



## PERU

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



DURATION:	10 days / 9 nights
SEASON:	April through December
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.
2017 DATES:	On request every week during the season and 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, a myriad of 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 at least as many remain yet undiscovered.

This voyage takes you deep into the heart of the world's greatest wilderness through an ever-changing vista of lush tropical rainforest. Our elegant riverboat, the **32 passenger M/V Aria**, plies these waters with comfort and grace, affording superb wildlife viewing from her observation deck. The 16 air-conditioned modern suites feature panoramic windows, private baths, and en-suite sitting areas. Following daily excursions, you return to gourmet meals paired with vintage South American wines. Some nights, after dinner, you have the opportunity to partake in night expeditions to experience the nocturnal wildlife inhabiting the region. You begin the journey in Iquitos after a spectacular flight over the Andes from Lima. Traveling to the village of Nauta and navigating upriver on the mighty Amazon, you explore several of its tributaries on the way to **Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve**. Our expert naturalist guides accompany you 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 your journey you'll be astounded at your own prowess. Visiting *ribereños* (river dwellers) in their villages, experiencing sustainable resource management projects, meeting local subsistence farmers, going fishing for piranha, and seeking out rare plants and animals such as the world's largest aquatic plant, the giant water lily are some of the incredible adventures on this trip. Following your expedition, return to Iquitos for a brief city tour, then fly back to Lima and connect home.

## Peru: Amazon Cruise

### DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

#### DAY 01 (THU): LIMA

Upon arrival to Peru's capital city, you will be met at the airport by a Southwind representative and transferred to the elegant [JW Marriott Hotel](#) in the coastal suburb of Miraflores.

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

After breakfast, the morning is at leisure to explore the upscale Miraflores district, walk along the boulevard and gardens across from the hotel and visit the Larcomar shopping promenade with several restaurants overlooking the Pacific. Lunch is on your own to try a signature seafood meal such as ceviche at one of the gourmet eateries in this part of the city. By early afternoon you will be transferred from the hotel to the airport's Domestic Terminal with check-in assistance for your 1 hr 45 min flight over the Andes to Iquitos. You will be met the airport and driven through the city's outskirts on the way to the port at Nauta to embark on the [M/V Aria](#). Cast off and begin a journey of discovery into the greatest wilderness on Earth. Tonight, you'll have a safety drill and briefing in the air-conditioned lounge, where you will learn about life on board meeting the naturalist guides and your cruise director, who will use video, photos, and maps to introduce the details of your journey deep into the Peruvian Amazon. Then, a delicious welcome dinner is served: sit down, relax, sip fine South American wine, toast the beginning of a beautiful journey and enjoy the innovative Amazonian cuisine, crafted by the Executive Chef Pedro Miguel Schiaffino. Enjoy a nightcap as you cruise slowly up the Amazon as the stars above present an incredible spectacle of both northern and southern constellations. (B,D)

#### DAY 03 (SAT): AMAZON RIVER / YARAPA RIVER / UCAYALI RIVER

Wake up early this morning to watch the sunrise for the first time on the mighty Amazon River. As the boat continues upriver, be amazed by the ever-changing panorama of jungle life. Return to the M/V Aria for sumptuous daily breakfast, served buffet style and featuring a wide variety of dishes, plus Peruvian specialties and fresh-squeezed fruit juices. This morning you'll board our comfortable skiffs to sail from the Amazon River to the Yarapa River watching the warm sunshine spread over this verdant ecosystem. Life jackets, ponchos, rubber boots, and fresh water are always available on our private boats. As you float down the Yarapa, past the occasional fishermen paddling in their canoes, keep your binoculars handy to spot wildlife such as terns, tropical songbirds, black collared hawks and sloth who are sharing this wonderful world with us. Return to the M/V Aria for some free time to rest or take a siesta before lunch which will be in the comfort of our air-conditioned dining room. Afterwards join for a lecture in the lounge by our naturalist guides followed by canoeing and swimming at Lake Clavero. You will sail on Lake Clavero where villagers paddle in their traditional dugout canoes. You may wish to swim in the lake's calm waters and visit the community to interact with our Amazonia neighbors known for actively protecting their forest's natural resources and practicing their ancestral customs. Return to the M/V Aria and before dinner sip a classic Peruvian Pisco Sour on the Upper Deck while watching the sunset. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 04 (SUN): YANALLPA / DORADO RIVER / PACAYA-SAMIRIA RESERVE

This morning, board the skiffs to explore a fascinating black water stream which is part of the vast Amazon flooded forest within the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve. Your guides will tell you about the jungle as you explore what scientists call a "gallery forest," because of its dense vegetation creating a tunnel of leaves. As you explore this type of riparian vegetation, watch above for parrots, macaws, and fluffy monk saki monkeys. Return to the M/V Aria for an optional Peruvian cooking lesson. A delightful lunch is included perhaps followed by a restful siesta. This afternoon, convene for a Natural History presentation in the lounge. Later this afternoon you'll take a magical journey through the "Forest of Mirrors" due to its dark lagoons reflecting the scenery. See towering trees reflected in the river. Moving on to the Dorado River, you may observe enchanting parrots, macaws and a variety of primates, unperturbed by your presence. On your way back to the M/V Aria, you may see alligators, frogs and fishing bats. As sunset approaches, the jungle is filled with the warning signals of howler monkeys delineating their territory. Nightfall ushers in a rainforest symphony as nocturnal animals send out their calls among the rainforest canopy. Return to the M/V Aria for a crew presentation and dinner. While you dine, continue your journey upstream toward the headwaters of

## Peru: Amazon Cruise

the Amazon River, where the Ucayali and Marañon Rivers merge.

(B,L,D)

### DAY 05 (MON): BIRTHPLACE OF THE AMAZON / NAUTA TOWN

Get up early to enjoy the Amazon River with your morning coffee as the M/V Aria skirts the edge of the vast Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, a flooded forest covering five million acres at the headwaters of the Amazon basin. You will witness one of the great spectacles of the Southern Hemisphere: the sun rising over the origin of the Amazon River. Here the junction of two major tributaries, the Ucayali and the Marañon, form one of the greatest rivers in the world – certainly this is nature at its most captivating. Your morning excursion will be accompanied by abundant bird song, as you glide in small boats past riverbanks filled with large-billed terns, laughing falcons, gray tanagers, sandpipers, exotic short-tailed parrots, and dozens of other vibrantly hued bird birds. Later this morning traveling by boat to a community located along the Marañon River, you'll meet and interact with local villagers in this remote part of the world and learn about their traditions and folklore. Walk around with our naturalist guides to see how Aqua Expeditions works with these communities to improve their natural resource management. You will learn about traditional uses of medicinal plants from a shaman whose knowledge of spiritual healing has been passed down for generations. You will also have the opportunity to shop for local handicrafts directly from the artisans. Return to the riverboat for a delicious lunch. This afternoon, you will visit the port town of **Nauta**, where you say goodbye to your 4-day passengers and greet new friends for the remaining 5-day journey. You'll walk around Nauta to gain insights into the life of these native peoples. You will also visit the local fresh market with your guides on hand to point out the different fish caught by local fishermen and all the various types of indigenous fruits. Later, you may explore the Sapi Sapi Lagoon. Return to the M/V Aria on time for dinner and enjoy your gourmet meal as the journey along the Marañon River begins.

(B,L,D)

### DAY 06 (TUE): YANAYACU / MARAÑON RIVER / PACAYA-SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE

Breakfast is served on board followed by an expedition on our skiffs to Yanayacu - Pucate River within the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve. Here you can observe many species of flora and fauna, especially Macaws and some of the 13 species of primates found in Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, including tamarins, howlers, capuchin, squirrel monkeys, dusky titi monkeys and pigmy marmoset monkeys. Keep your eyes peeled for two different kinds of freshwater dolphins. Be especially keen for the unusual and famous pink dolphins (delightful creatures found in the Amazon River) and learn about the interesting folklore associated with these stunning mammals. Your naturalist guide will tell you about sustainable development projects carried out in this part of the Peruvian Amazon. Return to the M/V Aria for a light and refreshing lunch followed by a lecture in the lounge. This afternoon is yours to ride the skiffs and observe the wildlife activity to sunset, including friar apes as well as capuchin and howler monkeys. You will hear the second symphony of the Amazon rainforest as other nocturnal animals send their shrill calls across the treetops. En route back to the boat, you may see other nocturnal creatures, such as huge caimans and alligators. Return to the M/V Aria for a crew presentation and dinner while you navigate closer towards the headwaters of the Amazon River.

(B,L,D)

### DAY 07 (WED): SAMIRIA RIVER / NAUTA CAÑO / PACAYA-SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE

After a nutritional breakfast, this morning your naturalist guide will talk about sustainable development projects in the Amazon. You will visit one of the projects where villagers are planting palms to obtain oil. Your guide will also show you the artificial nests created in the sand to protect turtle eggs. You will go into the jungle to encounter wildlife and learn first-hand about the value of medicinal plants found in the jungle. Keep an eye out for the magnificent Ceiba tree, the tallest in the Amazon. Opportunity to make brief but fun trips in traditional Amazonian wooden canoes and to swim in the waters of the Samiria River will also be presented. Return to the riverboat for a fulfilling lunch and a mid-day break. This afternoon you venture into Nauta Caño which is part of the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve, also known for its dark lagoons reflecting the beautiful scenery. In this area you'll observe toucans, macaws, and iguanas, among many other species. As you make your way back to the M/V Aria, you will enjoy the warmer Amazon sunset lights reflected in the black waters of the flooded forest. You may also see alligators, frogs and fishing bats. This evening enjoy another delightful dinner on board and a restful night.

(B,L,D)

## Peru: Amazon Cruise

### DAY 08 (THU): MARAÑON RIVER / TAHUAYO RIVER / AMAZON RIVER

In the vibrant morning light, sail along the Marañon River, watching the different species of flora and fauna as you approach the Casual community for a hike. Here you'll see a plethora of wildlife, so keep your binoculars ready to observe tanagers and orioles as well as various reptiles and amphibians. Keep an eye out for the beautiful and eye-catching but poisonous frogs along this fascinating trail, as well as trees and medicinal plants. Return to the M/V Aria. From this point, start sailing downstream toward Nauta. Before a tasty lunch, participate in a fun and congenial cooking demonstration. In the afternoon, you will board our comfortable skiffs to sail from the Amazon River and enter the Tahuayo River. Life jackets, ponchos, rubber boots, and fresh water are always available on our riverboat. As you float down the river, encounter occasional fishermen paddling in their canoes. A vast variety of wildlife: terns, tropical songbirds, pipites, black collared hawks and sloth share this wonderful place with us. After your arrival at a particular fishing spot, we provide poles and bait for the opportunity to catch some of the more than 3,000 species of tropical fish in the Amazon Basin, including piranhas--the small carnivorous fish with a fearsome reputation that is considered a good food source by the locals. As you fish, trained naturalist guides will tell the story of the lake and its inhabitants. Once back on board the M/V Aria, the ship will continue its journey downstream, continuing towards Nauta. Meet in the lounge with the naturalist guides for the crew presentation. The guides will introduce some of the "behind the scenes" crew members whom you may not have met yet. These are the people who worked to ensure your memorable trip has been filled with countless exceptional experiences. Enjoy a gourmet farewell dinner in the ship's dining room. (B,L,D)

### DAY 09 (FRI): AMAZON RIVER / NAUTA / IQUITOS / LIMA

After breakfast, assemble for a travel briefing followed by a morning skiff excursion for those who want a final chance to photograph the natural setting and take in the scenery. Return to the M/V Aria before noon, with time to finish packing. After a light lunch you disembark and drive into Iquitos. Here, you're 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--planes and boats are 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'll take you to 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, visit the San Juan Amazonian Indian Market for a last chance to shop for local handicrafts and folk art. Arrive to the airport in the afternoon and say goodbye to the staff as you board the flight back to Lima. Upon arrival in Lima, connect on your own with a short walk to the International Terminal for your overnight flight home. (B,L)

### DAY 10 (SAT): USA

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



## Peru: Amazon Cruise

### 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 and safety considerations. The itinerary indicated above is for the dry season (June-November), with some changes during the flooded season (December-May). This program is suitable for physically fit participants accustomed to outdoor activities age 7 and up. Regular departures may include families with kids.

<b>2017 LAND COST:</b>	<u>First Deck Suite</u>	<u>Second Deck Suite</u>
	\$8,985 per person	\$9,345 ppd (2-3 participants)
	\$8,885 ppd	\$9,245 ppd (4-12 participants)
	\$2,325 Single Supplement	\$2,415 Single Supplement

ppd.= per person based on double occupancy on the first or second (upper) deck.  
Price does not include international nor the in-country Lima-Iquitos-Lima flight.

**Accommodations:** All cabins feature large outward-facing panoramic windows, AC and in-suite sitting areas with either 2 twin beds or 1 king bed. For families traveling with children, all cabins are equipped with a sofa sleeper. There are also 4 interconnecting suites on the First Deck (#s 103-105 & 104-106).

**First Deck Suites (8):** 250 sq ft. (#s 101 to 108)

**Second Deck Suites (8):** 250 sq ft. (#s 201 to 208)

**Children's Discount:** Children 7-11 years old at the time of travel are entitled to a discount of \$1,700 ppd on the First Deck Suites and \$1,770 ppd on the Second Deck Suites of the *Amazon Cruise* Land Cost. If a child 7-11 years old shares a Triple Suite with the parents, the discount will be \$5,000.

**AMAZON CRUISE SHORT VERSION (7 days/6 nights):** Travelers with limited time can choose a 5-day cruise aboard the M/V Aria. The itinerary is the same as the 8-day cruise beginning with a Sunday arrival to Lima and Monday flight to Iquitos (Day 05). Upon arrival to Iquitos you drive on a paved road for 1.5 hours to the small port town of Nauta where you catch the M/V Aria that evening. The cruise continues until the end of Day 10.

### Outlined 7-day Itinerary:

DAY 01 (SUN):	LIMA
DAY 02 (MON):	LIMA / IQUITOS / NAUTA / AMAZON RIVER
DAY 03 (TUE):	YANAYACU / MARAÑON RIVER / PACAYA-SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE
DAY 04 (WED):	SAMIRIA RIVER / NAUTA CAÑO / PACAYA-SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE
DAY 05 (THU):	MARAÑON RIVER / TAHUAYO RIVER / AMAZON RIVER
DAY 06 (FRI):	AMAZON RIVER / NAUTA / IQUITOS / LIMA
DAY 07 (SAT):	USA

### 2017 SHORT VERSION LAND COST:

<u>First Deck Suite</u>	<u>Second Deck Suite</u>
\$5,360 ppd	\$5,560 ppd (2-3 participants)
\$5,260 ppd	\$5,460 ppd (4-12 participants)
\$1,415 Single Supplement	\$1,465 Single Supplement

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

**Children's Discount:** Children 7-11 years old at the time of travel are entitled to a discount of \$1,000 ppd on the First Deck Suites and \$1,040 ppd on the Second Deck Suites of the *Amazon Cruise* Short Version Land Cost. If a child 7-11 years old shares a Triple Suite with the parents, the discount will be \$2,860.

## Peru: Amazon Cruise

### 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.
- Native, English/Spanish-speaking **guides** for all excursions.
- All **meals** as outlined (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner). Gourmet dinners on board includes fine South American wines. Vegetarian diets accommodated on request (advance notification required). For other diets, consult your travel specialist before making a reservation.
- 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. All Design Suites feature panoramic, river facing floor to ceiling windows. Air-conditioned Suites 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 naturalist guides. Other travelers on the cruise will join in. Guests will be divided into 4 groups. There will be 2 excursions per day and one excursion per night. Includes all necessary entrance fees including the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve entrance fee.

### NOT INCLUDED:

- US domestic or International flights, or flights within Peru.
- Local Peruvian airport departure taxes (for USA and Canadian travelers these taxes are included in the airfare).
- Two (2) meals at about \$25-50 each.
- Tours or services not indicated on the itinerary (Extras such as Spa services or Boutique purchases onboard).
- 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.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend purchasing coverage to protect your trip investment. Travel insurance is important in case of unexpected events prior to departure causing the need to cancel or change your dates. Weather, geologic events, local strikes, personal injury/illness for you, your traveling companion or family members, could require itinerary interruption or changes. Missed connections, delayed arrival, lost/delayed baggage or the need for medical attention or evacuation are also reasons why coverage is important. Southwind offers several plans through Travel Insured International (TII) to fit your budget and coverage amount. We recommend TII's *Worldwide Trip Protector* which offers a good value and **free coverage for kids 17/under traveling with a related adult**. If you, your traveling companion or a family member has a pre-existing medical condition, you can still receive coverage if a recurrence of the condition forces you to cancel your trip (some restrictions apply and plan purchase needs to be done **within 21 days of your deposit date**). **Please call our office for a quote** or to discuss your insurance options. See our [Travel Insurance](#) page to learn more and purchase a plan.

### THE M/V ARIA

As of 2011, the 32-passenger [M/V Aria](#) began to offer an unrivaled premier luxury cruising experience in Peru's remote Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve. The upgraded 147-foot long M/V Aria's fine interiors, furniture, and finishes have been entirely custom-crafted to provide guests the ultimate in onboard comfort while at the same time highlighting the jaw-dropping scenery of the Peruvian Amazon. Peruvian interior designer Jordi Puig was responsible for outfitting the elegant 3-deck M/V Aria along with the newly opened embarkation lounge in Nauta. The vessel features floor-to-ceiling windows on all 16 guest suites; a fully air-

## Peru: Amazon Cruise

conditioned top deck lounge with a cool and contemporary observation lounge; an exercise room with elliptical, treadmill, and spinning machines; a massage room and rooftop Jacuzzi plus redesigned excursion skiffs with larger seats. Celebrity chef Pedro Schiaffino's fine dining menus highlight regional dishes and local ingredients enjoyed onboard. The 26 crew-member vessel including a paramedic and 4 bilingual naturalist guides, will run 8 and 5-day cruise itinerary departures to provide more options for travelers. The M/V Aria will venture to a diversity of areas of the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve offering exceptional wildlife viewing capabilities.

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

Excursions during the Amazon Voyage are aboard four 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 with the M/V Aria, 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 want to add a visit one of the new "Seven Wonders of the World," Machu Picchu. This extension can follow the Amazon cruise (as outlined below) or it can also be added before the cruise.

DAY 09 (SAT): IQUITOS / LIMA

Arrive in Lima from Iquitos and check-in to the [Costa del Sol Hotel](#) near the International Terminal. (B,L)

DAY 10 (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. You are met at the airport and transferred to the historic and boutique-style [Aranwa Hotel](#) near the main plaza which provides the added benefit of oxygenated rooms, with the rest of the morning at leisure for acclimatization. This afternoon you will 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. Dinner is on your own. (B)

DAY 11 (MON): MACHU PICCHU

After an early breakfast, transfer to the station, board the Vistadome train for a 3.5-hour ride to the village of Machu Picchu (formerly Aguas Calientes) located below the famous *Lost City of the Incas*. Check-in to the charming [Inkaterra Machu Picchu Hotel](#) in town before joining your guide for a private tour of Machu Picchu's Sun Temple, Royal Tomb, the ceremonial water fountains and baths, and the Sacred Plaza. Dinner is included at the hotel. (B,L,D)

DAY 12 (TUE): MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO

The day is available for further personal guided explorations of this magnificent citadel. There are several optional hikes available for more active group members. A one-hour climb along a very steep, narrow and exposed trail ends at Huayna Picchu, or Young Peak (8,860'), providing an excellent panoramic view of the sanctuary. Another 1.5 hour up and 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 Sumaq Hotel restaurant, you will catch the early afternoon train for the 1.5-hour scenic return to Ollantaytambo. You're met upon arrival and transferred by private vehicle to Cusco and the [Aranwa Hotel](#). Dinner is on your own. (B,L)

DAY 13 (WED): CUSCO / LIMA

Return to the airport late-morning, fly to Lima, reception upon arrival by our guide and drive into the city.

## Peru: Amazon Cruise

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 14 (THU): USA

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

**2017 EXTENSION LAND COST:**           \$2,795 p.p.d. (2 participants)  
  \$2,685 p.p.d. (3 participants)  
  \$2,565 p.p.d. (4-6 participants)  
  \$ 795 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.

### 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. To view all the extensions on our website, click on '[Extend Your Trip](#)'.

**WEATHER:** The M/V Aria 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 and birds roost. The flip side is 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.

### ESTIMATED AIRFARE:

The Land Cost DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY FLIGHTS. Round-trip international air from US gateways (New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, Houston, Dallas, Atlanta) is approximately \$900-\$1,100 per person. Airlines offering service to Lima include American, United, Delta and LAN. In-country flights on (Lima-Iquitos-Lima) are estimated at \$400 per person. If you add the Machu Picchu extension (Lima-Cusco-Lima), budget on \$775 per person for all the in-country flights. Upon receipt of your deposit, Southwind will send you more information about booking your flights to match your land itinerary. Please send us your flight schedule at least 45 days before departure so we can arrange your transfers.

**HOW TO SIGN UP:** Please complete Southwind's [Trip Reservation eForm](#). There are fields for up to 4 travelers per form with the same address. Upon receipt, your Travel Consultant will send you a SmartPay link to pay your **\$1,500 per person deposit** by any major credit card. If you prefer, you can also call us at 1-800-377-9463 to make payment arrangements by phone or send a check. You will receive confirmation of

## Peru: Amazon Cruise

your deposit.

Due to the popularity of the Peruvian rainforest, we recommend making reservations at least 4-5 months in advance. Once your trip is guaranteed to operate, you will receive comprehensive pre-departure planning documents by email.

**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. Provided services and space are available, reservations can be accepted up to 30 days before departure.

Cancellation Fees and other policies are outlined under the current [Terms & Conditions](#) on Southwind's website.

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