

# ESCORTED AMAZON TOURS

## Amazon Enthusiasts Tours for Aquarists and Lepidopterists

Anyone who has an interest in nature can't help but be in awe at the sights and sounds that await them in the rainforest. For those who have a keener interest, devotees of particular tropical animals or plants, the Amazon is a 'must go' location, almost a pilgrimage, to see the animals in their natural environment. Amazon holidays have many years of experience (since 1999) organising expeditions for aquarists and we are now pleased to offer similar expeditions for butterfly enthusiasts. Our expeditions are always well researched, including new areas not collected by commercial collectors, so the chances of encountering new species or lost or 'forgotten' species are good. Leading the expeditions we have specialist bilingual guides who have an extensive knowledge of the species, variety and habitats. Local Indigenous Indians who bring the invaluable knowledge of every corner of the forest aid them in finding the hidden treasures of the forest.



The collecting of animals and plants in Amazonas is strictly controlled, collecting and attempting to leave without the correct permissions is a serious offence that carries heavy fines. However everything we do is legal and perhaps as important, ethically justified in practice and in its objectives to promote a long-term sustainable income for rainforest families (see our policy on **responsible eco-tourism**). We have the necessary **permissions to export** wild collected aquarium fish and also facilities to hold fish where those fish have been appropriately collected. This is a service we can

offer aquarist clients subject to a small charge for the provision of aquarium space and export charges including freight.



We make sure that our enthusiast tours are a holiday to remember and not an expedition to endure. Plenty of chances to relax and enjoy all the facets of an Amazon holiday. Clients are invariably pleasantly surprised at the standard of comfort in the 3 and 4\* hotels that we use, even more surprised at the availability of familiar foods even in the forest lodges and Albergue.

Tours bring together enthusiasts, people with plenty in common, there is always plenty to talk about at the end of each day. We recognise that each group has members with different aspirations and different physical abilities, don't worry if you are not sure how you would cope with Jungle excursions or any aspect of our itineraries. Enthusiast expeditions are flexible. Activities are paced to the individual ability and we will always provide options for those who don't feel comfortable with any particular activity, for whatever reason.

Amazonas is full of exciting experiences, every walk into the forest or trip down a Great River will bring encounters, sights and sounds for all nature lovers to remember, not just the fish or butterfly fanatics. For this reason many clients have found they can bring their spouses or older children who don't have the same intense interest but can share in the experience and make a family holiday to remember.

# ESCORTED AMAZON TOURS

The itineraries for the enthusiasts' tours have to be flexible. In order to take account of river levels and weather conditions the expedition leaders decide on the following days itinerary on a daily basis. In this way we can maximise the chances of the success in the forest. Therefore the itineraries below are the bare bones itineraries, the frame work on which we will build the tour as it unfolds.

## Day 1 Arrival in South America

Arrive at El Dorado airport where our representative will meet you

Transfer to Hotel

\* Dinner \* in a local restaurant.

## Day 2 Flight to Leticia

Breakfast at your hotel.

Transfer to Airport

Flight to Leticia.

Check into a hotel in Leticia

\* Lunch \* in Leticia

Informal orientation meeting to welcome visitors to the amazon town of Leticia and discuss forthcoming activities and tours

Watch the sunset from 'La Fera' where bars and restaurants look out over the river and the rain forest beyond.

\* Dinner \* at a restaurant serving typical local fare.

## Day 3-5 Forests of Tacana

Breakfast in the hotel in Leticia.

Transfer to Albergue Tacana your base for the next 3 days

Walks and expeditions to the rivers and forests around Tacana Community with Miraña and Huitoto Indian guides.



We have recorded 120 species of fish and every month brings new finds. In October 2006, one of our clients, British Killifish Society member Alan Green discovered a new species of Rivulus near to Tacana.

Tacana has tremendous diversity of butterflies, amongst the indigenous local people it is well known for the abundance of morphos, we have noted four species including Menelaus. There are Caligos, Agrias,



Catanophele, many Papilios and a host of Heliconius. Take a look at our butterfly photo gallery if you are not familiar with the names.

## Day 6 Journey to Zacambu.

Breakfast in Tacana

Transfer to Tabatinga

Embark canoe 'El Motoro' to Benjamin Constant at the mouth of the Yavari River.

\* Lunch \* and last chance for essential supplies before we move on up the Yavari.

Travel upstream from Benjamin Constant approx. 2 hrs in motor canoe to Zacambu lodge, our base for the next three days. Lookout for Pink dolphins and leaping Salton catfish along the way.

Dinner

## Day 7-8 Zacambu Reserve

Based from the lodge we spend the next two days exploring the Zacambu reserve, a complex of oxbow lakes and flooded forest alongside the Yavari River a major river of the region, hence we find many biotopes that contrast sharply with those found at Tacana. Zacambu is uncharted territory for butterfly collectors has an abundance of wildlife and is renowned for the diversity of fish species. There is an abundance of butterfly species with particularly interesting riverine species, many regional colour morphs and undoubtedly new species. Zacambu is a particularly good location for night flying butterflies and moths and we will have available portable mercury lamp collecting equipment to further investigate interesting spots.

## Day 9 Return to Leticia

Breakfast in Zacambu.

10 am Embark 'El Motoro' downstream to small town of Islandia.

\* Lunch \* in Islandia or Benjamin Constant.

Embark 'El Motoro' for Leticia/Tabatinga.

Transfer to your hotel in Leticia.

Farewell \* Dinner \* in Tabatinga.



# ESCORTED AMAZON TOURS

## Day 10 Farewell Leticia

Breakfast at the hotel in Leticia.

Morning free for last minute shopping in Leticia.

Transfer to Airport

Flight to Bogota and connection to International flight

- Stay in the best hotels in the area
- Travel around using the best, most reliable transport
- Explore the most exciting locations
- Dance in the top entertainment spots
- Have plenty of time for genuine wildlife encounters.
- Gain a genuine insight into local cultures
- **Help us** in direct support of rainforest communities

## Why Choose Amazon Holidays?

Our unrivalled local knowledge helps you: -

- Eat at the best restaurants in town

**Please Note: - Meals marked with \* \* are not included in the package price.**

**We provide one bilingual guide (min) per 6 persons.**

## Package Price £1250

(Based on double occupancy) including all internal flights and transfers, hotel board and breakfast.

Single supplements are £25 per night.



Adventure Holidays Tailored To Suit You

**Call Now**

**+57 311 535 8508**

## Amazon Holidays

Comunidad Multiétnico de Tacana,

Km 11 Via Tarapaca,

Leticia,

Amazonas

**Fax:** +44 (0) 870 169 8378

**Email:** [enquiries@amazon-holidays.com](mailto:enquiries@amazon-holidays.com)

**Web:** <http://www.amazon-holidays.com>

**Getting You Closer To The Real Amazon**