

## Treehouse Lodge Excursion List

**Please note:** All the excursions last from 2 to 3 hours and are dependent upon the water levels and weather conditions. All excursions are included in the cost of your stay with the exception of the visit to the Jibaro community which currently costs \$30 per person.

### 1. Sunrise and Breakfast with the Dolphins

This is the perfect way to start your day in the Peruvian Amazon. About an hour before sunset you will boat along the Yarapa and Ucayali rivers until you reach The Amazon River. Here you will enjoy “breakfast in a boat” while observing the world-famous Pink and Gray River Dolphins of the Amazon during their morning feeding. Enjoy sunrise over the skyline of the Amazon rainforest. If you’re feeling particularly adventurous you can jump in and swim with the dolphins. As with all excursions, there is always a chance that you catch a glimpse of other types of wildlife such as sloths, monkeys, iguanas, and birds along the edges of the river.

### 2. Sunset on the Amazon with the Dolphins

This excursion is a guest favorite. We will often recommend that you enjoy this excursion on the day of your arrival at Treehouse Lodge. It’s the perfect kick-off to an incredible time in the Peruvian Amazon. Just before dusk, you will boat along the Yarapa and Ucayali rivers until you reach the Amazon proper. The world-famous Pink and Gray river dolphins will start to appear near your boat while the sunset gives the perfect backdrop. Take a moment to breathe the freshest air on the planet. Listen to the sounds of the Amazon as you start to welcome nightfall. Just after sunset you will head back to the Lodge and prepare for an evening and night of Amazonian adventures.

### 3. Swim In The Amazon River

You’ve traveled across the planet to see the world’s greatest river: the mighty Amazon. This is your opportunity to knock out a bucket list item by going for a swim. You will travel down the tributaries to the main Amazon river with your private guide and navigator. Take as little or as long as you want to enjoy a refreshing dip. If you’re lucky a dolphin or two might appear. When you’re done enjoying a swim you will travel back towards Treehouse Lodge while observing any interesting flora and fauna along the way.

#### **4. Dugout Canoe Trip**

For centuries, River people have moved along the Amazonian rivers in dugout canoes. Even today, this mode of transportation is the best way to explore the creeks: navigating slow, listening to the sounds of the jungle, and observing nature, attempting to imitate the exact way ribereño people see the forest. If you are a bird watcher from the canoes, you can observe and take pictures of many species of birds that feed and make nests close to the river shores. Many species of primates such as brown capuchins, squirrel monkeys, and saddle-backed tamarins are easy to spot. You may even be able to observe rare and elusive creatures such as the river otters from the dugout canoes. At some point, we will stop and fish for piranha! We will carry aboard wooden poles, with string and meat. When the piranha bites, you lift the pole, and voila. Not to worry, we will retrieve the fish for you.

#### **5. Fish for Piranhas**

One of our most popular excursions, Piranha Fishing, will be one of the great adventures you have while visiting Treehouse Lodge. Travel by boat to one of the many great piranha fishing spots in the area. Armed with a wooden pole, string, hook, and meat, you will lower the bait into the water. When the piranhas strike (and they will!), simply lift the pole. Don't worry, we will retrieve the fish for you. We have yet to have a guest that hasn't succeeded. Once you're done you can choose to catch-and-release, or, if you prefer, the chefs at Treehouse Lodge will prepare the piranha as a side dish to your nightly meal.

#### **6. Blowdart Gun Workshop**

The natives of the Amazon rainforest have relied on blowgun hunting for hundreds of years. Known in Peru as pucuna, blowguns can be used by skilled hunters to hit animals from a distance of 60-90 feet. During this excursion, you will be mentored by a local villager on how to make your blowgun. Take your time to craft your perfect blowgun and then feel free to practice throughout your stay and on your excursions.

## **7. Jungle Walk: Medicinal Plants of the Amazon**

The rainforest is like a green pharmacy where you can find many plants used to treat different diseases. You can find medicinal plants for headaches, stomachaches, broken bones, hernias, and rheumatism – even for diabetes. On this Amazon Jungle excursion, you will explore through the greenery in search of medicines found in each plant or tree. Learn the secrets of the jungle and the relationship between plant and man; all the while bringing you closer to Mother Nature, protector of all the living organisms on our planet earth. The Amazonian people are the preservers of knowledge passed from one generation to another. Before cutting a plant in preparation for extracting medicine, many medicine men ask permission of the protector of the forest; if they don't ask permission the medicine doesn't work. This ancient belief is responsible for keeping the superpower's natural forces in harmony.

## **8. Jungle Walk: The Giant Water Lilies of Oxbow Lagoon**

Participate on a fascinating jungle walk to this isolated lagoon that was once part of the river many years ago. The Oxbow Lagoon hosts many species of aquatic plants such as the giant water lilies that can grow to 6 ft. in diameter with flowers the size of a cabbage. You will also observe the strangely interesting hoatzin, a bird that feeds exclusively on poisonous plants that it can keep in its crop for several hours. Another species of bird you will find on this amazon jungle walk is the horned screamer that is related to the geese family and feeds on water lettuce and water hyacinth. Lastly, though perhaps most fascinating, you will be able to spot the wattled jacana, nick-named Jesus Christ because it can walk on water. These are just a few of the many animals that live in this varzea forest.

## **9. Jungle Walk: Night Monkeys, Sloths, Hoatzins, and More**

Join this jungle walk to witness the only nocturnal monkey that can be spotted during the daytime. These primates make their homes in tree holes and, once located, can be seen sticking their heads out to take a peek. You will walk along a trail that runs close to an old tree where these night monkeys can be seen. They have a good sense of hearing, are very curious, and evolved into nocturnal animals to avoid competition over food. On this walk, there is also a chance that you can spot any of the following species of monkeys: owl monkey, pygmy marmoset, monk saki, squirrel, red howler, dusky titi, wooly monkey, and tamarins.

## **10. Daytime Jungle Cruise**

Embark on an adventurous boat ride through the tributaries of the Amazon. You will see abundant wildlife and nature in all of its glory while we search for the Amazon River's specialties such as Blue and Yellow Macaws, Wattled Jacanas, Trogons, Black Collared Hawk, Oropendolas, Yellow-Headed Caracara, and Tanagers, among others. Your guide will also help you spot sloths and monkeys in the trees above you as you cruise around the Yarapa and Cumaceba rivers.

## **11. Nighttime Jungle Cruise**

If you enjoy the river by day, imagine the life that awakens at night! On our night excursion, you will travel along the river, looking for wildlife with flashlights. The chances of spotting wildlife are good. You will see creatures like beautifully colored frogs resting on the floating plants on the edges of the creeks. You will see fishing bats that catch their prey using their talons like hawks, detected by sophisticated sonar. By the light of your flashlight, you will see owls and caimans (located through their red eyes) that venture through the dark to catch their prey. At night you will also find creatures such as kinkajous that feed on fruits and berries. They are easy to see while jumping from branch to branch on trees along the river. Even the opossum that feeds on birds can be spotted primarily at night. These are just a few of the many creatures that love to come out at night.

## **12. Nighttime Caiman Spotting**

Depart Treehouse on a motorized canoe along the Yarapa and Cumaceba rivers. The mysterious sounds of the jungle will be a highlight throughout the excursion. Caimans are close relatives of the alligator that can be found throughout the Amazon rainforest. Like their crocodilian cousins, Caimans live near rivers and other bodies of water. Most caimans are around six or seven feet long, but the largest species, the Black Caiman, can grow to a length of 15 feet. The young caiman is much smaller and easier to find. While the Caiman is hypnotized by the bright light, your canoe will slowly approach it until your guide is close enough to attempt to catch it with his bare hands and lift it out of the water for all to see. After closer viewing, the young Caiman will be returned, unharmed, to the water. After the thrill of this incredible hunt in the dark, you will transfer back to Treehouse Lodge.

### **13. Night Walk to See Insects**

Nighttime is a prime time for feeding. Once the sun sets, many creatures come out, some are the predators, and others the prey. On this night excursion, you will see exotic beetles (rhinoceros and elephant species) and moths (sphinx and rothschildia species). You will also find some lizards sleeping on the leaves. On our walk, you can see diverse species of frogs like the famous owl frog that makes holes in the ground and weighs over ½ pounds. Amazonian people use the skin of this interesting anuran to make drums, but the owl frog protects itself from its predator by releasing a milky liquid from its skin. There is also a frog called gladiator treefrog that makes its nest close to the water to keep it from potential rivals and attract females for mating. At some point on the walk, we will ask you to turn off your flashlight and stay quiet to let your senses adapt to the darkness. Listen intently to the sounds of the rainforest to identify what they are and where they come from. At this moment, you will truly be able to appreciate the vastness of the Amazon Jungle with all its countless secrets.

### **14. Treehouse Canopy Walk**

Treehouse Lodge is one of the most unique hotels in the world. Featured by National Geographic as one of the Top 10 Most Unusual Hotels in the World, Treehouse offers the incomparable experience of observing the Amazon rainforest from the treetop canopies. On this excursion, you will explore all of the canopy walkways and viewing platforms that dot the area of the Lodge. Learn about the history and architecture of the lodge while you observe wildlife from 30 – 70 feet above the jungle floor.

### **15. Early Morning Bird Watching**

The best way to witness wildlife is by waking up early to the sound of hundreds of birds and monkeys. The suspension bridges are built to bring you closer to all the wildlife that exists around Treehouse Lodge. You will see many species of tanagers, toucans, parrots, parakeets, antbirds, and wrens, woodpeckers, and monkeys that come to feed on the fruit and insects found on the trees. There are species of birds that never venture closer to the ground because the fruit they eat is found on the treetops. Being closer to the canopy, it's easy to see the beauty of these species. In only one early morning, you will observe at least 50 species of birds, 20 of which are uncommon. The variety of wildlife in this type of igapo forest is outstanding. The more appreciation we can gain of these species and the more research we can perform to find new species, the more likely they are to be preserved for future generations.

## **16. Stargazing in the Amazon**

The Amazon rainforest has no distracting city lights and the sky is wide open. A popular excursion for astronomy buffs, it is breathtaking to stare upwards at millions and millions of twinkling stars. Enjoy the serenity of cruising the tributaries of the Amazon as you try to find the Southern Cross. As you can imagine, this excursion is weather pending. Coordinate with your private guide for when a good night would be for this activity.

## **17. Visit the Jibaro Community (additional cost of \$30 pp)**

Due to conflicts and tribal disputes that happened many years ago, a group of Jibaro people decided to move from their ancestral land located on the Pastaza river to an area closer to the equatorial border. They navigated downstream, following the Marañon river, then traveled along the Amazon to finally arrive at the Tahuayo river – a small, blackwater tributary where they created their community anew in peace, away from other villages, preserving their traditions and the knowledge of the ethnolinguistic group. You will take a boat from Treehouse Lodge downstream on the Yarapa River for 30 minutes to reach a community called Jaldar. From this village, you will walk 40 minutes on a jungle trail to arrive at the Jerusalem Jibaro community on the Tahuayo River. You will have a chance to learn the art of fishing in the Jibaro style as well as explore the Tahuayo river on dugout canoes to search for Amazonian animals such as monkeys, macaws, toucans, and sloths. You will also find out how they make dugout canoes, how they prepare Masato (a jungle beer made out of manioc), and how they make real blow darts, bows, and arrows - still used in fishing and hunting today! While there, you will see original handicrafts made by girls of the community. These crafts will be available for purchase to take home as souvenirs. Before leaving, you will enjoy a picnic lunch at the chief's house – our way of thanking him for his hospitality.

### **18. Visit to Puerto Miguel, a Kukama Community**

If you're looking for a way to truly experience the Peruvian natives, this is it. Visit Puerto Miguel and interact with the river people who still preserve their traditions, ancient knowledge, and even language. We will get to explore their homes made out of wood and palm trees to see how they live, what they cook, and the way they survive using the natural resources of the rainforest. You'll find it fascinating to see how they have adapted to coexist with their environment, sharing their space with countless insects, dangerous animals, and poisonous plants (that can be used to kill or cure depending on preparation). The river people are skillful craft makers and have a communal house where you have the chance to purchase their beautifully hand-crafted items made using materials found in the Amazon jungle.

### **19. Kayak the Amazon**

This is your chance to captain your boat and see wildlife from a river perspective. Exploring the river by kayak you can enjoy the rivers and creeks without the noise of a boat engine. This creates a peaceful atmosphere and an ideal situation for capturing wildlife. You might see beautiful birds, monkeys, and river otters.