



## **Manu Reserved Zone Express**

**6 days / 5 nights**

Our 6-days tour takes you to the remoteness of the Manu National Park. We recommend this package for whoever is willing to access pristine areas of the rainforest in a short period of time. The program includes various activities like boat excursions, oxbow lake exploration, birds and animal's observation (caimans, otters, macaw clay lick), canopy tower, nature walks. The tour mainly focusses on the search for emblematic animals such as monkeys, jaguar, caimans and colorful birds.

**WHERE:** Manu National Park (Reserved Zone)

**ELEVATION RANGE:** from 920 ft to 12,467.19 ft

**WILDLIFE:** Andean cock-of-the-rock, up to 6 species of monkeys, capybara, macaws, hoatzin, spiders, black caimans, giant river otters, jaguar

**ACTIVITIES:** Wildlife observation, nature day & night walks, oxbow lake exploration on local rafts, motor boat tour, caves exploration, observation from canopy tower

### **DAY 1<sup>ST</sup> Cusco to Papaya or Dorado Lodge – Overland & Motor Boat Journey**

Early departure from Cusco in the morning, the beginning of the Manu Road passes through numerous dry inner-mountain valleys and picturesque villages. This gives you a quick overview of locals' lifestyles and colorful clothes, a brief stop at the village of Paucartambo which features a beautiful arched colonial bridge. From Paucartambo the altitude will keep on increasing and the setting gradually gets enveloped by a cloudy mist, the road leads you to Acjanaco pass consisting of the main gateway to Manu National Park.

Once across Acjanaco Pass (3550 m / 11.647 ft) the environment dramatically changes from dry to wet valleys. Do not miss the splendid view when looking down toward the lowlands. The lush and misty cloud forest surrounded by massive rocks and waterfalls is perhaps the most fragile and threatened type of rainforest. In such an environment filled with lichens and moss-carpeted soil, passing by some local villages already at the lower elevation rainforest we will be transferred to the Atalaya port. Once at the river's port, we embark on a motorboat and navigate down this crystalline river of Madre de Dios and having lunch onboard. After 4 hours, you will reach Papaya Lodge.

This boat journey will be exciting to look for some aquatic wildlife; capybaras, birds, and caimans basking along the fast-flowing river. In the night you will ramble through the primary forest searching for some nocturnal creatures in the meantime small reptiles and rodents. Dinner and lodging at Papaya Lodge. (Wi-Fi available)

## **DAY 2<sup>ST</sup>. Papaya – Dorado Lodge – Casa Matsigenka**

Early Departure, we will get the confluence with the Manu river we enter the wild Manu National Park a brief stop at Limonal Park Ranger Station for check in, the exciting trip begins with full of sightings experiences, every river bend will bring us a view of unspoiled beauty.

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, 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, we will keep a close watch for wildcats.

In the mid- afternoon, 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. In the mid-afternoon, you will get to your lodge located a short distance away from the Rio Manu in the heart of the National Park. Overnight at Casa Matsigenka.

## **DAY 3<sup>RD</sup>. Casa Matsigenka**

We will have the better part of two days to enjoy the Manu's Wilderness. On this morning you 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

Exploring the forest, we 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. (Please notice that the time to visit the Salvador lagoon on this day its subject of availability)

## **DAY 4<sup>TH</sup> 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, 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 of great wildlife.

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 the trails, Overnight at El Dorado Lodge.

### **DAY 5<sup>TH</sup>. 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 capybaras, the world's largest rodent. Keep a close watch for raptors such as kites, vultures or eagles. We will eventually 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 have time for some night-walks around. We will have diner and spend the overnight at Guadalupe Lodge.

### **DAY 6<sup>TH</sup>. Guadalupe Lodge - Cusco**

Your morning walks along the palm forest to look for the blue and yellow Macaws and enjoy a tasty breakfast and get ready to pack as you will soon start hit the road again to Cusco. The way back offers some last impressing views of the exuberant cloud forest.

The arrival in Cusco should be around 5pm. it would be depending on traffic conditions while driving towards city Centre.