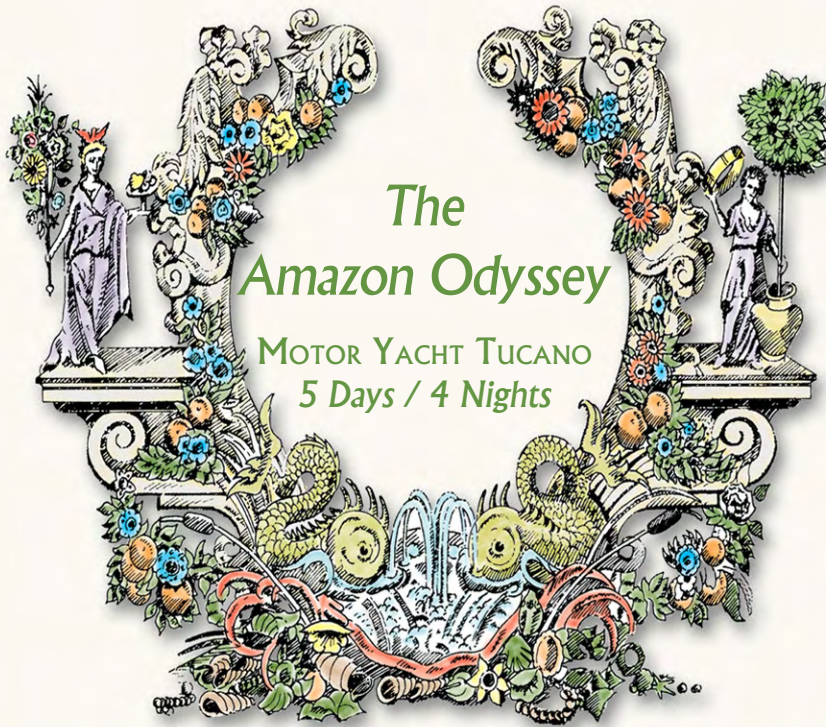


Cruising the Amazon in Style



The **Amazon Odyssey** cruise visits some of the most essential areas to observe the wildlife and culture of the rainforest. Our journey especially concentrates on the Amazon River where we walk in towering rainforests, glide along narrow streams deep in the forest, and explore flooded grasslands that stretch from horizon to horizon. Though a compact cruise, the *Amazon Odyssey* is able to experience the many different environments of the Amazon, teeming with life.

We embark in Manaus, Brasil and travel on the classic and elegant MOTOR YACHT TUCANO. Though not a luxury vessel, the M/Y TUCANO is comfortable and is designed to enable us to explore small tributaries and hidden channels where wildlife can be found but where larger vessels cannot go.

Our cruise experience is much more authentic than the typical or luxury Amazon tours. All aspects of the cruise are designed to help us enjoy the best that the Amazon has to offer. We have a small group size, highly trained guides, a talented crew, a comfortable boat, and with 22 years of cruise operations, our activities are thoughtful and detailed. Another important advantage is that our cruises appeal to travelers who are looking for a fun but also very genuine experience. All these features combined enable us to discover and enjoy an authentic Amazon that eludes almost all other travelers.



The Amazon Odyssey

This compact voyage endeavors to capture the spirit of the Amazon on two of its greatest rivers, the Rio Negro and the Amazon River. Over three and one half days we walk in the forest, explore in our launches, and visit local communities along the edges of these magnificent rivers.

There are three or four excursions off the vessel every day. Early mornings we usually glide along quiet channels in our launches among giant rainforest trees draped with vines and orchids. The silence is broken only by the rustling of leaves by Squirrel Monkeys feeding or by the occasional piercing shriek of a Screaming Piha bird. During the day we walk in the forest and sometimes visit a small community. Some nights we search for nocturnal creatures in our launches out in the star filled darkness.

The Amazon Odyssey takes us to a variety of environments including dark flooded forests, dense high forest with towering trees and dense undergrowth, and vast open plains of waving grass which are home to some of the most spectacular wildlife of the Amazon. On lazy afternoons we may fish for the famous Amazon resident, the Piranha, some of whom we may see again on an appetizer plate. During our voyage we are treated to the ever changing vistas of travel on the mighty Amazon River itself. Most travelers are astonished by the scale and grandeur of this majestic waterway that drains a continent.

On the Amazon Odyssey we not only focus on the rainforest, but also on the culture of the people who live in this vast wilderness. We visit small fishing villages perched on the river bank where the traditional life is still guided by the rhythms of the rise and fall of the river. We also visit the homesteads of families who make and grow almost everything they need. For many travelers these visits with local settlers, whose lives are so dramatically different from ours, are some of the most memorable experiences of the cruise. Another fascinating visit is a stop at one of the bustling river trading towns. Here a vibrant river trade continues as it has for centuries. The last evening of the cruise we will coast along one of the greatest ports in the world, the Porto de Manaus. At our farewell dinner we will have the opportunity to reflect on our extraordinary experience and offer a toast to one of the most remarkable places on Earth.



MOTOR YACHT TUCANO

Accommodations and Staff

The MOTOR YACHT TUCANO is not a luxury vessel, but is comfortable, safe, and very well suited to exploring the Amazon wilderness. The vessel was built in the elegant style of a classic river steamship, but it is actually a modern and fully certified commercial cruise vessel. While we are able to travel in comfort, we are not insulated from the forest. We remain focused on the flora and fauna of this magnificent wilderness. The voyage is quite active and we spend most of every day exploring the forest on foot or in our boat's launches.

The most successful Amazon cruise vessel is not the most luxurious, but instead the one that enables travelers to experience the wild beauty of the Amazon in the most full and authentic way. This is the guiding principle of both the design and operations of the M/Y TUCANO. The vessel is designed specifically to explore the Amazon in the most thoughtful and sustainable way. All of the cabins are outside cabins with air-conditioning and private bathrooms. Some cabins are smaller than others, but they are considered by most travelers to be comfortable.

The staff of the M/Y Tucano are highly trained mariners who bring years of deep forest exploration to our cruises. Our guides are bilingual naturalists who not only help us spot creatures, but also help us make sense of the riot of plant and animal life of the rainforest. Our cooks prepare elaborate meals always from fresh local ingredients and our sailors safely navigate us into some of the most fascinating waterways in the world.



Launch Excursion



Three Toed Sloth

Compact Amazon Cruise Itinerary: The Amazon Odyssey (5D/4N)

Day 1 This afternoon we embark on the MOTOR YACHT TUCANO in Manaus, Brasil. We depart on the Rio Negro and as the vessel glides upstream we will have our first talk about Amazon environments. By late afternoon we enter one of the world's largest river island systems, the Anavilhanas Archipelago. The boat will weave along a winding channel with rainforest on both sides in a riot of brilliant vegetation. Weather permitting, we will go for a launch excursion in the gnarled and dense flooded forest known as the Igapó. Along the river bank we may see some Squirrel Monkeys and we may hear the other-worldly growls of Howler Monkeys echoing through the primitive rainforest. The Amazon has one of the greatest collection of birds in the world and we are sure to see some of these brightly colored jewels perched in the treetops.

We return to the M/Y TUCANO for hors d'oeuvres on the observation deck and a toast to the rainforest sunset. Following dinner we will embark in our launches in search of nocturnal creatures such as the Caiman, the Amazon's crocodilians. We may also see one of the large night birds such as a Potoo with its bulging eyes and large mouth adapted to swallow the huge Mariposa Moths, (D)

Day 2 Shortly after sunrise this morning we explore the Anavilhanas Archipelago, a reserve that includes the world's largest system of river islands and also areas of tall dense rainforest. Here we will see the strange environment called the Igapó, the black water flooded forest where dense forests grow right out of the dark water of the Rio Negro. Mid morning we return to the vessel for a hearty Brazilian breakfast. After some time to relax, weather permitting we will disembark at mid-morning and will go for a walk in the type of rainforest known as the Terra Firme. Here we have a good chance to see the markings, if not the animals themselves, of some of the Amazon's great mammals like peccaries (wild pigs) or even a jaguar.

Around mid-day return to the vessel for lunch and a siesta. In the afternoon we will excursion in our launches along the edges of the dense forest and listen to the sunset chorus of birds, howler monkeys, and frogs. Weather permitting, tonight we will have an excursion to spot caiman (the Amazon's crocodiles) and other nocturnal creatures. We very often see arboreal porcupines or sloths scrambling high in the limbs. (BLD)

Day 3 This morning we awaken to another remote rainforest area where we will explore in our launches early in the morning, and walk in the forest in mid morning. During the middle of the day the vessel will venture downstream to a small village on the east bank of the Rio Negro. Late this afternoon we will visit this community to learn how traditions help families survive in the remote interior. Later this evening our vessel will weigh anchor and we will voyage downstream through the night to the Xiborena Peninsula that divides the two of the world's most storied rivers: the Rio Negro and the Amazon River.



Squirrel Monkey

Day 4 Rising early, we excursion in the Lago Janauari Ecological Park, a dense forest that is flooded with the coffee colored water of the Amazon River. We explore a labyrinth of small channels overhung with gargantuan trees and vines. Listening to the chatter of creatures in the undergrowth we also keep our eyes open for monkeys, Three Toed Sloths, and the occasional Collared Anteater. By mid morning we return to the M/Y TUCANO for a hearty breakfast and some time to relax. Later this morning we foray off the vessel again to explore this environment rich in life.

Following lunch we navigate to the "Encontra das Aguas", the several mile long joining of two of the world's greatest rivers, the Rio Negro and The Amazon. The dark and light waters run side by side for several miles without mixing. Often Pink River Dolphins and also Grey River Dolphins leap and cavort along this stark line of contrasting currents. We then will turn our bows upstream to cruise on the Amazon River until the late afternoon. On Brazilian maps this river is given the name Rio Solimões - but it is the same vast, turbulent, mighty river that we know of as the Amazon. At this point in its course it has truly become the most magnificent river on the planet and carries fully 20% of all the fresh water on Earth.

Late afternoon we will have another launch excursion in a fascinating environment known as the Varzea where we may angle for piranhas or thrill at brightly colored birds that hunt in these the vast fields of waving grass. At sunset we slowly begin to ascend the Rio Negro, cruising along but not stopping at the Porto de Manaus, one of the world's great ports. More than a thousand miles from the sea, Manaus is the major port for much of the entire Amazon. We will see boats of every imaginable shape and purpose that serve this continent sized forest. Tonight we will sample the national drink of Brasil, the Caipirinha and have a farewell dinner. (BLD)

Day 5 Early this morning travelers will disembark the vessel at the riverside dock of the Hotel Tropical. (B)

Meal Codes: B= Breakfast, L= Lunch, D= Dinner.

Please note that all of our trips are exploratory and we adapt the vessel course to maintain an interesting cruise. We may alter the itinerary due to low river levels. But this does not diminish the cruise, instead it allows us to improvise in seeking interesting places to visit.

Degree of Difficulty: Good health is necessary. Though the trip does not include endurance hiking, participants should be able feel comfortable walking at a leisurely pace for 2 to 3 hours at a time.

Booking Details

The Amazon Odyssey (5D/4N)

Where the Trip Begins and Ends

Embark: On Day One, Monday, passengers meet our guide at 04:00PM in the lobby of the Hotel Tropical, Manaus, Brasil.

Disembark: On Day Five, Friday, passengers disembark at the Hotel Tropical at 08:00am. It is possible by prearrangement for guests to disembark early to catch early morning flights.

2012 Trip Dates: Jan 16-20, Jan 30-Feb 03, Feb 13-17, Feb 27-Mar 02, Mar 12-16, Mar 26-30, Apr 09-13, Apr 23-27, May 07-11, May 21-25, Jun 11-15, Jun 25-29, Jul 09-13, Jul 23-27, Aug 06-10, Aug 20-24, Sep 10-14, Sep 24-28, Oct 08-12, Oct 22-26, Nov 05-09, Nov 19-23, Dec 03-07, Dec 17-21

2013 Cruise Dates: Jan 14-18, Jan 28-Feb 01, Mar 04-08, Mar 18-22, Apr 01-05, Apr 15-19, Apr 29-May 03, May 13-17, Jun 17-21, Jul 01-05, Jul 15-19, Jul 29- Aug 02, Aug 12-16, Aug 26-30, Sep 09-13, Sep 30- Oct 04, Oct 14-18, Oct 28- Nov 01, Nov 11-15, Nov 25-29, Dec 16-20, Dec 30 - Jan 03 ('14)

Cruise Cost, Rack Rate, 2012:

Green Category Cabins (per person, double): \$1,650
Yellow Category Cabins (per person, double): \$1,850

Cabin Categories: There are two double occupancy cabin categories on the M/Y Tucano:

- Green** cabins have bunk beds with above and below berths.
- Yellow** cabins are larger and have beds side by side

Price Includes: Price is per person, double occupancy. Price includes accommodations, and meals as indicated in the itinerary. Prices and itineraries are subject to change without notice. Bottled water served free of charge. On joining the group on Day One, passengers board the vessel on a short walk from the lobby of the Hotel Tropical.

Prices Do Not Include: Not included are airport transfers, airfare, departure taxes, visa fees, soft drinks or alcoholic beverages, or items of a personal nature.

*****Optional Single Occupancy:** No single supplement is charged if a single traveler is willing to share a cabin with another passenger. Passengers that request single accommodations pay a single supplement of 50% of the Green Category cruise cost. Single accommodations on the cruise may not always be available. The single cabins are the smallest on the vessel.

Discounts for Children: On regular departures children 12 years and under who share a room with an adult are eligible for a discount of 50% off the Cruise Rate, subject to cabin availability.

Triple Cabins: Some of the cabins on the M/Y TUCANO can accommodate three travelers. This is helpful for families. These are cabins "3" and "4" where a third narrow bed can be placed between the single beds and cabin "0" which has a queen size bed and also a single bed. There is no discount for triple occupancy; passengers pay the double rate.

Sustainability: In many ways the M/Y TUCANO was designed to conduct sustainable tourism. We have mechanical systems that minimize generator use, we use natural lighting as much as possible, and there are also many procedures that we employ to reduce our carbon footprint. One of these is a policy of "low power hours" when we actually turn off all diesel consuming machines for certain hours of the day. This is done in the early morning and late afternoon when electricity is not needed. The vessel remains comfortable because it was designed to offer water, illumination, and climate control without electricity.

The M/Y TUCANO has an efficient air-conditioning system that functions in the heat of the day and at night. But even during the low power hours of the day, the cabins stay cool because the vessel is well thermally insulated. The windows on the vessel open and close and we have a practice of opening the windows in the public spaces in the afternoon. Many travelers choose to turn off the air-conditioning for the duration of the trip. Together these measures enable us to greatly reduce fuel consumption and emission of the pollutants that make up greenhouse gases.

Our cruise procedures include a number of measures to encourage sustainable conduct in the rainforest. We observe a zero impact policy which includes not removing anything from the forest, leaving nothing behind, staying on defined trails, not creating new trails, keeping noise to a minimum, and leaving no waste behind. We take considerable measures not to disturb creatures that we observe including not getting too close, leaving an area if an animal becomes disturbed, not handling creatures that we encounter. We recycle our waste, we haul our trash back to landfills in the city, and we use as many natural products as possible.



Guide Making an Animal Call

★ The Motor Yacht TUCANO ★

Ideal Spaces to Relax and Observe the Forest

Our trips are quite active and we spend most of our time off the vessel exploring the forest, but when we are on board, the Motor Yacht Tucano offers plenty of space to spread out and contemplate the wonders of nature. With over seventy large windows, the vessel is bright and airy. The cabins and the salon are air-conditioned and have elegant raised wood panelling in the style of the 19th Century steamers that cruised these majestic rivers.



▲ Large Observation Deck

The top deck is open and has a large shade canopy. It is a wonderful place to spot wildlife or soak in the vastness of the Amazon. There is space to catch some sun and watch the Macaw parrots screeching across the afternoon sky.

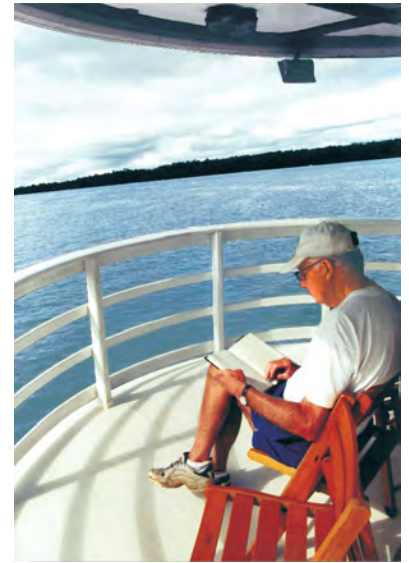
► A Generous Salon

From this large space, filled with windows and situated at the front of the vessel, we are treated to fantastic vistas of the wilderness around us. Meals are served here and we have a library of choice books on Amazon wildlife.



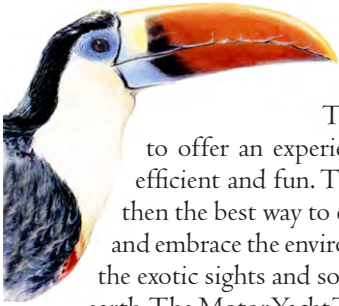
► Middle Balcony

This wide balcony faces forward and is a serene spot to relax as we wind our way along the forested shore. It is also a good place to observe monkeys jumping from one vine to another and pink dolphins leaping into the air.




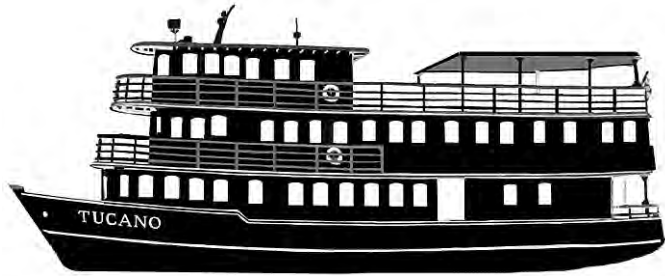
◀ Comfortable and Private Cabins

All of the cabins on Tucano are outside cabins and have lots of windows. Each cabin is air-conditioned and has a private bathroom. Since the corridors are on the inside of the vessel, the cabins offer privacy and we can leave our curtains open to the awe inspiring vistas of the Amazon. A third small bed can be added to some cabins in order to accommodate three persons.



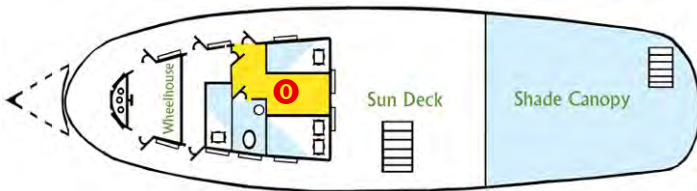
The MOTOR YACHT TUCANO

The Motor Yacht Tucano is designed to offer an experience that is comfortable, intimate, efficient and fun. The vessel is not a luxury vessel, but then the best way to experience the Amazon is to dive in and embrace the environment - to experience to the fullest the exotic sights and sounds of this greatest wilderness on earth. The Motor Yacht Tucano is specifically designed to do just that. In the deck plans below, this symbol:  = windows. There are lots of them!



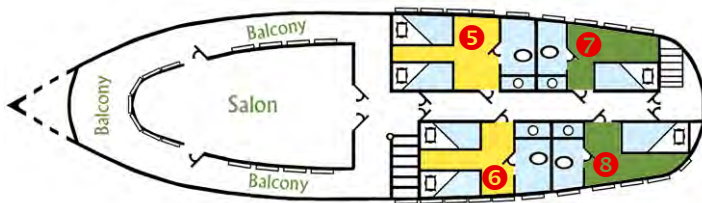
Observation Deck

The cabin on this deck, cabin number 0 has a queen sized bed and also a single bed. It can accommodate three travelers. While the cabin is large, it has a comparatively small bathroom.



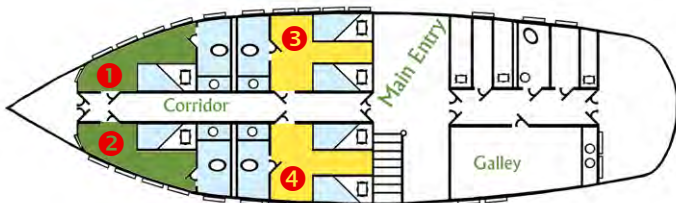
Middle Deck

Cabins 5 and 6 have single size beds which can be placed together to form a queen size bed. Cabins 7 and 8 have bunks with a single size mattress above and below.



Main Deck

Cabins 1 and 2 have bunks with a single size mattress above and below. Cabins 3 and 4 have single size beds which can be placed together to form a queen size bed.



Yellow Category Cabin

Cabin Categories

All of the cabins on TUCANO are outside cabins with large windows, private baths with showers, and air-conditioning. There are two categories of cabins. Yellow Category cabins are the larger cabins and have beds side by side. The Green Category cabins are smaller and have above and below berths.

Yellow Category Cabins: The five cabins in this category are large and have beds side by side. They are numbered 3, 4, 5, 6, and 0. Cabin "0" has a queen size bed beside a single bed.

Triple Cabins: Some of the Yellow Category cabins can accommodate three travelers. This is helpful for families with children. In cabins "3" and "4" a narrow bed can be placed between the single beds.

Green Category Cabins: The four cabins in this category have above and below berths with a single size mattress above and a single sized mattress below. These are cabins numbered 1, 2, 7, and 8. These cabins are significantly smaller than the Yellow cabins. But they are nonetheless comfortable outside cabins with large windows, private bathrooms, and air-conditioning.



Salon / Dining Room

Why Choose Our Amazon Cruise?

We Spend More Time Exploring

Ours cruises are planned so that we can experience as much of the wildlife and culture of the Amazon as we can. Starting early in the morning, we have many excursions off the boat, often as many as four every day. Our cruises have many more excursions than other cruises, and this is the best way, and really the only way, to successfully experience this exotic locale.

Small Groups Are Essential

On the *Amazon Odyssey* group size is limited by the nine cabins on the vessel which averages from 16-18 travelers. In a small group it is much easier to stay focused on nature and get the very most out of our journey. Larger groups make it hard to see wildlife. Several times a day we make excursions into the forest in our launches and on forest walks. On these excursions we divide into still smaller groups, each with a naturalist guide. In a small group our guides can satisfy the curiosity that makes travel worthwhile. Our voyage is the opposite of mass tourism; each departure is an extraordinary exploration where we experience the wild nature of the Amazon that is hidden to most visitors.

Highly Skilled Guides

Our naturalist guides are some of the very best in the Amazon. Their knowledge of flora and fauna help us to observe and understand the secrets of the forest. They not only help us find wildlife, but they also share their knowledge of the astonishing habits of these fabulous creatures of the rainforest. One of the great pleasures of visiting the rainforest is not to just observe the creatures, but also to learn their feeding habits, how they reproduce, and how they fit into this magnificent environment. Because our guides grew up in the forest, they have endless stories to tell about life in the greatest wilderness on Earth.



Cruising the Amazon in Style on the: MOTOR YACHT TUCANO The Amazon Odyssey

Itinerary Sketch

Day **1** **Manaus, Rio Negro:** Afternoon depart and voyage north on the Rio Negro.

Day **2** **Anavilhanas Archipelago:** Excursions into the rainforest during the day and at night.

Day **3** **Rio Negro:** Excursions in the forest during the day, at night travel downstream toward the Amazon River.

Day **4** **Rio Negro / Amazon:** Explore the *Lago Janauari Ecological Park* near the Amazon River and cruise the confluence of the Amazon River and The Rio Negro. In the evening we cruise upstream on the Rio Negro past the *Porto de Manaus*.

Day **5** **Manaus:** Early morning disembark.

Please note that our cruises are exploratory and we adapt the vessel course to maintain an interesting cruise. We may alter the itinerary due to low river levels. But this does not diminish the cruise, instead it allows us to improvise and seek interesting places to visit.

