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A WORD FROM THE FOUNDERS

SouthAmerica.travel is proud of its energetic Team of travel experts.

Our Travel Partners are based in 7 South American countries, have traveled extensively throughout South America and work "at the source" from their operations headquarters in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and the Guyanas.

We are passionate about South America Travel, and we're happy to share with you our favorite Buenos Aires restaurants, our insider's tips for Machu Picchu, or our secret colonial gems of Brazil, and anything else you're eager to know.

The idea to create SouthAmerica.travel first came to Co-Founders Juergen Keller and Bradley Nehring while traveling through Brazil's Amazon Rainforest. The two noticed few international travelers, and those they did meet had struggled to arrange the trip by themselves. Expertise in custom travel planning to Brazil was scarce to nonexistent. This inspired the duo to start their own travel business to fill this void and help travelers plan great trips to Brazil, and later all South America.

With local tour operators partners throughout South America, as well as local telephone numbers in multiple countries worldwide, the SouthAmerica.travel Partners have helped hundreds of thousands of travelers fulfill their unique dream of discovering the marvelous and diverse continent of South America. Where will your dreams take you? Let's start planning now...











Juergen Keller *Co-Founder*



Bradley Nehring *Co-Founder*

"Our goal is to create memories that will last our clients a lifetime."

Juergen Keller

AMAZON TRAVEL GUIDE

ESSENTIAL AMAZON TRAVEL TIPS

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BRAZILIAN AMAZON

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Clipper Amazon Cruise
Desafio Amazon Cruise
Bolivian Amazon River Cruise
Manatee Amazon River Cruise
Anakonda Amazon River Cruise



ESSENTIAL AMAZON TRAVEL TIPS

The Amazon is the world's largest rainforest,

And has the space to prove it. With 6.9 million square kilometers, the Amazon spreads across Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. Thousands of rivers crisscross the vast terrain offering guests a chance to explore the land not only by foot but also by water. Choose from an assortment of lodges and learn some of the local traditions that have been passed down for centuries. Discover the abundance of mammals, reptiles, birds and other species of the Amazon. The sights, sounds and smells of the jungle are simply magical.

Best Times to Visit Amazon

There isn't a bad time to visit the Amazon Rainforest, but depending on what you would like to see and do determines the ideal time to visit. From December to May, the Amazon river flows at its highest. As the rain comes down, the Amazon basin begins to flood, and boat excursions venture further up the rivers and tributaries. The low water season lasts from June to November.

Please note before making arrangements to visit the Amazon; you must have 6 months validity on your passport.

Packing List

When it comes to the Amazon's weather, you need to be prepared for just about anything. Below is a short list of essentials you will need while visiting the Amazon Rainforest:

- Sturdy shoes or hiking boots
- Mosquito repellent
- Waterproof camera gear
- Backpack for jungle adventures
- Poncho

Read More: Amazon Packing List

Recommended Amazon Cruises

For the most authentic Amazon experience, we highly recommend going on a Brazilian Amazon Cruise aboard the Tucano. The Tucano takes visitors further up the Rio Negro to tributaries where man has not set foot. Ideal for those seeking a real Amazon nature experience. For travelers with luxury in mind, consider taking a Peruvian Amazon Cruise aboard the Amazon Delfin, Cattleya and Aria. These cruises provide deluxe accommodations, meals and amenities on board.

Read More: Tucano River Cruise and Peru Amazon Cruise





BRAZILIAN AMAZON

The Brazilian Amazon is the most authentic country to experience the mightiness of the Amazon River in harmony with nature. Our most popular tours to the Amazon include a cruise to remote tributaries of the Amazon allowing visitors to experience untouched nature at its finest, giving the feeling that no man has ventured here before.

Belém do Para & Marajó Island

Belém do Para, Portuguese for "Bethlehem", is the gateway to Brazil's lower Amazon region. As the first European colony in the Amazon, Belém maintains its historic character with its green squares and colorful churches. The archipelago of Marajó Island sits at the mouth of the Amazon River. It is the largest marine-fluvial island in the world and dazzles visitors with its beautiful beaches and best surf.

View: Belém & Marajó Islands Tour

Manaus & the "Meeting of the Waters"

Manaus sits in the heart of the Amazon Rainforest and just outside of the city, is the "Meeting of the Waters," where the dark Rio Negro and the sandy-colored Rio Solimões meet. This is a highlight, along with the Grand Opera House.









Tucano River Cruise

The **Tucano River Cruise** is the best and most authentic way to explore the Brazilian Amazon. This multi-day cruise takes you deeper into the Amazon as it follows the Rio Negro, to hidden tributaries. With fewer people and no sign of other boats, the likelihood to spot wildlife increases. This classic yacht has traditional architecture and is Eco-friendly leaving no trace behind. Day excursions include canoing, nature hikes, swimming and fishing. During down time, relax on the viewing decks, enjoy delicious food and or sip a cocktail.

View: Tucano Amazon River Cruise

Brazil Amazon Lodge

For those less interested in a river cruise, consider spending a few nights at an Amazon lodge. Full service Amazon lodges is ideal for travelers with restricted travel dates as you are not dependent upon a specific cruise sailing date. The excursions are similar to a cruise. Go on nature walks, night safaris, fishing, kayaking, bird watching and more. Amazon lodges can offer visitors comfortable accommodations in remote destinations. Some of our favorite lodges are the **Eco Park Lodge** and the **Anavilhanas Lodge**.

View More: Amazon Rainforest Eco Park Lodge





PERUVIAN AMAZON

Iquitos - River Cruises & Lodges

Although Brazil has the lion's share of the Amazon Rainforest, the eastern side of Peru cradles thick vegetation, tributaries, oxbow lakes and crisscrossing trails. Iquitos offers both authentic and luxury cruises and acts as the gateway to Peru's Northern Amazon region. The city is surrounded by water and the Amazon, making it remote and authentic. The city is increasing in popularity, as it is a sight to see with its stilt houses lining the **Itaya River** and massive open-air street markets. An oasis linked to the outside world by air and river, Iquitos is considered the largest city in the world inaccessible by road.

There are a variety of **luxury river cruises** that start in Iquitos and venture deep into the jungle. Onboard an Amazon River cruise, you may spot incredible wildlife while enjoying the same amenities that you would experience in a 5-star hotel. Enjoy sightings of pink river dolphins, giant otters, monkeys and more, all in a calming air conditioned cabin, with gourmet meals at your fingertips.

View More: Iquito Peru Amazon Cruises



Insiders Tip

For a complete Amazonian experience, try "juanes", one of the main regional foods in Iquitos. This popular dish is made up of rice, herbs, chicken, and banana leaves.



Puerto Maldonado & Tambopata National Park

Unlike Iquitos, Puerto Maldonado has plenty of connection to the outside world. It's proximity to the animal-rich jungle can be seen as a blessing or a curse, as travelers tend to quickly leave the area for lodges nestled deep into the forest. The lodges in the **Tambopata National Park** are run by the local indigenous tribes adding authenticity to these lodges.

Getting there: A quick 45-minute flight from Cuzco or Lima takes you to Puerto Maldonaldo, from there lodges provide transportation.





Tambopata has more species of birds (595) and butterflies (more than 1,200) than any place of similar size on Earth. The Tambopata Macaw Clay Lick is one of the largest natural clay licks in the country, and tourists gather to watch spirited macaws and parrots arrive at the cliffs to feed on the essential mineral salts that are imperative to their health.

Lodging: Choose from a variety of lodges, whether it be **Corto Maltes, Posada Amazonas, Refugio Amazonas, Reserva Amazonica**or the **Tambopata Research Center**.

View More: Peruvian Amazon Lodges





ECUADORIAN AMAZON

Ecuador's portion of the Amazon Rainforest is much smaller than Brazil's, but its small slice of the jungle is diverse with its lagoons, rivers, dense forest and jungle canopy. For wildlife enthusiasts, combine an Amazon excursion and a Galapagos Cruise to see some of the most impressive wildlife on the planet.

Ecuador Amazon Cruises

The Manatee Amazon Explorer or the Anakonda Amazon Cruise are two deluxe cruises that smoothly enter the Amazon Basin from Coca, Ecuador. Activities include piranha fishing, swimming with pink river dolphins and visiting the Parrot Clay Lick. Amazon cruises are an excellent way to venture deeper into the Amazon to see more flora and fauna. With daily shore excursions, hikes, village visits and more, you will leave with an authentic Amazon experience.

The Ecuadorian Amazon is fully equipped to handle tourism, offering clients comfortable accommodations, services, and the chance to explore some of nature's most beautiful terrain. From luxury lodges to luxury cruises, the Ecuadorian Amazon awaits.

View More: Ecuador Amazon Cruises



Insiders Tip

Seamlessly combine the Amazon and the Galapagos to see two of the best highlights in Ecuador. This is a great option for travelers with limited time that want to see as much wildlife as possible!

Ecuador Amazon Lodges Near Yasuni National Park

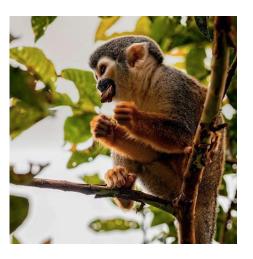
Resting at the intersection of the Andes, the Equator and the Amazon is Yasuni National Park. This national park is arguably one of the most biologically diverse places on Earth; Amphibian, bird, mammal and vascular plant diversities reach their peak in this region. Ecuador's Amazon is know is famous for its parrot clay licks, indigenous culture centers and birding.

Lodges are ideal for travelers seeking to explore the jungle by foot, for those that want to get a real feel for the surrounding area. Travelers interested in birdwatching will admire the Yasuni Biosphere Reserve, as it contains more species of birds than any other region in Ecuador. You may spot tanagers, toucans, parakeets, woodpeckers, parrots, hoatzins and more.

Venture to one of the two indigenous nations that have kept roots here: the Kichwa and the Waorani. After all, it was not so long ago that these villages were cut off from civilization. Expect an authentic experience at one of the native eco lodges, where you will learn all about the history of the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Read More: How to Explore the Amazon







BOLIVIAN AMAZON

Rurrenabaque & Beni River

Rurrenabaque is a sleepy town in northern Bolivia, resting alongside the calm Beni River. In the Bolivian Amazon the forest is less dense and flora and fauna are less diverse because of the higher elevation.

The Bolivian Amazon offers a rugged and adventure filled Amazon experience accompanied by an off the beaten path vibe. Surrounded by mossy green hills, you can see incredible sunsets that melt over the tall trees of the region. In contrast with the morning silence, once the night falls, the town is enthralled with the croaks, barks, buzzes and roars of the surrounding rainforest.

Rurrenabaque has recently exploded with tourism due to its close proximity to Madidi National Park and the surrounding pampas. If you happen to visit in February, enjoy the Fiesta de Rurre, a special time where locals celebrate the anniversary of Rurrenabaque.

Getting there: buses depart daily from La paz to Rurrenabaque, but that is an 18 hour bus ride. Instead, take a small plane to Reyes, about 45 min from Rurrenabaque.



Insiders Tip

For the best views of Rurrenabaque, try zip-lining from one of its longest lines. You can speed through the canopy trees on a steel cable. The longest run is about 620 meters; if you choose this one make sure to hold onto your belongings!





Madidi National Park Lodges

Established in 1995, Madidi National Park is a jungle paradise situated in the upper Amazon river basin of Bolivia. Its diverse landscape combines the snow-capped peaks of the Andes to the tropical climate of the lowland Amazon basin, housing an incredible range of ecosystems. Renowned for its vast array of flora and fauna, Madidi National Park is a dream destination for botanists and animal lovers alike. An ecological masterpiece, the park boasts thousands of species of birds, insects, mammals, fish, reptiles and amphibians as well as over 20,000 plant species.

Madidi is also a wonderful place to learn about the Amazon's vast array of medicinal plants as well as the traditional and sustainable uses of its natural resources. With so many unique species discovered year after year, it's no surprise that Madidi National Park is a hotspot for the world's leading biologists, entomologists, and researchers.

Getting There: You can easily access Madidi National Park from the small town of Rurrenabaque. Rurrenabaque acts as an ideal gateway to the Bolivian Amazon, offering travelers a direct route to Madidi National Park.

Read More: 10 Best Destinations in Bolivia





COLOMBIAN AMAZON

Leticia & Reserva Natural Tanimboca - Lodes

The Amazonia region covers 35% of Colombia's territory and home to 10 protected national parks and 70 indigenous groups, most of which are more than 5,000 years old (e.g Ticunas, Yagua & Yacuna). Stay in a *malocas*, which is a traditional wooden house built in the trees; sleep in the middle of the jungle, 12 meters above the ground, surrounded by the sounds and smells of the rainforest.

Getting there: Leticia is the southernmost city in Colombia sitting on the bank of the Amazon River. A short 2 hour flight from Bogota takes you to Leticia.

Puerto Narino

Puerto Narino is another town near Leticia with approximately 2,000 inhabitants. To get there you must take a 2 hour boat ride from the region's capital. This car free town offers an authentic experience, very different than any distance yourself from your fast paced everyday life. Here you can meet some of the indigenous people from the Ticuna or Yagua tribes.

Read More: Colombian Amazon vs. Peruvian Amazon



Insiders Tip

From Leticia, visit the
"Three Borders" where
Colombia (Leticia), Peru
(Santa Rosa) and Brazil
(Tabatinga) meet! Sit in the
waters of Brazil, Peru and
Colombia.





CRUISES VS. LODGES

Choosing between an Amazon River Cruise or an Amazon jungle Lodge can be difficult. In general, we always recommend an Amazon Cruise, but departure dates and travel plans can make it difficult. Consider these pros and cons when planning your Amazon experience.

Amazon Cruises

River cruises take you deeper into the jungle as they follow tributaries far from civilization. This means you can see wildlife that you may not see at a lodge and can see more of the jungle. However, cruises offerless flexibility for travelers as they have set departure dates and availability is more limited.

In general, we highly recommend Amazon cruises over lodges as it offers a more authentic experience with nature.

Amazon Lodges

Lodges can range from luxury to authentic and open air. Depending on where you wish to go in the jungle a lodge could be preferred. Lodges offer more flexibility with travel dates.

Amenities at a lodge are more similar to hotel amenities.







CHOOSING WHERE TO GO?

Depending on your travel style and what you'd like to see will determine which country is best for you!

Brazil

Brazil offers comfortable authenticity and the feeling of the mighty Amazon. In Brazil, you will find comprehensive options for both lodges and cruises, ranging from high end to low end. Along with big cruise ships, like **Hurtigruten** and **Iberostar**, and smaller *experience based cruises*, like the **Tucano**. The Amazon region in Brazil is equipped for tourists and has plenty of knowledgeable guides and comfortable accommodations. Highlights include pink dolphins, piranha, the Rio Negro, caiman, water lilies, uakari monkeys and tarantulas.

Peru

Iquitos, Peru is the place for luxury cruises, while Puerto Maldonaldo is known for both high end and economic lodges. For the most authentic Amazon experience, we recommend the **Tambopata Research Center**, located 7 hours from Puerto Maldonaldo and is the best place in all of the Amazon for birding. Peru's Amazon is well equipped to handle tourists! Highlights include, macaw and parrot clay licks, river Otters, Andean cock of the rock and Hoatzin.





Ecuador

Ecuador's cruises are not as high end as the cruises offered in Peru, but they do have deluxe ships that are more affordable. Logistically it is easy to travel from Quito to Coca (30-minute flight). Lodges in Ecuador are about 2 hours from Coca by speed boat and another 30 minutes by paddle boat, making for an authentic experience. Ecuador has both high end and affordable lodges. Overall, Ecuador is well equipped to handle tourism in the Amazon. Highlights include ceibo trees, hummingbirds and butterflies.



Colombia

Colombia is more rugged, with fewer accommodations. Most lodging is about 20 minutes outside of Leticia, so the experience is not as authentic. This is ideal for people that just want to hang out in nature, but do not want to go deep into the jungle.



Bolivia's Amazon is also more rugged and not as equipped to handle tourists. There are cheaper options in terms of lodging and this is very authentic as it is rather untouched by tourism and under developed.





RECOMMENDED AMAZON TOURS

Rio de Janeiro & The Amazon Rainforest Tour

8 Days — Combine Rio & the Amazon Rainforest

Rio de Janeiro, nestled between tropical mountains and sea, welcomes you. Let nature dominate at the Amazon Ecopark Jungle Lodge or on an Amazon river cruise, as you see pink dolphins, fish for piranhas, walk the jungle and marvel at the flora. Experience two great landmarks of Brazil with this Rio and the Amazon Tour, combining beautiful beaches and incredible wildlife.



VIEW FULL ITINERARY

Machu Picchu & The Amazon Jungle Tour

8 Days — A Concise Summary of Peru

Discover two of Peru's best wonders on this Machu Picchu and Amazon jungle tour. First, visit Lima, the burgeoning capital of Peru, and then follow the steps of the Incas from Cuzco through the Sacred Valley to the breathtaking ruins of Machu Picchu. Explore the Peruvian Amazon Rainforest from the comfort of a Peru Amazon lodge on the shores of the Tambopata River.



VIEW FULL ITINERARY

Brazil Amazon & Salvador Bahia Tour

10 Days — Rio, Amazon, and Salvador Tour

This popular Brazil tour combines three amazing highlights of Brazil: Rio de Janeiro, the Amazon Rainforest and Salvador da Bahia. Begin in the marvelous city of Rio de Janeiro, delve deep into the Amazon Rainforest. Stay in an Amazon Lodge and continue to the historical gem of Salvador da Bahia.



VIEW FULL ITINERARY

Posada Amazonas Peru Amazon Lodge

4 Days — Puerto Maldonado, Lima

Stay at Posada Amazonas Lodge in the Peruvian Amazon and discover the beautiful wildlife of this region. This lodge is perfect for those who want an introduction to the Amazon Rainforest without having to go far into the jungle. It's perfect for adventurers, families and avid bird enthusiasts.



VIEW FULL ITINERARY

Tucano Amazon Cruise

5 Days — The Amazon Odyssey

The Tucano motor yacht is a wonderful way to explore lesser-known tributaries of the Amazon River. The Tucano cruises are perfect for travelers who wish to go deep into the rainforest and explore the heart of wild nature. Explore the Rio Negro and Rio Amazonas, as well as flooded grasslands, tributaries, archipelagos and narrow streams teeming with wildlife. You may spot macaws, monkeys, river dolphins and more.



VIEW FULL ITINERARY

The Green Coast of Brazil

14 Days — Explore the Coast of Brazil

Embark on this Expedition Cruise, and feel the rhythms of Samba as you travel 7,000 miles past diverse green coastline from Uruguay to Brazil. Discover the friendly cultures of South America during shore excursions to vibrant cities, historical and nature sites. This cruise departs from Montevideo, Uruguay or Fortaleza, Brazil.



VIEW FULL ITINERARY

Clipper Amazon Cruise

4 Days — Amazon River Cruise

The Amazon River cruise packs all the best parts of the unique and vast region into just three days. Learn about the ecology of the Amazon while snacking on yummy native food and drink. Look for rare and beautiful wildlife such as caiman and pink river dolphins as well as exotic birds. Experience the Meeting of the Waters and peek into the historic port of Manaus.



VIEW FULL ITINERARY

Desafio Amazon Cruise

4 Days — Maguari Expedition

This 4 day tour aboard the M/V Desafio is an excellent way to experience all that the Amazon River has to offer. Popular stops include Lake Janauari, Samauma Island, Anavilhanas Archipelago the Negro River, the Furo do Meioa and more. Go for a swim, strike out on your own in a canoe, or just kick back and relax. And of course, be on the lookout for all of the rare and beautiful wildlife that inhabits this wondrous region.



VIEW FULL ITINERARY

Bolivian Amazon River Cruise

7 Days — Bolivian Amazon Basin, Ibare Rivers, Remote Tributaries

Cruise along the Mamoré and Ibare Rivers in the Bolivia Amazon basin, crossing remote tributaries, lagoons and beaches in this little-known part of the Amazon. Go kayaking, hiking, horseback riding, visit indigenous villages and do much more on the Flotel Reina de Enin Amazon cruise. Look for parrots, herons, toucans, monkeys, turtles, pink river dolphins, crocodiles, capybaras and hummingbirds. In the evenings, relax on the deck of the Amazon cruise, sipping a tropical drink or listening to the sounds of the jungle lull you to sleep.



VIEW FULL ITINERARY

Manatee Amazon Rainforest Cruise

4 Days — Coca, Sani Warm Center, Pañacocha Biological Reserve

Take a 3-night tour around the ever-lasting green Amazonian basin. Discover the Amazons vast mesmerizing territories, flora, fauna and civilizations. Sail the Napo River, landing on the Pañacocha Biological Reserve, home to friendly pink dolphins and squirrel monkeys. Then head to a parrot clay lick 'lamedero' and admire the colors of endemic birds, before learning about Amazonian culture at Sani Warm Center. It is possible to combine both Manatee cruises for one week-long cruise.



VIEW FULL ITINERARY

Anakonda Amazon Cruises

3-Night, 4-Night — Coca, Parrot Clay Lick, Pañayacu River Delta

Tour the fascinating Ecuadorian Amazon on a tour through the Napo River, entering remote areas home to intriguing native animals, and visiting interpretation centers. It is possible to combine this tour with a 4-night itinerary on a week tour that can start either on Sunday or Wednesday.





CREATE A CUSTOM TOUR TO THE AMAZON

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