy-to-hear howler monkeys. As sunset approaches the jungle is filled with the warning signals of howler monkeys delineating their territory. With nightfall in the forest comes the second movement of the Amazon rainforest symphony, as nocturnal animals send their calls out among the rainforest canopy. Once it is dark out we use our spotlights to see what nocturnal animals this section of the river has to offer. Tonight our vessel is docked by Ranger Station No. 1, with an optional night excursion to Yanayacu Lake. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 05 (FRI): PACAYA RIVER/PUINAHUA VILLAGE

In the vibrant morning light we board the small expedition boats, where our guides will show us parrots, macaws, toucans, and a variety of monkeys. We have the unique opportunity to visit dolphin feeding spots, and enjoy a light breakfast and fresh juice on the skiffs while surrounded by these delightful creatures. With poles and bait we have the opportunity to try our hand at catching

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some of the more than 3,000 species of tropical fish in the Amazon Basin. One of our objectives will be to catch piranha, the small carnivorous fish with a fearsome reputation that is considered a good food source by the locals. While back on the riverboat for lunch we begin our navigation back towards Iquitos. This afternoon we are offered the option of taking a short informational walk into a riverside village to meet the local fisherman and farmers. Tonight we sit down for a gourmet farewell dinner in the ship's dining room, followed by a farewell presentation by the crew.

(B,L,D)

DAY 06 (SAT): AMAZON RIVER/IQUITOS/LIMA

After breakfast we have the opportunity for one last skiff trip for those that would like a last chance to photograph the wildlife, scenery or visit a local market. After a light lunch we dock in Iquitos and are treated to a tour of this unique and remote city. With a population of almost 400,000, it is the largest city in the world that is unreachable by road, with planes and boats the only mode of transport. This bustling town was once a rich center of the rubber industry, and even has a house built by Gustave Eiffel. After a city tour we stop at the Manatee Rescue Center, where biologists and volunteers take care of endangered Amazon manatees and dolphins seized by conservation authorities. Following a presentation by staff biologists, we visit the San Juan Amazonian Indian Market for a last chance to shop for local crafts. We arrive to the airport in the afternoon and say goodbye to the staff as we board the flight back to Lima. Upon arrival in Lima you will walk to the International Terminal on your own for your evening flight home.

(B,L)

DAY 07 (SUN): USA

Arrive in the US this morning and make onward connections home.

### NOTES ON THE ITINERARY:

Please note that the day-to-day schedule must be considered approximate. The exact order of the activities and specific features may be altered due to air schedules, water levels, wildlife sightings and navigational considerations. The itinerary indicated above is for the dry season (June-November), with some changes during the flooded season (December-May). For example, we visit the Dorado River in place of the Ucayali River on Day 03. This program is suitable for physically fit participants accustomed to outdoor activities age 7 and up. Regular departures may include some families and children on the cruise.

<b>2009 LAND COST:</b>	<u>Suite Cabins</u>	<u>Master Suite Cabins</u>
	\$3,095 ppd	\$3,295 ppd (2-3 participants)
	\$3,045 ppd	\$3,245 ppd (4-12 participants)
	\$1,545 Single Supplement	\$1,645 Single Supplement

p.p.d.=per person based on double occupancy on the main or upper deck.  
Price does not include international nor the in-country Lima-Iquitos-Lima flight.

There is a total of twelve outside Suite Cabins, including four Suites on the main deck (#'s 101-104) and four on the upper deck (#'s 201-204) at the Land Cost indicated above as well as four larger Master Suites, two on the main deck (#'s 105 & 106) and on the upper deck (#'s 205 & 206). All cabins have either two twin beds or one king bed. For families traveling with children, all cabins come with a sofa sleeper. There are 4 interconnecting Suites (#'s 101-103 & 102-104).

**Children's Discount:** Children 7-11 years old at the time of travel are entitled to a discount of \$560 ppd on the Suites & \$600 ppd on the Master Suites of the *Amazon Cruise Short Version*

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Land Cost. If a child 7-11 years old shares a Triple Suite with the parents, the discount will be \$1,400.

### SERVICES INCLUDED:

- All **transfers** and ground transportation in private vehicles with professional drivers.
- Luggage handling, flight check-in assistance in Lima and Iquitos and return flight reconfirmation.
- Local, English/Spanish-speaking **guide** for all excursions.
- All **meals** as outlined (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner). Gourmet dinner on board includes fine South American wines. Vegetarian diets accommodated on request (advance notification required).
- All **accommodations in first-class (5 star) hotels** as listed (or at similar hotels), on a shared basis with private baths. Double beds for couples (primarily king/queen-sized) can be requested in advance, but cannot be guaranteed, as most hotels offer few rooms with double beds.
- **Cruise ship accommodations** as described on a double basis with private bathrooms and hot water showers. Cabins are equipped with two twin beds that are convertible to a king size bed.
- All **guided excursions** as listed or similar. Riverboat excursions are conducted by English-speaking guides. Other travelers on the cruise will join in. Guests will be divided into 3 groups. There will be 2 excursions per day and one excursion per night. Includes all necessary entrance fees.

### NOT INCLUDED:

- US domestic or International flights, or flights within Peru. (see **Estimated Airfare** on page 7)
- Peru airport departure taxes (approx. \$50 per person).
- Two (2) meals at about \$25 each, not including alcoholic drinks, sodas or bottled beverages.
- Tours or services not indicated on the itinerary.
- Personal gear or clothing nor items of a personal nature like laundry or telephone calls.
- Tips to the local staff.
- Expenses incurred in preparing for this program such as, but not limited to, non-refundable airline tickets or traveler's insurance, and additional expenses resulting from flight delays, schedule changes, cancellations, or missed connections.

We strongly recommend all travelers take out some form of **Travel Insurance** —plan information and an application are sent upon receipt of your deposit (sooner if requested). Policies with **Travel Insured International** can be purchased online through our website at [www.southwindadventures.com/insurance.html](http://www.southwindadventures.com/insurance.html). **If you or a family member has a pre-existing medical condition**, you need to purchase this policy within 14 days of booking your trip to qualify for reimbursement of non-refundable trip costs in the event that a recurrence of the pre-existing condition forces you to cancel your trip (some restrictions apply). For more information or to purchase Southwind's recommended travel insurance plan, please visit our website.

### THE M/V AQUA

This new 130-foot flagship, designed by renowned Peruvian architect Jordi Puig, is the finest vessel cruising the Peruvian Amazon. The luxurious riverboat accommodates 24 passengers in ten 230 sq. ft suites and two 240 sq. ft. Master suites, and feature large outward-facing panoramic windows and en suite sitting areas. All suites are air conditioned, and four are interconnected to

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accommodate families. Master suites are located at the front of the vessel, and feature larger sitting areas and windows. Every need is catered to by a crew of 17 professionals, plus 3 skilled naturalist guides that will share with guests their intimate knowledge of this fascinating ecosystem during daily excursions on the riverboat's three skiffs. After intriguing expeditions spotting rare wildlife or hiking in the rainforest, adventurers return to a world-class gourmet meal paired with some of South America's finest vintage wines. The menu of glorious fresh fish and local delicacies has been created by Executive Chef Pedro Miguel Schiaffino, one of Peru's culinary stars. The M/V Aqua's three decks include an elegant dining room, indoor bar/lounge, outside lounge, boutique, and an observation/sun deck. Passengers also have the confidence of an on-board paramedic at all times. The M/V Aqua is truly an extraordinary experience in the middle of one of the world's most remote environments.

### **EXCURSION BOATS DURING YOUR VOYAGE:**

Excursions during the Amazon Voyage are aboard three 8-passenger open-air, comfortable skiffs with padded seats along each side and spacious standing room, giving passengers ample room for wildlife viewing and photography. These stable boats, equipped with life preservers and constant radio communication, are powered by low-emission four-stroke outboard motors and driven by an experienced captain; naturalists/guides accompany each excursion. Drinks and snacks are provided, as are packed lunches and breakfasts for some of the daily expeditions. Passengers enter the skiffs from a stable platform on the sides of the riverboat.

### **OPTIONAL CUSCO/MACHU PICCHU EXTENSION (4 days / 3 nights):**

Travelers with extra time may consider extending to visit one of the new "Seven Wonders of the World," Machu Picchu. Although this extension is described following the *Amazon Cruise*, it can also be added before the main program.

#### **DAY 06 (SAT): IQUITOS/LIMA**

Upon arrival back in Lima from Iquitos, assistance is provided to check into the Costa del Sol Hotel located near the airport's International Terminal. (B,L)

#### **DAY 07 (SUN): LIMA/CUSCO**

Assistance is provided checking in this morning for the spectacular flight over the Andes to Cusco (11,150'), the former capital of the Incan Empire. We are met at the airport and transferred to the historic Libertador Hotel near the main plaza, with the rest of the morning at leisure for acclimatization. This afternoon we enjoy a guided orientation tour, by foot and van, of the city's colonial and Incan sites, including the nearby ruins of Sacsayhuaman and Tambo Machay. We have a welcome dinner with our guide this evening. (B,D)

#### **DAY 08 (MON): MACHU PICCHU**

After an early breakfast, we transfer to the train station to catch the Vistadome train for a 3.5-hour ride to the Aguas Calientes train station just below the famous *Lost City of the Incas*. After checking into the charming Inkaterra Machu Picchu Hotel in town, we join our guide for a tour of the main sections of the ruins including the Sun Temple, Royal Tomb, the ceremonial water fountains and baths and the Sacred Plaza. Dinner is at the hotel. (B,L,D)

#### **DAY 09 (TUE): MACHU PICCHU/CUSCO**

The day is at leisure for further personal explorations of this magnificent citadel. There are several optional hikes available for more active group members. A one-hour climb along a very steep and

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exposed trail ends at **Huayna Picchu**, or Young Peak (8,860'), providing an excellent panoramic view of the sanctuary. An hour-and-a-half downhill hike ends at the *Temple of the Moon*; or an easy 30-minute walk will take you to the Inca Drawbridge. As the day is flexible, those who prefer can relax or explore their favorite spots at their own pace. After lunch at the Inkaterra Hotel we catch the early afternoon train for the return to Cusco. We're met upon arrival and transferred to the Libertador Hotel. Dinner is on your own. (B,L)

### DAY 10 (WED): CUSCO/LIMA

We return to the airport late-morning for the flight to Lima where we're met upon arrival by our guide and driven into the city for a private tour of colonial Lima and the renowned Larco Herrera Museum, with an extensive collection of Pre-Columbian artifacts. Lunch and dinner are on your own. Those leaving tonight will have a transfer to the airport included. (B)

### DAY 11 (THU): USA

Arrive in the US this morning and make onward connections home.

<b>2009 EXTENSION LAND COST:</b>	\$1,625 p.p.d. (2 participants)
	\$1,515 p.p.d. (3 participants)
	\$1,405 p.p.d. (4-6 participants)
	\$ 445 Single Supplement

p.p.d.=per person based on double occupancy

**NOTES ON EXTENSION SERVICES:** An additional \$500 per person deposit is required to reserve this extension. Services are similar for the main tour; first-class (4-5 star) accommodations as listed (or similar hotels), on a shared basis. All meals, transfers and tours as indicated conducted on a private basis by local English-speaking professional guides. On occasion, other SWA travelers may share the same vehicle for transfers and the Lima tour. On Day 08 (for groups of 2-3 passengers), the guide returns to Cusco after the day of activities. For groups of 4 or more, the guide remains at Machu Picchu Day 08 and returns to Cusco with the group on Day 09.

**OPTIONAL TRIP EXTENSIONS:** Travelers with additional vacation time may wish to extend their trip to Lake Titicaca, Northern Peru, the Paracas Reserve & Nazca Lines or the Galápagos Islands. Your Amazon Cruise will combine perfectly with our *World of the Incas* tour. The cruise can also be used as a component of a customized adventure, which can be designed and quoted separately. **All extensions require a minimum of 2 participants** and are subject to space availability. Call our office to request our **2009 Peru: Summary of Trip Extensions** or view them on our website, click on *Trips>Amazon Cruise>Extend Your Trip*.

**WEATHER:** The M/V Aqua cruises the Amazon every week of the year, giving adventurers the option of experiencing this captivating ecosystem during either the Dry Season (June-November) or the Flooded Season (December-May). Both seasons offer rich rewards, fabulous sites, amazing opportunities to view plant and animal life, along with hot weather and some rainy days. Our recommendation, though, is to travel from April to December to avoid the heaviest rains from January through March. The Amazon basin receives an average of 12 feet of rain per year, adding up to over 200 rainy days, which means there will be rain even in the dry season. Flooded season is slightly cooler (temperatures average in the 80's to 90's year-round, with nighttime lows in the 70's), but the main difference is that the river level is 23 feet higher. This means that most rivers, creeks and lakes are navigable, putting us closer to the jungle canopy where monkeys play

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and birds roost. The flip side is that walking and hiking are more limited, and there will be more mosquitoes. The dry season is a little hotter (about 98°F), while still receiving some days of heavy rains. The river level is lower, giving more access to hiking trails with fewer mosquitoes, but some of the creeks and lakes visited during the flooded season are inaccessible. Guests have the opportunity to see more migratory birds during this season, with a better chance of seeing mammals during the flooded season.

**ESTIMATED AIRFARE:** The Land Cost DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY FLIGHTS. Round-trip **international** air from US gateways (New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Dallas, Houston, Atlanta) is approximately \$800-1,000 per person. **In-country flights** (Lima-Iquitos-Lima) are estimated at \$400 per person. For the Machu Picchu extension (Lima-Cusco-Lima) please budget \$300 per person. Upon receipt of your deposit, Southwind will send you more information about booking your flights to match your land itinerary. ✉ Please send Southwind your international flight schedule within 45 days of departure so we can arrange your transfers.

**HOW TO SIGN UP:** Submit Southwind's Trip Reservation Form along with a \$1,000 per person per trip deposit (payable by check or credit card). The form and deposit can be completed securely online at [www.southwindadventures.com](http://www.southwindadventures.com) by clicking on "Book a Trip" at the top of our homepage. If you prefer, you can print the Trip Reservation Form and mail/fax it to our office with your deposit. You can also call us at 1-800-377-9463 to make payment arrangements (**your deposit will be charged and your reservation confirmed once we receive your Trip Reservation Form**).

Due to the popularity of the Peruvian rainforest, we recommend making reservations at least 4-6 months in advance. Once your trip is guaranteed to operate, you will receive a comprehensive pre-departure planning packet.

**Land Balance:** Final payment is due at 90 days by Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express or check. You will receive a trip invoice indicating your balance due. **Rush Service:** A rush fee of \$200 per person will be applied to your invoice for reservations placed 45 to 21 days before departure.

Cancellation Fees and other policies are outlined under the 2009 Terms & Conditions on Southwind's website (click Book a Trip>2009 Terms & Conditions).

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