



## **Exploring Manu Wilderness 8 days 2020**

### **Day 1: Cusco – Guadalupe Lodge**

Leaving Cusco the van ride will pass through numerous dry inner-montane valleys during the trip along the small road you can enjoy the native villages and locals going about their lives in their colorful attires, we travel at leisure making several stops including many photo opportunities exploring the high-elevation birds, continuing on we visit the village of Paucartambo with its beautiful arched colonial bridge from Paucartambo we climbed yet again and gradually became enveloped in a cloudy mist soon we arrived at Acjanaco pass and gateway to Manu National Park. Once across Acjanaco Pass (3550 m / 11.647 ft) the environment changed dramatically passing from dry valleys to wet and also the view looking down toward the lowlands is stunning. The lush and misty cloud forest surrounded by massive rocks and waterfalls is perhaps the most fragile and threatened type of rainforest, which is the kingdom of lichens, moss our main target will of course the Peruvian National Bird the brightly red, Andean Cock of the Rock displays daily for female, as we descend we will head down to 1,500 m. in elevation to the lodge which has a wonderful garden for hummingbird observation. Overnight Guadalupe Ecological Reserve.

### **DAY 2: Guadalupe Lodge - El Dorado Lodge**

Departing the lodge we will have chances for some birding along the famous Manu road and passing some more open areas and see numerous second-growth specialist, once we get Atalaya which is the first navigable Port, we will say good by to our bus and meet our boatman, we board our motorized and roofed (to provide shelter from the sudden tropical downpour and sun bath) The upper Madre de Dios starts off rocky and fast, with Herons often seen foraging on the rocky gravel bars, and we'll keep a close watch for raptors. As we are continuing our downriver boat journey, we will stop briefly at the Shintuya hot springs for a refreshing bath then we will be occupied by traveling by boat down the Madre de Dios to the next 4 hours, we might see some local boats and a native people settlements or lodge along the edge of the river, We will arrive in the afternoon in time to get settled before dark, and likely with enough time to walk around the lodge or on one of the many trails that radiate out from the lodge clearing. Overnight El Dorado Lodge.

### **DAY 3: El Dorado Lodge - Casa Matsigenka**

Leaving the lodge early in the morning, we will get to the confluence with the Manu river we enter the wild Manu National Park a brief stop at Limonal Park Ranger Station for check in, this boat trip is more exciting and full of sightings experiences, every river bend will bring us a view

of unspoiled beauty As we travel up river we'll search diligently for any signs of Jaguar, still only a slim chance but this river is perhaps the best location to find this magnificent mammal, Just a few curves up the river the environment will change. Suddenly, there will be orders of magnitude more to look at, from hundred if not thousands of swallows and butterflies, every single sandbar being occupied by something interesting, from lapwings, plovers, horned screamers, orinoco geese, we will keep a close watch for wildcats. In the midafternoon, we arrive at our rustic lodge which it's set aside a short distance from the Rio Manu in the heart of Manu National Park and for our following nights at this peaceful place. Overnight, Casa Matsigenka Lodge.

#### **DAY 4 Casa Matsigenka - Salvadore Oxbow Lake**

We will have the better part of two days to enjoy the Manu's Wilderness, in the morning, we will explore the Salvador oxbow lake famous for its population of Giant Otters who usually breeds there , they can be seen at different times of the day, these gregarious and playful carnivorous spend good deal of their time fishing or playing by any side of the lake or just taking a sunbath on their favorite dead logs. We'll have access to a floating catamaran (two large canoes connected by wooden planks) with chairs set up for bird and wildlife viewing (which makes paddling around the lake easy and comfortable. Apart from looking for the giant river otters, we'll have the chance for many of the lake edge species, including the fabulous Hoatzin, Agami and herons, interesting raptors, colorful macaws oropendolas and caciques. Just floating around the lake will be one of the joys of the trip, In the forest around the lake we'll also search for more species of monkeys such as white fronted capuchin, pygmy marmoset. Apart from the lake, the forest around Salvador Lake and the lodge is some of the best Amazonian rainforest we have seen, and a nice network of trails allows us to leisurely stroll on flat trails the rest of the day. Overnight: Casa Matsigenka lodge. (Please notice that the time to visit the Salvador lagoon on this day its subject of availability)

#### **DAY 5 : Casa Matsigenka – Small Macaw Clay Lick**

Following the main trail that crosses the terra firme forest we get the small macaw clay lick that sometimes attracts parakeets such as Rock and Painted, visiting this clay lick is also always a big highlight of the trip, early in the morning, parakeets congregate and start to gather to eat the clay, which they need on their diet, this activity might take most of the morning time

We'll spend full afternoon walking along what is the "system of trails" from Casa Matsigenka to Cocha Otorongo lake it usually takes more than a couple of hours, the forest trail has great mixed habitats and wonderful section of untouched rainforest initially the route takes you through Terraza Forest " forest which is the habitat for brazil nut (bertholletia excelsa) among others species of trees as you move deep into the heart of the forest is also an excellent place to run into troops of monkeys, with no fewer than six species possible such as red howler, brown capuchin, squirrel monkey, tamarins. as well as the chance for numerous other birds such as curassow, guans. Arriving to the lodge in the afternoon for dinner time

#### **DAY 6 : Casa Matsigenka - EL Dorado Lodge**

This morning we'll board our boat and begin the journey down the Rio Manu back to the Rio Madre de Dios. We'll also have access and briefly to see untouched rainforest. Returning to boat trip will be again very exciting with lots of bird activity on the many sandbars as well as side necked turtles sunning on the logs. This will be again another opportunity for catching a glimpse of the magnificent Jaguar. After about four hours we will reach Boca Manu for brief stop and to refuel our boat and exploring the lower portion of the Madre de Dios, we get settled for lunch time and likely with enough time to walk around, Overnight at El Dorado Lodge.

### **DAY 7 : El Dorado Lodge – Guadalupe Lodge**

We will boat up the fast flowing braided and clear water upper Madre de Dios in the morning as we start our five hours back journey to Atalaya this is the last chance to spot the capybara, the world's largest rodent. We'll keep a close watch for raptors, as we have seen numerous Kites, as well as fun birds such as Vultures, eagles. We'll sadly depart Manu's area for our trip further up the upper Madre de Dios River and our re-introduction into civilization; after one hour of overland transportation we reach the Guadalupe Ecological Reserve and having time for some night walk around the area.

### **DAY 8: Guadalupe Lodge – Cusco**

This morning we will take an early ride to the cloud forest. We'll make some stops en route looking for colorful birds such as; cock of the rock, quetzals, jays, mountain toucans and the elevation here is perfect for high number of foothill species going up the cloud forest we can enjoy the breathtaking views of the exuberant forest. We will arrive Cusco in the afternoon.

\* The program may have small variations due weather or other factors.