

Manu Wildlife Immersion 5 Days

Duration: 5 days/ 4 nights

Highlights: Salvador Oxbow Lake, canopy tower in Otorongo Lake, Macaw Clay Lick at Casa Machiguenga, navigation by motorboat on the Manu River, Giant kapok Trees, Cloud Forest, Guadalupe Caves, offspring in Manu, Pristine Forest exploration in Manu basin

Minimum Participants: 02

Max Participants: 08

Type Service: Group basis rate

Frequency: Fixed Departures along the season

DAY 1

Cusco – Guadalupe Lodge

Embark on an unforgettable journey along the Manu Road, starting with a scenic drive from Cusco. As you traverse the dry inner-mountain valleys and picturesque villages, you'll catch a glimpse of the locals' traditional way of life and vibrant cultural heritage. A brief stop at Ninamarca offers a fascinating glimpse into the region's rich history, with a visit to the well-preserved pre-Inca tombs within this significant archaeological site.

The journey continues with various stops, allowing you to soak in the breathtaking landscapes that transition from towering high mountains to lush humid forests. Your next stop will be the charming village of Paucartambo, featuring a stunning colonial-era arched bridge.

As you ascend further, the scenery transforms, enveloped by a mystical cloudy mist. The road culminates at the Acjanaco Pass, the gateway to the Manu National Park, situated at an impressive 3,550 meters (11,647 ft) above sea level. The dramatic change in environment is striking, with the dry valleys giving way to the lush wet valleys below. Be sure to take in the spectacular views overlooking the lowlands.

The cloud forest that follows is a haven for nature enthusiasts, with its unique ecosystem characterized by massive rocks, waterfalls, and a verdant landscape blanketed with lichens and moss. This fragile and enchanting environment is home to an incredible array of birdlife, including the iconic Peruvian national bird, the Andean Cock-of-the-Rock. Keep an eye out for woolly monkeys and a variety of bird species as you make your way down to the Guadalupe Lodge.

After settling into your comfortable accommodations at Guadalupe Lodge, complete with private toilets, hot showers, and Wi-Fi, take a leisurely stroll along the loop trail those winds through the swamp forest. This is an excellent opportunity to spot capuchins, night monkeys, and an array of birdlife, including blue and yellow macaws, woodpeckers, and oropendolas. As the day comes to a close, enjoy the serene surroundings and the sounds of the forest at dusk.

DAY 2

Guadalupe Lodge- Boca Manu – Casa Machiguenga

Our journey begins with an early departure to the Atalaya port, where we'll board our motorboat, equipped with a roof to protect us from the elements. As we set off, we'll witness the breathtaking views of the Andean Mountains gradually giving way to the dense rainforest. The horizon stretches out before us, with the river flowing majestically towards the distance, and the mountains slowly disappearing from view.

During our navigation along the lower basin of the Alto Madre de Dios River, we'll have ample opportunities to observe a diverse array of wildlife. Keep a keen eye out for vibrant birds such as macaws, parrots, toucans, caciques, and oropendolas.

We'll also be on the lookout for fascinating creatures like capybaras and monkeys, taking advantage of the excellent wildlife viewing opportunities this route provides.

After approximately 5 hours of boat travel, we'll reach the confluence with the Manu River.

Following a brief stop at the Limonal ranger station for check-in, we'll continue upriver, scanning diligently for signs of jaguar. Although spotting this majestic mammal is a rare privilege, this river offers one of the best chances to do so. As we navigate further upstream, the environment will undergo a dramatic transformation, with an explosion of life. We'll be treated to hundreds, if not thousands, of swallows and butterflies, and every sandbar will be teeming with interesting activity.

We'll arrive at the Casa Matsigenka lodge, nestled in the heart of Manu National Park, just before dusk. This secluded lodge will be our home for the next couple of nights. Optional night walks can be arranged, depending on the group's preferences, offering a unique chance to experience the park's nocturnal wildlife

DAY 3

Casa Machiguenga (Trail Exploration– Lake Explorations– Macaw clay lick)

Today, we'll immerse ourselves in the pristine wilderness of Manu, beginning with an exploration of the Salvador oxbow lake, renowned for its thriving population of giant otters. These charismatic creatures can be observed at various times of day, often breeding, fishing, or simply basking in the sun on their preferred dead logs.

We'll board a comfortable floating catamaran, equipped with chairs and wooden planks connecting two large canoes, allowing for effortless and comfortable navigation around the lake.

As we cruise through the lake, we'll be on the lookout for the giant river otters, as well as a diverse array of lake-edge species, including the fascinating Hoatzin, Agami herons, and various raptors. The lake's vibrant birdlife also includes colorful macaws, oropendolas, and caciques.

The gentle pace of our catamaran will enable us to absorb the tranquility of the lake and its surroundings. In the adjacent forest, we'll search for various monkey species, such as white-fronted capuchin and pygmy marmoset.

The forest surrounding Salvador Lake and the lodge boasts some of the finest Amazonian rainforests we've encountered, with a network of flat trails allowing for leisurely strolls and exploration. During the midday, we'll venture into the terra Firme forest, a habitat for Brazil nut trees (*Bertholletia Excelsa*) and other species.

This forest is also an excellent location for spotting troops of monkeys. Our journey will take us to the macaw clay lick, a popular gathering spot for vibrant red and green macaws, which is sure to be a highlight of the trip. We'll spend the night at the Casa Machiguenga lodge. Please note that the timing of our visit to the Salvador lagoon may be subject to change, depending on availability

DAY 4

Casa Machiguenga– Dorado Lodge

Embark on an unforgettable journey down the majestic Rio Manu this morning, as we set off on our boat adventure. Along the way, we'll make a thrilling stop at the Otorongo Oxbow Lake trailhead, where we'll venture into the heart of the pristine forest. A network of trails awaits us, leading to a stunning canopy tower that offers breathtaking views of the lake and swamps.

We'll also explore wooden platforms strategically positioned to spot aquatic wildlife, including alligators basking in the sun. Be awed by one of the largest kapok trees in the forest, its enormous size a testament to nature's grandeur. As we wander through the untouched rainforest, we'll catch glimpses of the forest's secrets.

As we continue our boat journey, the excitement builds with abundant bird activity on the sandbars and side-necked turtles sunning on logs. We'll keep a keen eye out for the majestic jaguar, ever hopeful for a glimpse of this elusive creature.

After about four hours, we'll stop briefly at the Limonal ranger station to register our passage and take a quick break.

With lunch served onboard, we'll savor the flavors while taking in the stunning scenery. Our afternoon awaits at the Dorado Lodge, where we'll venture into the primary forest in search of playful monkey families and peccaries. We'll also visit the fascinating mammals' clay lick, a hotspot for wildlife activity. As the day unwinds, we'll settle in for the night at the Dorado Lodge, surrounded by the sights and sounds of the Amazonian wilderness.

DAY 5

Dorado Lodge (Clay Lick)– Cusco City

Today begins with an early morning excursion to the spectacular macaw clay lick, located along the tranquil riverbanks near El Dorado Lodge. As the sun rises, we'll set out to witness the vibrant flurry of parrots, parakeets, and small macaws gathering to feed on the mineral-rich clay—an unforgettable sight filled with color and sound.

Then, we'll board our boat and navigate the crystal-clear waters of the upper Madre de Dios River, where the fast-flowing braided streams offer a thrilling ride.

Arrival to Atalaya Port and in the afternoon return to Cusco. The way back will give more opportunities to glimpse some more animals and discover the wildlife of the cloud forest and have impressive views of the exuberant cloud forest with waterfall, and cascades. The arrival in Cusco should be around 8 pm. ** Please if you need an earlier arrival to Cusco let us know

Inclusions

- ✓ All meals included (vegetarian, vegan mentioned in advance)
- ✓ Box Lunch
- ✓ Duffel Bags
- ✓ Entrance tickets to Manu National Park (Reserved Zone)
- ✓ Free Storage Room in Cusco
- ✓ Guadalupe Lodge (private toilets, WIFI, hot showers, mosquito net)
- ✓ 4 Nights Lodging (Guadalupe Lodge – Dorado Lodge – Casa Machiguenga)
- ✓ Macaw Clay Lick Entrances Tickets
- ✓ Meals (Vegetarian, Vegan Optional)
- ✓ Overland Transportation (SUV - Minivan)
- ✓ Overnight at Casa Matsigenka
- ✓ Overnight at Dorado Lodge
- ✓ Snacks (fresh fruits, cookies, chocolate)
- ✓ Purified Water

Exclusions

- Alcoholic Drinks
- First day breakfast / Last day Dinner
- Nights on Single Supplement
- Binoculars